



ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA TOUR GUIDES

Questionnaire for 2023 Mayoral and City Council Candidates

I. Do you support creating a deputy mayor position for the arts, culture, and creative economy? As professional tour guides who contribute to the tourism and cultural revenue brought to the city, can we be included in this department's initiatives? Please explain.

*** mayoral candidates*

James DeLeon: Yes, and APT will be included in this department initiatives.

Rebecca Rhynhart: To truly deepen Philadelphia's investment into the creative economy, as Mayor, I will appoint a Deputy Mayor of Arts and Cultural Affairs, who will serve in my cabinet. This Deputy Mayor will focus on supporting artists and cultural organizations, investing in the creative economy, and expanding access and participation in the arts throughout Philadelphia's neighborhoods. I would absolutely welcome professional tour guides to be engaged stakeholders in the city's initiatives around our city's arts and culture initiatives.

*** city council candidates*

Drew Murray: I would support as long as it is determined that the deputy mayor position would increase revenues in arts and tourism. Because the arts can help improve the economy and drive up tourism, I believe that the position could do just that. I absolutely believe that collaboration with experts is imperative to successful venture, so including professional tour guides in the conversation would be a benefit to the departments initiative and I would welcome their input.

Qiana Shedrick: I do support the creation of the Deputy Mayor position. When you look at the actual city governmental structure you can clearly see a need for a position to focus and advocate for the growth of the arts and culture economy. Currently, in the Managing Directors Office under the General Services, Arts and Events category prioritized towards the bottom of the list is the Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy office. To me that shows the lack of attention given to the possibilities that could come from a thriving environment and a lack of commitment to see it develop. A Deputy Mayor position would ensure that the Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy has an advocate that is willing to put their needs first and involve their workers, those needs and rights in all the appropriate conversations.

Ogbonna Paul Robeson: Philadelphia being a historic City should have its own department, if not a mayor for the arts in the city. With the number of artists of all types who come from Philadelphia, there is no reason that this should not happen. I am in favor of this position.

Dr. Deshawnda Williams: I completely support the concept of having a created position in appointing a deputy mayor for the arts, culture, and creative economy. The work that you do as a professional tour guide here in the city should be without reservations to be included in the department initiatives. When we have tour guides in our city, it offers the opportunity to show the authenticity of the nation's first capital.

Frank Cristinzio: I would support placing a question on the ballot requesting that a deputy mayor for tourism be created and professional tour guides be included in this Department's initiatives.

Luz Colon: I do support the creation of the deputy mayor position for the arts, culture, and creative economy. I believe that a lot of what is needed in our city is outlets for those who have creative minds and we can not disregard the need for the arts and culture that have been the foundation for the beauty that makes up this city. We must preserve the multiple cultures and communities that make up Philadelphia. As a city that prides itself on the arts and home to the culture of our country, it only makes sense to embrace and plan for the

future. Just as it has been discovered in education that the arts go hand and hand with science and math in shaping our children's minds, we must embrace it in society as well.

It would be imperative to include these individuals who take their time to learn their profession, our cities culture and history, and are the experts of information to those who visit our city.

Donavan West: No I do not. 1) The City is in a budget crisis 2) There is already a high level position, the Office of City Representative whose portfolio does and should include arts, culture and creative economy. However, I do support a lower level dedicated position- possibly, Deputy City Representative who can directly oversee arts, culture and creative "economic development" (as opposed to creative economy). The skill set required for this position should align with a greater focus on the economic development facet of such a position.

Jim Hasher: I believe this could not only benefit tourists and people visiting our city, but also those Philadelphia residents who enjoy dining out or experiencing cultural events throughout the year.

Gary Masino: The city currently has the Office of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy, with oversight from the Mayor. I believe that more can be done within this office to promote culture and the arts in our city. So long as the current office structure can maintain its current initiatives, I would be open to having APT's initiatives as part of the office.

Erika Almiron: I absolutely support the creation of a deputy mayor position for the arts, culture, and creative economy. Such a position would ensure that the arts and cultural industries are given the attention and support they need to thrive in our city. Furthermore, as professional tour guides, you are an important part of the tourism and cultural revenue brought to our city. I believe that you should absolutely be included in this department's initiatives, as your contributions to the cultural economy are invaluable. This department should work to support and amplify the voices of all those who contribute to the creative economy in Philadelphia, including tour guides and other cultural workers.

Jim Harrity: Yes, tourism is an important part of our economy in Philadelphia. A deputy mayor who can focus on the arts, culture and creative economy makes sense.

Jamie Gauthier: Yes, I would support the creation of such a position under the next mayoral administration. Professional tour guides are, for many visitors and potential residents, the face and voice of our City, so I would call on the next Mayor to include tour guides' voices in the departments' planning and programming. As the Councilperson for the Third District, I would be particularly interested in seeing tour guides support the visibility of the arts, culture, and creative economy of the majority Black, brown, and working-class neighborhoods of West and Southwest Philadelphia.

Quetcy Lozada: I believe that Arts and Culture is an important and growing sector of Philadelphia's economy. It is key that we invest and support this sector growing forward. Our unique cultural characteristics are what make Philadelphia unique and competitive in the tourism and hospitality departments. I support creating more space within our municipal government to advance this work and support than many artists and creative professionals who call Philadelphia home. I believe that professional tours are a key part of this economy and I am eager to partner with you, learn more about your industry and ways that we can better support it as a city.

NaDerah Griffin: Yes, I support Professional Tour Guides being included in the Mayor's Department Initiatives. However, I am not sure if the position should be a Deputy Mayor. Maybe the position can be a Chief or Director of Tour Guides.

Anthony Phillips: Philadelphia is more than the "City of Brotherly Love & Sisterly Affection"-- our streets are rich with history and culture. From the birthplace of democracy to the struggles of the civil rights movement. Each year, we welcome millions of visitors, and it is our responsibility as stewards of this history to preserve and amplify the stories. In my first budget process, I am excited to learn more about the Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy and help address the needs of our arts, culture, and tourism. As we look to elect a new mayor this year, I will listen closely to their platform to address these needs. I am open to working with

you and the new administration to learn more about the proposal to create a new post of "Deputy Mayor of Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy."

Yvette Young: Yes

Nina Ahmad: Congratulations to the Philadelphia tourism industry for bouncing back as the COVID19 pandemic eases. As the 6th largest city in the nation, the role of tourism in generating revenue cannot be understated. I would support a Cabinet level position to ensure that the City is proactive in promoting Philadelphia nationally & globally.

As the significance of the creative economy continues to grow, important synergies with tourism are emerging, offering considerable potential to grow demand and develop new products, experiences and markets. These new links are driving a shift from conventional models of cultural tourism to new models of creative tourism based on intangible culture and contemporary creativity. By adding creativity to the local assets, tourists can engage in new experiences through hands-on, community-based activities and learn the unique character of the local people and sense of place. Creative tourism helps communities become stronger and more self-reliant, which is the key to sustainable tourism.

