

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Morgan Cephias

192ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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WINTER/SPRING 2017

Dear Neighbor,

On Tuesday, January 3rd, 2017, I had the honor and privilege to be sworn in as your new state representative for the 2017-18 legislative session. With the tough road ahead of us, I would like to personally thank the residents of the 192nd Legislative District for entrusting me with the responsibility to lead this district during this significant transition. Throughout my time spent in the district, I have had the opportunity to connect with our neighbors and area civic associations to identify the top priorities and goals that will help rebuild the 192nd block-by-block. To ensure we accomplish our goals as a community, I will need your help to strengthen local partnerships, forge new relationships and advocate for commonsense policies and legislation that have a meaningful impact on a grassroots level.

As we move into this next chapter, it will be critical for us to work collaboratively with our officials in Harrisburg and in Philadelphia to ensure we achieve the progress we need. Over the next few months, I plan to fight for adequate funding to increase quality education opportunities for our youth; introduce legislation that will prohibit nuisance businesses from operating in our neighborhoods; work with local agencies to increase public safety throughout the district; create programming to ensure our seniors are protected from fraud and have access to the resources they need to live peacefully; and drive resources to restore our area commercial corridors and recreation spaces to their glory.

This is an aggressive agenda and, given our new environment on the state and federal level, we have a tough road ahead us. But having the opportunity to work with this district for close to 10 years, I believe if we continue to be steadfast in our commitments to improving our neighborhoods and rolling up our sleeves together, we can accomplish great strides over the next two years. During the next several months, you will hear directly from me and my office about the services we provide, events you can attend and what I am working on in Harrisburg. Stop by my office to say hello or find us out in the community at local events. Thank you again for entrusting me to lead the district and I look forward to our working together to rebuild our district block by block.

Yours in Service,

Morgan Cephias

Thank you to the residents of the 192nd Legislative District for joining me in Harrisburg on swearing-in day.



Staff Introductions

As we work toward improving the 192nd, I would like for you to meet the team that will be working with us along the way. Our Philadelphia office includes Dawn Cowan, director of constituent relations; Kimberly Snowden, director of policy; and the constituent relations team, Homer Lane, Christine Willis, Gwendolyn Fortt and Delores Whitaker. The new team for the office comes with significant years of both government and neighborhood experience, coupled with an eagerness to directly connect services to the district. Please feel free to stop by the office or meet them at your next scheduled community meeting.

If you are unable to travel outside your neighborhood, please pop up at one of our scheduled satellite offices in a neighborhood near you. As the weather gets warmer, my office staff will bring our constituent services to different locations throughout the district. We can help you with issues including property tax/rent rebates, birth and death certificates, LIHEAP heating assistance, PACE prescription-drug cards for seniors, or issues with PennDOT, and many more state services.



Members of my district office staff, along with my Harrisburg office staff and neighborhood residents, with me on my swearing-in day.



Please mark your calendar for the most convenient mobile office location or date for you:

Thursday, March 2	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Wynnefield Library, 5325 Overbrook Ave., 19131
Thursday, March 16	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Haddington Library, 446 N. 65th St., 19151
Thursday, March 23	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Councilman Curtis Jones Jr. District Office, 5398 Wynnefield Ave., 19131
Thursday, April 6	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Overbrook Park Library, 7422 Haverford Ave., 19151
Thursday, April 20	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Haverford Library, 5543 Haverford Ave., 19139
Thursday, April 27	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Councilman Curtis Jones Jr. District Office, new location TBD
Thursday, May 4	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Haddington Library, 446 N. 65th St., 19151
Thursday, May 18	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Wynnefield Library, 5325 Overbrook Ave., 19131
Thursday, May 25	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Councilman Curtis Jones Jr. District Office, new location TBD
Thursday, June 1	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Haverford Library, 5543 Haverford Ave., 19139
Thursday, June 15	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Overbrook Park Library, 7422 Haverford Ave., 19151
Thursday, June 22	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Councilman Curtis Jones Jr. District Office, new location, TBD

Committee Assignments Focused on the Needs of the District

During the 2017-18 legislative session, I have the privilege to serve on several key House standing committees, which will help move the needle on a series of critical issues facing our district. The Democratic leadership has appointed me to sit on the Labor and Industry; Liquor Control; Gaming Oversight; Aging and Older Adult Services; and the Agriculture and Rural Affairs committees.

