

Philadelphia

Daily Record

Tony's Man



MAKING NO BONES about whom he's supporting in S. Phila.'s 186th House Dist. primary, State Sen. Anthony Williams kicked off campaign announcement for Jordan Harris. Both Harris and the man he would replace, former State Rep. Kenyatta Johnson, are protégés and sometime aides of Williams.



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**The Philadelphia
Public Record
Calendar**

Jan. 10-

State Rep. Pam DeLissio hosts town hall meeting at Roxborough Mem. Hosp., Wolcott Audit., 5800 Riodge Ave., 7 p.m. For info (215) 482-8726 or (215) 879-8533.

Jan. 11-

State Sen. Anthony Williams hosts Small Business Forum for businesses (under 100 employees), 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at Univ. of Pennsylvania. Call (215) 492-2980 to RSVP. For info www.senatoranthonywilliams.com.

Jan. 11-

State Rep. Pam DeLissio hosts town hall meeting at Union Fire Hall, 149 Montgomery Ave., Bala Cynwyd, Pa., 7 p.m. For info (215) 482-8726 or (215) 879-8533.

Jan. 12-

State Rep. Pam DeLissio hosts town hall meeting at Society Hall, Simpson Hse., 2101 Belmont Ave., 7 p.m. For info (215) 482-8726 or (215) 879-8533.

Jan. 20-

ACE Women's Forum presents Professional Women's Roundtable Political Forum, "From Your

House to the White House", on political impacts on business, at ACE USA, 436 Walnut St., 5th fl., 8-10 a.m. Continental breakfast. For info Leigh Ann Campbell (267) 287-8497 or leighann@seamlesseventsinc.com. Register by Jan. 17.

Feb. 9-

IBEW Local 269 invites all to reception in honor of State Rep. Tina Davis at Bailey's Bar & Grille, 6922 Bristol Emilie Road, Levittown, Pa.. Host \$1,000, Patron \$500, Friend. \$250, Sup- porter, \$50. RSVP Seth Skervsky (215) 550-1186.

Apr. 26-

2012 Centennial Pk. Celebration honoring Joseph Manko, Ryan Howard and Vanguard at Phila. Horticultural Ctr., Montgomery Ave. & N. Horticultural Dr., 6 p.m. For tickets, etc. Arthur (215) 988-9341.



Mayor Responds To Catholic School Closures...

On Friday, Mayor Michael A. Nutter issued a statement regarding the closure of Archdiocese of Philadelphia schools:

“I’ve talked to Archbishop Chaput about today’s announcement, and I look forward to working with him to ensure that all young people, whether students in parochial or

public schools, receive high-quality educations.

Economic recession and demographic change have affected any number of institutions in far reaching ways. It’s certainly true for the City of Philadelphia. It’s true for the Philadelphia School District, and now the Archdiocese faces

some very tough decisions.

During this period of change, let’s not forget that we are one city, and we’re all in this together. Now is a time for partnership and support for the young persons in our city so that everyone knows that they have high-quality educational options in the City of Philadelphia.”

Appeal The Archdiocese’s Decision...

by State Rep. John Taylor
177th Dist.

As I waited for the Archdiocese briefing on the Faith in the Future Plan to begin, which occurred just a few hours prior to the official announcement, I glanced down at the packet of information that was handed out as you entered the room. Someone next to me said, “This is the only paper you really need.” It was the list of the affected schools.

As I looked at the list, I was shocked at what I saw. While I expected massive closings throughout the Archdiocese, I somehow thought that our neighborhood would be spared because we already endured recent closings and mergers which left us with only five grammar schools and without North Catholic. Surely, they would not do this to us again.

But there it was: St. Laurentius in Fishtown, St. George in Port Rich-

mond and Pope John Paul II in Bridesburg. Our Lady of Consolation, Our Lady of Ransom and St. Hubert’s High School – \all closed.

Of course, the documents read “combined,” but the reality is they will be closed.

So, what should we do?

First, there is going to be an appeals process. Thus far these closings are “recommendations.” They will be accepted by the Archbishop unless there is an appeal.

In his statement describing the appeals process, Archbishop Chaput clearly stated the appeal must articulate why the commission is wrong in its basis for the recommendations. In other words, a school community needs to show why they feel there is long-term viability for that school.

File an appeal if the commission is wrong in its conclusions. I would like to help in this regard in any

way I can. If there are meetings among parents, teachers, pastors and/or administrators, please let me know and I will be glad to participate.

I don’t want to pretend that any of this will be easy. It will not. But it may be worth a try.

