

State Representative | 202nd Legislative District

# JARED SOLOMON

## Dear Friends,

This newsletter is dedicated to letting you know that despite these uncertain times, I am still fighting for you in Northeast Philly and in Harrisburg. While many of our lives have been put on hold, my commitment to serving our vibrant communities continues. I am thinking of you and I am with you.

Thank you,



Rep. Solomon



## THANK YOU, MARY



It is with a heavy heart that my office bids the fondest farewell to a vital member of my staff, Mary Dougherty. Mary is leaving for the next chapter of her career with the Social Security Administration, and we

will miss her warmth, professionalism, and unwavering dedication to our team. A native of Lawncrest who studied political science at Penn State, I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Mary since 2014. Mary was one of my earliest supporters since the start of my journey as state representative and her steadfastness and unflappability made her a vital member of the team as she worked to make good on all the promises we made to the people of the Lower Northeast. From her service to constituents – who regularly request her by name - to shepherding my social media, to planning major community events, our office would not be where it is today without her. Please join me in thanking her for all she has done for the community, and wishing her well on her next endeavor. We'll miss you, Mary!

## EXPEDITING RELIEF

Due to the pandemic, I introduced H.B. 1076 to put money in people's hands. The unprecedented shutdown of our economy impacted almost every individual and family in Pennsylvania, particularly our most vulnerable people – seniors, people with disabilities, and those on low-fixed incomes.

Many people who come into our office do so to get their Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications done. In normal years they have to wait several weeks to get their checks. But this year, I knew that many could not wait and needed the money sooner.

So I worked in a bipartisan way with state Rep. Martina White to author and pass legislation that cuts through governmental red tape and got people checks quicker. Working closely with the PA Department of Revenue and Treasurer Joe Torsella, we gave people the monetary boost they needed in these tough times.

**If you need help getting your 2019 rebate filed, call my office today at 215-342-6340. Remember you can apply for this until December 31st, 2020.**

Fighting for you in Harrisburg!

# SECURING \$225M FOR SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF

With businesses hurting because of the shutdown of our economy, I worked in a bipartisan way to deliver \$225 million in federal funding to small businesses in Lower Northeast Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania.

Since before the pandemic, I was working with the state treasurer and my colleagues from the legislature for the state to do more to help put working capital in the hands of small business owners and entrepreneurs. When the pandemic hit, we built on this foundation to ensure that money would truly get in the hands of the businesses who needed it most and who make our community great – our restaurants, our boutiques, and so many others.

Sadly, we have learned that small businesses owners like we see on Castor Avenue or Rising Sun Avenue were mostly cut out of the federal Paycheck Protection Program grant. Most of that money went to big law firms downtown; that is because many small business owners do not have fancy accountants or relationships with banks.

So I worked to ensure that money for small businesses went through organizations called Community Development Finance Institutions. CDFIs, as they are known, have better relationships with small and minority-owned businesses rather than traditional banks and are best-positioned to ensure more equitable participation in the grant program.

**Businesses who want this funding can go to [pabusinessgrants.com](http://pabusinessgrants.com) or call my district office at 215-342-6340 for more information.**

