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Senate of Pennsylvania

8TH DISTRICT
ANTHONY H. WILLIAMS

SENATE BOX 203008
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3008
717-787-5970 • FAX: 717-772-0574

DISTRICT OFFICES
2901 ISLAND AVENUE • SUITE 100
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19153
215-492-2980 • FAX: 215-492-2990

2103 SNYDER AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19145
215-755-9185 • FAX: 215-952-3375

419 CHURCH LANE
YEADON, PA 19050
610-284-7335 • FAX: 610-284-5955

TWITTER: @SenTonyWilliams
FACEBOOK: Anthony Hardy Williams
INSTAGRAM: senator_anthonyhwilliams
WEBSITE: www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com

June 4, 2020

Jim Kenney, Mayor
City of Philadelphia
City Hall, Office 215
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Mayor Kenney,

We write to you to express our concern and offer our support regarding a report from WHYY and Plan Philly about the proposed funding cut to the City of Philadelphia’s Police Advisory Commission.

At every level of government, we are struggling to address the dire financial consequences created by the COVID-19 pandemic. But, we are also all struggling to address the lack of transparency and equity in our justice system. For Philadelphians, the Police Advisory Commission represents greater transparency. We have spoken to community members and police officers, alike, who want robust civilian oversight of law enforcement.

The reported 18 percent cut will cause a reduction in staff that is not sustainable at this time and could erode public trust in the Commission’s ability to do its work. We understand that the proposed cut represents approximately \$125,000. Understanding that the City of Philadelphia faces significant financial challenges in the coming fiscal year, we will commit to fill the gap through resources that we’ve identified to ensure that the Police Advisory Commission receives full funding.

During this unprecedented crisis, it is our hope that we can work together at all levels of government to do all we can to protect Pennsylvania’s most critical services. We look forward to working on this issue over the coming months.

Sincerely,

Anthony H. Williams
State Senator – 8th District

Joanne E. McClinton
State Representative – 191st District

Kenyatta Johnson
Councilmember – 2nd District