In addition, for details about the plan and to get questions answered, please go to www.faithinthefuture.com. If your questions are not answered after consulting the site, please call any of my offices and we will get you answers.

This is all a sad development for our neighborhoods and our church. Many of us have already been through the pain and inconvenience of school closings and the transition that follows. If I can help in any way, please feel free to contact me at (215) 425-0901, 215-744-3009 or 215-744-2600.

...As Greens Respond To Nutter's 2nd Inaugural Speech

The Green Party of Philadelphia is not impressed with Mayor Michael Nutter's second inaugural speech which was delivered at the Academy of Music on Jan. 2.

"This speech was long on platitudes and short on plans," said Chris Robinson, GOP City Committee member from the 59th Ward (Germantown). "I am still waiting for Nutter to fulfill the promises he made in his first inaugural four years ago."

The economic situation in Philadelphia is really quite drastic. Twenty-seven percent of Philadelphia's residents (more than one out of four) live below the poverty

level, including one third of the city's children. Philadelphia's poverty rate has grown by four percent (an additional 63,941 people in poverty) since Nutter took office in 2008. This makes Philadelphia the poorest of the 10 largest cities in the US.

Hunger has also increased during Nutter's first term. As of October 2011, more than 464,000 Philadelphia residents rely on food stamps to put food their tables. More than 411,000 Philadelphia residents received help from a food pantry, a 30% increase from the year prior. Unemployment in Philadelphia now stands at 11%, the highest it has been since Nutter took office.

"Fortunately, Occupy Philly taught us a lesson last summer," explained Vivek Ananthan, chair of the GOP City Committee from the 5th Ward (Northern Liberties). "The richest 1% are doing swell, but the other 99% are falling way behind. Taking inflation into account, the average working person has not received a raise since 1980, when Ronald Reagan became President."

Nutter, or course, did not learn the lesson taught by Occupy Philly. "Our Mayor does not understand that the citizens of Philadelphia are being terrorized by the richest 1%," complained Carol McLean, the Greens' Membership Secretary who lives in the 59th Ward. "Those of us who work understand who is cutting our pay and who is cutting our benefits. Those of us who cannot find work know who is refusing to hire workers and who is exporting our jobs. It is very clear that Nutter is not on our side in the political/economic battle we face. Perhaps this is why Nutter proposed no solutions to the crises in our lives."

Hugh Giordano, GOP City Committee member from the 21st Ward (Roxborough), said, "In today's world, we must learn organization, agitation and resistance if we are to rebuild the society that has been wrecked by the rich 1%. That is why I joined the Green Party."

Faced with today's crises, the Green Party's City Committee

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holds Philadelphia needs a Green New Deal to rejuvenate the city. It will take a lot of work to build a green, healthy economy for Philadelphia. That will mean a lot of jobs for everyone, at a living wage.

The Green Party's City Committee says all people have a right to food, housing, medical care, jobs that pay a living wage, education, and support in times of hardship. Therefore, a Green Mayor would reduce the size of Philadelphia's bureaucracy and cut the pay of high-price administrators to fund social services for those who are in need.

A Green Mayor would end foreclosures, evictions and utility shut-offs. In 2010, the Green Party ran Cheri Honkala for Sheriff of Philadelphia on a platform calling for a moratorium on foreclosures and evictions. Honkala said she would "keep people in their homes."

A Green Mayor would rebuild Philadelphia's infrastructure and schools, create and support public spaces, gardens and organic farms. A Green Mayor would use tax money – currently held by big banks and pension funds – to create worker-owned manufacturing

cooperatives.

A Green Mayor would organize the rehabilitation of publicly-owned, vacant homes in order to provide jobs for the unemployed and homes for the homeless. A Green Mayor would provide jobs through energy audits of older homes, insulation of older properties (where required), installation of solar panels on public-school roofs, and more. Labor required by Philadelphia's Green New Deal would be done by worker-owned co-ops which would be employed by neighborhood consumer co-ops.

Toomey Asks If You've Had Enough Red Tape

by US Sen. Pat Toomey

Over the past year, I have traveled all across the Commonwealth listening to the concerns of hard-working Pennsylvanians – workers, small business owners, entrepreneurs – and the message is too often the same: Government is getting in our way.

Today, excessive government regulations are making it difficult and more expensive for employers to hire and create jobs. Federal red tape is imposing burdensome, unfunded mandates on local cities, townships and counties. Small businesses and farmers are struggling to comply with new directives from overreaching agencies. Government waste, fraud and abuse continue eating up taxpayer dollars at a time when many households are watching every penny they spend. This is not how

government is meant to work.