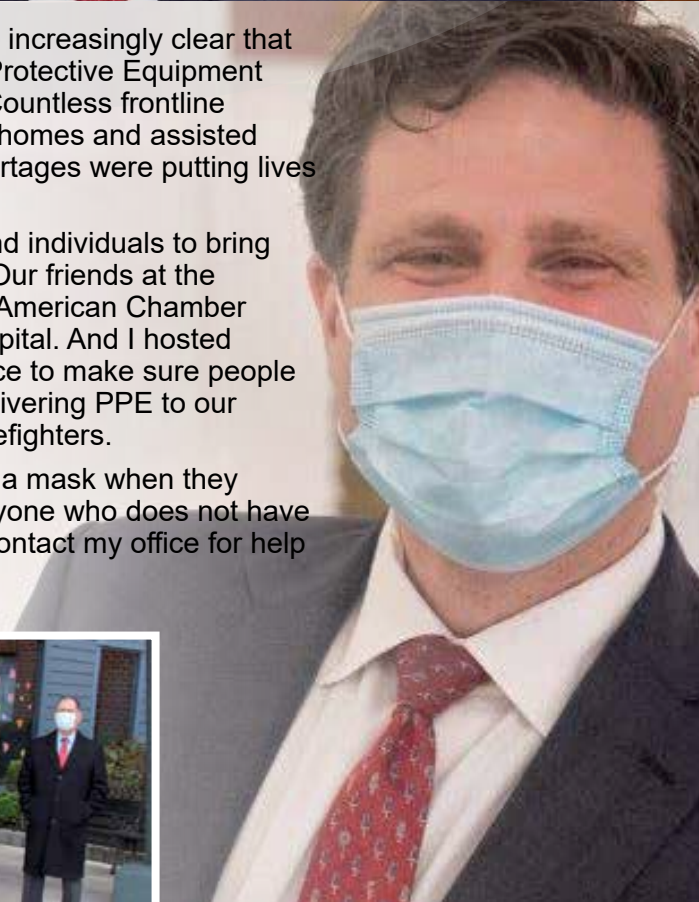


## THE RACE FOR PPE DURING COVID-19

As the pandemic took hold, it became increasingly clear that there was a gaping lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – masks, gloves, and gowns. Countless frontline workers, particularly those at nursing homes and assisted living facilities, told me how these shortages were putting lives at risk.

I partnered with a variety of groups and individuals to bring as much PPE to our area as I could. Our friends at the Greater Philadelphia United Chinese American Chamber of Commerce got PPE to Jeanes Hospital. And I hosted numerous mask giveaways at my office to make sure people kept others safe. I also assisted in delivering PPE to our nursing home facilities, police, and firefighters.

It is vital that people continue to wear a mask when they cannot maintain social distancing. Anyone who does not have their own mask at this point can still contact my office for help getting one.





# UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

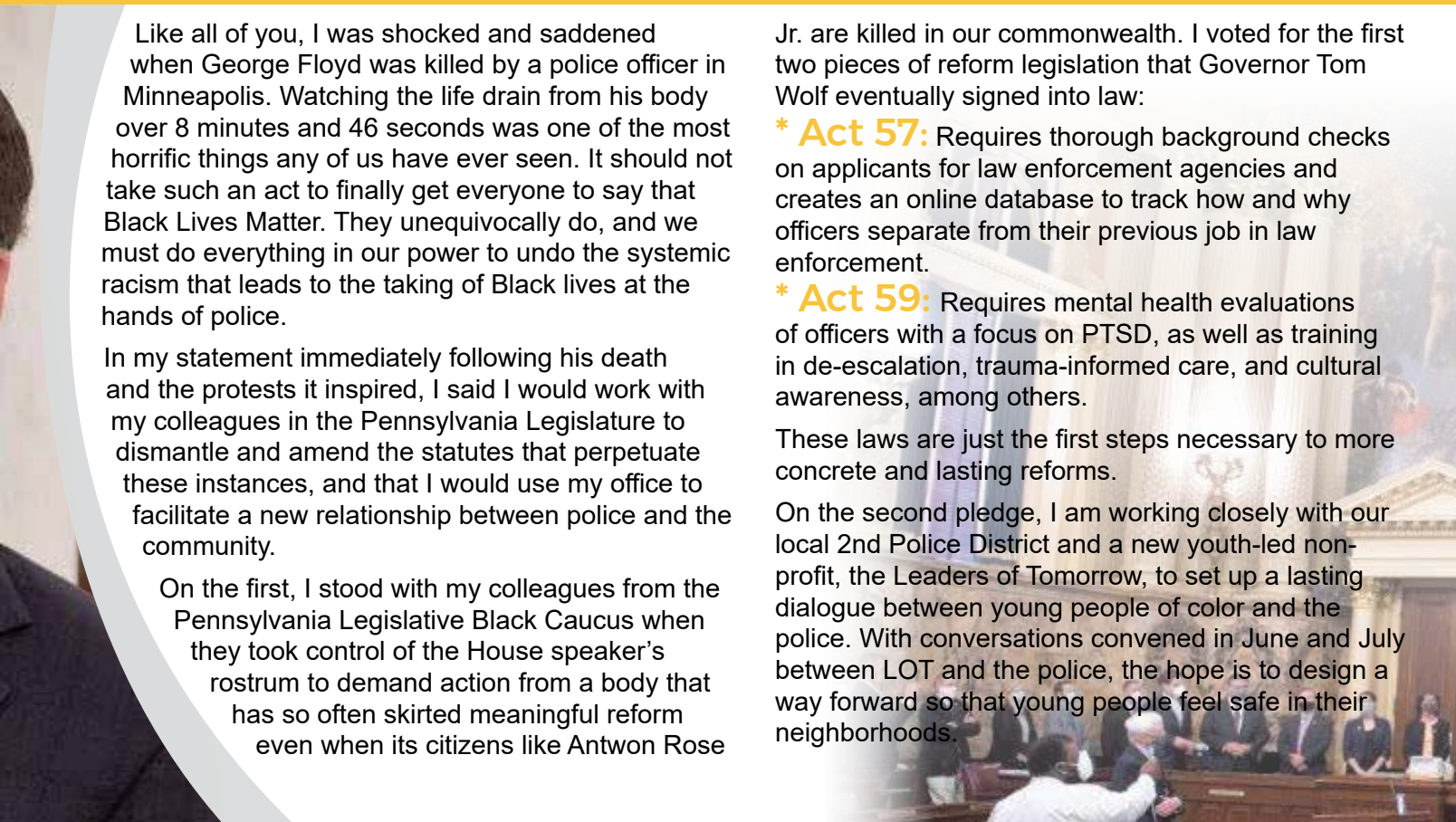
The pandemic and the economic crisis that came along with it have laid bare a broken unemployment compensation system. When we all went into lockdown to flatten the curve, unprecedented numbers of Pennsylvanians and thousands in Northeast Philadelphia were forced to take unemployment compensation.

