



# State Representative ▼ 191st Legislative District JOANNA E. McCLINTON

117B East Wing, P.O. Box 202191, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2191.....(717) 772-9850

Fax: (717) 783-1516

6027 Ludlow St., Unit A, Philadelphia, PA 19139.....(215) 748-6712

Fax: (215) 748-1687

WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/McCLINTON • @REPMcCLINTON • /REPMcCLINTON

*Dear Constituent,*

I hope this newsletter finds everything well with you and yours. I am writing to update you on how our office has been serving you thus far in 2016 and invite you to two very important events this summer. Let me begin by thanking you for providing me the privilege of being your voice in Harrisburg. Through much bipartisan compromise, I am happy to report that we passed the 2016-17 state budget. I am proud to say that this budget contains the highest investment in our public schools in Pennsylvania's history!

Inside this edition, you will get a recap of how we have been working for you! For everyone who attended any of my events, thank you. I hope you found them to be useful and informative.

I enjoy every opportunity to meet with you face-to-face and learn about your needs and concerns. We hope to see you at one of our summer events in the 191st Legislative District this August. Our office aims to exceed your expectations daily. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us directly.

Sincerely,

**Joanna E. McClinton**  
State Representative  
191st Legislative District



## Mark your calendars!

### JOIN US!

#### Community Appreciation Fair

60th Street Summer Jam

August 13th

Noon to 4 p.m.

60th Street • from Arch to Chestnut • Philadelphia

There will be a health fair, face painting, a moon bounce, a fashion show and musical entertainment all day long!

#### Bartram Village Children's Community Day

August 27th

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

5404 Gibson Drive • Philadelphia

There will be a health fair, face painting, a moon bounce, a gospel concert and more.

### COBBS CREEK TEEN RECOGNIZED WITH PLBC SCHOLARSHIP

I am so very pleased to have helped award a \$1,000 college scholarship from the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus to a Cobbs Creek teenager.

Ricardo Burton Jr. received one of the 10 scholarships awarded by the PLBC this summer.

The scholarships are the PLBC's way to help make higher education a reality for hardworking students of color in Pennsylvania, and this young man certainly fits the bill. I wish him much success as he embarks on his future academic plans.

Burton graduated from Franklin Learning Center in June with a 3.5 grade-point

average. He was active in sports and other extracurricular activities and community service, while holding down a part-time job. Burton plans to study business management at Temple University.

The scholarship program was initiated in 2010. Students are selected based upon their academic success, leadership, extracurricular and community participation, and financial need.

**Ricardo  
Burton Jr.  
and Rep.  
McClinton.**



## PRE-EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER FAIR WORKSHOPS

In June, I sponsored two events for those looking for a new or better job.

On June 1, I joined with the state's CareerLink and Turning the Tide employment centers for a pre-employment workshop. The workshop provided information to local residents as they search for jobs. While the workshop was valuable on its own, it was designed to serve as an introduction for a follow-up career fair held on June 11, at Christian Compassion CDC.

Many neighbors came out to prepare for the Career Fair. CareerLink shared the "Dos and Don'ts" of interviewing. After the presentation, the leadership team of Turning the Tide reviewed resumes and conducted practice interviews.

About 250 job seekers and 35 different employers participated in the June 11 career fair.



## HOUSING AND CREDIT WORKSHOP ASSISTS FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS

On June 2, I partnered with Malik Carter of Carter Realty Group and Jamilah Thompson of Common Ground Realtors LLC for a housing and credit workshop aimed at first-time homebuyers.

More than 20 attendees learned the basics of financial management, such as improving their credit score, which can make purchasing a home easier and less expensive, as well as the potential for real estate investment in the 191st Legislative District.



Everyone present was eager and excited to learn how to rebuild wealth through credit repair and home purchases. In fact, their expectations were exceeded! Listening to housing professionals empowered and inspired our neighbors.

It was exciting to offer the chance for those in the job market to meet companies looking to hire. Some were so eager to speak with the employers that we had a line of about 20 applicants waiting when the doors opened at 9 a.m.

Those looking for jobs had the chance to meet face-to-face with employers and their personnel staff in a one-on-one situation.