I do think that Tour Guides should have a seat at the table when economic development initiatives are being created as they have direct, "boots on the ground" experience with actual visitors, both local and out-of-town. As Deputy Mayor in the first Kenney administration, I created the Office of Public Engagement with the express purpose of having "those closest the pain have a seat at the table" helping craft sustainable policy.

2. If you were taking out of town guests around Philadelphia, what would you show them and why? What would you want them to see and experience?

*** mayoral candidates*

James DeLeon: This answer depends on age, familiarity with Philadelphia from past visits, length of stay among other considerations. For people visiting for the first time, who will be here for a few days, the historical district is a must visit. The Parkway Museums are also a strong consideration, if time permits. Dining near Rittenhouse Square and Old City is great for a good time , with age depending on which destination. In other words, Philadelphia possesses destinations for guest from anywhere in the World.

Rebecca Rhynhart: Towards the top of my list of where to take out-of-town guests is the Southeast Asian Market in FDR Park on Saturday mornings. It's a Philly cultural institution that may not be as well known to visitors as some of our other touchstone experiences. Other items on my list for visitors would be the Rocky Steps, a Mural Tour across Philadelphia, and the Schuylkill River Trail.

*** city council candidates*

Drew Murray: I would show them Independence Hall because Philadelphia is the birthplace of America. We have so many incredible museums and they would be a close second, but there is only one place in the world where the Declaration of Independence was signed. I would them walk them down Elfreth's Alley so they could feel like they were walking around 18th century Philadelphia.

Qiana Shedrick: If I were taking out of town guests around our city, I would show them what I personally call the walking South tour. If you begin on Kelly Dr and swing past the Art Museum, then down the Schuylkill Banks trail/ boardwalk to the South St bridge, across South Street past Old City to the Spruce St Harbor. You may be tired, but you will have had a great couple of hours in our city. That route encompasses a few of my favorite places like the bike depot and restaurant space at the boathouses on Kelly Drive, Sweet Life Bakery on South St, Spruce St Harbor Park's restaurants, boardwalk, arcades and roller rink area and Amina's restaurant at Front and Chestnut St.

As far as experiences are concerned, my summer favorites offer a variety of activities that are good for locals and tourists alike. The city's varied beer gardens are unique and offer different environments depending on the location. The Cherry St Pier has free yoga classes as well as a series of art showings that are very good. On

the West side of the side of the city, Clark Park usually has a series of summer events that are frequent and engaging. Lastly, my daughter and I spend many days and nights on the roof at Sunset Social on Cira at the Green. Their varied events, movie nights and menu is hands down one of our favorites things to do in the city.

Ogbonna Paul Robeson: There are several areas of downtown Philadelphia that are obvious destination spots. The Liberty bell and the surrounding areas of downtown Philadelphia are obvious ones. But I would also venture to the historic strawberry Mansion in Fairmount Park in the Northwest section of Philadelphia. I would also go to the historic Paul Robeson house in West Philadelphia. There is also the John Coltrane house in Northwest Philadelphia. These areas are Paramount in the history of Philadelphia and with the proper funding should be major historic locations for tours.

Dr. Deshawnda Williams: I would show them what drives the economy. I will show the diversity of our communities and grassroots historical landmarks.

Frank Cristinzio: The 2500 thru 2900 blocks of Allegheny Avenue and 3100 block of Richmond Street in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia These blocks are the best kept secret in Philadelphia. It is the last Polish and Polish- American Shopping District in the United States. The neighborhood is safe and clean. The Polish Immigrant and Polish- American shop owners carry top of line Polish foods, books, media in their stores. There are several outstanding Polish Restaurants along both Allegheny Avenue and Richmond Street. This is an area where both the merchants, restaurateurs and their many of the patrons speak Polish as their first language. I am sure that the community would welcome tourists if the City would do anything to market this jewel of neighborhood to them.

Luz Colon: While there is no way to be able to see our beautiful city in one day, I would have to think about who my guests are and what they enjoy. I would break down the visit to include various aspect of our city. I would begin with the hop on and off bus that provides a detailed tour of the city and its main attractions. I would have a late lunch at Reading Terminal Market and take my group to experience the Latino Arts at Taller Puertoriqueno in North Philadelphia. I would end the night at Dilworth plaza or the Penn's Landing pier to experience some fun and carnival themed snacks with skating or whatever festival is happening and time of year they are visiting.

Donavan West: The Underground Railroad was a network of secret routes and safe houses used by African-American slaves to escape to freedom in the 19th century. Philadelphia was an important city on the Underground Railroad, and there are several tours available to learn about its history. I would include the African American museum.

The Underground Railroad tour in Philadelphia typically takes visitors to sites related to the Underground Railroad and its abolitionist movement, such as the Johnson House Historic Site, the Belmont Mansion, and the Mother Bethel AME Church. Visitors can also see the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, which played a role in the movement towards abolition. The tour guides usually share stories about the people who risked their lives to help slaves escape to freedom and the challenges they faced. It's a great way to learn about the history of the Underground Railroad and its impact on American history.

Jim Hasher: This answer may change depending on who the out of town guest is, but my best answer would be to take them to Independence Hall, the Art Museum to see the famous steps and Rocky Statue, and over to Reading Terminal for lunch. From there, we have so many great stops to make and enjoy the scenery - Franklin Square, Love park, or even a Phillies Game. I would finish the night off with dinner at one of my favorite spots in South Philadelphia.

Gary Masino: There is a lot to see in our city. We're mostly known for being the birthplace of the United States, with sights like the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. There are plenty of other sights to see outside of that realm. Within the 10th Council District for example, there's Pennypack Park, one of the largest public parks in the city and Fox Chase Farm, a working educational livestock farm.

Erika Almiron: As a proud native Philadelphian who loves showing tourists around our city, I would want to give them a taste of everything that makes Philadelphia unique and special. Of course, we would start with the

beautiful historic locations downtown, like Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. These sites are a must-see for any first-time visitor to Philadelphia, as they are steeped in the rich history of our country's founding.

But beyond that, I would want to take my guests to some of the amazing individual neighborhoods that make up our city. Each neighborhood has its own character and culture, and I would want to show my guests the art murals that exist there that showcase the various cultural communities and food that are a part of Philadelphia's vibrant fabric. For example, in South Philly, we could visit the Italian Market and try some of the famous cheesesteaks and other delicious Italian specialties. In West Philly, we could explore the University of Pennsylvania campus and see some of the beautiful Victorian houses that line the streets. And in Germantown, we could visit the Johnson House Museum and learn about the history of the Underground Railroad.

