



LET'S TALK ABOUT KENSINGTON!

POST-EVENT REPORT



**Citizens Police
Oversight Commission**
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA



215-685-0891



CPOC@PHILA.GOV



www.phila.gov/cpoc



**Philadelphia Citizens Police
Oversight Commission**



@phlcpoc



POST-EVENT REPORT

TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND FRIENDS,

CPOC aims to provide transparency, accountability, and equity through civilian oversight of the Philadelphia Police Department.

When numerous changes were proposed for the Kensington Community in late 2023 and early 2024, CPOC recognized a need for the Community's voices to be heard and to know that they are supported, during this time of change and uncertainty.

In order to provide a space for residents to share concerns, CPOC held a Community Townhall and decided that our initial event would be law enforcement-free after conferring with trusted members of the Kensington Community during the event planning stages in late 2023. On occasion, we hold civilian-only events, if the subject matter or the attendance might be affected by a police presence.

This decision was made with insight and in good-faith. Additionally, community members are aware that we anticipate and even encourage future meetings with law-enforcement present.

CPOC recognizes that for change to occur, all parties involved must be active participants to discuss meaningful solutions. We hope this report amplifies the voices of those who are often excluded from decision-making rooms.

WHAT IS EXECUTIVE ORDER 1-24?

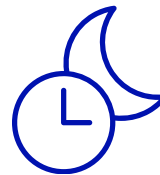
Executive Order 1-24: "Develop a Strategy to permanently shut down all pervasive open-air drug markets, including but not limited to, open-air drug markets in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia."



WHAT ARE THE CHANGES IN ENFORCEMENT?

The changes for the Kensington Community in response to Executive Order 1-24.

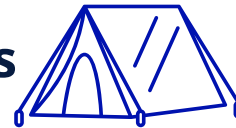
11PM Business Curfew



Increased enforcement of low-level crimes such as drug possession, prostitution, window tint, loitering, etc.



Encampment Resolutions



After our community town hall, the Philadelphia Police Department removed individuals residing at the encampment on May 8, 2024 in the early morning hours of 7:00 AM. The representatives from social service agencies arrived at 8AM, which was the time originally advertised to the public.

Encampment Resolutions have been occurring in the city for many years, though this recent incident appears to have been carried out differently from what had been initially shared with residents.

Two members of CPOC's auditing team were present and observed the actions of PPD. In light of the community concerns and public need to achieve a thoughtful understanding of the operation, CPOC will conduct an after-action review.

Anyone who experienced or witnessed police misconduct can reach out to us by contacting 215-685-0891 or cpoc@phila.gov to file a complaint. Any agencies or groups who witnessed or observed the clearing that want to share their perspective on the police presence, can also contact us.



POST-EVENT REPORT

EVENT OVERVIEW

On April 30th, 2024, CPOC held a Community Town Hall at The CORE at Esperanza Health Center located at 3222 H Street in Kensington, Philadelphia from 6PM to 8PM.



Details

CPOC organized this civilian-led meeting to provide residents a space to discuss the proposed changes in the enforcement of quality of life issues in the Kensington neighborhood. The overall goal of the meeting was to make the community aware that they are supported during this time of uncertainty in how their neighborhood will be impacted by future policing. The event offered an introduction to CPOC's mission, role, and how the agency is tasked with civilian oversight of the Philadelphia Police Department.

This free event included local food, two raffles, presentations from subject matter experts, and resource tables provided by local human service providers. The event included an open-mic discussion component where community members and providers engaged in an organic conversation about the proposed changes. Spanish and Mandarin interpretation services were available on site. A survey on Language Access was also available for non-English speaking attendees.



**A special thanks to
Esperanza Health
Center**

for allowing us to host
this event in their
beautiful space.

POST-EVENT REPORT

EVENT FLYERS

In order to make this event as accessible as possible, flyers were disseminated in English, Spanish, and Mandarin to promote the event.



