

CCC  
Center City Coalition  
[centercitycoalition@gmail.com](mailto:centercitycoalition@gmail.com)

To: Mayor Kenney, Philadelphia City Council Members and Police Commissioner Outlaw

Re: Groups Representing Thousands of Residents and Hundreds of Businesses Urge City Government to Improve Safety, Security and Quality of Life in Center City

The Center City Coalition, a group of residents, commercial landlords and tenants, hoteliers and businesses in Center City West, from Arch to Spruce and from Broad to 19<sup>th</sup> Streets (the “Impacted Area”) has been meeting since the fall of 2019 to discuss our shared concerns regarding public safety, cleanliness and other quality of life issues negatively impacting our community. Now more than ever, as our region tries to recover from the pandemic and economic downturn, we believe that a renewed public-private partnership is critically needed to improve the quality of life for the residents, businesses and visitors who are essential to the economic revitalization and continued prosperity of Center City – a major engine of the City's and region’s fiscal health.

Those who live, work and shop in the Impacted Area believe that more needs to be done to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment. An online survey from Center City Residents Association quickly drew more than 120 responses identifying fear about street safety as the most pressing concern. Underscoring these findings are:

- The 11/17/2020 shooting at 15<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets, a highly populated area;
- Random violent assaults on small business owners and their employees;
- Vandalism throughout the Impacted Area, including 15<sup>th</sup> Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Chestnut and Walnut Streets;
- Aggressive panhandling and threatening behavior from mentally distressed or drug-affected individuals.

Our Coalition has worked to establish strong relationships with local institutional stakeholders—the 9<sup>th</sup> District Police leadership, the Center City District, Center City Residents Association, and the Avenue of the Arts, Inc.—to collaborate on efforts to address public safety, street cleanliness and quality of life concerns. We know that City Council and all of City government are committed to working on these priority issues, as well as safeguarding all of Philadelphia’s communities and residents.

We would like to meet with you to discuss three priority initiatives that can have a positive near-term effect on the Impacted Area: (1) allocating additional manpower and resources for the 9<sup>th</sup> District to support faster response times; (2) the creation of a mobile station in the Impacted Area staffed with police and mental health outreach personnel working together to address issues as they arise; and (3) a specific social services program for the Impacted Area that is more effective at implementing long-term solutions to populations affected by homelessness, mental illness and drug addiction.

We look forward to partnering with City government to ensure that our community continues to be a center of commerce, culture and opportunity, and that all Philadelphia communities enjoy a safer, cleaner and more secure downtown. We hope to meet in the next two weeks and will reach out to schedule a convenient time and date.

The Center City Coalition, represented by:

*/s/ Matthew Fontana*  
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***(Letter Signatories on Next Page)***

## Center City Coalition Signatories

*Signatories to this letter include multiple Center City residences, hospitality/ leisure venues, cultural, social and advocacy organizations, private clubs and retail/commercial establishments, collectively representing thousands of people who live, own businesses, work, vote and pay taxes in Philadelphia, and who visit our city and region.*

a.kitchen & a.bar  
135 South 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Gran Caffè L'Aquila  
1716 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

10 Rittenhouse Square  
130 South 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

The Academy House  
1420 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Greater Philadelphia Hotel  
Association  
1617 John F. Kennedy Blvd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Tria Restaurant Group  
123 South 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

The Acorn Club  
1519 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Joan Shepp  
1811 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

The Union League of  
Philadelphia  
140 South Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Alice Pizza and Restaurant  
235 South 15th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Philadelphia Convention &  
Visitors Bureau  
1601 Market Street, Suite 200  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Weir & Partners LLP  
1339 Chestnut Street, Suite 500  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

The Aria  
1425 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

The Racquet Club of  
Philadelphia  
215 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Avenue of the Arts Inc.  
777 South Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Residences at the Phoenix  
1600 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Boyd's Philadelphia  
1818 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA. 19103

Center City Residents  
Association (CCRA)  
1900 Market Street, Floor 8  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Residences at the Ritz-Carlton  
1414 South Penn Square  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Club Quarters Hotel  
1628 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Residences at Two Liberty Place  
50 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Di Bruno Brothers  
173-32 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Rittenhouse Row  
Representing more than 200  
member businesses  
located between the Avenue of  
the Arts and the river, the  
Parkway to South Street

The Ellington  
1500 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Sofitel Philadelphia  
120 South 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103