



## WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

214 S 11th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

215-346-6411 | [info@washwestcivic.org](mailto:info@washwestcivic.org)  
[www.washwestcivic.org](http://www.washwestcivic.org)

19 June 2020

The Honorable Jim Kenney  
Mayor of Philadelphia  
City Hall, Office 215  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Mayor Kenney,

The Washington Square West Civic Association (WSWCA) demands racial justice and stands in solidarity with Black Lives Matter, against racism, discrimination, and in support of police reform that brings transparency and accountability to end systematic police abuse and excessive use of power against Black communities.

We stand in support of the letter by City Council sent on June 8th that asserts that "police reform cannot wait" and that "we" (i.e. Council and the Mayor) must "act decisively". We also support the legislation introduced by City Council on June 11th and the June 17th budget approval that allocates more funds to effectively address disparities in the city including poverty, unemployment, healthcare, housing, and education.

In fact, police reform can't wait. We urge you to make meaningful policy changes to ensure transparency and accountability, and to renegotiate the contract with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), necessary for police reform. It is important to recognize that police reform is not a partisan issue, nor is it an indictment of the countless law enforcement officers who perform their job every day with bravery, integrity, and compassion. Police reform is about building the trust of our communities and holding people accountable who seriously betray the public trust.

We applaud your June 9 statement that "We will seize this moment and we will move quickly because too many lives are being lost." We ask you to act now and make an unapologetic commitment towards racial justice and against racial discrimination, inequality, and overaggressive policing. We ask you to continue to seize this opportunity to positively impact the quality of life of Black and Brown communities across the city.

Respectfully yours,

The Washington Square West Civic Association

Neal Pratt, AIA, President  
Catalina González, Vice President  
Robert Sher, Treasurer  
Deborah Sweeney, Secretary  
Judith Applebaum

Jonathan Broh, AIA  
Carl Engelke  
Sukrit Goswami  
Tami Sortman  
Rick Spitzborg