Jim Harrity: I am a big fan of the Ben Franklin museum on Market Street and strolling around Old City. I think the Franklin Square Park is a fun place for the whole family. The Art Museum is iconic and the Rodin Museum is a "hidden" gem. I think a lot of people would also enjoy the Fringe Fest.

Jamie Gauthier: I would show guests around West and Southwest Philadelphia, especially the vibrant and diverse food scene – including black-owned restaurants like Abyssinia. As former Executive Director of the Fairmount Park Conservancy, I would also show visitors around different parks in the city, including Fairmount Park, Clark Park, and Malcolm X park. I would also bring them to the Dell or the Mann to catch a show.

Quetcy Lozada: Reading Terminal is certainly at the top of my list. It is incredibly to share the experience of so many of Philadelphia's food cultures all in one place. The parks and public spaces of Philadelphia would also rank highly for me. Public space was built into the city's original design and think Fairmount Park and the Wissahickon maintains that spirit and energy today.

No visit to Philadelphia is complete without a stop in the historic core. We Philadelphians can often take these important American landmarks for granted, but when you see the curiosity and wonder these sites sparks in our visitors you are really reminded of the great heritage we possess as Philadelphians.

NaDerah Griffin: If I was a Tour Guide, I would take an out of town guest to The LOVE Park, The Art Museum, Tour of the City's Murals, Joe's Cheese Steaks (1 W Girard)/Pete's (Cheesesteak on 40th & Lancaster Avenue), Boat House Row (Lit Houses @ Night), and Philly Pretzels. My parents use to take my siblings and I there on hot Summer nights, to play, relax, and get wet. Although, the park no longer is the home of the original LOVE Statue which I miss dearly, one feel the love, peace, and sense of tranquility there. I never experienced the beautiful artwork throughout the City where I was born and raised. Every Philadelphian should experience these Historical sites and monuments. LOL! You cannot visit Philadelphia with out visiting the Art Museum to take a picture with Rocky and Octavius Catto Statues. Again, it would be pointless to visit Philly without tasting the foods that we are well known for, our delicious Cheese Steaks and Philly Pretzels. I still love to walk the islands surrounding City Hall to take pictures. That is a BEAUTIFUL view. Lastly, please take them to see the Historical houses throughout the Fairmount Park, especially the White House in Brewery Town (Off of Girard Avenue, It beautiful inside.)

Anthony Phillips: Beyond our historic districts, like Old City, I take visitors into our neighborhoods. I am finishing up a Ph.D. at UMass Amherst concentrating on the Black Churches in Philadelphia, and I consider myself a "foodie." So I tend to take my guests to visit our neighborhood churches. Showing them that the struggles of the civil rights movement were not only forged in the streets of Selma or Montgomery. The streets of Philadelphia prelude the civil rights movement and we must not look any further than Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church.

Our street tells the story not only of the founding of America or the struggles for freedom but of an art and culture renaissance and social revolutions. We are stewards of these stories and should do everything we can to preserve them.

Yvette Young: Our museums, we have so many capturing so many of the various cultures living in this first class, world heritage city.

Nina Ahmad: My favorite tourist destinations include:

The Slavery Memorial/President's House, country's first federal commemoration of slavery, the site of the nation's first executive mansion, in which Presidents George Washington and John Adams lived during their terms and where nine enslaved people served the first president.

- Fabulous murals dotted across our landscape.
- The Johnson House (in Germantown) which was a major underground railroad stop.
- Southeast Asian Market in FDR Park in South Philadelphia
- The Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Barnes Foundation, and the Rodin Museum.
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These choices highlight my commitment to underscore the resilience of our City, which played a critical role in the abolition movement to end enslavement (Johnson House), juxtaposed with the backdrop of the Slavery Memorial (President's House) that was complicit in enslavement. The Southeast Asian Market that recently became permanent after forty years of being a pop-up, highlights the significant contributions of our immigrant communities to our economy and adds to our standing as a city of delectable cuisine. The amazing setting of the lush green FDR Park helps soothe the nostalgia of many Cambodian American seniors who are still traumatized by their abrupt escape from their war-torn country of birth. My strong interest in the arts as expressed by the community is the reason for inclusion of the murals along with the world-famous Philadelphia Museum, and my favorite Rodin Museum and our eclectic Barnes Museum. Philadelphia was recently designated as "Certified Welcoming" by the nonprofit organization Welcoming America that recognizes cities making substantial commitments to immigrant inclusion and support. We must make sure immigrants choose Philadelphia as their home, like I did and increase our population, at a minimum, back to 2 million.

3. Have you been on any tours in Philadelphia? (These could be walking; bus; bike; Segway; horse and carriage city tours; or house, garden, cemetery tours of specific sites, for example.) Which ones? What kinds of tours on what themes would you be interested in going on?

*** mayoral candidates*

James DeLeon: Yes. As Mayor, I would want your themes that are interesting to families and people of all ages and walks of life.

Rebecca Rhynhart: As a Mural Arts Board Member since 2016, I am a fan of the Mural Arts tours across our city.

*** city council candidates*

Drew Murray: I have lived in the Philadelphia area my entire life and in Logan Square for 20 years. I think I have seen almost every museum and tourist location in the city.

Qiana Shedrick: I have previously been to the National Constitution Center and tours in that immediate area. I have also taken a horse and carriage ride.

Ogbonna Paul Robeson: I have been on several tours in Philadelphia. Of course the tours of the center city landmarks. I have been on tours in the historic Fairmount Park, where there are many edible herbs and flowers. I have also been on the strawberry Mansion tour in the Fairmount Park of Philadelphia. Because of the plethora of murals in Philadelphia I would definitely want to have a murals tour including stops of the various eateries on the way. I would also be interested in touring the areas of Philadelphia which have historic churches like the Church of The Advocate in North Philadelphia.

Dr. Deshawnda Williams: Honestly, I have not been afforded the opportunity to attend. However, I do plan to attend this summer.

Frank Cristinzio: As a life long Philadelphia, most of the tours have been on were self conducted.

Luz Colon: As a staff member of City Council for 15 years in the early 2000's, I have toured this city in many different aspects. I can not say, that I have experienced every kind of tour, but for the most part i have witnessed the evolution of tours from carriage rides, to walking to Segway's. I have yet to experience a Segway tour, or bicycle tour, or a cemetery tour, but I am opening to visit wherever there is an opportunity to learn and who will have me.

Donavan West: Yes, an Underground Railroad tour. Extremely significant in American history and an under-appreciated part of Philadelphia's history and role in advancing the abolitionist movement.

Jim Hasher: I have toured the Museum of Art, the Franklin Institute, the Barnes Foundation. I have lived in Philadelphia my entire life in the Northeast Section, so it has always been a treat for me to travel downtown and see any of the historic sites Philly has to offer. Most recently, I visited the History of Italian Immigration Museum and was fascinated by some of the stories I heard.

