



Winter  
2020

State Representative | 192nd Legislative District

# MORGAN CEPHAS

## District Office:

5921 Lancaster Ave. | Philadelphia, PA 19151 | (215) 879-6625

## Capitol Office:

104-B East Wing | P.O. Box 202192 | Harrisburg, PA 17120-2192 | (717) 783-2192

[pahouse.com/Cephas](http://pahouse.com/Cephas) | [/RepCephas](https://www.facebook.com/RepCephas) | [@RepCephas](https://twitter.com/RepCephas) | [RepCephas@pahouse.net](mailto:RepCephas@pahouse.net)



## Hello neighbor,

I hope you had a great holiday season! A new year brings new beginnings, including the reconvening of session in Harrisburg. As your state Representative, I am committed to serving you and keeping you well informed on state matters.

In this newsletter, you will find information about the key issues I am addressing. There is also a recap of the past year and a snapshot of what's to come in 2020. While I am pleased with the number of constituents we've served and the legislative progress that we made in 2019, there is still plenty of work to do to make Pennsylvania safe and equitable for all. I will continue to fight for progress while prioritizing our most vulnerable communities!

As always, my staff and I are available to help you with any state-related issues. Stop by my office to see us and mark your calendars for several upcoming events and information sessions we will be hosting this year.

We hope to see you soon!

Morgan Cephas

## POLICY FOCUS 2020

As always, my efforts will be to shift policy and enact legislation that addresses the many needs of our district. One of my top concerns for the 2020 legislative session is affordable housing, which impacts people across generational and economic lines.

Problems with affordable housing surface in many ways. For this reason, my colleagues and I have had to get creative when looking at this complex issue. We are committed to working together and with state agencies to find commonsense solutions that work for constituents across Pennsylvania. For our district, I am working to ensure that long-term residents are able to comfortably and safely stay in their homes, young and growing families are able to invest in the very neighborhoods that they grew up in, and local classifications like "historic designation" don't create unrealistic financial burdens on homeowners.

I am planning to introduce and push the following legislative proposals during 2020 to improve the quality of life for you and your family:

**Making it easier for hardworking families to stay in their homes** by prioritizing mortgage modification in advance of the payment of municipal liens assessed on a property.

**Preserving affordable housing projects for low- and moderate-income households in growing neighborhoods** by allowing the state or municipality to purchase expiring federally assisted housing projects or connect them to interested developers.

**Ensuring that historic designation does not push people out of their homes** by establishing a historic preservation incentive grant program to aid qualifying residents of historically designated properties.

Such legislation, along with new programs like the West Philadelphia Handyman Project, will **help our seniors maintain their aging homes** and much more. I worked in partnership with Overbrook West Neighbors Community Development Corporation to launch this program in our community. Together, we secured \$200,000 in funding from the PA Housing Finance Agency for a grant to help offset repair costs for older residents maintaining their homes on a fixed income. I look forward to continued community partnerships that support programming and legislative efforts.

## MY BUDGET PRIORITIES

- Increase the minimum wage
- Funding for maternal mortality
- Funding for emergency school repairs
- Increase in basic education and workforce development funding
- Funding for gun violence reduction and school safety

# 2019 POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout 2019, I have maintained an extensive legislative focus with a commitment to the diverse needs of the 192nd District. It is my mission to address the priorities of area residents while working to protect the Commonwealth's most vulnerable populations. I am proud to have introduced the following bills and legislative packages during the 2019-20 Legislative Session:

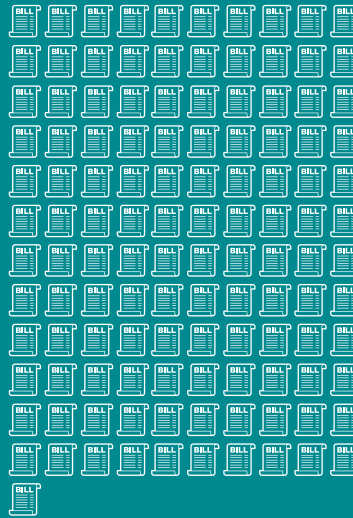
**Addressing Maternal Mortality:** I introduced a package of bills which would ensure that all women have access to quality and equitable care during pregnancy and childbirth by addressing the core causes including access to care, cultural competency and implicit bias.

**Dignity for Incarcerated Women:** This package of bills seeks to address the unique needs of incarcerated women, to rectify and prevent trauma in our prisons and to create an environment that supports healthy re-entry for women and families impacted by the local and state prison systems

**Assisted Living & Long-term Care Resident Bill of Rights:** This legislation explicitly articulates the needs and rights of residents in assisted living and long-term care nursing facilities so that they may be afforded the protections they deserve against discrimination and bias.



