Students today are faced with situations that students in
past didn’t deal with. From cyber bullying to dealing with mental illness to violence in our communities, we need to stand together and show our young people and all the other people around them that they are valuable when they need it and show them how to feel empowered to take control of these situations.

Recently, I joined fellow state Representative Morgan Cephas at Gompers Elementary to take part in a youth summit on gun violence. We had a great discussion on conflict resolution, how to keep firearms out of children’s hands, how to cope with mental health issues and how students can make a difference in their communities. I’m thankful for the opportunity to speak with these students and even more thankful to have fellow representatives from Philadelphia who feel as strongly as I do about giving back to our community and helping our youth.

Not only that, but it will help grow Pennsylvania’s economy and provide for their family. With minor, nonviolent crimes will help them be successful doesn’t make sense. Loosening these restrictions for people to successfully get a state license.

This makes sense and is a win-win for everyone. People who have been formally incarcerated and convicted aims to reform Pennsylvania’s occupational licensure system by loosening restrictions on how formally incarcerated and convicted people are approved for state licenses.

Recently, I co-sponsored with Rep. Sheryl Delozier the most important aspect is that it helps people looking to navigate their state government needs. Please don’t hesitate to reach out for help with:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver’s license applications
- Information on the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
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How can my office help you?

My district offices provide help so you can get their second chance. I’m thankful to Rep. Delozier, who I believe reentry even harder than it already is. As an example, imagine someone is incarcerated and tries to better themselves by learning to be a barber. Once they’re released, they want to start their own barber shop. They attempt to get a license from the state only to find out that they can’t practice the trade they learned while incarcerated due to outdated laws. It just doesn’t make sense. Loosening these restrictions for people to successfully get a state license.

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By putting people to work and reduce the flow of people heading back to jail therefore saving taxpayer dollars. But even more important is that it helps people who have been formally incarcerated and convicted people to successfully get a state license.

Clean Slate Clinic

Mon., Jan. 20

12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Yesha Fellowship Hall

2301 Snyder Ave., Philadelphia

Join my staff, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia and the Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia to find out how you can have your record sealed.

Senior Sweetheart Dance

Wed., Feb. 12

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Yesha Fellowship Hall

2301 Snyder Ave., Philadelphia

Join seniors from our community for an evening of dinner, dancing, and information on physical and mental health. Multiple vendors will be on hand with information vital to seniors living an active and healthy lifestyle.
The 2019 Soul School Festival was a tremendous success. We had beautiful weather, fantastic musical performances, food, vendors, and tons of fun for children and adults alike. This community event brings everyone together, and I’m already looking forward to this year’s Soul School!

BRINGING SUPPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY
As your state representative, I take my role in the community very seriously. That’s why I’ll continuously fight to bring state resources back from Harrisburg to improve the space and all of us will enjoy. This year, I’ve been able to secure multiple state grants for the 186th District including:

• $2.26 million to the Schuylkill River Trail from two separate grants, to help complete the Christian to Crescent portion and complete the last major gap of the trail.
• $1.5 million to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to complete upgrades at its unique Diverse Plots garden, and provide space developed by the University of Pennsylvania to help bring intellectual and entrepreneurial initiatives together and generate economic development.
• $350,000 to the Dorothy Allen Community Center to renovate and construct property that will feature apartments, a community center, meeting rooms, classrooms and social service providers.
• $42,208 to the Neighborhood Gardens Trust for additional plantings, fencing, a concert stage and play area for children.
• $540,000 to the Dorothy Allen Gardens Trust to renovate its Concert Garden and include a stage, additional plantings, fencing, a concert stage and play area for children.

I’m working with.

In November, I joined the newest members of Philadelphia City Council to Harrisburg to discuss how the state and city can interact in a way that benefits all Philadelphians. In November, I welcomed the newest members of Philadelphia City Council to Harrisburg to discuss urban agriculture and the vast benefits it can provide.

GROUNDBREAKING WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD GARDEN TRUST
A few months ago, I had the honor of announcing another Commonwealth Financing Authority grant for over $40,000 for the Neighborhood Garden Trust to renovate a Concert Garden at the corner of 21st and Ellsworth. Recently, we broke ground on the renovation with members of the community present to take part and learn more about what’s coming.

Planned work includes upgrading the community flower beds, creating a play space for children and shaded space for adults, creating a concert stage and a sustainable stormwater management system, and adding plantings, benches, pavement and seating. Good things are happening in our community and I can’t wait to see them come to completion!