Gary Masino: I have not been on any tours, running local 19 keeps me very busy

Erika Almiron: Yes, I have been on many tours in Philadelphia. When I was young, my family took me on tours of historic sites such as Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. But more recently, I have enjoyed the ghost tours downtown, have taken family to visit the Eastern State Penitentiary and have been on a couple of tours offered by Mural Arts that showcase the murals in the city. In terms of themes, I would be interested in taking tours that focus on the city's rich cultural and ethnic diversity, such as exploring the various neighborhoods and their unique histories and contributions to the city.

Jim Harrity: I have enjoyed the Christ Church Cemetery tours, the Powel House in Society Hill and Elfreth's Alley in Olde City. I am a lifelong resident of Philadelphia, so I have been to most museums and attractions at some point or other.

Jamie Gauthier: I have been on historic park house tours and a walking tour of the city perimeter. In addition, I have been on tours of various parts of Fairmount Park and neighborhoods around West and Southwest Philadelphia.

Quetcy Lozada: I have taken the carriage tours and historical tours of Independence Hall. I am very interested in tours that share Philadelphia's Black and Brown history.

NaDerah Griffin: It's been so long ago since I have enjoyed the beautiful sites of our Historical City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection that I cannot remember. Remember, most people (to include myself) never had or get an opportunity to explore their own city. If I was the Administration of the School Board, I would partner up with the Tour Guide Company (ies) to make sure every K-12 child experience at least 3-4 Historical attractions throughout their K-12 years. Annually would be nice. Personally, I would love a tour of the many gardens throughout Philadelphia; they are hidden gems. In addition, I would like a tour of the mural artwork.

Anthony Phillips: Yes, I have been on several of these tours. As mentioned, I am excited to tell the stories which lay beyond our historic districts and Center City. I look forward to working with you on developing opportunities for neighborhoods across the city.

Yvette Young: Yes, Billy Penn's Hat, The Bethel AME Historic Walk, Horse & Carriage tour, water works tour.

Nina Ahmad: I have been on historic house tours in Mt. Airy as well as the horse and carriage tour when some cousins were visiting. I have promised myself one of the many Mural Arts walking tours (I cannot believe I have yet to take this tour). I am a huge fan of Mural Art, not just for the amazing murals but for the innovative programming engaging community and making safe spaces. I would love to go on a gastronomic adventure intersecting with murals. Tour of iconic Philly locations in movies, with screening of clips at the locations, jazz tour with stops at famous musicians' homes.

4. Will you support cultural heritage preservation initiatives in neighborhoods throughout the city which are experiencing gentrification and stresses from new development? Please explain.

*** mayoral candidates*

James DeLeon: Yes. I believe in maintaining the culture of our diversified neighborhoods and will not allow those areas to be destroyed through gentrification.

Rebecca Rhynhart: Yes, we should listen to the needs and desires of residents in their neighborhoods. Therefore, I will support cultural heritage preservation initiatives in neighborhoods where residents are advocating for these initiatives whenever I can. Our historic buildings and cultural landmarks are a special component of Philadelphia's identity, and we should preserve that element when possible.

*** city council candidates*

Drew Murray: Yes. We need to preserve the heritage of our incredible city.

Qiana Shedrick: I support historical preservation of all kinds. Our buildings and green spaces are a part of the fabric of the history of this country and our families. We should work hard to save those spaces that tell stories and hold history. To that end, I am attending an event on the 29th of April to support the Friends of Mt Moriah cemetery. This historic cemetery site hosts many notable Philadelphians and citizens leaving us as protectors of this and other sacred spaces in our community. Our culture, our history, our ancestry and the arts are all areas that should be protected, supported and preserved at all costs and in all ways.

Ogbonna Paul Robeson: I would support cultural heritage preservation initiatives throughout Philadelphia. Because of gentrification many of these historic treasures are disappearing. I would definitely want to introduce legislation to preserve the remaining treasures of Philadelphia's cultural heritage.

Dr. Deshawnda Williams: Most definitely yes! For instance, there is an urgency for cultural preservation in areas such as West Kensington, Fishtown, Northern Liberties, North Central, Brewerytown, North Philadelphia and Southwest.

Frank Cristinzio: Yes, I would. I am actively involved as Treasurer and Club Manager of the United Republican Club at 3156 Frankford Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19134. The United Republican Club was founded in 1880. It is located in Kensington. The URC is the oldest continuously located Republican Club in the United States. It has been at its present location since 1890. Four Vice Presidents have spoken there including Theodore Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, Charles Curtis and Richard Nixon. Gentrification is causing much dislocation in the area where the URC is located. Many of owner operating businesses along Frankford Avenue between the 2700 and 3400 blocks of Frankford Avenue have had their Real Estate Taxes raised by the Office of Property Assessment by 3x the previous amount. This same thing is happening along 2700 thru 3100 blocks of Richmond Street. The URC appealed it Property Assessment which moved the fair market value of 3156 Frankford Avenue from \$ 300,509 to \$900,000. As Treasurer of the URC ,I successfully appealed to the Board of Revision Taxes and our FMV was dropped to \$650,00.00. I believe that gentrification is a two edged sword. It needs to be closely monitored by City Council to make that the long time residents and businesses are not forced out both overzealous City Tax Assessors and by out of town speculators.

Luz Colon: I will absolutely support cultural heritage preservation initiatives in neighborhoods experiencing gentrification and new development, not just as a council person, but as a citizen who lives in an area experiencing this very movement. We have to take a stand to not allow those coming into our communities with rich history, generations of families in homes, and communities built around those who are pillars of these areas with various languages and skin colors, it all needs to be preserved and solidified as the foundation of the area. It isn't fair to our elderly or working class citizens who have raised families and built their legacies on grounds that are attempting to be taken over and built with the price of greed from developers who are not from and know nothing about Philadelphia.

Donavan West: My decision of whether to support cultural heritage preservation initiatives in specific neighborhoods experiencing gentrification and new development depends on various factors, including the impacted neighborhood's values and priorities, versus the potential benefits. It is critical to engage with the neighborhoods directly and identify potential partners to support preservation efforts while balancing interests between preservation and economic development (and other benefits).

Cultural heritage preservation initiatives in neighborhoods experiencing gentrification and stresses from new development are important for maintaining the unique character and history of our neighborhoods. These typically include efforts to preserve historic buildings, landmarks, and traditions, as well as support for cultural events and festivals that celebrate our neighborhoods.

These represent the key factors I will consider when evaluating whether to support cultural heritage preservation initiatives, if elected.

Jim Hasher: Yes - I would love to work with our next mayor on preserving and restoring our historical buildings. Some traditions that we see in different neighborhoods or communities have been passed down from generations and it is important to show respect to those traditions.

Gary Masino: I am open to supporting preservation efforts, but I would weigh this on a case by case basis. Regarding any development, it's critical to hear from all stakeholders involved.