## 121 Bills Co-Sponsored



## 5 Amendments Introduced



## 11 Bills Introduced



## 23 Resolutions Co-Sponsored



## Dignity for Incarcerated Women



## Maternal Mortality





**\$3.5 MILLION** *brought back to* **DISTRICT 192**

**2019**

### Education & Libraries

West Philadelphia Achievement Charter Elementary  
Overbrook School for the Blind  
Wynnefield Branch Library/WRA

**\$118,239**

### Parks & Recreation

Tustin Recreation Center/  
Parkside Saints  
Community Health & Gardens Inc.  
Panthers/Shepard Recreation Center Football Field

**\$285,000**

### Commercial Corridors

**\$2,684,500**

Cobbs Creek Commons  
Overbrook West Neighbors  
St. Joseph's University  
Commercial Corridor Cleaning  
Haverford Ave. Business Association  
Boost CDC  
Haverford Intersection

### Community

**\$507,310**

Dept. of Treasury - Unclaimed Property  
Property Tax/Rent Rebates  
Department of Agriculture Vouchers





# 2019 in the 192nd - Fall Events Recap



## Across the District – New Voting Machine Demonstration & REAL ID Seminar

In September and October, I visited several neighborhoods across the district to introduce neighbors to Philadelphia's new voting machines. Attendees got the chance to test out the new machines just in time for the General Election. We made a special stop to Overbrook High School to ensure our

young people are ready to take advantage of their right to vote from day one. We can never be too prepared for the changes happening around us! We will be bringing the new machines back throughout the year. Contact my office for event dates.

## Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway



To kick-off the holiday season, I teamed up with the 19th Police District and Bishop Wade Jackson of Keep it Real Ministry to deliver turkeys and other food items to residents across the District. Together, we helped residents across the district celebrate a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.



## West Philly Panthers Football Team Presentation at City Hall

In early December, I joined Councilman Jones and Senator Hughes to celebrate the West Philly Panthers. The youth football and cheerleading teams made it into the National 2019 Football Competition in Kissimmee, Florida. The West Philly Panthers were presented with over \$15,000 to help fund their expenses to attend the championship.



## Participatory Defense Hub “Know Your Systems” Training

I partnered with the Defender's Association of Philadelphia and other local groups to host a Know Your Systems training at Philadelphia Baptist Church. This session gave attendees a roadmap on what to expect at each step in the criminal justice process including arrest, scheduled court dates, bail and more. This training was the first step in bringing a Participatory Defense Hub to residents of the 192nd District. The Participatory Defense Hub model is comprised of a weekly meeting for people facing charges and their families to gain access to resources and support.



## Gompers Townhall

On November 12th, I had the opportunity to sit on a panel at a townhall style meeting at Samuel Gompers Elementary School to discuss protecting our youth from gun violence. Gun violence continues to plague our community and our children are caught in the crossfire. The panel, organized by the school's student council, is part of their monthly themed program, Youth Summit.



## TREASURY & TREAT

October ended on a festive note when I hosted my very first Treasury & Treat event with the help of the PA Treasury Department. Each year millions of dollars in unclaimed property gets turned over to the state treasury including lost and forgotten items like coins, jewelry, medals, insurance policies and uncashed checks from previous employers. In just one day, we were able to uncover over \$8,000 in unclaimed property. In all, we returned over \$300K in property to constituents last year. So, remember to stop by my office so that we can help connect you to any unclaimed property you might have in the PA Treasury. This is your money and my office wants to help you get it back!



# 2019

*By the numbers*

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Morgan Cephas**  
192ND DISTRICT



**6,011** Issues  
Resolved



**13,701**  
Services



**1,189**  
Rebate/Revenue  
Services  
**\$198K**  
Saved

**1,160**



Seniors  
Attended/Vouchers Served

**1,303**  
311 Requests





State Representative  
**MORGAN CEPHAS**

5921 Lancaster Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19151

lpo.kaf.0120

## 2020 PREVIEW

Save the date for these Upcoming Events

### MLK Day of Justice

January 18th • 2 PM – 4:30 PM  
Sheppard Rec.



### State of the 192nd Townhall

February 11th • 6 PM – 8 PM  
John Anderson Cultural Center



### Telephone Townhall

February 18th • 7 PM – 8 PM  
Phone / We'll Call You

### Dignity for Women Expungement Clinic

March 14th • 11 AM – 1 PM  
Contact our office for details

### Women of the 192nd Awards Brunch

March 21st • 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM  
Vine Memorial Baptist Church



**COMING SOON!**  
**Mornings with Morgan**  
**Contact my office for details.**



## Here to serve you

- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Unemployment compensation problems
- Birth certificate applications
- Pennsylvania income tax problems
- Disability plates and placards
- Questions with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, LIHEAP, income assistance)
- Consumer complaints
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- Complaints about state road conditions
- Questions about PennDOT
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Complaints and questions with insurance companies
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Questions about the state lottery
- Local government officials' problems with state agencies
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions, applications and more
- PA Treasury search for unclaimed property