



# MARIA QUIÑONES SÁNCHEZ

COUNCILWOMAN 7<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT

Office of María D. Quiñones Sánchez  
Councilmember, 7<sup>th</sup> District  
Room 508, City Hall  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
215-686-3448  
[maria.q.sanchez@phila.gov](mailto:maria.q.sanchez@phila.gov)

## 2020 Restorative Investment Plan for Kensington Residents

Residents in Kensington have lived for years in an environmental, health, and public safety crisis that is inflicting daily trauma upon children and families. We must make the restorative investments necessary to regain community trust and restore public order and quality of life, while improving access to treatment and needed services.

### Public Safety Strategy & Expanded Access to Treatment

The administration needs to take action and demonstrate a commitment to public safety in Kensington with a real public safety strategy paired with structural changes to our publicly-funded treatment options. The existing Police Assisted Diversion program is necessary, but insufficient to remove lawlessness from the streets and get folks into successful treatment. A community-focused, comprehensive strategy must include:

- Reforming our treatment process to provide better access to accept folks in addiction when they are ready
- Establishing treatment protocols for those that are clearly endangering themselves and others in their public use of harmful substances
- Reclaiming known intersections with open-air drug markets that perpetuate gun violence plaguing the area
- Affirming the PPD's commitment to fully staffing a new district or PSA serving Kensington so that other parts of the area do not continue to go unserved when officers are called to address to the high concentration of violence and disruption in Kensington

### Community Cleaning & Sanitation

As we invest in safe spaces for people who are active in their heroin and fentanyl addiction, the public spaces where children, families, commuters, and patrons of businesses live and travel must be actively cleared of both sellers and public users of narcotics. Well-established Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) practices are proven to reduce crime -- leading organizations are doing this work and we must fund and support them.

- **Daily Cleaning/Removal of Trash:** In coordination with corridor partners, Kensington should receive daily trash removal and weekly corridor and street cleaning.
- **Alleyway Cleaning and Lighting:** All alleyways should be provided with improved lighting, cleaned regularly, and closed where necessary to limit access and improve safety.
- **Cleaning Supplies & Trash Receptacles:** All residents should receive weekly cleaning supplies and be provided large trash receptacles (similar to the Temple-area pilot *PhilaCan* program). Residents along Allegheny and larger streets should be allowed to keep receptacles in front of their house and larger

receptacles such as 4-yard dumpsters should be placed along Allegheny Ave between Kensington Ave and Rosehill Street.

### **Restorative Community Investment for Safety & Quality of Life**

Beyond establishing a minimum standard of health and safety, Kensington needs investment to address the varied impacts of this crisis in the community. The mapped area of the Resilience project should receive priority funding for projects to repair and rebuild.

- **Repair and Improvement:** The city should partner with community organization to plan and complete needed minor repairs, such as windows, gates, facades, painting/graffiti removal and outside lighting.
- **Housing:** Agencies and organizations must be empowered to prioritize the Kensington community to receive existing services, including housing counseling, rental support, Basic Systems repairs, utility bill supports, and other services.
- **Health Care:** All residents should have access to preventative health care and immunizations as well as access to counseling and emotional support. Partnerships with in-school counseling services within the Resilience service area can help ensure families receive holistic, trauma-informed care.
- **Safe Corridors:** Parent and community leaders should be trained and hired, via Town Watch, to establish safe school corridors throughout the school year. We cannot simply ask for volunteers when this crisis is so severe.
- **Expanded Summer Services:** As summer brings an increase in the unsheltered population, we must proactively invest in supports to help families weather the seasonal change, including expanded summer lunch programs, full-day youth programming in rec centers and libraries, and summer employment opportunities for older youth.
- **LED Lighting:** Improved lighting should be expanded in the entire area to improve safety and enhance development of school safety corridors.
- **Public Safety Cameras:** In coordination with the Streets and Commerce Depts, additional cameras should be added to all areas where known nuisance businesses and open-air markets are operating.
- **Nuisance Businesses:** L&I should have a continued enforcement presence on Kensington Ave. focusing on nuisance businesses which negatively impact neighbors' safety and peaceful enjoyment of their homes.
- **Vacant and Blighted Properties:** The city and community development organizations should develop a strategic plan to make active use of Act 135 and conservatorship targeting vacant and blighted properties.

Initial plan presented March 2020

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