

MEMORANDUM

TO: PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL – COMMITTEE ON THE WHOLE
(TRANSMITTED VIRTUALLY)

FROM: JABARI K. JONES; PRESIDENT, WEST PHILADELPHIA CORRIDOR
COLLABORATIVE

SUBJECT: REBUILDING PHILADELPHIA’S DAMAGED COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS

DATE: JUNE 1, 2020

CC: OFFICE OF THE MAYOR; HONORABLE JIM KENNEY

Members of Philadelphia City Council,

Today, I toured the devastating damage that was done to several West Philadelphia commercial corridors.

Small businesses are this City’s backbone, something that many have realized in seeing budget deficits that came about since businesses were closed. For the city to rebuild its tax base and generate funding for popular public programs, it needs small businesses to reopen as projected in the annual budget. Our communities need small business for the essential services they provide and contributions to the quality of life in our city.

As City Council returns to debate budget for the upcoming fiscal year, I urge the following priorities to help commercial corridor business associations rebuild their neighborhoods:

Immediate Police Protection to Vulnerable Businesses – Immediately direct the Philadelphia Police Department to provide police protection to essential businesses including grocery stores and pharmacies.

Emergency Storefront Improvement Program: Allocate \$25 Million to the Philadelphia Department of Commerce to give grants of up to \$15,000.00 to small businesses city-wide with destroyed facades to rebuild. To raise the money, re-route or defer \$25 Million in Rebuild PHL spending. Businesses are vital to the quality of life in neighborhoods and must be rebuilt.

Restore the Commerce Department’s Budget: Allocate an additional \$5.3 Million to restore the Commerce Department’s Budget to serve neighborhood businesses. As businesses struggle with recovery over COVID-19 and now the weekend looting, they need the assistance of the City more than ever. The City can show small businesses that it is behind them, by restoring much-needed neighborhood business services.

Fund Neighborhood Recovery Plans for every Philadelphia Neighborhood: Allocate \$5 Million in grants to fund neighborhood plans for every neighborhood to recover after COVID-19 and the weekend’s devastation. Grants should be open to Philadelphia non-profit organizations, business associations, and community development corporations and prioritize historically disenfranchised communities.

Restore the Business Security Camera Program – Allocate \$4 Million to the Business Security Camera Program, currently scheduled to be eliminated within the budget. The program provides businesses up to half the costs of security camera installations. With the weekend’s protests and events, many wonder if this program’s success could’ve increased police response times to looting. Since businesses receiving the grant must connect to the Philadelphia Police Department, officers would have been alerted immediately when looting broke out in any neighborhood corridor. Pay for the increase be re-routing \$4 Million of the \$14 Million increase to the Philadelphia Police Department, since the program will only help police effectiveness.

There is no time to waste, its time to rebuild.

Please Sign on to Endorse Our Plan for Rebuilding Philadelphia Corridors:

Signature

Organization Affiliation/Name of Business (List resident if not a business owner or organization official)

Title

Date of Endorsement

Please send to your Councilmembers and Representatives and copy us (CC: westphilycc@gmail.com)