Sadly, the system has not been able to handle this. My staff and I have fielded countless calls from constituents in desperate need of answers about the status of their claim. They never received PIN numbers or needed to correct a mistake on their initial claim or were not getting the \$600 FPUC deposits. Some have had “holds” put on their accounts for no discernable reason. And many were just pleading to talk to a human being, after trying hundreds of times a day to call unemployment only to get a busy signal.

My staff did all we could to get people answers and, in many cases, successfully cut through the red tape to deliver dollars back to our constituents. Other times, we were hampered by the fact that we do not have full access to the UC system and needed to ask UC staff for help. I pleaded with the Department of Labor and Industry and my colleagues in Harrisburg to allow my staff to volunteer their time to help with this backlog, but I was met with silence.

In 2020, we should not be forcing people to choose between paying rent and buying food because of a broken unemployment system. If you need help, please do not hesitate to contact me or my team at 215-342-6340 and we will do everything in our power to help.

## STANDING IN SOLIDARITY FOR P



Like all of you, I was shocked and saddened when George Floyd was killed by a police officer in Minneapolis. Watching the life drain from his body over 8 minutes and 46 seconds was one of the most horrific things any of us have ever seen. It should not take such an act to finally get everyone to say that Black Lives Matter. They unequivocally do, and we must do everything in our power to undo the systemic racism that leads to the taking of Black lives at the hands of police.

In my statement immediately following his death and the protests it inspired, I said I would work with my colleagues in the Pennsylvania Legislature to dismantle and amend the statutes that perpetuate these instances, and that I would use my office to facilitate a new relationship between police and the community.

On the first, I stood with my colleagues from the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus when they took control of the House speaker's rostrum to demand action from a body that has so often skirted meaningful reform even when its citizens like Antwon Rose

Jr. are killed in our commonwealth. I voted for the first two pieces of reform legislation that Governor Tom Wolf eventually signed into law:

\* **Act 57:** Requires thorough background checks on applicants for law enforcement agencies and creates an online database to track how and why officers separate from their previous job in law enforcement.

\* **Act 59:** Requires mental health evaluations of officers with a focus on PTSD, as well as training in de-escalation, trauma-informed care, and cultural awareness, among others.

These laws are just the first steps necessary to more concrete and lasting reforms.

On the second pledge, I am working closely with our local 2nd Police District and a new youth-led non-profit, the Leaders of Tomorrow, to set up a lasting dialogue between young people of color and the police. With conversations convened in June and July between LOT and the police, the hope is to design a way forward so that young people feel safe in their neighborhoods.

# COMBATING FOOD INSECURITY IN THE LOWER NORTHEAST

Even before the pandemic hit, lots of people in the Lower Northeast relied on food banks and Meals on Wheels to prevent hunger. However, the pandemic increased that need to a whole new level. In efforts to mitigate the scarcity of food, I worked with partners in the Northeast and citywide to get more food in the hands, cupboards, and stomachs of our residents.

I partnered with the Share Food program to set up a food distribution point at St. Williams in Lawncrest that now serves hundreds of people every Thursday morning at 10 a.m. I am there almost every Thursday morning giving out food, as are community partners many from the Lawncrest Community Association, like Gary Barbera and the 2nd District Police Department. I also went to Share Food's headquarters in Hunting Park to personally drive delivery trucks, bringing supplies to local community distribution points like Oxford Circle Christian Community

Development Association, the Greater Philadelphia United Chinese American Chamber of Commerce and local senior residences. I also partnered with amazing business owners and community leaders like Nick's Roast Beef, Tio Pepes and the Masjid al Furqan to give out meals to those in need.

My staff and I, working with partners like Kleinlife, the Leaders of Tomorrow - a new youth-led community organization - and the WeLoveU Foundation, delivered Meals on Wheels and special food care packages to the hungry every day of the week. And whether at the Salvation Army on Rising Sun Avenue or Feast of Justice on Tyson Avenue, I was joined by dozens of volunteers in giving out the city-organized food boxes.

