

State Senator ANTHONY HARDY WILLIAMS

Always Hard Working . . . for You

Fall/Winter 2011

Everyday Heroes

“These everyday heroes serve to remind us that only we can stop the violence and save our own children.”

–SEN. ANTHONY H. WILLIAMS

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “For everything you have missed, you have gained something else.” You may have missed a familiar sight on Baltimore Avenue this past Labor Day weekend – the Neighborhood-to-Neighborhood (N2N) Street Festival. I want to make sure that you are well aware of what has been gained in its absence.

When we started N2N some 20 years ago, our mission was clear – promote unity and peace among the diverse neighborhoods that comprise the 8th Senatorial District and provide positive outlets for young people and families.

In years past, that cause transformed Baltimore Avenue into a staging ground for parades – complete with full floats and marching bands – as well as top-tier concerts. Chart-toppers such as Mos Def, Chaka Khan, Robin Thicke, Chrisette Michele and Macy Gray have graced the N2N stage. People from across the district,

and beyond, gathered peacefully to enjoy these free events.

But those were different times. With the economy teetering, as it is, many of us are barely holding on. And that’s particularly true for the many grassroots organizations and activists in the 8th Senatorial District that work day in and day out to keep us safe and to offer our children a positive path. Too many good programs were at risk of closing or severely cutting back.

That’s why I was proud to retool N2N this year, using those resources to create the N2N 2011 Summer of Peace initiative. In all, some 50 community groups and police districts received mini-grants to aid them in doing what they’d already proven they could do – help curb violence and promote our youngest citizens. These everyday heroes serve to remind us that only we can stop the violence and save our own children.

It was an amazing summer, filled with smiles – and wins, for our kids and our community. Police reports from across the district show a downturn in the usual summertime crimes. Program coordinators, who had been fretting about making it work another year,

were able to breathe a little easier. And thousands of kids from across the district were able to engage in fun, healthy activities tailored just for them, to the relief of their families and neighbors.

Have a look inside this newsletter, as we look back at what we were able to accomplish with our investment of resources. But first, I want to give special thanks to the Comcast Spectacor Foundation, which stepped in and helped us spread our dollars even further. Following their example, we hope that other conscientious corporate citizens and private partners will aid us as we expand and advance this movement in the years ahead. N2N may have taken a new form this year, but its spirit in the 8th District lives!



Look Inside:

- Peace In Action
- Harrisburg Happenings
- Health Awareness Month
- There Oughta Be a Law

www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com

At Your Service

We're Here To Serve!

MAIN DISTRICT OFFICE

2901 Island Avenue • 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

WEBSITE

www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com

Services Provided

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Vehicle registration • Driver's license
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Higher education financial assistance
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SENIOR CITIZEN'S APPLICATIONS

PACE • Property tax and rent rebates

STATE CAPITOL GROUP TOURS

SOLVING STATE PROBLEMS

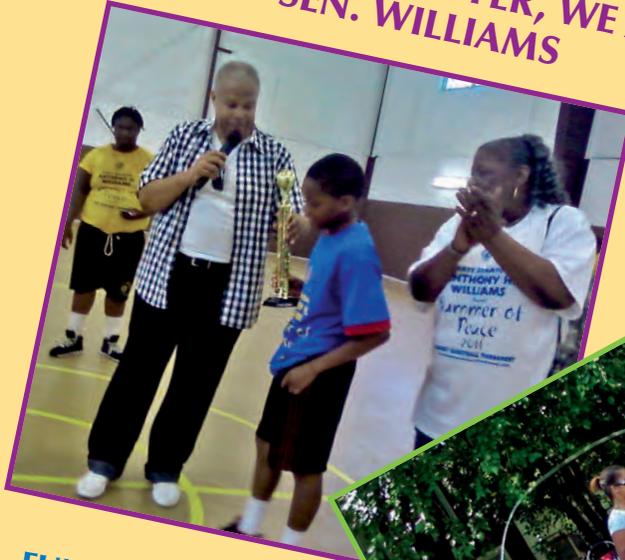
State income taxes • State lottery
Consumer protection • PennDOT
Unemployment compensation
Any state agencies that serve the public
Utilities or PUC



ADVOCATING FOR CITIZENS' RIGHTS



"THESE GRASSROOTS PROGRAMS STEER OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AWAY FROM VIOLENCE AND HELP TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES BETTER. IF THESE PROGRAMS SUFFER, WE ALL LOSE."
— SEN. WILLIAMS



