



JARED SOLOMON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



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Fall/Winter 2019

Trinity Oxford Church Saved · Royal Farms Blocked · PAL Coming Back



Parish House saved, open space is preserved, and the Police Athletic League (“PAL”) is coming back!

I led the effort to stop Royal Farms and create a space where we could bring about positive business corridor improvements. I brought Kinder Academy, a four-star preschool that will provide top-notch cognitive development for our kids. The building will be open to the community for programming and the model for new development on Rising Sun Avenue. I will also be bringing back the Police Athletic League (“PAL”), which will provide after-school and summer enrichment programs for thousands! This will ensure that the next generation is set on the right path for success!

New Home for the 2nd Police District

The key to revitalizing our business corridors is to ensure that they are safe. I led the way in bringing a new location for the 2nd Police District to our neighborhood. It will be located in the former



TruMark Financial at 2117 Cottman Ave. I worked to ensure 18 more police officers were added to the complement of officers in the 2nd District, and now these officers will have a new home. This will improve officer morale, improve response time, and make our community safer.



Education Center

The Toben Education and Job Center located at 7222 Castor Ave. is now open! This center contains:

- A GED provider;
- CareerLink for resume building and job placement;
- Welcoming Center providing English as a Second Language (“ESL”) training;
- Harcum College providing college classes; and
- PhillyWorks that will train people with skills needed to enter the workforce.

Contact my office or Mr. Charles Marcantonio directly at (267) 600-4630. Walk-ins are welcome!

Banners

My office will be unveiling banners along Castor, Bustleton, Rising Sun, and Cottman Avenues. If we are going to revitalize our corridors, they must look the part. The banner project will go a long way to making this happen. These banners will provide unifying themes for each corridor and will improve the look and feel of our main avenues!



Legislative Updates



Workforce Development Bill

I am proud to announce that my workforce development legislation has become law. Act 76 will help ensure that children all over Pennsylvania have career pathways to family-sustaining jobs right out of high school. Businesses can now partner with schools in the Northeast; the business will provide the school with the skills needed for students to secure jobs once they graduate high school. The state will provide the spark to empower our schools by offsetting the costs of additional career and technical teachers, curriculum, equipment, and transportation costs required to teach these new skills to our kids in the Northeast. This is a big win for our kids, our employers, and our workers!

Increased Funding for the Gun Violence Task Force

I, along with my colleagues from Philadelphia, am happy to announce that we increased the funding for the Gun Violence Task Force by 30%. We need all hands on deck to rid our city of gun violence. The Gun Violence Task Force is a proven model that has delivered results in targeting gun trafficking throughout our city and state. Too many people are dying, too many families are grieving, and too many neighborhoods are suffering with the scourge of gun violence. By investing in effective resources like the Gun Violence Task Force, we will begin to turn the tide.



Launch of the 250 Commission

I am excited that the America 250 PA Commission has launched. This commission will prepare Pennsylvania for America's 250th birthday in 2026. I have been chosen to serve as a commissioner after passing legislation that created the commission. Now, I will ensure that the Northeast is part of welcoming the rest of the nation and the world to Philadelphia. I can think big on what resources we need to properly showcase our community in 2026!

Efforts on Election Reform

One of my biggest goals this year has been election reform. Our election code has not been updated since 1937 and includes a provision that the source of light at all polling places must be a lantern! We were in desperate need of a modern, comprehensive update and we finally did it. Pennsylvania has moved into the 21st Century! I worked hard to enact legislation that allows you to vote with a mail-in ballot, changes the voter registration from 30 days to 15 days before an election, and a whole host of other forward-thinking reforms. We still have a lot more work to do - including same day voter registration and open primaries - but this is a great step forward.



Big improvements coming to Cottman Avenue!

Since January 2019, my office has been working on the Steering Committee for the exciting Cottman Avenue Streetscape Project. It is expected to include improvements to pedestrian crossings, streetlights, transit facilities, and the installation of Green Stormwater infrastructure.

Ultimately, the Cottman Avenue Streetscape Project will beautify Cottman Avenue and improve traffic and pedestrian safety around Roosevelt Mall, Health Center District #10, and the Northeast Regional Library. Project plans are expected to be completed by fall 2020, with construction expected in early 2021. This is one of the most thrilling improvements to our neighborhood's infrastructure in years, and one more example of how the new Northeast is moving forward. If you have any questions about the Cottman Avenue Streetscape Project, please contact my office or email CottmanAveStreetscapeProject@gmail.com.



Events

To date, I have hosted over 15 events and plan to host an additional five before the end of the year. We have held multiple events for our seniors, such as the Real ID informational event that was held at two local senior-living residences. In my office, I hosted a \$20 Produce Voucher program, where Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) personnel helped everyone sign up. Recently, I held a Senior Fair at St. William's with more than 20 vendors participating and disseminating important information.

