

# Allegheny West

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER

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### Introducing The Allegheny West Civic Association of Philadelphia

If you've lived in the Allegheny West neighborhood, or the Swamp Poodle Neighborhood, or the Forgotten Blocks neighborhood, the Woodstock Civic Association, or the Nicetown/Tioga neighborhood for more than 20, or 30 years, all these group names ring a bell for you. The Allegheny West Foundation, (AWF), a local non-profit organization has been around for just sort of 40 years and many in North Philadelphia know that name also. In more recent years, AWF oversaw a group called the Allegheny West Foundation Neighborhood Action Committee, (NAC), however about a year ago, it was dissolved. The AWF/NAC did great work while in existence and met all it's required goals from the city of Philadelphia, through which it was funded. However, as leadership of Allegheny West Foundation



Members of Allegheny West Civic Association of Philadelphia with area residents and Philadelphia Community Relations Police Officer Joseph Lukaitis at recent food give-away at Panati Town Hall Center

looks to the future, Ronald E. Hinton, Jr., president of Allegheny West Foundation saw a need for a change. He and members of his board of directors understand that sometimes to be a leader in your community or service area, you need to be able to be creative even beyond the vision of some of your funders. Some of the longtime and very loyal members of the old AWF/NAC had been at loose ends since the closure of the

AWF/NAC group, but they expressed great interest in sticking with Allegheny West and carrying on a lot of the same work the NAC used to accomplish.

Without hesitation, a new non-profit has been formed and the official name is the Allegheny West Civic Association of Philadelphia. Some of the very same people who used to operate the AWF/NAC

make up the board of the all new Allegheny West Civic Association of Philadelphia. They are from the Allegheny West community and they are all about supporting the community.

Ron Hinton commented, "Essentially the Allegheny West Civic Association of Philadelphia is our community advisory council. They are our community partners.

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### Update On Peirce Elementary School Temporary Closing

There's no way to sugar-coat how many from the neighborhoods surrounding the Thomas M. Peirce Elementary School feel about the way things unfolded at the school, after it was revealed that Asbestos was in the school. Many from the community that staff of the Allegheny West Neighborhood Newspaper spoke to, feel that it took way to long for the school district of Philadelphia to temporarily close the school and address the asbestos issue. Compared to public schools in predominately white communities, when they have learned of asbestos in their buildings, the schools were closed more quickly.

There's also those from the community near the Peirce school who asked to remain unnamed for this article, but who question why the Peirce asbestos is being handled

differently in terms of the removal process. There's some other schools in the city of Philadelphia where asbestos was discovered. Those schools were closed for a number of weeks. The asbestos was removed, and then those schools were reopened. Yes there was an inconvenience for students who had to stay home from school, but at least they were not displaced for months and entire school semesters.

Ray Murphy, a longtime business owner along the North 22nd Street business corridor commented, "Thank God we have a city councilperson who stays on the case and who's paying attention and who speaks up when she sees something wrong. Councilwoman

Cindy Bass, who represents the 8th council district and which takes in part of North Philadelphia has been very vocal as it relates to asbestos in our schools. When parents and concerned neighbors held a demonstration out in front of the Peirce School last year, Councilwoman Bass was



File photo from demonstration outside in front of Peirce Elementary School at 2300 West Cambria St.

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## "DREAMKEEPERS"

The Allegheny West Foundation (AWF) is a community based organization that has served North Philadelphia for almost 50 years (founded 1968). We are re-opening the Panati Recreation Center at 3100 N. 22nd Street (bet. Clearfield & Lippincott). Our mission at **AWF is to provide a safe space, where young people learn, laugh, and can realize their potential.** We serve high school students motivated to be better students and ready to pursue professional passions. Simply put, we are dreamkeepers who believe in the greatest and best ambitions of our young people.

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(D) PA State Representative for the 197th Legislative District Danilo Burgos

## Know Your Elected Officials

owners, co-founded the Dominican Grocers Association of Philadelphia, (DGAP), in partnership with the Eastern Pennsylvania Organizing project, (EPOP). Since 1999, the organization has grown to more than 385 members.

Prior to joining the state legislature, Danilo served as Director of Zoning and Business Development for Philadelphia City Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez, where he oversaw the expansion of St. Christophers Hospital for Children and Allegheny General Hospital as well as developed and managed several revitalization projects. He is also the former Director of Constituent Services for City Councilman At Large Allan Domb.

