

State Senator ANTHONY HARDY WILLIAMS

Always Hard Working . . . for You

SUMMER/FALL 2010

■ Protecting Citizens and Deterring Violence Prioritized in State Budget

Maintaining peace in our community is a priority to everyone. As your state senator, I am doing my part to represent your needs by writing and supporting good legislation and ensuring that safety programs are properly funded.

Most recently, I successfully fought to increase funding for two important entities in the 2010-11 state budget, witness protection and the Gun Violence Task Force.

In a budget that saw across-the-board cuts, these entities, as well as education funding, were the only areas that saw funding increases.

Unfortunately, due to a weakening economy and budget constraints over the past several years, state and city funding for witness relocation had steadily decreased.

But under my leadership, the members of the Philadelphia legislative delegation and I were able to acquire a 35 percent increase for witness protection into the state budget.

Combined with the \$200,000 that Mayor Michael Nutter has set aside for the program, \$1.1 million is now available to help the District Attorney and the Philadelphia Police Department offer longer protection and relocation services to citizens who testify.

I have also authored legislation (**Senate Bill 111**) that would provide for severe punishment and prison time for online intimidation of witnesses, which is the latest tool used to deter people from testifying.



Sen. Williams and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter attended "Turn in Your Guns Day" held July 17 at Myer Recreation Center.

Sen. Williams joins Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter to promote the need for additional funds for witness protection.



The Gun Violence Task Force is an important program that has helped reduce violence in Philadelphia and deserves state funding. Since 2006, the task force has seized nearly 800 illegal weapons, including assault weapons, and led to 157 convictions for gun-related crimes.

After the governor proposed

cutting funding for this program, I rallied the Philadelphia Legislative Delegation to join me in urging the governor and Senate to support this successful program. I am proud to say that the cuts were not only restored, but funding was actually increased by 5 percent.



SAVE THE DATE

21st NEIGHBORHOOD TO NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY
SEPT. 4**

11 a.m. – 8 p.m.
49th to 52nd
& Baltimore Ave.
Philadelphia

FREE ADMISSION

Hosted by
State Senator
Anthony H. Williams

See page 5 for details.



Harrisburg Happenings

■ Protecting Employees from Discriminatory Credit Checks

Individuals of all backgrounds are struggling in this economy. Responsible people have had to rack up credit cards, medical bills and even foreclose on their homes.

Now, a new trend is emerging; businesses are checking prospective and current employees' credit reports and even choosing not to hire or fire people based on their financial situation.

It is no coincidence that the current state of the economy and

corporate belt tightening is prompting employers to take a closer look at prospective and current employees.

They should not be denied work or fired because of their financial situation. It is detrimental in this economic downturn and, quite frankly, discriminatory.

That is why I authored legislation (**Senate Bill 420**) that would prohibit the use of consumer credit reports in connection with employment in all cases except where the employer can

demonstrate that the employee or potential employee's credit worthiness is substantially job-related or if it is required by law.

In most cases, a credit report does not reflect an individual's job performance.

This trend allows the cycle of unemployment and debt to continue.

If we want to improve our economy, we should not be putting up road-blocks for hard-working citizens.

■ Ensuring That Our Student Athletes Are Properly Educated

Pennsylvania has a long and proud tradition of producing outstanding athletes. Our colleges and universities boast of championship teams in many different sports. However, student athletes must be students first. We need to make sure that they are conditioned educationally as well as athletically.

Many college athletes are unprepared for life after college. In fact, some are only prepared for a professional sports career that only 2 to 3 percent of them will ever achieve.

We can't allow this to happen to Pennsylvania's student athletes.

My legislation (**Senate Bill 1285**) amends the Right-to-Know law

requiring state-related colleges and universities to include an itemization of its revenues and expenses of athletic programs.

It's time to take steps to ensure that Pennsylvania's athletes receive an education in something besides their chosen sport and bring to light institutions that are exploiting their athletes.

