

Jane Green

From: centercitycoalition@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 5:45 PM
To: 'Brian Clinton'; egrose@gpha.us
Subject: RE: The Urgent Need for City Government to Improve Safety, Sanitation and Quality of Life in Center City to Support and Revitalize Our Hospitality, Tourism, Restaurant, Retail and Cultural Industries.

Hello Brian,

Thank you again for seeking our input on major problem areas in Center City and adjacent neighborhoods.

You can see by the diversity and number of the signatories to the letter, especially representatives from the hotel industry, that concern is widespread about deteriorated safety conditions, aggressive panhandling, poor sanitation and especially the reckless and dangerous behavior of enhanced noise vehicles, such as ATVs and dirt bikes. Hoteliers have received numerous complaints from customers about the noise and safety threats, especially as they try to participate in arts and cultural events on Broad Street and on the Parkway, and restaurants and street eateries throughout the downtown, Society Hill and Old City neighborhoods.

Just last weekend, the invasion of thousands of vehicle riders on the Parkway, driving over grassy areas where families and children were playing outside, was terrifying to many residents visiting in the area. It was noted that the footage of that prolonged incursion of vehicles could, and would, be used as negative publicity by other cities competing for precious convention business, as it communicates that Philadelphia has become dangerous and unsafe for tourists and business travelers. The inability to compete effectively for convention and business travel would be a devastating blow to the City's attempted economic recovery.

In terms of some target areas, here are a few.

- 15th Street between Walnut and Pine, where the Patco Station serves as an encampment site, restaurants are routinely vandalized and there is a deli (Latimer Deli) frequented by drug dealers and users that make the area unsafe. As residents start to attend cultural events on Broad Street and walk home afterwards, that area will become increasingly dangerous for pedestrians.
- 16th and Chestnut, which is a high traffic area, is a magnet for long-term homeless people and aggressive panhandlers. That daily and nightly activity carries over to the

Club Quarters, and around the corner to the Palomar and Sofitel hotels. The poor sanitation all along Chestnut Street is particularly evident, as BigBellies overflow for days at a time.

- 18th Street from Chestnut to Locust, which is home to many retail and restaurant venues. Customers have communicated that they fear coming into the city, and restaurants have reported instances where outside patrons and staff are /threatened by aggressive panhandlers.
- Hotels right around City Hall, and those further east from Rittenhouse Square, are especially exposed and vulnerable.
- There are several major ATV/dirt bike/noise enhanced vehicles' preferred spots late at night. These include Market Street, JFK Boulevard, and especially Broad Street as the arts/cultural/restaurant/hotel venues struggle to reopen. As noted above, the Parkway is extremely vulnerable, as last weekend's footage showed.
- In addition to the downtown areas, West Philadelphia and University City have equally serious problems. Target areas include 36th Street between Chestnut and Walnut, especially near the subway station, and the Wawa on the corner of 36th and Chestnut is also a problem area. Similarly, the Wawa at 34th and Chestnut is very problematic.

Brian, we are aware that there are efforts underway to allocated additional police and non-police resources to Center City neighborhoods. Those resources cannot come soon enough from the perspective of so many Center City Coalition members. We will look forward to your response and to engaging with you further.

Regards,

Jane Green & Ed Grose

From: Brian Clinton <Brian.Clinton@Phila.gov>

Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 11:25 AM

To: centercitycoalition@gmail.com; egrose@gpha.us

Subject: RE: The Urgent Need for City Government to Improve Safety, Sanitation and Quality of Life in Center City to Support and Revitalize Our Hospitality, Tourism, Restaurant, Retail and Cultural Industries.

Hi all,

Hope all is well.

Thank you for reaching out with your ongoing concerns about the health of Center City. I am in the process of finalizing a formal response to your letter on behalf of the City of Philadelphia.

In order for the Streets Department to fully respond, are you able to provide a list of locations that you feel need to be serviced more often?

Thanks!

Brian Clinton
Deputy Chief of Staff | Office of Mayor James Kenney
City of Philadelphia
City Hall, Room 204
Brian.Clinton@Phila.Gov

From: centercitycoalition@gmail.com <centercitycoalition@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 8:21 AM

To: Darrell Clarke <Darrell.Clarke@phila.gov>; katherine.richardson@phila.gov; Jamie Gauthier <Jamie.Gauthier@phila.gov>; David Oh <David.Oh@Phila.gov>; dennis.o'brien@phila.gov; Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; Kenyatta Johnson <Kenyatta.Johnson@Phila.gov>; Kendra Brooks <Kendra.Brooks@phila.gov>; Curtis Jones.Jr <Curtis.Jones.Jr@phila.gov>; maria.quinines-sanchez@phila.gov; Helen Gym <Helen.Gym@Phila.gov>; Cindy Bass <Cindy.Bass@Phila.gov>; Cherelle Parker <Cherelle.Parker@Phila.gov>; Brian O'Neill <Brian.ONeill@phila.gov>; Allan Domb <Allan.Domb@Phila.gov>; Derek Green <Derek.Green@phila.gov>; Bobby Henon <Bobby.Henon@Phila.gov>; James Kenney <James.Kenney@phila.gov>; Danielle.Outlaw <Danielle.Outlaw@Phila.gov>; Joel Dales <Joel.Dales@phila.gov>; Tumar Alexander <Tumar.Alexander@phila.gov>

