

Dear _____,

Thank you for your email about the proposed Arts Information Kiosk program, which we are calling "LinkPHL." I hope this letter will address some of the concerns I've heard in response to this program.

First and foremost, LinkPHL provides a public benefit for the residents and visitors of Philadelphia. Each Link provides public gigabit wi-fi access, at-Kiosk phone calls nationwide, a 911 emergency button, device charging, wayfinding, and access to arts and cultural information, City services and programs, and real-time local information, such as special events, transit updates, and weather.

Second, LinkPHL is safe. As Mayor, the safety of Philadelphia residents and visitors is my top priority. The Links have a proven track record. With over 1100 active Links in London and New York City, the vendor, Intersection has received no complaints about driver distraction. Additionally, LinkPHL will meet all federal, state, and local legal standards to ensure the right-of-way is safe.

The City is committed to decreasing sidewalk clutter. This winter, the Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems will be kicking off an effort with the Streets Department and Department of Licenses and Inspections to establish guidance on managing the city's footways. This effort will seek to identify excess furnishings in the right of way and maximize walk space.

The City has adopted New York City's [Internet of Things \(IoT\) Guidelines](#) to ensure the City and its partners responsibly deploy connected devices and IoT technologies. The vendor has committed to complying with these Guidelines, and will never sell personal information to third parties or share with them for their own use.

With regards to concerns about loitering or viewing inappropriate content from the LinkPHL, please be aware that there will be no web browser on the built-in LinkPHL tablet; all web-based content will be strictly curated.

In addition, LinkPHL will help promote Philadelphia as a world-class destination and the country's only UNESCO-designated World Heritage City. LinkPHL offers a new platform to promote arts and cultural information about our city.

In short, LinkPHL will be an investment in Philadelphia's future, creating 21st century infrastructure in the heart of the City. But more importantly, the kiosks will provide the sorts of modern services that our residents and visitors need as they work and play in the City -- at no cost to taxpayers.

I hope this information has helped to alleviate your concerns.

Sincerely,
Mayor Jim Kenney