Citizens Police Oversight Commission
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Let's Talk About KENSINGTON!

Crime - Policing - Quality of Life

Topics:

- Kensington Initiative Plans
- Civilian Oversight of Police
- New Business Curfew
- Interactions with the Police

This Free Event will Include:

- ✓ Food and Refreshments
- ✓ Spanish & Mandarin Interpretation
- ✓ Resource Tables
- ✓ Language Access Survey
- ✓ Open to the Public

***No Law Enforcement will be in Attendance ***

Community Meeting

April 30, 2024 6-8PM

THE CORE AT ESPERANZA HEALTH CENTER
3222 H STREET, PHILA, PA 19134

Questions or Concerns?
Email: CPOC@PHILA.GOV
Call: 215-685-0891



Citizens Police Oversight Commission
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

¡Hablemos De KENSINGTON!

Delitos - Vigilancia Policial - Calidad de Vida

Los Temas de Discusión:

- Los Planes para Kensington
- Supervisión Policial Ciudadana
- El Toque de Queda para Negocios
- Interacciones con la Policía

Este Evento Gratuito Incluye:

- ✓ Comida y Refrigerios
- ✓ Interpretación en Español y Mandarin
- ✓ Recursos
- ✓ Una Encuesta sobre los servicios de Interpretación de Idiomas para las personas
- ✓ Abierto al Publico

Los Oficiales de la Policía no asistirán a esta reunión

Reunión Comunitaria

El Martes 30 de abril, 2024 6-8PM

THE CORE ESPERANZA HEALTH CENTER
3222 H STREET PHILA, PA 19134

Para más información, llámanos al 215-685-0891 o envíanos un correo electrónico a CPOC@PHILA.GOV



Citizens Police Oversight Commission
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

让我们谈谈肯辛顿 (KENSINGTON)

犯罪 — 治安 — 生活质量问题

主题:

- 肯辛顿 (KENSINGTON) 倡议计划
- 民众对警方的监督
- 新商业宵禁令
- 与警方互动交流

免费向公众开放

- ✓ 提供食品和点心
- ✓ 提供西班牙语和普通话翻译
- ✓ 资源表
- ✓ 使用语言调查

无执法人员参与

社区会议

2024年4月30日 晚上6-8点


ESPERANZA 健康中心核心区 (THE CORE AT ESPERANZA HEALTH CENTER)
费城拉斐特街 H 街 3222 号, 邮编: 19134
(3222 H STREET, PHILA, PA 19134)

有任何问题或疑虑?
电子邮箱: CPOC@PHILA.GOV
联系电话: 215-685-0891

POST-EVENT REPORT

EVENT AGENDA


The agenda was available in English, Spanish and Mandarin and provided attendees with information on the scope of the event and topics of discussion.

**Citizens Police Oversight Commission**
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

LET'S TALK ABOUT KENSINGTON


April 30, 2024

Agenda*
*Subject to last minute changes
Check-in/Resource Tables
6:00 - 6:15
CPOC Intro & Presenters
6:15 - 6:40
Group Discussion
6:40 - 7:40
Closing Remarks & Raffle Drawing
7:40 - 8:00


House Rules

1. Be Respectful
2. No Profanity
3. No Offensive Language or Gestures
4. All Opinions Are Welcome

Why are we here?
CPOC wants to make sure the Kensington community knows they are supported during this time of uncertainty in the future of enforcement in their neighborhood.

Speak up!
Scan the QR code below to submit your opinions anonymously.
or just wait for the group discussion to be heard!

Raffle
Every person who attends this event will receive a raffle ticket upon sign-in to win a prize at the end!


