

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
**WEST PHILADELPHIA CORRIDOR COLLABORATIVE**  
[www.westphillycc.org](http://www.westphillycc.org)

September 19, 2017

Dear West Philadelphia Business Community,

I am deeply concerned and closely following the Pennsylvania State Budget scenario that is currently unfolding in Harrisburg. State legislatures have been unable to pass a revenue plan for the State's budget, putting schools, state-funded construction projects, contracts, and other state-funded programs in jeopardy. In attempt to avoid a full government shutdown, which would have stopped all state-funded activities, Governor Wolf has announced that the State will temporarily default on over \$1 Billion Dollars of the State's financial obligations.

This default will have an impact our communities and our businesses. Pennsylvania has delayed payments to the Public-School Pension Fund, which can directly affect retired public-school employees receiving a pension. Additionally, the State has delayed payments to care providers that fund hospitals, doctors and nursing homes and treat poor, disabled and elderly Pennsylvania residents using Medicaid. This causes care providers to seek financing or make temporary job-cuts/layoffs.

Many of our business that do business with State know the threat of a full government shutdown from last year's budget impasse, where the State of Pennsylvania withheld payments on all state-funded contracts. As a result, many businesses struggled to perform services on state contracts without receiving payment, some even let go employees and shut-down operations.

We will continue to closely monitor the budget scenario as it unfolds to prepare our business community of what to expect from its fallout, and to create resources with our partners to assist our business community that may be affected. I want to also thank our representatives in Harrisburg for continuing the charge to push the state legislature to quickly approve a spending-plan.

Sincerely,

Jabari K. Jones  
President  
West Philadelphia Corridor Collaborative