■ Always Working Hard in Harrisburg



Sen. Williams continues to write common sense legislation to help better our community and state. Among the highlights:

SB 99 encourages parents to take an active, positive role in the upbringing of their children but holds them accountable under the law when they abandon their duty by

encouraging the corruption of their children. A key component of this bill is the Diversion Program, a voluntary training program that would teach parents ways to be more proactive.

SB 1113 protects whistle-blowers who discover the theft of state money and come forward to the state attorney general, while punishing the person who committed the fraud.

SB 1178 requires the Pennsylvania Insurance Department to provide a decedent's life insurance information to a licensed funeral director. This would allow for the family of the deceased to know if the life insurance policy will cover the funeral expenses and whether other arrangements need to be made.

SB 1212 establishes a Mentor/Protégé Program that would assist,

support, and enable small businesses to successfully compete for prime and subcontract awards by partnering with large companies in state contracts.

SB 1215 requires agencies, boards, commissions, colleges, and universities to follow nine best practices to significantly increase contracting opportunities for disadvantaged businesses.

SB 1405 establishes a scholarship program through the Department of Education to provide opportunity scholarships for low-income children who reside in a school district with at least one chronically failing school.

SR 315 urges colleges and universities to remain vigilant and guarded against acts of anti-Semitism against college and university students.

■ Mobile Constituent Services Coming To You Soon

There are more than 250,000 people living in the 8th Senatorial District — an area that spans from Ridley Park in Delaware County to Broad Street in Philadelphia and from Market Street to Lindbergh Boulevard.

We are a diverse community with different needs, but we all share the same passion for our neighborhoods. We all want our streets to be peaceful, our businesses to thrive and our children to attend good schools.

I have lived in this area my entire life. My parents raised me here and now I raise my family here. Like my parents, I believe that we all play an active role in ensuring that our region prospers.

As your state senator, I am always looking for ways to serve you, but I cannot do it alone.

My four offices, located in Southwest Philadelphia, South Philadelphia, Yeadon and the State Capitol in Harrisburg are bustling with hard-working staff who are helping constituents with local and statewide issues alike while also working on projects that help me make our community a better place to live and work.

While we are proud to be able to offer assistance to constituents at our offices, we want to do more to reach out to you, so we instituted Mobile Constituent Service Days.

On a regular basis, members of my staff will set up mobile offices throughout the district in locations such as senior centers, recreation centers, senior apartment complexes, shopping centers, and community centers to help residents with problems.

The services provided include helping seniors file property tax/rent rebate applications, job seekers, Pennsylvania driver license and automobile registration issues, utility shut offs, housing concerns, and other state-related issues.



Desaree Jones assists two constituents with problems during the first Mobile Constituent Services Day at St. Charles Senior Community Center, located at 20th and Christian streets in South Philadelphia on June 25.



(Left to right) St. Charles Senior Community Center Director Kathy Boles, Sen. Williams and Madeline Shikomba.

ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO SERVE YOU

Sen. Williams and his staff are available to help you.

For dates, times and locations of the next Mobile Constituent Service Day in your neighborhood, log on to www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com or call our district office. You are welcome to visit our offices, which are open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MAIN DISTRICT OFFICE

6630 Lindbergh Blvd. • Suite 1 • Philadelphia, PA 19142 • (215) 492-2980 • Fax: (215) 492-2990

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA OFFICE

2103 Snyder Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19145 • (215) 755-9185 • Fax: (215) 952-3375

DELAWARE COUNTY OFFICE

419 Church Lane • Yeadon, PA 19050 • (610) 284-7335 • Fax: (610) 284-5955

HARRISBURG OFFICE

Senate Box 203008 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-3008 • (717) 787-5970 • Fax: (717) 772-0574

WEB SITE

www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com

In the 8th District

Williams Joins Hamels Foundation to Present Grant

Recently joined Phillies pitcher Cole Hamels and wife Heidi at Alexander Wilson Elementary School to announce a significant donation to the Philadelphia public schools.