**Citizens Police Oversight Commission**
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA


LET'S TALK ABOUT KENSINGTON

April 30, 2024

The Kensington Initiative Plan*
*Part of Mayor Parker's 100 Day Plan
Phase 1: Warning & Opportunity
Phase 2: Law Enforcement & Community Establishment Expectations
Phase 3: Securing the Neighborhood
Phase 4: Community & Transition
Phase 5: Sustainability

Proposed Plans to Enforce this Initiative
11PM Business Curfew - **In Effect**
Encampment Removals - **May 8th**
Increased Arrests for Drug Possession/Sales and Prostitution - **Summer**
Establishment of Triage Centers - **TBD**

You are supported!
Scan the QR code below for local resources and recently published news articles and information regarding Kensington.

Thank you!
CPOC would like to thank all of the providers in attendance. A special thank you to Esperanza for sharing their space.


AUDIENCE METRICS

Who was represented and in attendance at this event?



74+

**Community
Members**



11

**Local
Organizations**



Members of the
unhoused community
were welcomed to join
this event and were
present.

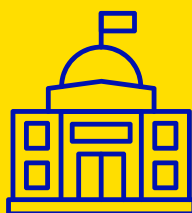
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**City
Organizations**



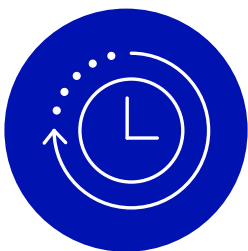
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**Members of
City Council**



WHAT WE HEARD FROM THE AUDIENCE

A highlight of some of the needs and concerns raised by community members during the open-mic portion of the event. CPOC recommends these topics as areas of need for additional clarification and/or communication between decision makers and the community.



A Need for Timely Police Response

Community members raised concerns of delayed police response to 9-1-1 calls for serious incidents. Community members expressed confusion about why resources are allocated to enforce low-level crimes instead of addressing the lack of timely response to higher-level crimes.



A Need for Homeowner Accountability

The community spoke at-length about the significant amount of vacant properties and absentee landlords in Kensington, that are contributing to crime and have no interest in the community other than seeking short-monetary gain. The community emphasized the need for homeowner accountability and the sealing of vacant properties.



A Need for a Cohesive Justice System

Community members expressed confusion and concern regarding PPD's increased enforcement of low-level crimes without clear guidance or cooperation from the Philadelphia DAO. The community raised questions about the costs, effectiveness, and potential consequences of having conflicting policies.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM THE AUDIENCE (CONTINUED)

Here are some of the needs and concerns highlighted by community members during the open-mic portion of the event. CPOC recommends addressing these topics as areas needing further clarification and communication between decision-makers and the community.

A Need for Better Sanitation and Garbage Removal



Community members expressed a need for an increase in garbage removal, more dumpsters, and improved sanitation services in the Kensington Community. Specific concerns were raised regarding the current use of leaf blowers, which are displacing trash into the middle of the street.

A Need for Basic Knowledge of Local Resources Amongst Officers



The community recognized the importance of all officers, not just Victim Assistance Officers, having knowledge of local resource providers in their patrol areas. Police officers are often the first point of contact for crime victims, so it's crucial they are aware of local organizations offering support such as compensation, counseling, restitution, court accompaniment, and relocation assistance. Additionally, many of these programs require proper documentation from the police, underscoring the importance of officers being properly informed about such services, as their knowledge can significantly impact a victim's ability to access these crucial programs.

THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTERS!

Watch their full presentations on our socials!

Kurt August

Director
Office of Criminal Justice



Office of
Criminal Justice

Silvana Mazzella

Interim Lead Executive Officer
Prevention Point



Kira Bellolio

Director of Family Wellness at
Congreso de Latinos Unidos



POST-EVENT REPORT

LOCAL SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Special thanks to the following organizations for sponsoring resource tables and supporting the community during this time. Their ongoing dedication and daily contributions make a significant difference in our community. We are deeply grateful for everything they do.