Erika Almiron: I believe that preserving cultural heritage is essential, particularly in neighborhoods that are experiencing gentrification and rapid development. At the same time, I recognize that we cannot burden poor and working people with the financial burden of preserving history. Therefore, I support cultural heritage preservation initiatives that are equitable and prioritize community input and involvement. These initiatives should be sensitive to the needs of residents and businesses in the area and should not displace or disrupt their lives.

It's important to note that cultural heritage preservation can also be a tool for economic development and revitalization. By preserving historic sites and cultural landmarks, we can attract tourists and bring in revenue that benefits the local economy.

Overall, my support for cultural heritage preservation initiatives in neighborhoods throughout the city is rooted in my belief in equitable and sustainable development. We must balance the need to preserve history with the needs and priorities of the community, particularly those who are most vulnerable to the impacts of gentrification and development.

Jim Harrity: Our history is so important, not just for Philadelphians, but for the entire US. I support cultural heritage preservation initiatives because it is good for our economy and protects our culture. We must balance many needs when we are thinking about new construction.

Jamie Gauthier: Yes, my record of supporting cultural heritage preservation and affordable housing while standing up to irresponsible development is crystal clear. As the only urban planner on City Council, I bring a focus on place and protecting vibrant neighborhoods to my role every day. In my first term, I worked with residents of Powelton Village to help the neighborhood become a historic site, and I used my discretionary budget to improve the sidewalks at Clark Park. I passed Mixed-Income Neighborhood law, the first of its kind, which requires new housing developments to include deeply affordable housing, so long-term residents of West and Southwest Philadelphia are not pushed out.

Quetcy Lozada: While we certainly need redevelopment in many of our communities, that loss of architectural heritage and character is a concern for me. I support careful and thoughtful expansion of our preservation initiatives. We should invest in keep Philadelphia unique and respecting our history and heritage.

NaDerah Griffin: Absolutely, YES!!! This too can and will become an attraction for out of town guests. In turn, beautifying out neighborhoods would increase our City's revenue, giving us more funds to allocate to your program and others programs to keep the children and others engaged in constructive activities.

Anthony Phillips: Yes. As mentioned above, our stories go beyond Center City, and I support initiatives that genuinely tell the story of our neighborhoods. I always talk about Leon Sullivan and his initiatives to help the city's youth, which can be a model for addressing today's concerns.

Yvette Young: Yes, I worked on the President's House Project, I know the complicated past of our city and the bright future. We have to address systematic racism, and ensure there is inclusion and equity for all of our residents.

Nina Ahmad: The short answer is absolutely yes. I would support a city-wide impact analysis for any new development to assess the potential for displacement and destruction of the culture/ethos of the neighborhood. The results should be shared with the neighbors, developers and zoning board to come up with a reasonable plan moving forward. I would also support a targeted tax abatement for the preservation of historical buildings.

5. The numbers of ATV, motorcycle, and bicycle riders specifically in the historic district and along the Ben Franklin Parkway have been increasing to the point that it is a quality of life issue - not to mention a danger to drivers and pedestrians alike. How will you address the problem?

*** mayoral candidates*

James DeLeon: Initially through public service announcements over the air, print and social media notifying our citizens that we will start enforcing these traffic rules, but I will research alternatives for these riders to ride under safe and controlled conditions, after legally transporting their bikes(think similar to skate board parks, but for dirt bikes)

Rebecca Rhynhart: Firstly, we must start by enforcing the law against ATVs, as they are illegal. I believe that by breaking down silos between the Streets and Police departments to enact traffic calming measures, we can significantly reduce the dangerous impacts of this problem. We know where these groups like to gather and can prioritize traffic calming measures in those areas to deter this phenomenon from happening.

*** city council candidates*

Drew Murray: This is a challenging issue and one that I face regularly living just off the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. We need to work with police to set up check points and confiscate and destroy the illegal ATV's and dirtbikes.

Qiana Shedrick: This challenge is unique, and I truly do realize the nuisance of the noise, the disruption of the vibration and all-around discomfort felt when some encounter the vehicles. However, what is a nuisance for some is a pass time for others. I think the larger conversation reverts to more serious debate going on citywide regarding solutions for our youth. Just like bike riding, roller skating and boating are pastimes that have outlets for enjoyment in the city, so should there be various locations for use of the recreational vehicles. There are many locations and options for how something like that could be accomplished.

Lastly, the conversation of police enforcement must be had. The vehicles are being sold in the city just like they are being driven in packs of 100 through the streets of our neighborhoods. If there is no enforcement of minor rules consistently, it suggests that breaking minor rules consistently is permissible. We cannot continue to see differences among us as problems to correct. We need to be more proactive about finding solutions that involve solutions that everyone has a hand in creating and that reflects, as can be agreed, the needs and desires of the people.

Ogbonna Paul Robeson: This issue already has laws on the books. The laws must be enforced. There are several strategies that can be implemented. With technology, we can eliminate the use of these illegal street vehicles. The simple use of drone technology and even helicopters to identify these illegal motorists would be a simple fix in my opinion. They also gas up in groups many times which is an easy way for the authorities to capture them. It must take the leadership of Philadelphia to have the willingness to stop this. When I am in city council this will be a major priority.

Dr. Deshawnda Williams: I have found that there is art and talent in using ATV, motorcycle, and bicycle riders off the road motorist. It is not a matter to remove them, but to provide education while operating them and not become a nuisance to the community that they reside in. It would be innovative to create an opportunity and space for riders with restrictions and guidelines.

Frank Cristinzo: Unlicensed ATV and Dirt Bike Motorcycles are already banned. The problem is the lack of law enforcement . I support in addition to issuing tickets to violators, the confiscation of unregistered, illegally operated ATV and Dirt Bike Motorcycles. The owners of the illegally operating ATVs and dirt bikes in the historic areas, the Ben Franklin Parkway, my Kensington Neighborhood together with the rest of the City owned Parklands and all other Neighborhoods in this city should have to go before a Municipal Court Judge and explain why their ATVs and Dirt Bike Motorcycles should not be permanently forfeited to the State Government.

Luz Colon: While there is no one correct way to address this issue, there are steps that can be taken to help bring the numbers of ATV, motorcycle, and bicycle riders to obey the laws around using these devices in our city. While bicycles are more tolerated and special lanes and courtesy ramps have been created on the streets for bicyclists, it is important for riders to obey the lanes, rules, lights, and traffic patterns as other motorcyclists on the streets as well. I would encourage for the ATV and motorcycle issues be treated with tougher penalties, laws, and a 3 strike system to discourage riding on the streets. I would encourage a campaign to promote tracks, and places where riders can take their motorized cycles and ride with no worry or lower risk of danger to themselves and others. If we hit the pockets of violators harder and force safety courses as mandate just as receiving a DUI, offences on these vehicles should be treated almost just the same. I would also encourage an initiative with local police departments and CBO's to promote the dangers of AV's and dirt bikes on the streets, and those who ride motorcycles to continue to ride safe and for drivers to be vigilante of these motorized vehicles on the road as well.