The Hamels Foundation awarded \$90,000 in grants to five public schools. Wilson Elementary, located in West Philadelphia, received the largest grant at \$50,000, for the building of a new state-of-the-art playground.

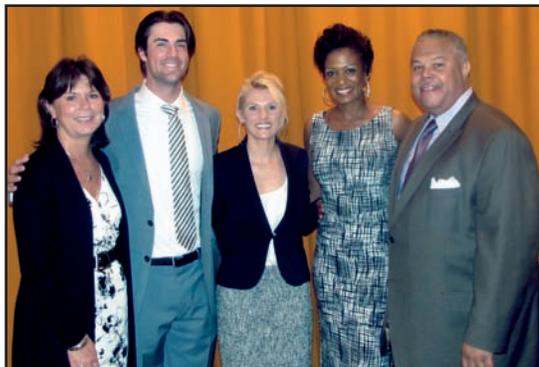
It is inspiring to see one of our local sports heroes who cares so much about our students. Cole and Heidi Hamels have taken their celebrity and used it to make a difference, and our students will truly benefit from it.

Co-founded by Cole and Heidi Hamels in 2008, their foundation takes a community-based approach to education by providing assistance to inner-city schools, including but not limited to, providing stimulating learning environments, high-quality educational programs and necessary provisions to promote learning. The

primary focus is to directly serve or impact "at-risk" students by funding programs that address their needs.

Grants from the

Hamels Foundation will not only make our educational system more equitable, but will help provide examples of what works and what doesn't as we work toward overhauling the system.



Buy Fresh at Farmer's Markets

I am teaming up with the Food Trust and state Reps. Kenyatta Johnson and Babette Josephs to sponsor a new Farmer's Market that will open this September in South Philadelphia. Exact details are being finalized by the Food Trust. This is a great chance to buy local produce and other fresh items. Check back with our district office for details or go online to www.thefoodtrust.org for more details.

Here are a few other Farmer's Markets located in and around the 8th District that offer fresh fruits and vegetables:

-  **Clark Park**
 43rd St. & Baltimore Ave.
 Philadelphia
 Thursdays 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 (open year round)
-  **Broad and South Streets**
 Philadelphia
 Wednesdays 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
-  **Lansdowne Avenue**
 Parking lot between Baltimore & Stewart Aves., Lansdowne
 Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
-  **Haddington**
 52nd St. & Haverford Ave.
 Philadelphia
 Wednesdays & Fridays
 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
-  **Mill Creek**
 N. 49th and Brown Streets
 Philadelphia
 Saturdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Sen. Williams attends the Flag Day ceremony in Yeadon.



Sen. Williams helps cut the ribbon on a new playground that was built in one day at Woodland Academy Child Development Center on June 18. The 1,300 square-foot playground was built for 36 children ages 6 weeks to 14 years and was part of Keystone Mercy's Safe Playground Program.

Constituent Corner

■ Property Tax/Rent Rebate Deadline Extended

The deadline to apply for Property Tax/Rent rebates has been extended to Dec. 31.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians who are 65 and older, people with disabilities 18 and older, and widows and widowers 50 and older. I voted to expand the program in 2006, which increased the income limit from \$15,000 to \$35,000 for homeowners and raised the maximum standard rebate for homeowners and renters from \$500 to \$650. The income limit for renters is \$15,000.

To obtain Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms (PA-1000), related information, and to check the status of already filed claims go online to www.PaPropertyTaxRelief.com or call 1-888-222-9190.

■ Stay in Touch – and Help Us Go Green

Friend State Sen. Anthony H. Williams on **Facebook** (search “Anthony Hardy Williams”), follow him on **Twitter @SenTonyWilliams** or view the SenTonyWilliams **YouTube Channel**. For all the latest news, check out the senator’s Website www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com, where you can also sign up for our monthly e-newsletter “**Straight from the 8th**”. My e-newsletters are an instant, paperless way to let you know what is going on in the district and at the State Capitol. It will also alert you when our next printed newsletter is available online, which is another way we are trying to go green.



