

## Broad Street Brief: Plan to “Greenify” Avenue of the Arts Unveiled

### City Hall

#### From Prosecutor to Chief Public Safety Director

Adam Geer — Mayor Chelle Parker’s inaugural nominee for Chief Public Safety Director, a position created by City Council last year — spent the majority of his career as a prosecutor. In his new role, he intends to build community-based, anti-violence initiatives to lead the City in its fight against crime.

#### Philadelphia Stands Alone in Requiring Five-Day In-Person Municipal Work Week

After the COVID-19 pandemic, New York and Philadelphia brought their municipal employees back into the office five days per week. However, New York has since returned to a hybrid schedule, making Philadelphia the only city in the Northeast to require five-day, in-person municipal work. Mayor Parker defended her decision to mandate full-time in-person work for all City employees — which she claims will boost the downtown economy and ensure equity among workers — during a press conference Wednesday.

#### Upcoming Committee Hearings

Philadelphia City Council holds several public hearings throughout the legislative calendar year. Watch [here](#).

- The **Special Committee on Kensington** will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 18 at 10 a.m. to investigate and address the barriers to accessing treatment beds in the Kensington area.

### Around Town

#### \$100 Million Project to “Greenify” the Avenue of the Arts

A decade-long project to “greenify” the Avenue of the Arts will begin in 2026. Starting at City Hall on Broad Street and ending at Washington Avenue, the plan includes installments of lush plantings and creative buffers between vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

#### Drug Deaths in Philadelphia Jails Prompt Concerns Amid Kensington Crack Down

Twenty-five prisoners have died from drugs in Philadelphia jails since 2018. As Mayor Parker plans to deploy her initiative to clean up Kensington’s open-air drug market, advocates express concern about implications of the inevitable mass arrests in Kensington and inmate well-being in Philly prisons.

#### PPA to Install Speed Cameras Along Broad Street

Broad Street saw 169 serious crashes, 165 speed-related crashes, and 456 crashes involving pedestrians occurring between 2018 and 2022. In response, the Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) plans to install automated speed cameras up and down Broad to incentivize safer driving and public adherence to posted speed limits.



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### **Philadelphia Residents Push for Lower Flood Insurance Costs**

The cost of flood insurance in Philadelphia ranges from hundreds to thousands of dollars per year. With only 3,400 properties in Philadelphia currently covered, residents are imploring Philadelphia to join a new FEMA flood zone city program that could cut insurance costs significantly.

### **Intracity Riders Request New Philly Bus Station During Heatwave**

Philadelphia's main intercity bus terminal sits on Spring Garden Street, near Front Street. During the recent heatwave, advocates renewed their calls for the city to erect a new proper station with air conditioning, restrooms, and an indoor shelter.

### **Election Update**

#### **VP Harris to Visit Philadelphia This Weekend**

Vice President Kamala Harris will deliver the keynote speech at the Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote Presidential Town Hall in Philadelphia, her sixth visit to Pennsylvania during a critical election year.

### **Suburban Spotlight**

#### **SEPTA Initiative to Transform Ambler's Regional Rail Station**

SEPTA rolls-out an initiative aimed at transforming Ambler's Regional Rail station. The plan calls for proposals from local real estate developers that focus on transfiguring a parking lot into a state-of-the-art suburban transit hub.

#### **Philadelphia Region to See EV Charging Fueled by Federal Funds**

The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program has allocated funds to open the region's first charging hub in Aston. The Inflation Reduction Act paved the way for NEVI funding, with an ultimate goal of installing electric charging stations every fifty miles on all major U.S. highways.

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