POST-EVENT REPORT

KEY RESOURCES PRESENTED

A highlight of some of the resources shared by The Citizens Police Oversight Commission (CPOC)



Complaint Intake

CPOC receives complaints of alleged misconduct against PPD Officers. We process the referral and forward it to the Internal Affairs Division of PPD, where it is assigned to an investigator. Our staff can attend and monitor interviews conducted as part of Internal Affairs investigations, posing questions that become part of the record for both the complainant and the officer(s) identified in the complaint.



Police Board of Inquiry (PBI)

CPOC is a part of the Police Board of Inquiry, a panel that hears allegations of police misconduct and makes disciplinary recommendations to the Police Commissioner. During the hearing, testimony and details of the incident are shared and the officer(s) who are the subject of the hearing are represented by an attorney.



Policy Review & Recommendation

CPOC's Policy Unit Reviews PPD's policies and procedures and makes recommendations on areas of improvement based on community feedback, best practices, trends and successful policies implemented in other cities.



Auditing & Monitoring

CPOC monitors and audits internal affairs investigations to ensure that protocols are being followed and adhered to in a timely fashion.



Community Outreach, Training & Education

CPOC hosts monthly town hall discussions on policing issues and concerns, attends and speaks at community events, and educates the public on rights and responsibilities when interacting with the police. We actively work to build partnerships with community stakeholders and engage with the diverse communities across the city.

POST-EVENT REPORT

KEY RESOURCES PRESENTED

A highlight of some of the resources mentioned by our presenters.



9-8-8 Mental Health Hotline

Available 24/7, free and confidential. Dial 9-8-8 for resources for yourself or a loved one that may need mental health or substance use support. It does not have to be an emergency for you to utilize this service.



Assistance with Adult Missing Persons

Many individuals have missing loved ones in Kensington, and it can be challenging to find support when an adult goes missing in this area. The Police Assisted Diversion Unit may be able to help. For inquiries, please call 215-686-3609.



Case Management and Navigation

Prevention Point Philadelphia provides a range of medical, behavioral, and preventative services for individuals experiencing homelessness and substance use disorder in Kensington. Each service comes with a dedicated case manager or navigator to ensure quality support.



East Division Crime Victim Services

Congreso offers client-centered, trauma-informed services for victims of crimes in the 24th, 25th, and 26th Police Districts (Kensington Area). The program provides counseling, case management, compensation assistance, and other support resources. For inquiries, please call 267-968-1813.

POST-EVENT REPORT

LOCAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Contact information for local organizations and human service providers in the Kensington Area that attended this event.



Salvation Army New Day Drop-in Center

2843 Kensington Avenue

<https://easternusa.salvationarmy.org/eastern-pennsylvania/greater-philadelphia/new-day-drop-in-center-1/>
24/7 Human Trafficking Hotline:
Main: (267) 838-5866

Shalom, Inc

2531 East Lehigh Avenue
<http://www.shalominc.org/>
Main: (215) 425-7727

Congreso de Latinos Unidos Inc.

216 West Somerset Street
<https://www.congreso.net/>
Main: (215) 763-8870
Crime Victim Services: (267) 968-1813

Impact Services

1925 East Allegheny Avenue
<https://www.impactservices.org/>
Main: (215) 739-1600

Concilio

141 East Hunting Park Avenue
<https://www.elconcilio.net/>
Main: (215) 627-3100

Merakey

3023 Frankford Avenue
<https://www.merakey.org/>
Main: (215) 427-2096

Prevention Point

2913 Kensington Avenue
<https://ppponline.org/>
Main: (215) 634 -5272

Police Assisted Diversion Unit (PAD)

<https://www.phillypolice.com/programs-services/pad/>
Main: (215) 686-3609

POST-EVENT REPORT

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Contact information for service providers and organizations based in Philadelphia that attended this event.