His goals as a state legislator include improving public education and job training, reducing unemployment and promoting small business development and economic empowerment throughout the district. Danilo also is a strong advocate for criminal justice reform. He is working towards reducing recidivism and providing a pathway for ex-

offenders who have learned from their mistakes and want to contribute in a positive way, to society.

Danilo served on the board of the Eastern Pennsylvania Organizing Project, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the White Dog Community Foundation, Proyecto Sin Fronteras and Visitation Community Center. In addition, he has collaborated with Congreso de Latinos Unidos and the Latino Partnership on various projects and initiatives. Representative Burgos says as a father, his children are his prime motivators and drive his passion to continue to improve and build a better, safer and stronger city of Philadelphia. He aims to give his constituents a light of hope, along with the tools they need to succeed. He wants to break the stereotypes associated with North Philadelphia by fostering mutual understanding between the 197th Legislative District and other districts throughout the state.

### Introducing The Allegheny West Civic Association of Philadelphia

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The purpose of this group is to sponsor and implement quality of life programs for the community. Much of the work they do will come out of the Panati Town Center at 3103 North 22nd Street, formerly known as the Panati Recreation Center. That's their job. The same group is also the RCO for this community. They're the RCO. They're the Civic Association. They're the organization that helps to sponsor food programs, toy drives, workshops on how to do your own home improvements, workshops on financial planning and much more. The good thing is that everyone on our committee, they are long term community residents and supporters. I'm talking Regina Smith, Joyce

Smith, Dorothy Bray, Delores Cobb, Vernon Reynolds and Tootie Edwards. These aren't people who just arrived on the scene yesterday. They've been committed to this area of Philadelphia for a long time and they're no ways tired. They've been volunteering for decades and now we're giving them the forum to spread their wings under less stringent requirements, to make their visions for our pocket of North Philly a reality. They'll be more focused on a broader approach to community stabilization, outside of housing, free food, education programs, at Panati.

Regina Smith, president of the Allegheny West Civic Association of Philadelphia shared her vision for this new group.

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How many of our Allegheny West Neighborhood Newspaper readers actually know who their elected officials are, for this area? It can be challenging at times, because names of elected officials do change as people win or lose elections. In our newspaper, we do a listing of area elected officials. However in the last edition of our newspaper, we got one name wrong. We indicated that Emilio A. Vazquez was the State Representative for the 197th legislative district. He was the state representative, but Danilo Burgos won in the last election in November 2018 and he was sworn into office in January 2019. Representative Burgos represents people in portions of North Philadelphia, including Kensington, Hunting Park, Glenwood and Feltonville. He is the first Dominican elected to serve in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. He's a first generation Hispanic American and was born in New York City. He moved to Philadelphia with his family in 1990 when he was 10 years old. Danilo and his family attended St. Veronica's Church and owned and operated a Mom and Pop grocery store. In the Hunting Park neighborhood in the early 1990's. He attended Roberto Clemente Middle School and graduated from Olney High School in 1997. In 1998, he opened his first grocery store in North Philadelphia and that same year, along with several grocery store



## Meet David Smith, Manager New Courtland Allegheny Apartments



**By Thera Martin**

**David Smith** is one of us. He's from this community, born in this community and he works in this community. David Smith shared some of his story. "I was born at 20th and Ontario at Temple University Hospital. I lived on Venango Street and Tioga Street. A proud graduate of Muriel Dobbins High School, class of 1979, as I look back over my life, I am very glad to be where I am at this point, working for New Courtland, as

the Manager at their apartment complex at 19th and West Allegheny Avenue. It's really funny how life can lead you. I was one of those from the community that was a part of the push to get this apartment complex built, not knowing that one day I'd be the manager of the building. I was the person who circulated petitions in the Tioga community, to show support for the apartment complex to be built, not knowing that people who lived in the 19140 zip code were not eligible to participate in the senior center that was built at 19th and W. Allegheny. You have to have lived in the 19132 zip code to be eligible for the New Courtland senior center at 19th and West Allegheny Avenue. The senior center is part of the Catchment program and seniors in the 19140 zip code had to utilize the Mercy Neighborhood senior center on W. Venango Street. Because of that, there were a few people who were disappointed at that time and I caught the brunt of that disappointment, but people did get over it once they understood it was an honest

mistake. At the end of the day, the 105 unit apartment building at 1900 W. Allegheny Avenue became a reality. We have the apartment building here. We have the senior citizens center here and a medical center right across the driveway, called Innovage, formerly the Life Center. They have doctors, nurses and CNA Aids all for the residents who live in our apartment building. I call this the "triangle of continuum of life", where seasoned citizens can live here and utilize all the offerings at the senior center. Then if they have any medical needs, the doctors and other medical staff are right across the driveway".