You've have had enough, and so have I.

All Pennsylvanians want is better, more-sensible, more-efficient government, not more government. Is that really too much to ask?

I don't think so.

That is why I have recently launched a public service campaign called "Had Enough?" to help Pennsylvanians find solutions to government excess and overregulation. Through my "Had Enough?" website, you can submit details of your experiences with unreasonable red tape and government excess. My staff and I will be monitoring the submissions and working hard to find solutions to make the federal government work

more effectively.

Let me give you an example of the kind of excessive regulation Pennsylvanians are struggling with and the kind of solutions we can find. Earlier this year, officials in Southeastern Pennsylvania's Lower Merion Township and Scranton alerted me to a Transportation Department mandate that would soon require all municipalities to replace current street signs with new signs that meet federally approved reflectivity standards.

The mandate would force communities across the country to spend local taxpayer dollars to replace their existing, perfectly adequate, street signs. This could have cost some townships over a million dollars. How many cities and towns are sitting on excess cash in their budgets? I don't know of any.

Already strapped for cash, many officials said they simply could not afford this new expense without making cuts to other vital communal services or raising property taxes.

In addition, some communities, such as Lower Merion, would be forced to replace historically significant signs that have become a part of their local culture.

In response, I sent a letter to Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood requesting an exemption, and he announced in late August that the department would eliminate the street-sign replacement deadline.

This isn't the only example of how

we've been able to find solutions for government overreach and red tape. In Western Pennsylvania, my staff helped Grove City College secure an exemption from new US Education Dept. rules that would have made Grove City College students ineligible for scholarships and State aid. And in Delaware Co., I was able to secure a waiver for liquefied natural-gas tankers so that a new project in Marcus Hook can begin and create hundreds of jobs.

Every day, Americans are struggling with new mandates that make it more difficult for them to run their businesses, hire new workers, and simply make a living for their families. Often, govern-

ment officials back in Washington don't realize how burdensome these regulations can be for folks on a daily basis.

But that doesn't mean we should just give up. My staff and I are committed to taking your stories and your struggles to the appropriate officials and agencies in Washington and finding the solutions you deserve.

I encourage you to visit my website at www.toomey.senate.gov/hadenough and submit your experiences with overregulation and red tape. It's time to send a message to Washington that Pennsylvanians have had enough.

Young Democrats Warm Up Needy At Pub Gathering

Ready to kick off 2012 with a bang? Want to know more about the Young Democrats and meet others who are passionate about Philadelphia's Democratic agenda?

Come join the Philadelphia Young Democrats at Public House, 1801

Arch Street, this Wednesday, Jan. 11 for their first-ever Warmth Drive! Bring a warmth item to donate (e.g. gently used coats, hats, scarves, and gloves) to donate OR a \$10 cash donation. Proceeds and donations will go to Impact Services (<http://www.impactservices.org/>), which located in the heart of Kens-

ington neighborhood in Philly. (Note: 50% of cash donations will go to PHLVD operational efforts).

The gathering starts at 5:30 p.m. There will be Happy Hour Drink Specials: \$3 domestics, \$4 wines, \$5 you-call-it drinks.

Toasting A New Judge



TRIBUTE TO JUDGE SEAN KENNEDY was held in Finnigan's Wake Pub. Many celebrants were eager to congratulate judge. Seen above, from left, are Ward Leader John Sabatina, Esq.; State Rep. John Sabatina, Jr.; Mike Boyle (Judge Erdos look-alike); Joe Russo; Plymouth Township Councilman Vincent Gilliam; Judge Kennedy; Ward Leaders Pat Parkinson, William Dolbow, John Connelly and Rosanne Pauciello; Irving Vaughn; and Ward Leaders Shawn Dillon and Robert Dellavella, Esq.
Photo: Joe Stivala

State Leader Tours The Arc

MAUREEN CRONIN, new Executive Director of The Arc of Penna., paid a visit to The Arc of Phila. to tour their facility and discuss their mission and programs. Cronin had formerly been with the State Dept. of Education, in charge of early intervention for children with intellectual disabilities. Cronin also discussed statewide issues, such as budget cuts to programs like autism, as well as the tuition-voucher initiative which so far has failed to gain traction in legislature. From left here are Nofre Vaquer, director of The Arc of Phila.; Ken Oakes, president of the Arc board; Cronin; Bruce Hulick, executive director of The Arc of Phila.; and Kristin Ahrens, VP of Board of The Arc of Philadelphia.
Photo: Bonnie Squires



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