Highlights of Progress in Kensington/Fairhill

We have briefly synthesized the City’s plan and actions taken to address the “Gurney Street” encampment since January 2015 under the direction of the Managing Director’s Office. Involved are: MDO Community Services, Community Life Improvement Programs (CLIP), Police, Streets, Homeless Services, Behavioral Health and L&I.

- Work with Conrail to clear the open air drug market and shooting gallery
- Engage the neighborhood in real solutions to make it safer and inviting
- Coordinate all efforts with police on enforcement, safety
- Provide clean-up, fencing and lighting
- Demolish “abandominiums”
- Address the needs of those experiencing homelessness and substance use disorder using a person-centered approach:
  - Reach out to and engage individuals (bilingual, bicultural staff)
  - Identify them by name all who are homeless, assess their service needs; make appropriate treatment referrals
- Expand emergency beds, access to permanent housing
- Expand drug treatment availability
  - Reduce/eliminate barriers; facilitate entry to drug treatment

The City is, has been, and will continue to be out on the streets with a multipronged strategy that is getting results.

Brief Highlights to date:

- Facilitated over a dozen community beautification neighborhood projects including 26 cleaned and sealed properties
- Providing site clean-up, fencing and lighting (ongoing)
- Increased police assignments (30 new bike patrols) began in July
- Responding to all neighbor calls and deploying homeless outreach, CLIP, police as needed
- 472 referrals to drug treatment through the CRAFT initiative (Coordinated Response to Addiction by Facility Treatment) (July 2016 - June 30, 2017)
- 1,355 engagements with people and 225 referrals through the Gurney Street outreach to drug treatment (May - August 2017)
- 112 homeless individuals placed in long-term housing (July 2016-August 2017)
- 30 bed emergency housing respite up and running
- Daytime “user engagement” center operating
- Three city-funded outreach teams dedicated to area

Implementing recommendations of Opioid Task Force to address the bigger crisis:

- More treatment
- NARCAN training and distribution to prevent fatalities
- Outreach to major health systems, medical professionals to reduce over-prescription of Opioids

The front line for neighbors and concerned citizens is to be part of the solution:

- Participate in El Barrio es Nuestro (contact Joanna.Otero-Cruz@phila.gov)
- Call 911 when safety or crime are involved
- Call 215 232 1984 for homeless outreach