David Brown went on to say, "It is a joy working for New Courtland. It is also a joy working at the apartment complex, doing my best every day, to be helpful to our residents and making their lives as hiccup-free as possible. This building is very popular and we get phone calls and people stopping by in person on a regular basis to see if they can live here. Because of that, we

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# Update On Peirce Elementary School Temporary Closing

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right up front to express her concerns and to demand that the School District of Philadelphia handle the problem immediately”.

Part of the problem is that once the asbestos was found at Peirce, it was a month later before any action started to take place said another area resident from North Philly who did not wish to be identified. At the Meredith Elementary School in South Philadelphia when asbestos contamination was found, school officials closed that gym to students and staff just two days after the discovery of the asbestos. Senator Street’s district takes in the area where Peirce is located and he was quoted as having said in a Philadelphia Inquirer Newspaper article in October of 2019, “I was very disturbed. As best I could tell, there was exposed asbestos that the children had access to and there also appeared to be a significant amount of flaking lead paint. It seemed to be pretty rampant.” The senator says he discussed his concerns with the appropriate school district officials and he was assured the asbestos would be addressed.

City Councilwoman Cindy Bass, who also represents the area where Peirce Elementary school is located asked this question: “ Who’s going to be monitoring the health of the children from this school and their outcomes years from now? Who is going to be held accountable for their exposure to asbestos?

Anthony Gordon, the principal at the Peirce Elementary School says the school district is doing all that it can to accommodate the children from Peirce during this time of transition. Through an internet message sent to parents Gordon said, “Breakfast and lunch will still be served to students at the temporary location at 3300 Henry Ave. In addition, bus transportation is being provided for all students to and from the Henry Avenue site. Pick-up and drop-off of students will

occur at Peirce. Each grade will have its own bus. Buses for kindergarten through second grade will depart Peirce at 8:05 a.m. The routes are: K – Route 2091, 1 – Route 2092, 2 and Route 2093. Buses for students in grades third through sixth will depart Peirce at 8:25 a.m. The routes are: 3 – Route 2094, 4 – Route 2095, 5 – Route 2096, 6 , and Route 2097. There will also be one late bus that will depart Peirce at 8:45 a.m. Buses for students in all grades will depart 3300 Henry Ave. at 2:45 p.m. Students receiving special transportation will receive a separate letter of notification with specific pick-up/drop-off details”.

Exactly how long will Peirce be closed? No one seems to know for sure. There’s talk of a brand new Peirce Elementary School being built, but there’s no answers on exactly when that will take place. Meanwhile children enrolled at Peirce will continue to get free bus rides over to their temporary school location at 3300 Henry Avenue for the rest of this school year. As for next Fall of 2020, who knows?

Kendra Harris, Director of the Allegheny West Foundation after school program has recently been elected to serve as the Facilitator of the T.M. Peirce Elementary School , School Advisory Council (SAC). The SAC works together with the parents as well as the school district and the school itself to discuss how to spend the school ’s Title One grant. The Title One Grant is given to schools that are in high poverty areas. When asked what’s her opinion of how the transition is going, moving students from Peirce to the temporary school on Henry Avenue, Kendra Harris responded by saying, “ The transition has been very hard. Buses pick the students up in the morning at Peirce and then take the children to the new site on Henry Avenue. The students are occupying the old Eastern University charter school building. The first set of buses comes at 8:00 a.m. and then there’s a late bus that picks up lingering students

at 8:45 a.m. When its time for the children to go home, the bus drivers pick them up from Henry Avenue and bring them back to Peirce where their parents need them. Some of the issues they’re facing is that the afternoon buses often run late. This is very troublesome due to the fact that the weather is now very cold. I am pleased to share that the Allegheny West Foundation still operates its after school program, not only for teens but for the elementary school students as well, who need it. We’ve simply relocated the elementary school students to the Panati Town Hall Center building, since we cannot conduct the program at Peirce at this time. Currently the instructors of the after school program are walking the students from Peirce at 2300 W. Cambria Street, to three blocks away to 3101 N. 22nd Street, the site of Panati. Due to the low temperatures in the winter, like it is now, we are trying to get the School District school buses rerouted directly to Panati, so the students and their parents will have a safe and a warm place to wait for pick up.”