I am inspired by the tireless efforts of volunteers from around the Lower Northeast who have put others' needs first in getting people food during this hard time. I thank them, and all the partners I mentioned for everything they have done to reduce food insecurity.



## POLICE REFORM



# REVITALIZING OUR COMMUNITY'S COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS

Since the first day as your state representative, I recognized the importance of our commercial corridors – Castor, Bustleton, Rising Sun, Cottman – and made improving them my top priority. They are vital to the health and success of our community!

The work I did in the first three years of my tenure put our corridors in a much better position to withstand and regroup from the pandemic and the looting. I worked back in 2017 to get state funding to hire a corridor manager and assigned Minerva Baez from my staff to be the small business liaison. Having both in place since then allowed us to build relationships with business owners so that when the crises hit, we were able to get resources and information and support to them.

As a result, dozens of our local businesses applied for the various grant programs that came out to help, including the small business grants from the state that I shepherded through the Pennsylvania Legislature. Moreover, when the city released new regulations to expand outdoor seating at restaurants, we were able to help multiple local businesses participate so that not only can these restaurants reopen safely, but they can bring life and vitality to our commercial corridors at a time they desperately need it.

While I was crestfallen to see boarded up windows at stores that were looted – and I condemned such criminal acts – I am hopeful that from these crises our commercial corridors will emerge stronger and more sustainable, charting a new course for Northeast Philadelphia.



## SERVING CONSTITUENTS IN A PANDEMIC

My staff has been doing a fantastic job serving constituents during this pandemic. When the order came down in March to shelter in place, our office may have closed, but its operations never stopped, they just moved online and over the phone. Minerva, Phil, Rosemary, Mary and Andrew all worked from their homes—some juggling caring responsibilities for family young and old— to answer your messages and make sure you were properly served. They help me give out masks to those who need them, deliver food for Meals on Wheels, and distribute boxes of produce and non-perishable items at weekly food giveaways.

Since July, we continue to mostly serve constituents remotely for the health of both my team and all of you. **But now we are open for appointments only on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Call our office at 215-342-6340 to set up a time to come see us, and when you do, be sure to wear your mask. Only one person is allowed inside the office at a time to maintain social distancing and keep us all healthy and safe.**

Whether you need to fill out your rebate application or get your SEPTA senior ID, we stand ready to serve as always!

## VOTING BY MAIL

I was one of the few Democrats who championed and voted for Act 77, which allowed for implementing mail-in voting, thereby enfranchising thousands of Pennsylvanians who previously could not participate in our elections. Act 77, which passed in October 2019, proved to be especially timely with the advent of the pandemic, and thereby enabled people to safely vote from home.

Certainly the 2020 primary showed that more reforms and tweaks are necessary in the run-up to the November election. And I'm working in a bipartisan way in Harrisburg to make sure our election is safe, votes are secure, and results are correctly but expeditiously tabulated.

**If you did not sign up for a mail-in ballot yet, you can now apply for your General Election mail-in ballot. Don't delay; apply today. Visit [votespa.com](https://votespa.com) or call my office at 215-342-6340 and we can mail you a paper application.**



State Representative

**JARED SOLOMON**

702 Castor Ave.

Philadelphia, PA 19149

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
HARRISBURG, PA  
PERMIT NO. 529

lpo.ad.0820

State Representative  
**JARED SOLOMON**

**District Office:**

7012 Castor Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19149  
(215) 342-6340

**Capitol Office:**

104-A East Wing  
P.O. Box 202202  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2202  
(717) 787-4117

[jsolomon@pahouse.net](mailto:jsolomon@pahouse.net)

@RepJaredSolomon

RepJaredSolomon

StateRepJaredSolomon

RepJaredSolomon.com



## MY COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

Even during a pandemic, I never shy away from going the extra mile to help constituents with a variety of quality-of-life issues. I personally walk the neighborhood with Mr. Adrian Jordan from Vector Control as we meet neighbors to mitigate the spread of rats. I brought out the Streets Department to talk to residents wondering why their street is not repaved. I volunteered to ride trash trucks if that would help get trash in my district collected (though they did not take me up on my offer!). I call landlords with problem tenants and trash-ridden properties or talk directly to residents who are a nuisance to their neighbors and mediate disputes.

And when neighbors want to organize themselves to both address problems and make improvements, I dive in even more. This kind of block-level organizing will make our neighborhood stronger and I do whatever I can to support it. For example, when the neighbors at Dorcas and Hellerman held a block meeting, I came out and brought city officials to work with them.

**If you are organizing a meeting of your neighbors, call my office at 215-342-6340 and I will come out to speak to your group and offer my help.**