Given the shifts we are experiencing as a commonwealth and a nation, as a new legislator, I look forward to participating in meaningful dialogue within these committees on issues that have a direct impact on the district and all Pennsylvanians. While all of these committees are crucial to the overall trends of the commonwealth, Liquor Control, Labor and Industry, and Aging and Older Adult Services committees specifically coincide with a significant portion of the agenda that I've laid out for my first term.

Philadelphia is home to several bars, restaurants and corner stores that serve alcohol. With the General Assembly loosening some laws regarding liquor sales, these businesses have opportunities to grow their economic footprint in our city. However, despite this potential growth, we must keep a watchful eye on nuisance establishments that take advantage of loopholes and have a negative impact on the surrounding neighborhoods.

There are a series of liquor establishments along commercial corridors and in the neighborhoods that have caused residents significant concerns. In an effort to address issues surrounding these types of establishments, I plan to take a series of action steps to ensure nuisance businesses do not go unchecked by local and state agencies. Over the next several months, I will be establishing a liquor control task force that will consist of local and state agencies, business owners and residents that are immediately impacted by the operation of these businesses. The task force will focus on: resolving and reporting complaints from residents; tracking and examining new license request and transfers; and making legislative and policy recommendations that will address nuisance liquor establishments. In addition to establishing the task force, I plan to host a neighborhood policy hearing and introduce a series of legislative bills that would strengthen regulations to hamper down on nuisance liquor establishments.

As a member of the Labor and Industry Committee, I will look to increase workforce development and career and technical education opportunities in the 192nd Legislative District. While serving on the Aging and Older Adults Committee, I will seek to introduce legislation to protect seniors from financial fraud, secure additional resources for senior activity centers, and increase access to resources by way of older adult programming.



Joining my colleagues in support of state Senator Vincent Hughes as he announces \$125,000 in new funding to fight lead poisoning in our neighborhoods.

Event Announcements:

Fire Safety Prevention Workshop
Saturday, February 25
10 a.m. – noon

Freedom Christian Bible Fellowship
6100 West Columbia Ave.
Philadelphia, 19151

Neighborhood Town Hall
Tuesday, March 7
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Shepard Recreation Center
5700 Haverford Ave.
Philadelphia, 19131

New Office Open House
Friday, March 10
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

5921 Lancaster Ave.
Philadelphia, 19151



New Investment: \$300,000 Grant Secured for the Carroll Park Revitalization Project

I am pleased to have been a part of the group that helped to secure a \$300,000 grant to revitalize Carroll Park, located in the Carroll Park neighborhood of my district. Several years ago, I had the opportunity to work with our local councilman, and the city of Philadelphia, the Fairmount Park Conservancy and area residents to redesign the park to meet the growing needs of the surrounding community.

As many of you may know, Carroll Park serves as a central point and gathering place for families throughout the Carroll Park neighborhood and I could not be happier to know that this much needed funding is going to help transform the park. This will be a multigenerational space that will be able to be utilized to hold events, allow for exercise opportunities, and active play. Often times, families aren't able to



afford vacations outside of the city, which forces us to transform our area parks and recreation centers into 'staycations' and destinations that offer a similar experience. These upgrades will provide that atmosphere for our young people and area residents.

The Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation will use this funding to restore the park's historic water fountain and play area, upgrade the children's playground equipment, create an interactive "spray-ground" system with matting and new benches, increase signage at the entrance of the park and improve lighting and green space to create a safe environment. The redevelopment project would not have become a reality without the efforts and financial commitment of the Carroll Park Neighbors Advisory Council, along with Fairmount Park Conservancy and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. That commitment, with area block captains and 4th District Councilman Curtis Jones Jr., have paved the way for this project to move forward.

Get All the Latest Updates

Connect with Rep. Cephias on social media – you'll get the latest updates on community news, local events and legislative updates.



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Take a Walk in the 192nd Legislative District



Meeting with the Haverford Avenue Business Association about area safety improvements.

As a strong supporter of quality education, I'm proud to stand with the members of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church as they contribute to the needs of our children who attend John Barry Elementary School and Universal Daroff Elementary School.



Congratulations goes to our champions, the Sharon Knights of Sharon Baptist Church, and our runner up, Overbrook. On Saturday, January 26, 2017, with the help of the Village of Champions Youth Network, over 100 young people filled the Overbrook High School gymnasium to compete in this year's tournament.





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INSIDE:

- Working with you information
- Mobile offices near you
- \$300,000 awarded for local revitalization project

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My Office Can Help You With:

- Car registrations, special tags, disability placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Getting answers to your Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds – bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

Any problem with state government!