DBHIDS

1101 Market Street

<https://dbhids.org/>

Main: (215) 685-5400

Homeless Outreach: (215) 232-1984

Emergency Suicide and Mental

Health Crisis Line:

(215) 686-6440

**[Click Here for DBHIDS
Community Services and
Resources Guide](#)**

24/7 Mental Health Crisis Hotline Dial 9-8-8

**[Click Here for the
Philadelphia County
Resource Guide](#)**

Office of The Victim Advocate

<https://www.phila.gov/departments/office-of-the-victim-advocate/>

100 South Broad Street

Main: (215) 686-2115

**[Click Here for the New
Kensington Community
Development Corporation
Resource Page](#)**

Town Watch Integrated Services

<https://www.phila.gov/departments/town-watch-integrated-services/>

Main: (215) 686-1459

WE HEARD: SOME RECENT EXPERIENCES FROM THE COMMUNITY

"I would like to understand why I am seeing City sanitation workers using leaf blowers to push trash into the middle of Kensington Avenue. This is not effective, and front-line workers like myself end up cleaning up the trash. It is a safety concern"

"My wife and I befriended a couple addicted to drugs that were living in a boarded up house. Someone was charging them to live there even though it was vacant. The girl was found dead in there this morning. We told the officers we know this will happen again if they don't seal it up right. How do we prevent this from happening? I've been to other meetings and it's happening all over. Someone told me to seal it up myself, but that would be like fighting with the drug dealers."

"I grew up in Kensington and never had a police officer shake my hand or say hello to my parents because they didn't speak English. I never felt like I could be supported if I went to the Police."

"My business has experienced three troubling incidents in the last two weeks. We called 9-1-1 multiple times during each incident and it took police hours to respond. I understand the administration is working on this issue, but this is human safety and it is not acceptable. We have been in Kensington for two years and we have never felt this way until now"

"I was diagnosed with a serious mental illness and the City of Philadelphia helped me and the Police Officers were actually very nice. They did handcuff me, but they were very helpful and gave me a choice if I wanted to go to jail or be 302'd. Now I am recovering and doing my part when it comes to my mental health."

WE ASKED: DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN KENSINGTON?

“What does community policing look like in Kensington?”

“We keep saying we are going after the demand for drugs but why aren’t we also going after the demand for prostitution?”

“If we have a DA’s office that made a public statement to not prosecute these crimes, but we have a police department that made a public statement to increase arrests for these crimes, how is this going to work?”

“How are the community members impacted by these changes going to be notified of these changes?”

“What are the approaches being taken to prepare officers and the community for the encampment ‘sweeps’? Where are we sweeping people to?”

“Does the City have plans to set aside a budget for drug treatment for the people arrested for low level crimes that need it?”

POST-EVENT REPORT

WE ASKED: WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR THE FUTURE OF KENSINGTON?

"We need a better sense of community. These are our streets. These are our neighborhoods. These are our kids that are growing up that deserve better. They are the next generation. We all deserve better."

"We need more low-barrier health options and venues to address the trauma and stressors done to our young people."

"I want our young and old to be able to go outside again without fear."

"Better sanitation and not being blind to the fact that Kensington has the most people per square foot, therefore it also has the most trash in the City. We need more community dumpsters and sanitation pick ups."

"Officers are the first contact for victims and survivors and we want more positive interactions with them. We want to be able to go to a police officer if we were just victimized and ask where to go for services."

POST-EVENT REPORT

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS AS A PHILADELPHIAN?

We know healing for the Kensington Community is going to take a long-term, all-hands-on-deck, and evidence-based approach. Here are some things you can do to stay informed and support community resilience.

Support
local
agencies

Attend
community
meetings &
events

Organize
neighborhood
drives &
events

Help bring back a sense of
community

Stay
informed -
follow the
local news

Be a kind
and
engaged
neighbor

Share info,
like this
report, with
your circle



Click the Button
Below to Check
Out the Full
Recording of this
Event on our
YouTube!

[Click Here](#)



THANK YOU!

CPOC would like to express gratitude and thanks for all of the organizations mentioned in this report and the community members that participated in this event.



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(215) 685-0891



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cpoc@phila.gov



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www.phila.gov/cpoc



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