# Need Food? Help Is On The Way



*These photos are courtesy of Officer Joseph Lukaitis, 39th Police District from recent Free food Give-away at Panahi Town Hall Center*

**By Thera Martin**

Ever so often in Philadelphia, you'll hear about a massive food give away, where all people need to do is show up and bring grocery bags or boxes with them. Depending on which organization is sponsoring the event, they may or may not ask for identification from you, but truly organizers make things as easy as possible. Mainly groups only require I.D. So that for their own records, they can clearly indicate who they assisted and how many people they helped. One of the groups I've witnessed, host these free food give-aways, three or four times a year, is the 39th Police District Clergy, and the 39th Police District Advisory Council. More recently, the Allegheny West Foundation and the Allegheny West Civic Association of Philadelphia, have teamed up with the 39th Police District Clergy and Advisory Council, to give away free food to those who really need it.

But the question is, where does all this free food come from?

The food comes from the Alternative Resource Network, (ARN) located at 309 N. Sumneytown Pike in North Wales, PA. Tyshaan Williams is the founder and president of ARN and he shared with me some of his story on how he's able with a core group of volunteers, to do what he does.

Tyshaan Williams stated, "Formally, we were just incorporated about a year ago as a non-profit, however, we've been operating for over eight years. The food is actually free. But

there is a handling charge for the organizations who give the food away. We have to rent the trucks we use to deliver the food and we have to pay for the fuel for the trucks and for tolls on the highway. I have a license to drive a commercial truck and everyone who drives trucks for us of course have a commercial drivers license. It's a volunteer effort however. Our drivers do not get paid. The organizations who sponsor the food give-aways, we try to keep costs as low as possible, a minimum cost. We usually deliver 10,000 to 16,000 pounds of food when we deliver to the various organizations who sponsor the food give-aways. So the food is free, but the cost of getting the food there is not free. Generally the cost to the sponsoring organization is roughly \$800.00-\$850.00. The costs can change depending on the amount of pounds of food we are delivering. The food itself comes from all across America. The food comes to us through partnerships we've built. The food is donated through partnerships and we go and pick it up. It's a big process. Often we have to pick up food at 3:00 a.m. and then get it to the sponsoring organization for a food give-away by a certain time. Then we have to get the trucks cleaned out and organize everything and return the trucks by a certain time to wherever we've rented them from. On days when we deliver food, for us, the drivers it's usually a six to eight hour day."

When I asked Tyshaan Williams what inspired him to start such as organization

an Alternative Resource network, he responded, "God." That's why I do it. The Lord directs me to share His word and His truth and to help the people and provide for the people. This is nothing but Lord Jesus Christ and by His strength. There's no other way I could get this done. We're looking for more volunteers to step up and help us. We're looking for God-fearing people and believers who are going to be true to their word. We're looking for help. We're looking for people who will put their own personal issues aside, to help the next person who really could use some assistance, and be a blessing to others. If anyone out there can come and help, we welcome you. We are blessed for the ability to have the relationships we have, and we want to keep those relationships and partnerships. We'd also love to build some new relationships because we need more help.'

Williams says they have a building in Philadelphia for Alternative Resource Network, however their warehouse is located in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. We service not just Philadelphia, but we go to parts of New York, parts of Maryland, Washington, D.C., parts of New Jersey. We go to quite a few areas. At this point, I just want more people to know about what we do at ARN. We want people to have the truth about what we do. What I've found out is that a lot of people still don't know about the services we provide. We do this on a consistent basis. We don't just give out food. That's something else people should know. We have appliances and other household goods. We give out clothing. We have a little bit of everything. We want to help families get what they need, to live. We don't just do food."

To learn more about Alternative Resource Network and how your organization can sponsor a free food giveaway,

call ARN at 215-237-0758  
or email [arnphila@gmail.com](mailto:arnphila@gmail.com).

## Meet David Smith, Manager New Courtland Allegheny Apartments

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do have a waiting list. The building opened in 2015 and from then until now, the interest people show in becoming residents here truly speaks to how much this community needed this apartment complex. New Courtland has also opened a senior citizens complex up on Henry Avenue formerly where the Philadelphia Psychiatric medical building was. Our buildings are subsidized through the Housing and Urban Development Department, (HUD). HUD offers project based vouchers and based on a person's income, that will qualify an individual for our building. We do also have a handful of apartments set aside for those individuals who's income is over

the medium income, which means they cannot get a subsidy. They pay the market rate for rent at our building.