PRIZE FOR CIVILITY IN PUBLIC LIFE
In September, I was honored to receive the Prize for Civility in Public Life in Pennsylvania. This award, presented by Allegheny College, is given annually to public officials from both sides of the aisle who conduct themselves with civility and poise. It’s an honor to be presented with this award by my fellow co-chairs of the bipartisan Criminal Justice Reform Caucus, state Rep. Sheryl Delozier and state Sens. Art Haywood and Cameron Barbanell.

It’s tremendously humbling to receive an award that’s been given at the national level to the likes of Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. John McCain, Congreswoman Beto O’Rourke and Will Hurd, the pair of the United States Senate, and Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia. I’ve frequently said that it’s possible to disagree without being disagreeable, and I continue to believe that. At a time when politics is becoming more and more polarized, we simply can’t retreat to our separate corners and expect to accomplish anything for the people we represent.

Compromise and working across the aisle are not only good for politics, it’s necessary. Civil discourse is at the heart of our democracy. Being able to disagree without being disagreeable is patriotism. We are stronger because of our diversity in race, color, geography and ideals. Consensus is not a bad word, but complacency is. We need to focus more on where we agree and move forward together from there. I’m incredibly appreciative to receive this award, and I look forward to continuing to deliver results regardless of who I’m working with.

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY
PennEnvironment joined me in our community event to discuss all things environment and what more we can do to protect the land, air and water that make Pennsylvania beautiful.

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BRINGING SUPPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY
As your state representative, I take my role in the community very seriously. That’s why I continually fight to bring state resources back from Harrisburg to improve the quality of life all of us enjoy. This year, I’ve been able to secure multiple state grants for the 186th District, including:
- $20.6 million to the Schuylkill River Trail, from two separate grants, to help complete the Christian to Crescent segment and complete the last major gap of the trail.
- $57,803 from Pennsylvania Wednesday to complete upgrades at five unique locations along the Schuylkill River and public space developed by the University of Pennsylvania to help bring intellectual and entrepreneurial initiatives together and generate economic development.
- $450,000 to the Dorothy Allen Community Center to renovate a home and construct property that will feature apartments, a university meeting room, classrooms and social service providers.
- $42,208 to the Neighborhood Gardens Trust to renovate its Concert Garden and include additional plantings, fencing, a concert stage and play area for children. I’ve helped bring in multiple grants for the Schuylkill River Trail over the past few years to help complete this massive project. Much of this funding will go toward the last unfinished section in our area, the Schuylkill Crescent segment. This particular segment is especially difficult to finish due to an active industry in the area and a narrow right-of-way.

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Planned work includes upgrading the community flower beds, creating a play space for children and shaded space for adults, creating a concert stage and a sustainable stormwater management system, and adding plantings, fencing, pavement and seating. Good things are happening in our community and I can’t wait to see them come to completion!

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• $2.26 million to the Schuylkill River Trail for two separate grants, to help complete the Christian to Crescent portion and complete the last major gap of the trail.
• $1.5 million to Pennsylvania Parks and Forests to complete upgrades to its unique locations and provide space developed by the University of Pennsylvania to help bring intellectual and entrepreneurial initiatives together and generate economic development.
• $340,000 to the Dorothy Allen Neighborhood Garden Trust to renovate its Concert Garden and include additional plantings, fencing, a concert stage and play area for children.
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I’ve helped bring in multiple grants for the Schuylkill River Trail over the past few years to help complete this massive project. Much of this funding will go toward the last unfinished section in our area, the Christian to Crescent segment. This particular segment is especially difficult to finish due to an active industry in the area and a moratorium.

On December 10th, I had the honor of announcing a Commonwealth Financing Authority grant of over $40,000 for the Neighborhood Garden Trust to renovate a Concert Garden at the corner of 21st and Elsworth. Recently, we broke ground on the renovations with members of the community present to talk and learn more about what’s coming.

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PARKING FOR CIVILITY IN PUBLIC LIFE

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It’s tremendously humbling to receive an award that’s been given at the national level to the likes of Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. John McCain, Congressman Brian O’Roark and Will Hurd, the late of the United States Senate, and Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia. I’ve frequently heard the words ‘disagree without being disagreeable,’ and I continue to believe that at a time when politics is becoming more and more polarized, we cannot retreat to our separate corners and expect to accomplish anything for the people we represent.

Compassion and working across the aisle are not only good for politics, it’s a necessity. Civil discourse is at the heart of our democracy. Being able to disagree without being disagreeable is critical. We are stronger because of our diversity in race, color, geography and ideals. Consensus is not a bad word, but complacency is. We need to focus more on where we agree and move forward together from there. I’m incredibly appreciative to receive this award, and I look forward to continuing to deliver results regardless of who I’m working with.