Donavan West: Enforcement is very difficult and pretty impossible because of the risks to life and limb. The two central ideas that I am offering - it elected will be:

Community engagement, education and outreach: I would develop education and outreach campaigns to raise awareness about the dangers of reckless driving and promote safe driving practices. This will include public service announcements, social media campaigns, and community events.

Infrastructure improvements: I would work with transportation officials to identify and implement infrastructure improvements that could make these areas safer for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. This will include new bike lanes, traffic calming measures, and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.

Secure parcels from the land bank to create regional recreational ATV and motorcycle driving tracks to provide healthy alternative space for people to drive them safely.

Jim Hasher: This is one of my top priorities in my first year as this was a huge issue for my restaurant when we were moved to outdoor dining during the pandemic. This is not only a nuisance, but a dangerous safety hazard - I will go after any illegal or unregistered ATVs or Dirtbikes - they will be pulled over, ticketed and the vehicle will be confiscated. For the registered ATVs or bikes, they will have to adhere to our traffic laws the same as everyday drivers do.

Gary Masino: The city has increased penalties and enforcement regarding ATV/motorcycle riders. If necessary, I would explore additional penalty and enforcement options. Like increasing fines from the current \$2,000 and installing additional police cameras throughout the city to help with enforcement.

In 2022 City Council was exploring building a public park that would allow for these vehicles to operate away from neighborhoods. In Baltimore there's the B-360 program that uses ATV/motorcycles as a way to teach engineering to children. These two efforts are worth exploring.

Erika Almiron: Providing designated areas for ATV, motorcycle, and bicycle riders to ride safely and legally is a solution that can address safety concerns. By identifying suitable locations for riders to gather and ride in a controlled environment, such as off-road trails and parks, we can reduce the number of riders on city streets

and increase safety for all residents and visitors. These designated areas could also help prevent riders from damaging public property or endangering pedestrians and drivers on busy streets.

Additionally, providing legal areas for ATV, motorcycle, and bicycle riders to ride in can discourage riders from using public property or private property without permission. This can reduce tensions between riders and property owners, as well as the community as a whole.

Furthermore, providing designated areas for riders can also be beneficial for the economy by promoting tourism and attracting visitors who are interested in off-road activities. These areas could also serve as venues for organized events and competitions, which could generate revenue for the city and local businesses.

Overall, designated areas for ATV, motorcycle, and bicycle riders can be a positive step towards addressing safety concerns and promoting responsible off-road activities in Philadelphia.

Jim Harrity: All motor vehicles must be street-legal. This is for the safety of the drivers and everyone else on the road. It is incumbent of the PPD to enforce the motor vehicle code and to keep us all safe.

Jamie Gauthier: Regarding ATVs, dirt bikes, and bicycles, my priority is to keep everyone safe that includes pedestrians, drivers, and the riders of these vehicles.

That's why I do not support overzealous enforcement policies that would put more vulnerable Philadelphians – especially young men of color – into contact with our flawed criminal justice system. At the same time, these vehicles can endanger pedestrians and drivers, and in egregious cases, I would endorse confiscation of vehicles if there were safeguards in place to prevent police overreach or incarceration. People shouldn't be locked up over an ATV or dirt bike alone.

As an urban planner, I use place-based, people-centered lenses to understand and solve problems. Our approach should consider the big picture. Young people ride ATVs, dirt bikes, and bikes because it's fun. Similar to building skateparks for skateboarders, we should work with the city and local communities to create safe places for them to ride. We should also continue to support, fully fund, and fully staff our rec centers, libraries, parks, and other community hubs that give young people additional positive outlets for their energy. Regarding transit and the roads in general, we need to keep working to make getting around Philadelphia as safe, smooth, and efficient as possible for the sake of our people, our economy, and our climate. In my first term, I have worked with my constituents to identify and improve problem areas of the roads – such as speed tables on a previously deadly intersection on the Cobbs Creek Parkway – and I would support similar improvements to decrease the risk of dangerous ATV, dirt bike, and bicycle riding.

Quetcy Lozada: This is a problem throughout the city, including the 7th Council District. We can learn from other cities that have been more pro-active. New York City has issued rewards for tips leading to the confiscation of dirt bikes. Other cities have fined gas stations that have allowed these groupings of illegal vehicles to fill up. Other cities have invested ATV specific police units, monitor social media to track mounting rides, and utilize drone technology to track the bikes and riders back to their home address.

Simply put, we are not doing enough. We are tolerating a level of dangerous behavior that is harming our city. I support taking a stronger, more proactive approach to illegal ATV's.

NaDerah Griffin: Once elected, as a City Council At-Large Member, I would create an area where ATV riders can ride around out of the public view. Also, I would require that ATV drivers obtain a driver's license to utilize the park and take a safety class. The safety class would teach the dangers of driving in public places and the consequences of driving in forbidden areas, with the exception of to and from the designated ATV Park. Moreover, ATV drivers would have a designated time block and days that they can utilize the park.

Anthony Phillips: In my short time on city council, I have distinguished myself as a council member for "quality of life." I have introduced and passed legislation strengthening the enforcement of 18-wheelers and abandoned vehicles parking in residential neighborhoods. In addition, I passed a bill creating pedestrian safety measures around all our schools. And I wrote legislation to crack down on stop-and-go shops and other nuisance businesses that allow illegal drugs, alcohol, gambling, loitering, litter, and excessive noise.

The excessive parading of street-illegal vehicles threatens public safety and quality of life. Like my previous legislation, I will work with my colleagues and your organization to best address these concerns, not only in our historic districts. But all communities.

Yvette Young: Enforcement of noise ordinances. These vehicles should not be operating on the street. Some of these young men and women are talented riders, let's find a location where they can operate safely, away from residential areas, and keep them off of occupied streets.

Nina Ahmad: I support the laws on the books which at the end of 2021 amended the city's traffic code to close the loophole in the law to include ATVs and dirt bikes as illegal street vehicles. By defining dirt bikes and ATVs as illegal street vehicles, the bill gives the Philadelphia Police Department the authority to confiscate them. But there will need to be a multi- pronged approach that goes beyond the traditional law enforcement approach. I would like to investigate alternatives for where ATV riders could race and enjoy their sport instead of putting pedestrians and vehicles at risk on public streets. Similar to the skate parks that have been created for skaters. Other City departments such as health, parks and recreation and human services will need to be part of a strategic plan for creating appropriate spaces for ATV use. But there must be a public campaign about noise pollution and safety issues coupled with consequences as well as providing alternatives. We must engage those involved in such activity to understand the destructive toll of such activity and participate in crafting sustainable solutions.