I came on board with New Courtland as a manager in November of 2018 and one of the things I've done since then is to foster a partnership with the Cristo Rey School at 17th and West Allegheny. Out of that partnership we've initiated an inter-generational program where some of the students from Cristo Rey, come to our building and have a day of service ever so often, with our seniors. The high school students teach our seniors how to become more familiar with computers, working out of our compute lab. Once a month the students come to us and they're showing

our seniors how to navigate the internet, do emails, learn Facebook and more."

David Brown also says they have a wonderful community room at their New Courtland apartment complex, which can be used by any of the residents on a first come, first serve basis. They can have birthday parties there, and other kinds of programs for seniors.

The New Courtland building for senior citizens at 1900 West Allegheny Avenue has brought a breath of fresh air to that neighborhood, as this community continues to be revitalized, revamped and reclaimed.



# Community College “Power Up” Program Good for N. 22nd Street Business Owner

By Thera Martin

The Community College of Philadelphia “Power Up” program is completely free and is a definite shot in the arm for small business owners who want to take their business acumen to the next level. That’s why the owner of Festique Boutique in the 3000 block of North 22nd Street applied for an got accepted into the intense 12 week program. Power Up Your Business has a neighborhood-based approach to support small business owners in Philadelphia—like you—to give you the tools you need to grow your business and help your community thrive.

This new and innovative program was designed for businesses across Philadelphia. We’re bringing entrepreneurs and business owners together to learn from one another, as we provide the education and training to help you adapt to challenges and run your business efficiently.

Community College of Philadelphia has a strong history of helping small businesses. In the past three years alone, we have helped nearly 300 small businesses grow their revenue and jobs, and we have provided counseling and resources to another 140 businesses in the past year.

Building from these experiences, the College will focus on commercial corridor and other neighborhood-based businesses that define our communities across the city. As an institution with three neighborhood-based Regional Centers and a central Main Campus, the College is in a unique position to serve Philadelphia's small business community.

Key partners include neighborhood-based business advisory groups and chambers of commerce, financial lenders, and community-based organizations with a focus on small businesses and entrepreneurship. These connections will provide an opportunity to build and strengthen connections for small businesses.

Power Up Your Business, offers a series of workshops for small businesses to help them run and manage their business more effectively. The workshops are held in



*Sharifah (Sherri) Ray, Owner of Festique Boutique at 3147 N. 22nd Street*

various neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia. They offer sessions in: Marketing, Capital & Credit, Bookkeeping, Social Media Strategy, Facebook, Accounting Software, City Taxes, Grow Your Business Online, SEO Strategies, Commercial Leasing and Instagram.

Owner of the Festique Boutique, Sharifah (Sherri) Ray, stated, “I had heard about the Power Up Classes a while ago, but I didn’t apply in enough time to be considered for one of the open slots, so I had to wait until the next course was offered, that fit my crazy schedule. I also needed a support letter from someone connected to North 22nd Street and Thera Martin, a former business corridor manager, jumped right in to help. I think her letter, plus my application, made the difference. It was one of the best business decisions I’ve made in recent years and everything I learned, I’m using to grow my business. I’m excited about what the future holds and I recommend that other small business owners also try and get signed up for the Power Up Classes. The Instructors are amazing. The information gained invaluable. I’ve already seen a positive difference in my business operations since I graduated from the program at the end of last year.”

The next class begins in May at the Center City Campus of Community College. However, the NW campus at Broad and Godfrey and the Main Campus are the two

that are closest to the North 22nd Street business corridor.

The addresses for the campus locations are as follows: Northwest Regional Center: 1300 West Godfrey Avenue. The main Community College of Philadelphia campus, located at 1751 Callowhill Street. Those classes will be held on Wednesdays, May 6 to July 22 (no class on July 1)

Applications are due by April 10, 2020. Then there’s the West Philadelphia Regional Center located at 4725 Chestnut Street. Power Up Your Business Classes will start at that location Wednesday, August 26 to November 11. Applications are due July 31, 2020.

22nd Street now has 2 graduates from the program, Sharifah (Sherri) Ray and Shanti Mayers, owner of The Sable Collection at 3133 N. 22nd Street. Ms. Mayers recently moved to the Fashion District in Philadelphia. For more information,

please email [powerup@ccp.edu](mailto:powerup@ccp.edu) or call 215.496.6151



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## City Councilwoman Cindy Bass Stays Connected Allegheny West Community

Continued from Pg. 12

approach to deciding which rec centers or libraries or parks in her district would get help most immediately, through rebuild. The leadership of the Allegheny West Foundation was thrilled to learn that the Panati Town Hall Center would be one such location to get a major face lift with rebuild funding and other help.