Cc: James Engler <James.Engler@Phila.gov>; Raymond Evers <Raymond.Evers@phila.gov>; Michael Hooven <Michael.Hooven@phila.gov>; Eryn Santamoor <Eryn.Santamoor@Phila.gov>; Anne Kelly <Anne.Kelly@phila.gov>; Christopher Sample <Christopher.Sample@Phila.gov>; Sharon Vaughn <Sharon.Vaughn@Phila.gov>; Mary Jones <Mary.Jones@phila.gov>; Curtis Wilkerson <Curtis.Wilkerson@Phila.gov>; Brian Clinton <Brian.Clinton@Phila.gov>; Taylor Daukaus <Taylor.Daukaus@Phila.gov>; Brian Higgins <Brian.Higgins@Phila.gov>; Michael A. Rashid <Michael.Rashid@Phila.gov>; Dawn Summerville <Dawn.Summerville@phila.gov>; Jesse OShea <Jesse.OShea@phila.gov>

Subject: The Urgent Need for City Government to Improve Safety, Sanitation and Quality of Life in Center City to Support and Revitalize Our Hospitality, Tourism, Restaurant, Retail and Cultural Industries.

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CCC
Center City Coalition
centercitycoalition@gmail.com

To: Mayor Kenney, City Government Officials, City Council Members and Police Commissioner Outlaw

Re: The Urgent Need for City Government to Improve Safety, Sanitation and Quality of Life in Center City to Support and Revitalize Our Hospitality, Tourism, Restaurant, Retail and Cultural Industries.

The Center City Coalition (CCC) is writing to you today because safety, quality of life, job recovery and economic growth go hand-in-hand. Across Philadelphia, the hospitality, tourism, restaurant and retail and cultural arts sectors remain the most devastated sectors of employment. In Center City, the absence of office workers and convention attendees limits the opportunities for all of these businesses to recover. This dire situation is compounded by the many public safety challenges residents, workers and business owners live with every day.

The CCC is comprised of Philadelphia residences, retail and commercial businesses, hospitality venues, arts organizations and community organizations with a shared goal to enhance the safety, security and quality of life for everyone who lives, works, visits and conducts business in our City. The CCC has written to City government before and established collaborative dialogs on issues of safety, quality of life and economic recovery. With this letter, we are hoping to do so again.

“Philadelphia’s job recovery remains much slower than in the 11 county region and the nation as a whole ... In part this is a reflection of slower recovery in leisure and hospitality, which accounts for nearly one-third of the city’s job loss since the start of the pandemic ... as of August, there were 70,900 fewer jobs in the City than in February 2020 and with many workers remaining in remote-mode and conventions only gradually returning, both downtown service jobs and City finances will remain challenged.... (Center City District, “Monitoring Philadelphia’s Economic Recovery,” September 2021)

The CCC recognizes that families in every community in Philadelphia are facing serious challenges, including gun violence, unemployment, and the ongoing effects of the pandemic. The gradual economic recovery we have been seeing in our City in 2021 is being compromised on a daily basis not only by these serious issues, but also by problems rife in the downtown community. These include an increase in harassment and often violent behaviors by aggressive panhandlers and people with behavioral health issues, unprosecuted retail theft, vandalism, threats and assaults on employees and visitors, and poor City sanitation vehicles that shock visitors, hotel guests and attendees at our recently reopened cultural and performing arts venues. They also compromise the safety of hotel and restaurant employees returning home from long shifts often late at night.

In order for our hotel, restaurant, retail, performing arts and cultural sectors to survive and thrive, to continue to be major contributors to the economic growth of the City and the region, and to retain their employees and ensure their safety and well-being, we believe the City must implement the following solutions:

- Allocate additional police bike and foot patrols around all downtown hotels, cultural institutions and restaurants, particularly in the evening hours, and the Pennsylvania Convention Center during event days, set-up and break-down.
- Allocate police patrols on the major streets and thoroughfares where the ATVs and other enhanced-noise vehicles ride, including Broad Street, Market Street, JFK Boulevard and the Parkway, as well as Walnut and Chestnut Streets. Ticket and/or confiscate vehicles violating noise ordinances on a regular basis.
- Enhance 911 system response times to ensure that no emergency call is ever neglected and police follow-up is immediate.
- Ensure that sanitation practices – trash and garbage removal – are at least restored to pre-pandemic levels, and enhanced in areas of high sidewalk and pedestrian traffic, especially around hotels and major cultural, retail and restaurant corridors.
- Enhance the safety and cleanliness of public transportation vehicles and both above- and below-ground concourses and add security patrols especially late at night.