FUNDING COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION



Always Hard Working . . . for You

FOSTERING RESPECT BETWEEN
YOUNG PEOPLE AND POLICE



PEACE IN ACTION

RECOGNIZING
THE HEROES
AMONG US



REMOVING GUNS FROM OUR
HOMES AND STREETS



Partners in Peace

N2N 2011 Grant Recipients



FUN, SAFE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS



**"THERE IS NO MAGIC BULLET. IT TAKES THE EFFORT OF ALL OF US WORKING TOGETHER TO EFFECT THE CHANGE WE NEED."
- SEN. WILLIAMS**



- 18th Police District Town Watch*
- 48th & Woodland Ave. Advisory Council*
- Afterschool Activities Partnerships (ASAP)*
- American Legion Little League Team*
- Cobbs Creek Town Watch*
- Concerned Men of Cobbs Creek*
- Concerned Parents Network*
- Creating a Village*
- Darby CDC*
- Darby Library*
- Diversified Community Services*
- Eastwick Town Watch Bike Patrol*
- Girls, Inc.*
- Hip Hop, Inc.*
- Hurricanes (South Philly)*
- Kingsessing Advisory Board*
- Liberian Behavioral Health Systems*
- Myers SW Track Program*
- Neighbor-to-Neighbor CDC*
- Nile Swim Club*
- Prospect Park Youth Club*
- Pathways of PA*
- Philadelphia Youth Network*
- Philly Blacksox*
- Philly Youth Poetry Movement*
- Point Breeze Performing Arts Center*
- Police Districts (Philadelphia & Delaware County)*
- South Philly Rebels Football & Cheer Organization*
- Tasker Elite*
- Tilden Mentoring Program*
- Weekend of Peace*
- Women of Transformation*
- YEAA (Yeadon Education Athletic Assoc.)*
- Yeadon Tennis Program*
- Youth Action*



Harrisburg Happenings

My legislative priorities in the current session include these common sense solutions to our everyday problems:

- ◆ **SB 1 The Opportunity Scholarship and Educational Improvement Tax Credit Act**
To allow low-income families to take the state tax dollars devoted to their child and apply them to the school of their choice. To increase scholarship opportunities for middle-class children by expanding the popular and successful EITC program.
- ◆ **SB 119 Intergenerational Family Care Act (Grands as Parents)**
To establish a pilot program to assist families in which children are being raised by their grandparents or other generation-skipping older relatives. It would provide:
 - Rental assistance
 - Day-care assistance for working heads of households
 - Training for state Department of Public Welfare employees
 - Caseworkers to offer support and counseling
 - Development and improvement of intergenerational housing
 - Activity areas for children in intergenerational family homes
- ◆ **SB 123 Outside the Lines/Athletic Department Reporting**
Intended to end exploitation of college athletes and to ensure that they receive an education, this would amend the Right-to-Know Law by requiring each college or university to file an annual report listing revenues and expenses of athletics programs.
- ◆ **SB 129 DRPA Reform**
To establish guidelines and prohibitions that the Delaware River Port Authority commissioners, officers, directors and employees must follow in order to provide more transparency and prevent impropriety.
- ◆ **SB 676 CAT**
To help Pennsylvania retain and attract businesses by reducing the tax-burden on Pennsylvania-based businesses and collecting additional tax revenue from out-of-state businesses which access Pennsylvania markets. To eliminate Pennsylvania's corporate net income tax while implementing a commercial activity tax (CAT). The CAT is a broad-based, low-rate tax on receipts paid by all firms selling in Pennsylvania markets.
- ◆ **SB 733 Parent Accountability**
To encourage parents to take an active, positive role in the lives and upbringing of their children and hold parents accountable for illegal acts of children if promoted by a parent's action or neglect.
- ◆ **SB 1039 Criminal Background Checks**
Intended to reduce the number of persons not hired due to false information on a criminal background check, this would standardize criminal background checks so that they are conducted exclusively by the Commonwealth, rather than by prospective employers using private companies.
- ◆ **SB 1148 Parent Trigger**
To require that one of four approved models of reform be instituted at a habitually underperforming school if a majority of parents petition for reform:
 - School closure – students are moved to a better-performing school in the district.
 - Restart – the school is taken over by an approved charter school.
 - Turnaround – the school must hire a new principal and at least 50% of the teaching staff as well as institute new procedures for training, hiring, and retention of teachers.
 - Transformation – same as turnaround, but is more prescriptive because it outlines required activities and which activities are permissible or impermissible.
- ◆ **Passing the Trash (Not yet introduced or assigned a bill number)**
To outlaw confidentiality agreements that would prevent other school districts from knowing that an educator has committed sexual abuse.