During an interview with Councilwoman Bass at the end of January 2020, she gave an update on the Panati Town Hall Center, as it relates to "Rebuild Philadelphia". She stated, "We're really excited about what's going to be happening and we see big things happening soon. We're meeting on this project on a regular basis and we're really making sure that the people of this community, that their voices are heard. All of the immenities of things that area residents say they want to see at Panati, we're taking all of that into consideration. We want to make sure that there is space for the things the community says they want inside the new Panati building once its completed, including computer rooms, a commercial kitchen, community meeting space, classroom

space and so much more."

Councilwoman Bass says she had hoped to build an entirely new building at 3101 N. 22nd Street, a brand new recreation center, however she says Parks and Recreation wanted to keep the existing building and to build all around it. They like that space and they want to keep it. As long as we can get the job done and save a couple of dollars, ok. Once the new parts of the building are added, Panati is going to be almost four times the size of the existing space. That's a lot of real estate and we're looking forward to a ground-breaking and a ribbon-cutting. I would like to say that we can probably begin construction maybe later this year. If not, construction should start early next year of 2021. I had hoped that we would build up, (as in a second floor for Panati, but the cost of the elevator was just prohibitive. Because of accessibility laws, if you have a building that has more than one floor, you must have an elevator. We're not going to be able to build up, but we are going to be able to expand out and have everything in our new building that we want and then some."

In 2018 and in 2019, young people a part

of the Allegheny West Foundation after school program and summer youth jobs program worked with and studied under professionals from the Community Design Collaborative, to help them come up with idea they could submit to the planning committee for the new Panati Town Hall Center. Some of the ideas the youth came up with, will be incorporated into the final plans.

An architectual firm called CICADA Architecture and Planning, Inc. is the company that will handle the creation of the new building, that will be attached to the existing building. Linda To, from CICADA had this to say. "We've had a great experience working with this community and hearing all the ideas from this community about what they hope to see in the parts of the building that we'll create. We want to incorporate as much as we can. We put together some preliminary plans based on what community representatives say they want. We've shown the preliminary designs to Councilwoman Bass and she's all on board with what she sees thus far. The councilwoman wants to move forward with the design.



## 39th Police District Report To The People



**39th Police District, 2201 W HUNTING PARK AVE. (215) 686-3390/(215) 686-3391**

The 39th Police District will be hosting a prayer breakfast will be hosting a prayer breakfast on February 22, 2020 at the 39th Police District headquarters. The public is welcome to attend. Call and RSVP at 215-686-3390. The 39th Police District headquarters is located at 2201 W. Hunting Park Avenue in North Philadelphia.

The 39th Police District PSA-3 Meeting will take place January 29, 2020 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the 39th Police District Headquarters. This meeting is open to the public.

Anthony Ginaldi is the Captain of the 39th Police District. Danielle Outlaw is Philadelphia's new Police Commissioner. She starts her new job as of February 10th and she is the first African American woman to be named Police Commissioner in Philadelphia. She has been the top cop in Portland, Oregon since 2017. She's been in a police officer in Oakland, California, her hometown, for twenty years, prior to that.

Also, the Philadelphia Police Department is hiring police officer recruits. **"Be the Difference"**. The starting salary is **\$54,856** a year. Requirements are as follows: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must be a minimum of 22 years of age by date of employment. To receive veteran, education or police explorer

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The main phone number for the 39th Police District is **215-686-3390**. The email address is **[police.co\\_39@phila.gov](mailto:police.co_39@phila.gov)**.

**If you see something wrong that could mean life or death, say something! Call 911!**

**The Allegheny West Foundation and the Publisher of this newspaper, wishes our new police commissioner well on her new appointment here in Philadelphia.**

The food give-aways are always held on the last Saturday of the month. These food give-aways are a collaboration between the Allegheny West Foundation, the Allegheny West Civic Association of Philadelphia, the North 22nd Street Business Association and the 39th Police District Clergy and Community Advisory Board., Every other month is when free food is given away. No identification is required at these food give-aways. According to Philadelphia Police Officer Joseph Lukaitis, the community relations officer for the 39th Police District,

all we ask is that you don't waste the food. If you don't need it, don't take it. If you need it come and get it. At the last food give-away, some 500 people showed up to get some food. At our last give-away, we had Senator Sharif Street helping to unload the trucks with us.