■ Applications Available for High Risk Pool Program

Applications for Pennsylvania’s new High Risk Pool program, PA Fair Care, are now being accepted. This federally funded program will help uninsured adults with pre-existing conditions purchase health insurance until the federal health exchange is up and running on Jan. 1, 2014.

The plan’s benefit package will include preventive care, physician services, diagnostic testing, hospitalization, mental health services, prescription medications and more. The premium will average \$283 a month, but could be as high as \$500 a month depending on the individual’s income.

For more information on the PA Fair Care program, call **888-767-7015** or go online to www.PAFairCare.com for details, eligibility criteria and an application.

21st NEIGHBORHOOD TO



NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVAL

Saturday • Sept. 4 • 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.
49th to 52nd & Baltimore Avenue • Philadelphia

N2N Festival is an opportunity for old neighbors and new friends to enjoy a fun-filled peaceful and family friendly environment. Admission is FREE for all. Enjoy children’s activities and rides, food and merchandise vendors, community resource information with giveaways, live entertainment featuring recording artists, disc jockey music, line dancing and karaoke and much more.

■ Health Fair/Walk



Mark your calendar... Senator Williams, along with the YMCA, will host a **Health Fair/Walk on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010 at Laura Sims Skate House in Cobbs Creek Park, 63rd and Walnut streets.** Stretching starts at 8 a.m., with the walk starting at 8:30 a.m. and the bicycle ride starting at 9 a.m., at the newly repaved bicycle trail located beyond the Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center. The health fair starts at 10 a.m. More details to come.

■ Public Hearings this Fall

This fall, the Senate will conduct a hearing in September in Philadelphia on creating opportunity scholarships for children in school districts with chronically failing schools (Senate Bill 1405) and a hearing in October in Harrisburg on protecting employees from discriminatory credit checks (Senate Bill 420). If you have a personal story to share on either of these topics, please call our district office.



■ Grant Information Available Soon

In the near future, the district offices will have information available on state, federal and other non-profit grants for individuals and businesses. Check in with our district offices this fall for more information.





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STAY TUNED

This fall, Sen. Williams will host a number of informational, recreational and entertaining events that will be open to the public. Stay tuned for more details by visiting the senator's Web site, Facebook page, Twitter page, by signing up for my e-newsletter and in your local newspaper.

■ Taste of the 8th



Sen. Williams enjoyed a taste of the Regency Cafe & Bake Shop, 29 N. Lansdowne Ave. in Lansdowne on July 9.

This fall, Sen. Williams will be traveling his district to taste the wonderful flavors and cuisines found in your area. Keep an eye out for Sen. Williams as he

samples the food in your neighborhood and come out to join him!

What is your favorite place to eat in 8th district? If you are a restaurant owner or patron and would like Sen. Williams to visit an establishment, please contact our office. Restaurants selected will be highlighted in future newsletters.

■ Barbershop Tour

Sen. Williams needs your help in finding the best barbershops in the district. Please call our district office to submit your favorite barbershop for the senator to visit and highlight in future newsletters and his Web site.

Sen. Williams joined Jalmaal Robinson and Mayor Michael Nutter at Mal's Barbershop, 5355 Woodland Avenue, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia on March 20.



■ Career Fair



Sen. Williams at the February Career Fair.

Sen. Williams' career fairs that were held last February and May were major successes, with a total of over 1,000 attendees and over 70 vendors participating. In recognition of the continuing employment needs of our constituents, we are planning another career fair in the fall and we will be adding a job readiness seminar component. Check out our Web site for more details.

■ Weatherization Workshop

Check out the senator's Web site for different location and times throughout the 8th District starting in October. These informative free workshops give everyone a chance to talk to representatives from PECO, PGW, the Public Utility Commission and more.

