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Title: Establishing the Kensington Caucus to represent a united legislative front in addressing the crisis in the Kensington area.

Sponsors: Councilmember Lozada, Councilmember Driscoll, Councilmember Harry, Councilmember Squilla

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2/8/2024	0	CITY COUNCIL	ADOPTED		
2/1/2024	0	CITY COUNCIL	Introduced and Ordered Placed On Next Week's Final Passage Calendar		

Establishing the Kensington Caucus to represent a united legislative front in addressing the crisis in the Kensington area.

WHEREAS, The Kensington Caucus is a coalition of Councilmembers who live in and represent the Kensington Neighborhood in the Philadelphia City Council; and

WHEREAS, This united front will allow for a more coordinated and effective response to the complex issues facing the Kensington community, including crime, drug addiction, homelessness, transit, and poverty; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Caucus will work together in unison to establish clear and achievable goals and find sustainable solutions that will improve the lives of all those affected by these challenges; and

WHEREAS, This collaboration will enable the members to effectively engage with other leaders at the local, state, and federal levels and in pursue of a new and revived Kensington with determination and purpose by expediting the legislative action needed to execute the Kensington Marshall Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Kensington Marshall Plan was a significant step taken by the City Council to address the ongoing crisis in the Kensington area. The plan was adopted unanimously on February 16, 2023, and aimed to highlight the importance of tackling the issues faced by the community; and

WHEREAS, The decades-long disinvestment, opioid crisis, and lawlessness have created significant challenges for the Kensington neighborhoods and have negatively impacted the quality of life of this community. It is important to recognize that these problems are the result of failed policies that have not effectively addressed the root causes of these issues; and

WHEREAS, Many parts of Kensington have transformed into a hub for illicit drug activities, open-air drug markets, criminal offenses. Immediate action needs to be taken to address this growing concern; and

WHEREAS, The residents of the first district, sixth district, and seventh district of the council, along with the city at large, stand in solidarity with their neighbors in Kensington to permanently shutter the open-air drug market and provide a support mechanism for people experiencing homelessness and addiction; and

WHEREAS, Kensington is a neighborhood in Philadelphia that is known for its diversity and multiculturalism. According to the U.S. Census, the area is home to a diverse population of immigrants and their descendants, including Hispanic Americans, African Americans, Irish Americans, Polish Americans, and Asian Americans; and

WHEREAS, Kensington is a neighborhood that was once a bustling industrial hub, known for its production of high-quality textiles that were renowned internationally. The district's factories and mills employed a significant portion of the local population, making it a vital economic center in the region; and

WHEREAS, The Kensington Caucus strives to empower and uplift the diverse voices of families, children, schools, businesses, and nonprofits in Kensington. By providing a platform for dialogue and collaboration, the Kensington Caucus seeks to facilitate direct relief and support for those in need; and

WHEREAS, This coalition is fully committed to fostering a safe, fair, and inclusive community and believe that by working together, will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who call Kensington home; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it hereby authorizes the establishment of the Kensington Caucus to represent a united legislative front in addressing the crisis in the Kensington area.