

## Broad Street Brief: Mayor Parker Delivers FY26 Budget Address

### City Hall

#### Mayor Parker Delivers FY26 Budget Address

Mayor Chelle Parker presented her \$6.7 billion FY26 budget proposal to the Philadelphia City Council today, highlighting an \$800 million housing plan, significant business tax cuts, and the expansion of the extended-year school pilot program. The proposal also includes increased funding for public safety, the newly opened Riverview Wellness Village, infrastructure improvements, and more, setting the stage for three months of budget negotiations. FY26 budget hearings are scheduled to begin on Tuesday, March 25.

#### City Council Approves \$91M for 2026 Celebrations, Transit

Last week, the City Council approved a \$91 million transfer to fund preparations for the 2026 Semiquincentennial celebrations and mass transit improvements. The funds will support events, security, infrastructure upgrades, and various community projects—though notably, they will no longer include a proposal, spearheaded by former Pennsylvania Governor and Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell, to build a national monument in LOVE Park.

#### City Council Considers Low-Income Tax Freeze Program Deadline Extension

Last week, City Councilmembers Jamie Gauthier (District 3) and Rue Landau (At Large) introduced legislation to extend the application deadline for the Low-Income Real Estate Tax Freeze program to September 30. The program aims to prevent the displacement of low-income homeowners by freezing their property taxes, regardless of increases in assessments or tax rates.

#### Sheriff's Office Issues Delay Land Bank's Acquisition of Lots

Philadelphia's Land Bank has been unable to acquire tax-delinquent lots for community gardens and affordable housing due to ongoing operational issues in the Sheriff's Office and its contractor, despite City Council's efforts to streamline the process.

#### Upcoming Committee Hearings

The Philadelphia City Council holds several public hearings throughout the legislative calendar year. Watch [here](#).

- The **Joint Committees on Public Safety and Public Health & Human Services** will meet on Monday, March 17 at 10 a.m. to investigate the effectiveness and potential expansion of mobile mental health units administered by the Department of Behavioral Health & Intellectual disAbility Services.
- The **Public Property & Public Works Committee** will meet on Monday, March 17 at 2 p.m. to discuss and hear testimony regarding proposed land and rights acquisitions for development and infrastructure improvements in Northeast Philadelphia.
- The **Joint Committees on Housing, Neighborhood Development & the Homeless and Licenses & Inspections** will meet on Tuesday, March 18 at 10 a.m. to examine the conditions of rental housing, rental code enforcement, and the need for rental repairs throughout the city.
- The **Technology & Information Services Committee** will meet on Wednesday, March 19



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#### Related Practice Areas

- Government Relations - Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies

at 10 a.m. to discuss and hear testimony regarding the operation of the Philadelphia 311 non-emergency hotline and its engagement with City departments.

- The **Rules Committee** will meet on Wednesday, March 19 at 2 p.m. to discuss and hear testimony regarding proposed updates to the Mixed Income Neighborhoods Overlay District to reflect recent redistricting changes.

## **Around Town**

### **City Planning Director Talks Market East, Housing**

At a Q&A session hosted by the Design Advocacy Group last week, City Planning Director Jessie Lawrence *emphasized* the need for dense housing and mixed-use development to revitalize the Market East corridor, aligning with the mayor's goal of creating or preserving 30,000 housing units. Lawrence also *discussed* potential renovations or demolition of the historic Roundhouse, as well as the need for a permanent Greyhound bus station.

### **Mantua's Youthful Shift Resulting in Rising Housing Costs**

The median age in Philadelphia's Mantua neighborhood is *dropping* as Drexel University students move in, making it one of the city's youngest neighborhoods—but also driving up housing costs and reducing affordability for long-term residents.

### **Philly's Federal Footprint Shrinking**

The Trump administration's efforts to reduce the federal government's presence in Philadelphia and elsewhere have *led* to job cuts, canceled office leases, and terminated contracts, with the potential to significantly impact the local economy.

## **Election Update**

### **Influential Black Dems Back DA Krasner**

Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner *secured* support from several influential Black Democratic leaders—including City Council President Kenyatta Johnson (District 2) and State Senator Sharif Street (SD-03)—as he seeks a third term. Meanwhile, DA Krasner and primary challenger Pat Dugan *discussed* the city's murder rate, retail theft, and capital punishment during a candidate forum this week.

## **Suburban Spotlight**

### **Crozer Health Hospitals Receive Funding, Avoiding Immediate Closure**

Crozer-Chester Medical Center and Taylor Hospital *secured* short-term funding to remain open for the time being, following a six-hour negotiation last week involving the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office and the Foundation for Delaware County.

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