6. Would your administration consider free parking options for tour buses in the city?
(Otherwise these diesel buses are circling around the city causing excess pollution.) Please share your thoughts.

*** mayoral candidates*

James DeLeon: Yes-tour buses are necessary and they need to be parked in designated areas so as not to cause excess pollution.

Rebecca Rhynhart: It's important for us to find solutions to minimize excess pollution, especially from diesel vehicles. I would be open to a conversation to discuss options for discounted or free parking for tour buses in the city, depending on the scope of the need and logistical feasibility.

*** city council candidates*

Drew Murray: I would consider, but would need more information. I live right near the Franklin Institute and we (LSNA, the local RCO) were supportive of their bus parking locations on Winter Street, but all neighborhoods are different and have their challenges.

Qiana Shedrick: I think coordinated parking locations at local parking centers can be arranged by city officials. I think this plan and model could also be adopted as a solution to the city's' problem with commercial vehicles being parked on the streets.

Ogbonna Paul Robeson: There should be locations where tour buses can simply Park. As an environmental superhero, Philly Green Man, I would identify areas away from the general public where these tour buses could park free of charge.

Dr. Deshawnda Williams: Yes of course. I have heard many testimonials of how it is costly for a tour bus to circle the city for hours because they have no identified space to park. We need to create spaces that will be supportive of tourism.

Frank Cristinzio: Yes, there is a lot of abandoned City of Philadelphia property on the waterfront between the 3100 and 3600 blocks of Delaware Avenue near the Tioga Marine Terminal. It would a better usage of that land to park tour buses there than just letting it sit fallow. The land is in close proximity to either the new made for tractor trailers south bound entrance to I-95 or the more narrower entrance to south bound entrance to I-95 at Allegheny Avenue. I would myself introduce legislation in City Council to make this a reality. This land is part the City owned PGW complex. It has not used for anything in my lifetime.

Luz Colon: I would encourage for there to be a parking area built in a central location of the city for buses to park and wait for their parties. Such as the cell phone lot at the airport, it should be an option for tour buses as they will always be driving through our city causing traffic, and to protect our air pollution and gas emissions, not to mention street wear and tear and illegal parking issues, this would add more incentive to visit our city from our of town.

Donavan West: We should absolutely develop a parking solution for these tour buses urgently. We should be demanding this as residents, businesses and frankly, elected officials.

Jim Hasher: I believe there are enough vacant lots and buildings across the city that we can work to convert some of the unused locations into parking options for tour buses.

Gary Masino: I would like to see a study first, if there isn't one already that details this issue further. I'm not familiar with the costs associated with tour bus operations and revenue brought into the city through its use.

Erika Almiron: I would consider implementing free parking options for tour buses in the city so these tour buses wouldn't be idling or driving around causing pollution. I would work with local businesses and community organizations to identify suitable locations for tour bus parking and ensure that these options are easily accessible to both tour companies and visitors.

Jim Harrity: I am all for reducing pollution and traffic. I would be happy to work with the Streets Department, Civic Associations, and any stakeholders to make it cleaner and safer for buses to bring tourists around the city.

Jamie Gauthier: In light of the climate crisis, I fully support efforts to reduce our city's carbon emissions, and I would support measures that decrease emissions throughout the city. On this issue specifically, I would like to learn more. In general, dedicating parking space to tour buses that would otherwise be circling seems to make sense. However, I would consider the financial means of the tour companies in question before deciding whether I would support giving a city resource like parking spaces away for free.

Quetcy Lozada: I am open to this policy, and I would like to discuss it more with your association.

NaDerah Griffin: Reducing the Carbon Footprint is always best for the people. That being said, I would advocate for Tour buses to have a designated area to park. At this time, I am not sure if I would make it a free parking space for the Tour Buses because other expenses would incur (ie. Maintenance, more staffing). However, I would be open to giving a tax credit if parking is not free.

Anthony Phillips: I look forward to working with the next administration on exploring new initiatives which continue to support our local economy and amplify tourism.

Yvette Young: Yes, we need to designate locations for buses to park, especially after the closure of the Greyhound bus station at Broad and Onley

Nina Ahmad: I would support a parking venue for tour buses with options for tourists to access the various sites in the city. We need to use best practices in other countries, where walking is one of the fundamental ways tourists enjoy cities. This would mean making Philadelphia much more pedestrian friendly with options such as electric trolleys for those needing it. As a scientist and someone who was endorsed by the Sierra Club I would want to do everything in my power to lessen air pollution.

7. What is the best way to let visitors, especially those who are foodies, know about Philadelphia's legendary vegan-dining scene in this city where vegetarianism originated?

*** mayoral candidates*

James DeLeon: Through publications that cater to hotels & motels.

Rebecca Rhynhart: As a pescatarian and a big fan of vegan food, I would be happy to personally invite others to visit Philly to eat vegan! Vedge has been one of my favorite restaurants in our city for years.

*** city council candidates*

Drew Murray: I would work with the business districts like Center City District to get the word out about Philadelphia's incredible vegan-dining.

Qiana Shedrick: I general I would like our city to have a driving tour that shows historical landmarks and just a drive of the city as a whole to encourage people to get out from downtown and visit the neighborhoods. Restaurants and key thriving business corridors in the city could be highlighted with a map of the city showing not only vegan restaurants, but produce markets, health and wellness stores alike. As a health and wellness advocate, I am keenly aware of the lack of connectivity that exists in the community on many levels.

Ogbonna Paul Robeson: Because the majority have cell phones today, there could be a simple app for that. Also a vegan restaurant tour book with coupons. This will not only make people aware, but give them an incentive to visit those restaurants.

Dr. Deshawnda Williams: Create a Vegan-Slide.

Frank Cristinzio: I have to be very honest with you. I know very little, actually nothing, about foodies, the vegan-dining scene or vegetarianism. If I win the Republican Primary, I would be happy to hear from your organization about this.

Luz Colon: I would encourage for their to be more vegan options at the main attractions and touristy areas of our city. I would also encourage a vegan dine out week, just as we have center city sips or dine Latino week, it would be nice to have a vegan dine out week to promote businesses and restaurants. It would also help to incorporate into our tours the stories of the origin of vegetarianism and to also create a tour of where it all began.

Donavan West: To promote Philadelphia's vegan dining scene to foodies and visitors, we should create a comprehensive vegan food guide, use social media to raise awareness with hashtags, collaborate with food bloggers and influencers, host vegan food tours, and attend food festivals and events to showcase our restaurants. Taking a proactive marketing approach will attract visitors, enhance Philadelphia's profile as a tourist destinations and promote the city's rich culinary heritage to tourists and residents alike.