Save the dates of Saturday, March 28th and Saturday, May 30th for the next two free food give-aways. The food drive on March 28th starting at 10am, will take place at the Panati Town Hall Center, (formerly known as Panati Recreation Center) The food drive in May will take place at the 39th Police District headquarters.

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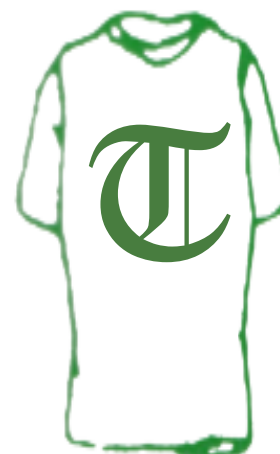
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## City Councilwoman Cindy Bass Stays Connected Allegheny West Community



*This is a file photo from a community meeting at Panati Town Hall Center held last Spring of 2019. Councilwoman Cindy Bass is standing up front, addressing the audience  
photo by Thera Martin*

**by Thera Martin**

What can we say about 8th council district elected leader Cindy Bass? She's a tireless fighter for quality of life issues affecting Philadelphia. She fights against blight and trash in our neighborhoods. She's worked to organize schools and community leadership to stay connected to neighbors. She has a reputation for coalition building, community engagement and rolling up her sleeves to get the job done without fanfare. She's working to make sure our city's tax structure doesn't tax people out of their homes, particularly in gentrifying neighborhoods. We could go on and on about the work Councilwoman Bass has accomplished thus far since becoming a council person in 2012. However the purpose of this article is to zone in on how the councilwoman is looking out for the people who live in and around the area of the Panati Town Hall Center, an area she knows well, because she grew up just a few short blocks away from there. In fact, her first real job, was a summer youth job through the Allegheny West Foundation. The very good news is that Cindy Bass has not forgotten from whence she came.

Just for a quick refresher, "Rebuild Philadelphia" is about making physical improvements to parks, recreation centers and libraries in Philadelphia that need it the most. There are more than 400 neighborhood parks, recreation centers and libraries in this city. They serve as safe spaces for people to learn, play, exercise and get access to important services. However about 90% of these places are in need of investment.

To her credit Councilwoman Bass took a very deliberate, thoughtful and time consuming

## PA Senator Sharif Street Stays Connected Allegheny West Community

**by Thera Martin**

One of the things the Allegheny West Foundation, (AWF) does very well is to bring people together. Because Ron Hinton, President of the Allegheny West Foundation works consistently to communicate with and meet with area elected officials, when he reaches out to them and asks them to attend community meetings that AWF is hosting, the response is always positive. To that end, on Thursday, January 23, 2020, PA State Senator Sharif Street made it his business, to be on hand for an AWF community meeting at the Panati Town Hall Center at 3001 N. 22nd Street. Before an audience of about sixty area residents, Senator Street gave a report to the people.

Senator Street said, "City Councilwoman Cindy Bass and I work well together. As you know the Panati Recreation Center, which we now call the Panti Town Hall Center, is one of the locations in the 8th council district that is up for some reconstruction. We're starting to see some better compliance, but we still have work to do. When it came to the "rebuild" project, Councilwoman Bass said, Senator I'm concerned that when it comes to the funding, for rebuild, some of the money targeted might not end up in our communities. In part, that's because the way they're structuring this, communities that have more, are likely to get more. My response to the Council Lady was we've got a bunch of state grants. How do you think we can spend that money where it gives you additional building leverage at the city level. It was not by happenstance that we put money in place allowing Councilwoman Bass to leverage "rebuild" dollars. We talked about it. We worked together. We planned. And that's why we were able to bring not just three million, but six million dollars here."

On another subject the Senator said, "We have passed laws now that allows the city and the state to address some of the problems with Stop and Go's. To be clear, not every business that sells alcohol is a problem. We know which ones are problematic and which ones aren't. We talked about doing development here. We knew we were going to be partners. We talked about addressing concerns with some of our schools and Cindy Bass and I knew we would work together on that. I'm going to use three examples because I am my Daddy's son and I can talk a long time. First, Peirce School, where they found the asbestos. Councilwoman Bass office, despite everyone who wants to take credit for how that came about, we were working with the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers Union, (PFT) and we took a walking tour through that school, and once we saw for ourselves just how bad the conditions were, we knew we wouldn't let up on the school district until something was done.

Elected officials, you should know, when we come bearing grants, what we're doing is just giving you back the money you already paid for, in taxes. It's your money and we're supposed to make decisions about spending money that makes sense for the community.