Street Cleaning

Have you noticed the street cleaning work crew wearing yellow shirts along our commercial corridors? You may have seen them on Castor, Cottman, Bustleton or Rising Sun Avenues. These workers are the latest push to improve the cleanliness of our business corridors.

When I took office in early 2017, it had been ages since our commercial corridors had received regular scheduled cleanings. By the spring, we started to clean the streets in our business districts. Now, we have expanded



the program to two days a week. We continue to work toward making our commercial corridors an attractive place to work and shop.



Our Children

I added several new events this year specifically for the children in my district. There was the Easter Egg Hunt at Tarken playground, where children and their parents participated. We also had a Halloween Trunk or Treat Extravaganza in Lawncrest!



I partnered with Gary Barbera to give away school supplies to elementary school children. During our Back-to-School Backpack give-away, more than 400 backpacks were distributed to students. In addition, our partnership efforts included the Winter Warm-up Coat giveaway held in several schools throughout my district. More than 1,100 new coats were distributed to our elementary school children. It was a joy watching the smiles on the kids' faces as each child chose their favorite coat.



Supporting Local Businesses

One of my priorities is to continue assisting small businesses. My Business Corridor Liaison, Minerva Baez, visits with small business owners along the Bustleton, Castor, and Rising Sun Avenue corridors to:

- Continue to introduce our businesses to and inform the business owners of the services my office provides;
- Share with them the financial and security programs that are offered through various city and nonprofit organizations; and
- Encourage business owners to

take part in the Castor Bustleton & Cottman Business Association (CBCBA) monthly meetings.

Programs available to small business owners can range from the business security camera program, storefront improvement program, one-on-one business assistance, business coaching and training, and lending programs. In addition, there are grants available (that do not have to be paid back) to small business owners that help prepare our businesses for success. To date,

we have helped 10 local business owners receive \$90,000 in funding. Congratulations to New Father and Son Shoe Service and Hair Way to Beauty, our newest recipients of the \$10,000 grant! The district has seen an uptick in new businesses moving into the district corridors. Small businesses are the backbone of our community and I am proud to support them.

To learn more about how we can support your business, call Minerva Baez at (215) 342-6340 or email mbaez@pahouse.net.



In-House Clinics

Another one of my goals is to make our services more accessible for constituents in my district office. I have invited expert speakers from other organizations and utility companies to share information about issues specific to you. For example, a Landlord-Tenant clinic was held in my district office where I had George Donnelly, an attorney from the Public Law Center, helping constituents with their issues. During the PGW Home Energy Clinic, representatives were able to assist with issues relating to their gas bill and the LIHEAP application process. On Dec. 13, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., we will host a Department of Revenue clinic to assist constituents with property tax issues.

Around the 202nd District



Election Reform Summit at PPH.



Good Neighbor Summit at PPH.



Health care wellness event at Lawncrest Rec. Center.



Senior Fair at St. William's Church.



Tire Round Up at Jardel Recreation Center and Shredding Event at Max Meyer's Recreation Center.



Real ID Event at PPH.

Operation Hope

I am working to provide a vast number of resources in our neighborhood that will help you and your family.

Poor credit, high consumer debt, and bad financial decisions can leave hardworking people and families in a bad situation.

We have some help right here in our neighborhood. Operation HOPE's Credit and Money

Management Program (CMMP) is a free financial literacy program designed to accomplish three specific goals within one year:

- 1) Increase personal savings;
- 2) Reduce consumer debt; and
- 3) Increase credit scores to 700+.

Through free group workshops and personal one-on-one counseling, this program will

empower you to take control of your finances by creating a personal budget, reducing and paying down debt, and clearing errors from your credit reports.

For additional information and/or to schedule an appointment, contact my office or contact:

Austin Hall at (215) 956-7016 or email austin.hall@operationhope.org.

P.O. Box 202202
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2202

INSIDE:

- Education Center
- Legislative Updates
- Big Improvements Coming to Cottman Avenue!
- Supporting Local Businesses

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HOW MY OFFICE HELPED YOU

— *By the numbers* —

Constituent help:
15,997

Office visitors:
7,227

Philly 311 reports:
777

SEPTA Senior IDs:
844

Property Tax/Rent Rebate:
902

Event attendees:
3,315

Thanksgiving Turkey Give-away

This year marks my Third Annual Thanksgiving Turkey giveaway event. Every year, my staff and I have been able to increase the number of families we can help. I am happy to announce on Nov. 25, we donated more than 500 turkeys to families in need so they too could celebrate with their loved ones.



Holiday Open House

I will be hosting my Third Annual Holiday Open House get together in my office Friday, Dec. 20 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Looking forward to seeing you there! Please contact the office at (215) 342-6340 if you will be attending.

Happy Holidays!

I would like to wish all my constituents a happy holiday season. It's a pleasure to serve you every day.