

Senator Hughes

Putting People First



Serving the 7th Senatorial District

MARCH 2012

State Senator
VINCENT HUGHES

Putting People First Creating Jobs By Re



Mantua Square Opening Brings New Life Into the Community



The Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) invested significant dollars in the award-winning Mantua Square at 35th Street and Fairmount Avenue in West Philadelphia. This \$28.1 million investment helps the development make a bold statement toward addressing the blight that has plagued the community over the past 50 years and sets an example for other developers through the sustainable, efficient use of land and buildings. I was also successful in working with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency and other state agencies to secure more than \$16 million for this project.

In October, I was pleased and honored to be on hand to help cut the ribbon and tour this innovative development. The sustainable, efficient use of land and buildings also serve as an example to other developers.

The development is comprised of a mixture of walk-up apartments and duplexes totaling 101 units. The square surrounds a gated courtyard with ample green space. The green space helps with storm water management. Photovoltaic solar panels with the capability of generating up to 200 megawatts of power annually are mounted on the roof.

The redeveloped site also contains 7,400 square feet of commercial space, intended to attract more businesses to the area.



ABOVE: (l-r) Nellie Reynolds, resident liaison; Commissioner Lloyd Ayers, Philadelphia Fire Department; Michael P. Kelly, executive director of the Philadelphia Housing Authority; Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell; Councilman William Greenlee; and Senator Hughes.



Senator Hughes Secures Funding for Mt. Vernon Arms in Mantua

I joined with the Pennsylvania Housing and Finance Agency and the City of Philadelphia's Redevelopment Authority to help fund the Mt. Vernon Manor Phase I renovation. Mt. Vernon Manor was awarded a \$250,000 planning grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to create a revitalization plan for the entire Mantua neighborhood with Mt. Vernon Manor serving as the anchor for this revitalization.

Mt. Vernon Manor Phase I is a major renovation of 75 of 125 affordable family apartments located within six of the community's nine buildings. Total development cost is \$16.5 million, of which the PHFA will invest and lend approximately \$12 million and the City of Philadelphia's Redevelopment Authority will contribute \$4 million.

Construction will commence in March 2012 and be completed in August 2013. The exterior appearance of the buildings and the surrounding site will change dramatically. Mt. Vernon Manor will operate with greater stability and provide for a very high quality living environment.

With this state investment, there is the possibility of securing a major federal grant to assist with the completion of Mt. Vernon Arms. If completed, the Mantua neighborhood is then eligible for \$20 to \$30 million in HUD funding to continue the redevelopment.

First Rebuilding the Community

Strawberry Mansion Revitalization Tour

Last year, I joined with City Council President Darrell Clarke, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency Executive Director Brian Hudson, and Philadelphia Housing Authority Executive Director Michael Kelly to tour the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood.

Our purpose was to review potential opportunities to invest in this important neighborhood.

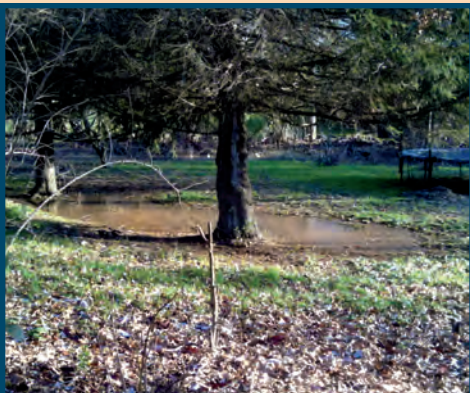
There are significant revitalization efforts happening in Strawberry Mansion. The Friends Rehabilitation Program (FRP) is working to rehabilitate 10 historic homes in partnership with the

community. In 2011, they built 24 new and one newly restored energy-efficient homes for low and moderate income first-time buyers on North 31st Street.

I'm happy that I was able to help with this worthy project. It is imperative that we do more for this deserving community, especially during this time of economic uncertainty. Now more than ever, it is important to partner with people who share our vision, and who have the ability to make things happen. Council President Clarke, Brian

Hudson, and Michael Kelly are people who understand this neighborhood and its potential.

Friends Rehabilitation Program (FRP) is a Quaker-related nonprofit whose mission is to provide housing and social services for low and moderate income households. FRP partners with neighborhood organizations to build quality, energy-efficient homes for low and middle income first-time homebuyers.



Springfield: Developing Comprehensive Plan for Flood Problems

In September, following devastating flooding due to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, I joined with leaders in Springfield Township to assess the damage and decide on the best way to help this community, and its homes and businesses that were severely damaged by flooding.

I have introduced Senate Bill 1401 that creates the Homeowner and Small Business Flood Control and Prevention Loan Program. This legislation would provide low interest loans to homeowners and small businesses to purchase and install products that minimize the impact of flooding on one's property.

By encouraging and assisting property owners to take steps to 'flood-proof' their homes and businesses, damage from future flooding events can be potentially mitigated and can provide residents with peace of mind that their homes are adequately protected.

Outside of major weather events, residents in Springfield Township, Philadelphia and suburban communities experience multiple floods per year solely because of storms. This legislation would help to ease the damage incurred to these communities due to flooding.

In partnership, with local officials, I have put together a working group to stay focused on putting a plan together to address flood issues and develop ideas to implement this plan.



Senator Hughes Convenes Infrastructure Summit

Senator Hughes recently convened an Infrastructure Summit at Temple University. The summit featured panels of experts who discussed a wide range of infrastructure, economic development and job creation ideas and issues. He brought together leading experts to come up with solutions to address Pennsylvania's infrastructure crisis.