There Oughta Be a Law!

Terry in Reading thinks that we could improve traffic safety by prohibiting the use of camouflage paint on motor vehicles. Carol in State College thinks that publicly funded research should be made more readily available to the public. Joe in Philadelphia thinks we need stiffer penalties for DUIs.

What do you think?

Terry, Carol and Joe have submitted their entries to my "There Oughta Be a Law!" competition. I'm still hoping to hear from you.

My staff is currently reviewing the dozens of entries that we've received since the contest was announced just a few months ago. As promised, at least one winner will be announced before the end of the year. It's not too late for you to submit your idea for consideration. Contest winners will have their ideas submitted as proposed new law. They will also enjoy a visit to the State Capitol with me and may be asked to testify on behalf of their bill at a formal senate hearing.

"Politics ought to be the part-time profession of every citizen who would protect the rights and privileges of free people and who would preserve what is good and fruitful in our national heritage."

– Dwight D. Eisenhower

So, don't leave it to those of us in Harrisburg. Submit your idea for a new state law by entering online at www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com or request an application by calling or visiting one of my offices.



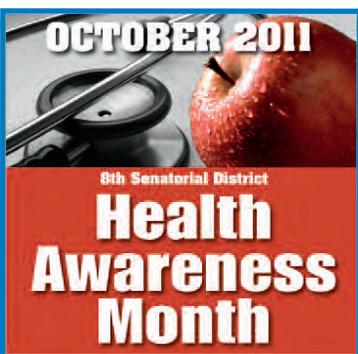


STATE SENATOR
Anthony H. Williams

Senate Box 203008
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3008

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October 2011 – Health Awareness Month

I have dubbed October as Health Awareness Month in the 8th District and I have several events planned to share the importance of health and nutrition with the community.

October 1 • 8 a.m. • Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes

Thanks to all who joined my team by walking with me and my staff or contributing on our behalf to the American Diabetes Association. It was my pleasure to address the crowd at this important event. Diabetes affects 28 million Americans of all ages and races.



October 13 • 7 p.m. • Sports Trainer / Muscle and Strength Workout

What's it take to keep your muscles strong? Learn with us at the Kingsessing Recreation Center, 4901 Kingsessing Avenue, Philadelphia. Free class.

October 15 • 10 a.m. • Bartram's Garden Walk with Bartram Village

Please join me and residents of Bartram Village as we walk through historic Bartram's Garden. Meet at 54th & Lindbergh Boulevard at 10 a.m.

October 20 • 5:30 p.m. • Discover Zumba!

If you haven't tried it, you don't know what you're missing. This spicy, Latin-dance inspired, calorie-burning workout is catching on across the country. Try it with us at the West Philadelphia YMCA, 5120 Chestnut Street. Free Class.

October 22 • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. • Inaugural Mary Mahoney Health Fair

I have joined the good folks at Pennsy Flea Market, 1600 S. Warfield Street, Philadelphia, to present the Inaugural Mary Mahoney Health Fair. Named for our nation's first professionally trained African-American nurse, the fair will focus on health awareness and early detection of health problems. Please join us and take advantage of free health-related tests, advice, literature and demonstrations. For more information contact Joshua Zoppel, of Pennsy Flea Market, at 215-913-4826 or joshuazoppel@yahoo.com or contact Desaree Jones, in my district office, at 215-492-2980 or djones@pasenate.com.

October 27 • 7 p.m. • Line Dancing

Have fun and get your blood moving with great music and Line Dancing at SOCCA, 5900 Baltimore Avenue (KIPP West Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School). Free Class.

October 29 • 8:30 a.m. • Health Walk

Annual 3K or 6K Health Walk on Cobbs Creek Parkway. Warm-Up at 8:30 a.m. and the walk will start at 9 a.m. Everyone should meet at the Laura Sims Skate House, 63rd and Walnut Street.

October 29 • Noon • Wake Up Yoga

Wake Up Yoga, 4916 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia, offers us a welcoming place to explore the health benefits of this ancient system of mental and physical exercise! Free Class! Only 20 spaces available!!!

Spaces for demonstration classes are limited and registration is required.

Call (215) 492-2980 or e-mail djones@pasenate.com to secure a slot.