One of the things I heard when I was first running for office was people said we're tired of elected officials spending more time fighting with each other, than they do actual fighting for us, and what we need. So, Councilwoman Bass and I have known each other for a long time before either of us were elected officials. I knew when I got elected, that she and I were not going to have a problem working together. Cindy and I are both very familiar with Allegheny West Foundation. We know that AWF is a very able and competent organization with a strong leader, (Ron Hinton) and so when they apply for state grants, I do my part to try and make sure that North 22nd Street is considered and wins some of the state funding out there, to help revitalize this area. Cindy does her part at the municipal level. I do my party at the state level and Allegheny West is doing its part. It's a team. "

Here's a pictorial look back at the Allegheny West Foundation Community Meeting at Panati Town Hall Center Thursday, January 23, 2020



*(Left to Right) Ronald E. Hinton, Jr. President of Allegheny West Foundation with Senator Sharif Street at community meeting at Panati, January 23, 2020.  
Photo by Micala Balknight*



*Senator Street taking a question from an Allegheny West Neighborhood resident during community meeting January 23rd.*

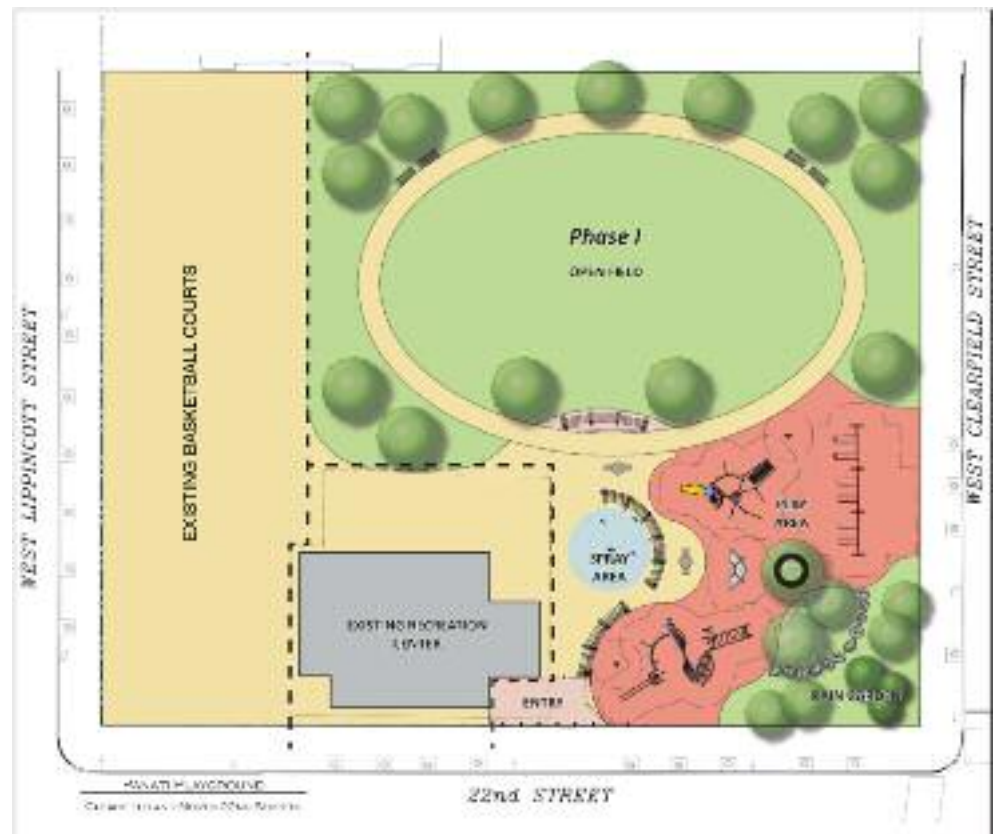


*Here's a picture of some of the 60+ area residents who came out to the Panati Town Hall Center to hear about plans for revitalizing the building and expanding it and to also hear from PA State Senator Sharif Street.  
Photo by Micala Balknight*

Continued on Pg. 10



**These are initial plans for expansion of the Panati Town Hall Center, formerly known as Panati Recreation Center, at 3101 N. 22nd Street as a part of the city of Philadelphia "Rebuild Project".**



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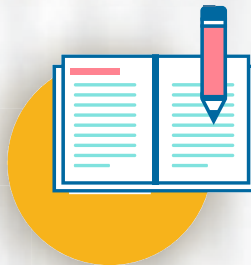
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