Increased investment in transportation, housing, information technology, school buildings for K-12 and college student housing, is essential. Each of those facilities must be brought up to the 21st Century in order for this region to compete internationally. "When we invest in those areas, we put people to work, and we revitalize our overall economy. This is a mandate that has a local focus, but has also been put on the priority list by President Obama," Senator Hughes said.

Senator Hughes convened leaders from the White House, Philadelphia Industrial Development Authority, PA Housing Finance Agency, SEPTA, PENNDOT, PA Turnpike Commission, the Philadelphia School District, and several other organizations to focus on infrastructure needs in Pennsylvania. If you would like to receive a copy of the materials distributed at the Infrastructure Summit, contact my office at 215-879-7777.

Senator Hughes moderates a group of panelists during the infrastructure summit.

"For Pennsylvania to revitalize its economy and secure its place in the national and international economic conversation a collaborative effort among local, state, federal and the private sector is needed. I look forward to engaging these different groups in this very important discussion."

— Senator Vincent Hughes

Walter Lear Award

In recognition of their inspired leadership in the battle against HIV/AIDS, the Mazzoni Center honored Senator Hughes and his wife actor/activist Sheryl Lee Ralph with the Walter Lear Award. This one-time award is named in honor of the late Walter Lear (1923-2010). Lear was an activist on behalf of civil rights, the peace movement, advocacy for health care and patients' rights and for the health and well-being of minority communities including racial minorities and LGBT individuals.



National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day March 10, 2012

The 4 GETS

Follow these four steps to fight HIV/AIDS in our community!

Get Informed

What you don't know can kill you.

Get Tested

The vast majority of people infected with the AIDS virus don't even know it.

Get Treated

AIDS is not the death sentence it once was. Early treatment can prolong your life.

Get Involved

Talk to your neighbors, friends and family about protecting themselves from the spread of AIDS. Knowledge is POWER.

Visit www.testtogether.org
or call 1.800.CDC.INFO

Putting People First Creating Jobs By Rebuilding the Community



Nearly 1,000 attendees were on hand for my economic empowerment conference entitled, 'Show Me All the Money.'

The event, which took place at the new West Philadelphia High School located at 49th and Chestnut streets, focused on helping individuals learn to maintain, manage and maximize their financial well being during tough economic times.

A host of local experts provided a wide array of resources to assist participants in every area of their personal finances and family affairs.

Activities included panel discussions workshops, demonstrations and personal

consultations on a wide range of topics including: personal budget basics; how to clean up your credit; financial planning; buying and maintaining a home in tough economic times; preventing foreclosure; entrepreneurship (start, run, grow and finance a business); energy efficiency and conservation; healthy living (mind, body, spirit) and even a Kids Camp for grades K-12.

Additionally, participants were encouraged to bring their utility bills, photo ID and income verification to get access to on-site issue resolution with opportunities for one-on-one assistance in the crisis center.

STATE SENATOR VINCENT HUGHES
SHOW ME ALL THE MONEY
FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

Senator Hughes Presents Annual Financial Empowerment Conference

In November, Senator Hughes held his annual 'Show Me All the Money' seminar geared toward financially empowering participants at the new West Philadelphia High School. It was intended to assist constituents navigate the current economic downturn.

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Legal Assistance

Community Legal Services
215-981-3700

Housing Counseling

Northwest Counseling Services
215-324-7500

Utility Crisis

Low Income Home Energy Assistance
Program (LIHEAP)
1-866-857-7095

"Our nation's current economic landscape is posing tremendous challenges for families and communities alike. Providing strategies and real resources that help families focus on their financial health during these times is critical. These are difficult times and it is important for individuals and families to be prepared."

— Senator Vincent Hughes

Senator Hughes receives the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, Lucien Blackwell Humanitarian Award

The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NAB CJ) Pennsylvania Chapter honored Senator Vincent Hughes with the Lucien Blackwell Humanitarian Award at Haven Peniel United Methodist Church recently. Senator Hughes humbly accepted the award and made special mention and recognition of those who are on the front line everyday keeping us safe. There was a special "Memorial Service" honoring deceased members and law enforcement officers who died in 2011.





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7th Senatorial District Veterans Saluted

The 7th District celebrated Veteran's Day with a salute to veterans who have faithfully served our nation. I along with my staff hosted over 100 special guests including veterans and their family and friends as well as ROTC students and commanders representing all five branches of the armed forces at the Manyunk Brewery and Restaurant.

Highlights of the evening included a gallery of photos capturing historical military moments developed by Douglas Culbreth and a video presentation of historical military facts and memorials produced by Culbreth along with Barbara Cook from the NAACP, as well as Shirley Ellis and Thomas Nesbitt of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars.

SENATOR HUGHES JOINS GOSPEL SUPERSTAR YOLANDA ADAMS FOR LOWE'S HEROES KICK-OFF

I recently joined internationally acclaimed Gospel recording artist and syndicated radio host Yolanda Adams for the Philadelphia roll out of the Lowe's Heroes Program – a volunteer program that helps to improve the communities where Lowe's employees work and live. Activities began with a holiday toy drive as part of the live broadcast of Adams' nationally syndicated radio program. Following the toy drive, the Lowe's Heroes surprised Blankenburg Elementary School with \$15,000 in donations.

