

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WEST PHILADELPHIA CORRIDOR COLLABORATIVE
www.westphillycc.org

May 3, 2018

Dear Members, Supporters, and Stakeholders of the West Philadelphia Corridor Collaborative,

As you know from my previous letter sent to you on the first of March, I outlined several concerns regarding Mayor Jim Kenney's budget proposal, a proposal that called for a **six percent increase in property taxes** to fund the Philadelphia School District. I am deeply concerned of the impact of that tax in West Philadelphia neighborhoods on the outskirts of a rapidly growing University City, where residents are already seeing a spike in property taxes and struggling to keep their homes.

I was also alarmed at three recent revelations that have taken place since my letter two months ago. The first, [a report from the City's Office of the Controller](#) that indicated that 74% of revenue from the City's soda tax had not been allocated to Pre-K, Community Schools, or Rebuild PHL as promised, but had been instead deposited in the General Fund. Second, [an article by the Philadelphia Inquirer](#) reporting that in some neighborhoods, new property assessments had already doubled property taxes. And finally, most troubling of all, [the City has recently reported](#) that it has "misplaced" \$33 Million Dollars in tax payer money that is still missing from its account.

I believe that these three developments combined with the effects that a tax increase can have in West Philadelphia neighborhoods are reason enough to warrant opposition to the tax increase.

Today, I urge all members of the West Philadelphia Corridor Collaborative to stand up and be heard, **join me on this upcoming Tuesday May 8, 2018 at 5:00PM** at City Hall to testify in City Council against the new tax.

Sincerely,

Jabari K. Jones
President
West Philadelphia Corridor Collaborative