Jim Hasher: I learned during the pandemic that the power of social media has proven to do wonders for advertisements in small businesses.

Gary Masino: I think it's important to promote the culture in Philadelphia. Many of our city's restaurants are award winning and world renowned. I would be open to exploring additional promotion of our city's restaurant scene. The City Council has also created the Arts and Culture Task Force that has some creative solutions regarding urban planning, governance, and safety that would apply to the restaurant scene, like rideshare stations for example

Erika Almiron: One of the best ways to promote Philadelphia's legendary vegan dining scene to visitors, especially foodies, is through social media. By utilizing popular social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, we can showcase the delicious and diverse vegan options available throughout the city. Additionally, we can work with local tour operators to include vegan dining options in their tours, expanding the reach of these eateries to a wider audience. This way, visitors can experience the rich cultural history and culinary scene of Philadelphia while also being introduced to the thriving vegan community that exists here.

Jim Harrity: It would be great if the city could work with businesses to boost restaurants and other businesses in Philadelphia. I would be happy to visit restaurants and feature them on my official website and social media. It's a win-win situation.

Jamie Gauthier: I would support including the city's history of vegan and vegetarian dining options in all of the media the city uses to promote tourism – including social media and print ads.

Quetcy Lozada: I believe Philadelphia is one of the best food destinations in America, and what we have to offer is so much broader than the cheesesteaks and soft pretzels we are known for. I believe a campaign to promote the diversity of Philadelphia cuisine, including the diverse cultural cuisine found in many of our neighborhoods would be a tremendous idea. I believe that vegetarian and vegan cuisine is clearly a growing part of Philadelphia's food scene and should be acknowledged and celebrated.

NaDerah Griffin: The best way to make visiting foodies aware of Philadelphia's legendary vegan-dining locations is to create a vegan food/store app that they can view prior to booking a trip here.

Anthony Phillips: I am working with restaurants, 9th District CDCs, and the Commerce Department on creating a "Green Book" for businesses across my district. The 9th District is home to several of the city's best vegan-dining. We must expand and support our programs like "Restaurant Week" to different areas in the city and promote these businesses, many of them are minority owned.

Yvette Young: Sending out information mailers and coupons with tax info or water bill info, utilize every opportunity to spread the word.

Nina Ahmad: Have promotions like Restaurant week but focus on vegetarian and vegan food-make the campaign national in reach making Philadelphia a destination for serious foodies. Have in parallel, a media campaign with famous Philadelphians who are vegan, engage with Sports figures and others. Highlight the many eateries that offer vegetarian food and those that are exclusively vegetarian or vegan. As a City Council member, I could introduce a resolution declaring vegetarian and vegan restaurant week in Philadelphia as part of a larger promotional plan to highlight our unique role in the history of vegetarianism.

8. Your taking the time to respond is very much appreciated. Anything additional to add?

*** mayoral candidates*

James DeLeon: No.

*** city council candidates*

Qiana Shedrick: I believe growing our economy and our city begins with innovative ideas and support from those in office. Developing our neighborhoods, branding their cultures and individuality, investing in their people and appearances while supporting all efforts made towards growing our Arts, Culture, and the Creative economy can be a combined effort that benefits all parties involved. This questionnaire was informative and I appreciate you taking the time to consider my opinions.

Ogbonna Paul Robeson: Tourism in Philadelphia should be a major revenue generator. As with everything today it needs to be marketed and promoted. I would work to increase the advertising budget to the world particularly using our successful sport teams and entertainment scene to generate this.

Dr. Deshawnda Williams: Keep up the great work in holding candidates accountable.

Frank Cristinzio: No.

Donavan West: Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to the next step in this process!

Jim Hasher: I have been a resident of Philadelphia my entire life. I love this city and all it has to offer to the people who live here and visit here.

Gary Masino: Promotion of arts and culture is crucial to our city's economy. It incentivises tourism, supports job creation, and supports our local economy. In addition, it also demonstrates to the world that Philadelphia is a competitive world class city, with a lot to offer regarding arts and culture. As a City Council member I would heavily promote and support this industry.

Erika Almiron: No, this has been a fun questionnaire :) Thank you!

Jim Harrity: In many ways, tour guides are Philly's ambassadors. I'd like to learn more about your issues and see what I can do to help you thrive. Thanks for sharing this questionnaire with me. -Jim

Jamie Gauthier: No, thanks!

Quetcy Lozada: Thank you for reaching out to my campaign! I look forward to working with your Association soon. Please don't hesitate to contact me on any matter where I can be of assistance.

NaDerah Griffin: Thanks for giving me an opportunity to share my thoughts on how to engage visitors when visiting Philadelphia. NaDerah Griffin

Anthony Phillips: I am excited to work with you to become better stewards of our city's stories and strengthen our shared values of uplifting communities.

Yvette Young: I would love to do a historical homes tour in the city, the Betsy Ross House, James Logan House and many other historical mansions and homes. We have such beautiful architecture in this city to tout.

Nina Ahmad: Growing up during the very violent war of Independence that gave birth to Bangladesh, I will always remember that I am alive because of the ultimate sacrifice of over 3 million freedom fighters and the lifelong trauma of over 250,000 women and girls who were brutalized as a tool of war. This lived experience has guided me in all my political activism. I know what it's like to feel unsafe, like so many of our children impacted by the rampant gun violence we face. I understand how educational opportunity can transform lives, as it did for me when I was able to come here and earn a Ph.D. I know how critical from both a human rights perspective and economic standpoint it is to welcome immigrants. As a Councilmember this worldview will continue to inform my advocacy for all those who have been systematically marginalized and excluded as I stand in solidarity with those in this country who've been fighting for justice over 400 years.

If elected to the Philadelphia City Council, I would be the only scientist serving on that body and as well as the only immigrant – lived experiences that will bring fresh perspectives to being a public servant. As the only Muslim woman and a women's advocate with a proven track record of using an intersectional lens, I will fight bigotry and dismantle racist and sexist infrastructure that impedes access selectively. I will use a data-driven approach to bring about systemic change and institute robust public engagement with Philadelphians to listen, learn and share. But beyond that I bring a compelling personal story which I believe will stand me in good stead to be a strong and compassionate legislator for all of the City's residents.

What the Philadelphia Inquirer (by The Editorial Board Updated on Apr 22, 2023, 5:00 a.m. ET) said in endorsing me: ***“Nina Ahmad, a former deputy mayor, pragmatic progressive, and scientist, has correctly diagnosed many of the city's ills as health problems. Ahmad supports data-driven solutions and would bring empathy and transparency to local government. She's also a prominent local champion of women's rights at a time when federal judges seem intent on rolling back decades of case law on abortion and other reproductive health-care decisions. She would be the city's first South Asian councilmember. While Ahmad has run for other offices before, City Council at-large is the ideal spot for her to apply her talents.”***