

**EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 3 - 18**

**OPIOID EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, Kensington and the surrounding neighborhoods are facing extreme challenges related to the opioid crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, drug overdoses in Philadelphia claimed more than 1200 lives in 2017 and more than 500 lives so far in 2018. The crisis is killing more Philadelphians than AIDS at the peak of that epidemic, and nearly four times as many as killed by homicide; and

**WHEREAS**, the crisis has driven up the number of individuals suffering street homelessness. In the summer of 2017 there were approximately 900 unsheltered individuals in Philadelphia, 400 of whom were living in Kensington and Fairhill. By the summer of 2018, there were approximately 1400 unsheltered individuals in Philadelphia, 700 of whom were living in Kensington and Fairhill, an unprecedented number; and

**WHEREAS**, 46 injection drug users were diagnosed with HIV infection (non-AIDS) during the 12 months ending August 31, 2018, an increase of 15 (48%) compared to the previous 12 months, posing a risk of additional HIV spread among drug users as well as the larger community; and

**WHEREAS**, the crisis has created unacceptable conditions for Kensington and the surrounding neighborhood. Nearly 150 people are camped on Frankford Avenue and Emerald Street, alone, with smaller encampments spread through the community. Drugs are bought, sold, and injected openly. Addiction has increased the number of individuals participating in the sex trade. Streets, school yards and public parks are littered with trash, human waste and used syringes. Children and commuters dodge illegal activity on their way to school and work; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is investing significant resources into this community. The City, working with community members and Conrail, cleared long-time encampments in proximity to the Gurney Street tracks and also launched an encampment resolution pilot that successfully disbanded two encampments. Working with non-profit partners, new homeless outreach teams have been added, 120 emergency respite beds and 300 supportive housing units have been funded. The Departments of Public Health and Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services expanded prevention and education efforts. DBHIDS expanded medication-assisted treatment capacity and removed barriers to treatment. Both Departments have increased access to training and distributed Naloxone to community groups, families and neighbors to help reduce overdoses. Efforts to connect those who have overdosed to treatment have been scaled up, including “warm handoffs” at several locations. The Streets Department collects 3 tons of litter per week and up to 40 tons of refuse from illegal dumping per month. 634 lots have been cleaned and 156 properties have been sealed; more than 1,000 additional medication-assisted treatment slots have been created; and

**WHEREAS**, despite these efforts and increased resources, the problems facing this community have only continued to grow. It is apparent that the City’s resources alone cannot resolve the challenges facing Kensington and the surrounding neighborhoods. A new approach

is necessary to tackle these issues, new partnerships must be forged and new resources must be brought to bear; and

**WHEREAS**, Kensington and its surrounding neighborhoods are in the midst of a disaster. The Office of Emergency Management shall open the Emergency Operations Center and institute a standardized system to manage resources, share information, and organize Philadelphia's response. The Managing Director or his designee shall lead a unified command of participating agencies in response to this incident; allowing for heightened accountability, routine reporting, and coordination;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, JAMES F. KENNEY, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, by the powers vested in me by the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, do hereby order as follows:

### **SECTION 1. Creation of the Opioid Emergency Response Group**

The Opioid Emergency Response Group is hereby established in the Office of the Managing Director.

### **SECTION 2. Membership of the Opioid Emergency Response Group**

The size and membership of the Opioid Emergency Response Group shall be set at the discretion of the Managing Director.

### **SECTION 3. Objectives of the Opioid Emergency Response**

The following City Agencies must complete the following objectives as part of the Opioid Emergency Response:

A. The Managing Director's Office of Health and Human Services shall lead efforts to clear the major encampments by removing tents, appliances, furniture or similar material from our streets and from public and private properties, while offering services to occupants in a humane and dignified manner.

B. The Managing Director's Office of Criminal Justice and Public Safety shall lead efforts to substantially reduce criminal activity by reducing open-air drug use and sales, increasing arrests for the solicitation of prostitutes, developing safe routes to school and transit corridors, securing public spaces, reducing property crimes, and increasing the volume of drugs seized.

C. The Office of Homeless Services shall lead efforts to substantially reduce the number of unsheltered individuals city-wide and in Kensington.

D. The Community Life Improvement Program (CLIP) shall lead efforts to substantially reduce trash and discarded syringes, and to remediate the most problematic vacant properties. CLIP will also oversee reductions in the following areas: the litter index, the number of accessible vacant structures, the number of unkempt vacant lots, and the number of vacant

properties. In addition, CLIP will lead to improvements in the condition of public spaces, including schoolyards, parks, and transit stops.

E. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) shall lead efforts to substantially reduce the number of overdoses and overdose deaths, and limit the spread of HIV and other infectious diseases related to drug injection. In addition, PDPH will increase the distribution of naloxone.

F. The Office of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS) shall lead efforts to substantially increase the number of individuals engaged in medication-assisted treatment by increasing treatment options, improving access to those options, increasing the number of unsheltered individuals entering treatment, and increasing the number of warm hand-offs.

G. The Managing Director's Office of Community Services shall lead efforts to engage the public and mobilize community response by engaging additional non-profit and for-profit partners, recruiting volunteers and raising funds to support the objectives set out in this Section 3, and to support existing community agencies and civic associations.

#### **SECTION 4. Cooperation**

A. Subject to the approval of the Managing Director, the following agencies shall designate personnel to advise and assist the Opioid Emergency Response Group and the Managing Director's Office in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the objectives required under Section 3: Office of Emergency Management, Office of Homeless Services, the Office of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, Philadelphia Department of Public Health, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Prisons System, the Streets Department, the Department of Licenses and Inspections, the Community Life Improvement Program, the Department of Commerce, the Office of Innovation and Technology, the Office of Open Data and Digital Transformation, the Law Department, the Office of the Director of Finance, the Procurement Department, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Planning and Development, the Office of Community Engagement and Volunteer Services, 311, the Water Department and the Mayor's Office of Communications. The Managing Director may designate additional agencies at his discretion.

B. All City Departments, Agencies, Boards, and Commissions shall cooperate with the Opioid Emergency Response Group and shall provide any data it may require with respect to the operations of City government.

C. Other public entities as determined by the Managing Director, including but not limited to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, the Philadelphia Housing Authority, and the School District of Philadelphia are encouraged to support and cooperate with the Opioid Emergency Response Group.

D. The Managing Director shall convene a Community Advisory Committee to provide input to the Opioid Emergency Response Group. The Committee shall include members

of City Council, community organizations, service providers, and other individuals or organizations deemed appropriate.

**SECTION 5. Communication of Progress**

A. The Opioid Emergency Response Group shall communicate actions supporting the objectives required in Section 3 to the public, the press, and to elected officials on a weekly basis.

B. The Opioid Emergency Response Group shall develop a website where weekly targets and progress are posted.

**SECTION 6. Effective Date**

This Order shall take effect immediately. After 90 days, progress will be evaluated and the Mayor may extend at his discretion.

10/3/18  
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Date

*James F. Kenney*  
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James F. Kenney, Mayor