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

PennEnvironment joined me in our efforts to discuss all things environment and what more we can do to protect the land, air and water that make Pennsylvania so beautiful.

In November, I joined Zeta Delta Phi Beta to honor their founders, Arkansas Leaders Clemson Steners, as the 186th Block of Federal Street was named after her in recognition of the community service that the Beta Delta Zeta chapter has done over 75 years in Philadelphia.

In November, I welcomed the newest members of Philadelphia City Council to Harrisburg to discuss how the state and city can interact in a way that benefit all Philadelphians.
Recently, I’m proud to say that legislation I co-sponsored with Rep. Cheryl Delozier of Cumberland County passed the House of Representatives and moved onto the Senate for consideration. House Bill 1547 aims to reform Pennsylvania’s occupational licensure system by loosening restrictions on how formally incarcerated and convicted people are approved for state licenses.

There are over 300 occupational fields in Pennsylvania that require a license from the state. These jobs include things like cosmetologists, barbers, nurses, engineers and multiple different medical fields. Under current law, many of these occupational fields contain provisions that make it difficult for formally incarcerated and convicted people to successfully get a state license. This makes nearly every harder than it already is.

As an example, imagine someone is incarcerated and tries to better themselves by learning to be a barber. Once they’re released, they want to start their own barber shop. They attempt to get a license from the state only to find out that they can’t practice the trade they learned while incarcerated due to outdated laws. It just doesn’t make sense. Loosening these restrictions for people with minor, nonviolent crimes will help them be successful and provide for their family.

Not only that, but it will help grow Pennsylvania’s economy by putting people to work and reduce the flow of people heading back to jail therefore saving taxpayer dollars. But the most important aspect is that it helps people going from being some of the most vulnerable people in our society to being self-sufficient. One of the models we want to talk about is how we can bring in a partner in reform, for her continued support in fixing this problem. My partner in reform, for her continued support in fixing Pennsylvania’s broken criminal justice system, is the work of the Pennsylvania Senate. The Senate has passed this bill early this year at which point it will go to Governor Tom Wolf to be signed into law.

We have a unique opportunity to reform Pennsylvania’s occupational licensure system to make it fairer and more equitable for all Pennsylvanians. If you’re interested in learning more about this legislation or how you can support it, please reach out to me at Jordan.Harris@pa.gov.

HELPING STUDENTS LEARN TO DEAL WITH CONFLICT

Students today are faced with situations that students in the past didn’t have to deal with. From cyber bullying to dealing with mental illness, students in our communities need to stand together and show support for our young people and let them know there is help available when they need it and show them how to feel empowered to take control of these situations.

Recently, I joined fellow state Representative Morgan Cephas at Gompers Elementary to take part in a youth summit on gun violence. We had a great discussion on conflict resolution, how to keep firearms out of children’s hands, how to cope with mental health issues and how students can make a difference in their communities. I’m thankful for the opportunity to speak with these students and even more thankful to have fellow representatives from Philadelphia who feel as strongly as I do about giving back to our community and helping our youth.

How can my office help you?

My district offices provide help so you can navigate your state government needs. Please don’t hesitate to reach out for help with:

- Car registrations, special tags, handicap placards, titles and driver’s license applications
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- Any state government-related issue

You can stop by or call either of my district offices, located at 1310 Point Breeze Avenue, (215) 952-3378, or 2103 Snyder Avenue, (215) 709-0186.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

CLEAN SLATE CLINIC

Monday, Jan. 20
12 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Yesha Fellowship Hall
2301 Snyder Ave., Philadelphia

Join my staff, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia and the Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia to find out how you can get your record sealed.

SENIOR SWEETHEART DANCE

Wednesday, Feb. 12
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
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Join seniors from our community for an evening of dinner, dancing, and information on physical and mental health. Multiple vendors will be on hand with information vital to seniors living an active and healthy lifestyle.

Call (215) 952-3378 for more information on either of these events.
GIVING PENNSYLVANIA A SECOND CHANCE

Recently, I’m proud to say that legislation I co-sponsored with Rep. Sheryl Delozier of Cumberland County passed the House of Representatives and moved onto the Senate for consideration. House Bill 1477 aims to reform Pennsylvania’s occupational licensure system by loosening restrictions on how formally incarcerated and convicted people are approved for state licenses.

There are over 30 occupational fields in Pennsylvania that require a license from the state. These jobs include things like cosmetologists, bartenders, nurses, engineers and multiple different medical fields. Under current law, many of these occupational fields contain provisions that make it difficult for formally incarcerated and convicted people to successfully get a state license. This makes reentry even harder than it already is.

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