EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2-23

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

WHEREAS, communities of color and low-wealth communities are more likely to be concentrated in neighborhoods experiencing multiple environmental burdens and disproportionate vulnerability to the impacts of climate change;

WHEREAS, Philadelphia's industrial past combined with racially-biased and discriminatory policies and practices, such as exclusionary zoning, racial covenants, and redlining, have contributed to these environmental inequities;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the City of Philadelphia work to ensure the equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens and redress past harmful environmental policies and practices;

WHEREAS, fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all residents, particularly those most impacted and historically marginalized by government action, is critical to the development, implementation and enforcement of just environmental laws, regulations, policies and activities;

WHEREAS, for three years, community stakeholders and environmental justice experts have dedicated volunteer time on the Office of Sustainability's Environmental Justice Working Group towards establishing a foundation for frontline community leadership in addressing environmental harms; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Justice Working Group's service has highlighted the ongoing need for community stakeholders who understand the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal and commercial operations and the execution of federal, state or local programs and policies to guide City policy;

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. ESTABLISHMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Environmental Justice Advisory Commission (EJAC) is hereby established as an advisory commission to the Mayor, within the Office of Sustainability, to study, report on and address environmental justice issues in Philadelphia.

SECTION 2. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission shall:

A. Advise on criteria for identifying locations within the city that experience disproportionate environmental effects and inequitable access to environmental benefits.

B. Review existing and proposed government programs, policies, activities, and processes to identify environmental justice concerns and propose alternative solutions.

C. Advise the City on the adoption of policies and procedures to equitably engage frontline communities in civic decision-making processes related to environmental justice.

D. Recommend a vision and action plan for an environmentally just Philadelphia led by the expertise of those most impacted by environmental injustice.

E. Work to build the capacity of frontline communities on issues of environmental justice.

SECTION 3. COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF THE COMMISSION

A. The EJAC shall consist of up to seventeen members, appointed by the Mayor. Members shall be Philadelphia residents impacted by environmental injustice and share a commitment to the goals of the Commission. Overall membership shall reflect the racial, ethnic, geographic and socioeconomic diversity of the city's population.

B. Members selected prior to the execution of this Order shall continue their service on the Commission established herein through December 31, 2023, at the pleasure of the Mayor.

C. Members of the Commission shall be compensated as set forth in § 20-304 of The Philadelphia Code.

D. Meetings of the Commission shall be held at least ten (10) times per year.

SECTION 4. COOPERATION

All employees, officials, departments and other agencies of the Executive and Administrative Branch are hereby directed to cooperate with the Commission to the fullest extent permitted by law.

SECTION 5. ANNUAL REPORT

The Commission shall submit an annual report by the end of the calendar year to the Mayor, and President of City Council with recommendations related to the Commission's duties. The annual report shall be published on the City's website.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order shall take effect immediately.

3/15/23

DATE

JAMES F. KENNEY, MAYOR