Too often, it feels like the resumes and applications are submitted but nothing ever happens. This career fair ensured that the job seekers were able to meet directly with employers and hopefully create a solid first impression.

Among the employers who were looking to hire were the City of Philadelphia, the city police and fire departments, the state Civil Service Commission, Temple University, and a number of sales and service companies.

The U.S. Department of Labor also had a table to provide job information for those in attendance.

Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell also joined me at the fair.

## Local families joined me at the Philadelphia Zoo

On May 14, more than 100 people from approximately 20 families from the 191st Legislative District joined me as guests at the Philadelphia Zoo.

The Philadelphia Zoo is the nation's oldest zoo and recognized around the world. Thank you to my partners, Achievability, Empowered CDC, Bartram Village and other local groups, which helped make this visit for city families possible.

We are so fortunate to have a resource such as the Philadelphia Zoo in our region. The opportunity to see so many exotic animals is not only interesting, but a truly educational experience.

Seeing the animals up close gave children the chance to learn about wildlife conservation, wetlands and other animal habitats, both for domestic animals and others around the world.

Too often, the cost to visit locations such as the zoo prevents people from enjoying such local attractions.



## Older Adults Month luncheon in SW Philly offers services

On May 13, I celebrated Older Adults Month with a luncheon for residents of the Presbyterian Residence Complex in Southwest Philadelphia.

I was thrilled to host this event for these residents. My staff and I enjoyed the interaction with my constituents and providing in-person assistance as needed, including help with Medicaid issues.

Residents also had the opportunity to have their picture taken for the new SEPTA KEY rider ID program.



## Town Hall in S.W. Philly with Councilman Kenyatta Johnson

I co-hosted a community town hall meeting with City Councilman Kenyatta Johnson on March 31 Southwest Leadership Academy in Philadelphia.

About 90 neighbors in the Paschallville community attended the public meeting and shared their concerns and needs.

The town hall provided an opportunity to discuss the state budget situation, and the hopes and realities of the 2016-17 budget. Our schools, service agencies and others continue to struggle, credit rating agencies continue to downgrade our state, and Pennsylvania's dysfunction continues to make the commonwealth a laughingstock among other states.

Crime and community blight remain top issues in the area. I encouraged everyone who attended to consider creating their own neighborhood town watch groups.

City Council members Derek Green, Helen Gym and Al Taubenberger also participated.

I'd like to thank Councilman Johnson and the other council members for participating and encouraging city agencies to attend.

12th Police District Sgt. Ronald Davis spoke about violence in the community and how our police are working to make us safer.

State agencies that participated included the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Human Services, PennDOT and the Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement.

A number of other city agencies were represented, including the office of the District Attorney, Philadelphia Water Department, Licenses and Inspections, the Streets Department SWEEP program, Philadelphia More Beautiful and the Community Life Improvement Program (CLIP).

## BARTRAM HIGH MURALS DEDICATED MARCH 14

In my February newsletter, I mentioned that local artists and volunteers celebrated the Martin Luther King Day of Service by painting murals in the hallways of Bartram High School.

On March 14, the murals were dedicated during a public ceremony I participated in. The murals were designed by local artist Willis "NOMO" Humphrey as a joint project between myself, Philadelphia First Judicial District judges and employees, Restorative Justice Guild at the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, state Sen. Anthony H. Williams, state Rep. Jordan Harris and City Councilman Kenyatta Johnson.

More than 100 volunteers from the Philadelphia Youth Commission, Bartram High School students, the Men of Bartram alumni committee, Philadelphia First Judicial District judges and employees, and the Philadelphia Mural Arts Restorative Justice Guild program members picked up brushes and participated in the mural project.

The celebration in the school auditorium began with the Bartram High School Junior ROTC Color Guard presentation and Bartram students sang the national anthem.

This entire project has been a blessing for the school and



community. It was thrilling to see so many different groups and volunteers work for the common good of the students. The murals will be a long-term reminder of the value of community involvement and cooperation.

I was joined at the dedication by First Judicial District of Pennsylvania Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper; Jane Golden, founder and executive director of City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program; Harris; Williams; Bartram alumna and City Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell; and the artist. Blackwell was featured as an alumna in the hallway mural.

Kensington High School Assistant Superintendent Debora Borges-Carrera spoke on behalf of the Philadelphia School District.