The CCC is committed to advocating for the well-being of residents, businesses, workers and visitors by identifying problems and implementing solutions. We are especially committed to partnering with City government to support our City’s vital industries and economic recovery and enhance the quality of life throughout Philadelphia.

The hospitality and tourism industry is one of our City’s most important economic drivers, represented by the Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association, a co-signer of this letter. GPHA is a trade association representing more than 100 hotels throughout the Philadelphia 5-county area. In addition to its hotel members, GPHA also has over 150 Allied Members, a diverse group of companies and related industry partners who do business with hotels. Its hotel members employ over 14,000 residents and have over 30,000 guestrooms.

Below is the list of Center City Coalition letter signatories, including residents, businesses, art and cultural venues, all of which support our City's economic stability and growth and the goal of collaborating with City government to find solutions.

We will plan to contact your offices to set up meetings to further discuss how with your support and leadership we can work together to strengthen our City.

Thank you for your consideration.

/s/ Ed Grose

Ed Grose, Executive Director
Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association
215.557.0777 (o)
egrose@gpha.us

/s/ Jane M. Green

Jane M. Green
Center City Coalition
267.457.3734 (o), 415.652.4829 (c)
centercitycoalition@gmail.com

Center City Coalition Signatories

The more than 50 signatories to this letter include multiple Center City residences, hospitality/ tourism venues, cultural, social and advocacy organizations, private clubs and retail/commercial establishments, collectively representing thousands of people who live, own businesses, work, vote and pay taxes in Philadelphia, and who visit our City and region.

The Academy House
1420 Locust Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dee Kaplan
Chair, Academy House Neighborhood
and Government Relations Committee
1420 Locust Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Jennifer Gallagher
General Manager
The Acorn Club
1519 Locust Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

AKA Rittenhouse Square
135 South 18th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

AKA University City
2929 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Alice Pizza and Restaurant
235 South 15th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Aloft Philadelphia Downtown
Evan Evans – General Manager
101 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Reginald Archambault
210 W. Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Avenue of the Arts Inc.
P.O. Box 22607
Philadelphia, PA 19110

The Bellevue Hotel
200 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA, 19102 USA

Boys Philadelphia
1818 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA. 19103

Center City One Condominium Association
1326 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Center City Proprietors Association (CCPA)
1515 Market Street, Suite 1200
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Center City Residents Association (CCRA)
1900 Market Street, Floor 8
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Centricity
104 South 20th Street, 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Di Bruno Brothers
1730-32 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

The Ellington Condominium
1500 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

William Goldstein
Murano Condominium
2101 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Gran Caffè L'Aquila

1716 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association
1617 John F. Kennedy Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Hampton Inn Convention Center
1301 Race Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

High Street Hospitality Group:

Fork
306 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

High Street Philly
101 South 9th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

A.Kitchen + A.Bar
135 South 18th Street
1737 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing
201 South Columbus Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19106

The Inn at Penn, A Hilton Hotel
3600 Sansom Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

DoubleTree by Hilton Philadelphia – Center City
237 S Broad St,
Philadelphia, PA 19107

HRI Properties (landlord to Chase Bank, Starbucks & Helen's Cleaners)
Evan Evans – Area Vice President
101 North. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Holiday Inn Express Midtown
1305 Walnut Street
Philadelphia PA 19107

Holiday Inn Express Penn's Landing
100 North Columbus Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19106, USA

David Lane, Co-Founder

LevLane
100 East Penn Square
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Lokal Hotel
Old City: 139 North 3rd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Fishtown: 1421 North Front Street
Philadelphia, PA 19125

The Logan, Philadelphia's Hotel
One Logan Square
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA)
2 Franklin Town Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19103

The Notary Hotel
21 North Juniper Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Pennsylvania Restaurant & Lodging Association (PRLA)
100 State Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Noor Laasri
Area General Manager
Philadelphia Marriott Downtown
1201 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Queen Village Neighbors Association (QVNA)
P. O. Box 63763
Philadelphia, PA 19147

The Racquet Club of Philadelphia
215 South 16th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Residences at the Phoenix
1600 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Residences at the Ritz-Carlton
1414 South Penn Square
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Residences at Two Liberty Place Condominium Association
50 South 16th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Rittenhouse Row
Representing more than 200 member businesses
located between the Avenue of the Arts and the river, the Parkway to South Street

Rick Piper
Safe Travel in Our Philadelphia (STOP)
Symphony House
440 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146

Sheraton Philadelphia University City Hotel
3549 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Sofitel Philadelphia
120 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Giuliano Pignataro
Spruce Street Commons
2021 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Symphony House Condominium Association
440 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146

Tria Restaurant Group
123 South 18th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

The Union League of Philadelphia
140 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Warwick Hotel Rittenhouse Square
220 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

Weir & Partners LLP
1339 Chestnut Street, Suite 500
Philadelphia, PA 19107