

# City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia  
Office of the Chief Clerk  
Room 402, City Hall  
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 130885)

## RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Joint Committees on Education and Public Safety to hold hearings to discuss the use of state funding to construct two new state prisons – SCI Phoenix I & II – while funding has been drastically cut for basic education.

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC) is currently spending \$400 million to construct two new prisons that will house 4100 prisoners, making it the second most expensive construction project in state history; and

WHEREAS, The funding for this project was approved by the Pennsylvania Legislature in 2008, based on testimony from then DOC Secretary that the prison system was badly overcrowded and in need of additional beds; and

WHEREAS, This construction project has moved forward at a time when state funding for basic education, higher education and social services have been slashed across the state; and

WHEREAS, The Philadelphia School District has sustained a major decline in state funding in with an unprecedented number of layoffs and staff restructuring; and

WHEREAS, The Philadelphia School District and other school districts across the Commonwealth will be impacted by this expensive construction project for decades to come, with the debt incurred from a \$400 million capital project paid with interest from Pennsylvania's General Fund over at least a twenty year period; and

WHEREAS, Almost one-third of state prisoners in Pennsylvania come from the City of Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Council wishes to conduct public hearings to determine the effects of prison expansion on residents of the City; and

# City of Philadelphia

*RESOLUTION NO. 130885 continued*

WHEREAS, Because of the impact prison growth and decreased funding for basic education and social services have on the City, its neighborhoods and residents, it is imperative to discuss how funding is allocated and justified; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That the City Council Joint Committees on Education and Public Safety are hereby authorized to hold public hearings in order to discuss the use of state funding to construct two new state prisons – SCI Phoenix I & II while funding has been drastically cut for basic education.

# City of Philadelphia

*RESOLUTION NO. 130885 continued*

# City of Philadelphia

*RESOLUTION NO. 130885 continued*

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-first day of November, 2013.

Darrell L. Clarke  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Blackwell and Jones

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Blackwell, Jones Tasco, Greenlee, Goode, Green, Johnson, Bass and Quiñones Sánchez