Three murals were designed: one each for the front entrance and hallways, the auditorium and the classrooms.

The murals feature a "Welcome to Bartram" sign, a city skyline image and the slogan "chasing your dreams."

The youth and young adults who volunteered from the Restorative Justice Guild are young adults who are serving probation and

*continued on page 4...*

## TOWN HALL IN COBBS CREEK WITH COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL

I co-hosted a community town hall meeting with City Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell, on March 10 at Add B. Anderson School in Philadelphia.

Approximately 100 neighbors in the Cobbs Creek and West Philadelphia communities attended the public meeting.

State Sen. Anthony H. Williams also participated.

This was my first town hall meeting and I look forward to many more across the 191st Legislative District. The question-and-answer session allows me to see what is on the minds of our local residents, and to share ideas and solutions instantly.

The recent rounds of violent crime in Philadelphia were on everyone's mind. I encouraged everyone who attended to consider creating their own neighborhood town watch groups.

I'd like to thank Councilwoman Blackwell for her leadership in getting city agencies involved, as well. She was able to answer questions about city issues on the spot.

18th Police District Capt. Robin Wimberly discussed a number of community issues the police deal with on a regular basis, including personal safety and street violence.

State agencies that participated included the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Human Services and the Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement.

A number of other city agencies were represented, including the Philadelphia Water Department, Parks and Recreation, and the Philadelphia Managing Director's Office.

My staff was also available to answer constituents' questions regarding state programs, and PennDOT and other state agency issues.

A representative from PECO was also available to answer questions on energy programs and resources available for local families.



**Rep. McClinton with 18th Police District Capt. Robin Wimberly.**



State Representative • 191st Legislative District

**JOANNA E. McCLINTON**

P.O. Box 202191  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2191

lpo • kl • 0716

## Expungement and pardon clinic helps nearly 70 residents



Sen. Anthony H. Williams joined me on Feb. 20 to co-host an expungement and pardon clinic at the Cobbs Creek Branch of the Blanche A. Nixon Library.

Local attorneys and staff from the Defender Association of

Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity and the Ex-Offenders for Community Empowerment provided legal assistance to help qualifying residents clear their records.

The expungement clinic was for criminal charges that occurred in Philadelphia County.

The pardon clinic was for residents of Philadelphia and Delaware counties with misdemeanor or felony convictions.

A clean record is an important part of the job application process. It's unfair that an action that may have happened over a decade ago can continue to block the opportunity to hold a quality, family-sustaining job.

Once people are charged with a crime, the stigma follows them in their police record, often even if they are later exonerated.

Clearing that outdated or incorrect information can be a timely and expensive process, but the potential of a cleared record can be worth the time and expense. Events such as this can ensure our neighbors get the clean slates and second chances they deserve.

People who may qualify for expungement include:

- Anyone who had a criminal charge that was dismissed or withdrawn, or was found not guilty after trial.
- Anyone who pleaded guilty to a summary offense more than five years ago and has no subsequent criminal charges. Misdemeanor and felony convictions are not eligible.
- Anyone who was accepted into the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) program and met all terms of the program.

Those who did not qualify for expungement were given information on the pardon application process.

If you believe you may be eligible for an expungement or would like to apply for a pardon, but were unable to attend the event, please contact my office at 215-748-6712 for information.

## I was honored to receive 'Women on the Move' citation



**On March 31, I was honored along with three other women as local "Women on the Move," by Councilman Kenyatta Johnson. The presentation took place in City Hall at the end of Women's History Month.**

## BARTRAM MURALS *...continued from page 4*

who are making a positive influence in their community, one mural at a time.

Thanks to all who participated in both the creation and dedication of the murals. As Dr. King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

## SWEETHEART LUNCH AND RENT REBATES



I was honored to serve the senior residents at Walnut Plaza for a sweetheart's luncheon in West Philadelphia on Feb. 11. During the luncheon, my staff and I also offered assistance to residents as they applied for the annual state Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program for 2015 expenses. My staff can help complete the paperwork for anyone who may be qualified. The rebates are based on annual income and are available to

Pennsylvania residents 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The deadline to apply for 2015 expenses has been extended through the end of this year.