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Democratic Whip



Senate of Pennsylvania

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October 12, 2012

The Honorable Darryl Clarke, City Council President
Philadelphia City Hall
494 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear President Clarke,

I am against the proposed development by the New Eastwick Corporation in Eastwick until we can properly assess the consequences for the community. Also, the interested parties need more time to collaborate on a solution to the flooding.

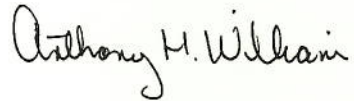
A zoning hearing regarding his project was held on October 9, 2012, in City Council, with elected officials and constituents offering testimony. This hearing raised multiple concerns that need to be addressed:

1. The Eastwick residents feel shut out of the process regarding city planning and the impact it would have on their homes. They also believe this development will not alleviate the legitimate concerns of regular flooding or catastrophic flooding like we saw from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.
2. What impact will this project have on the wetlands and the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge? These serve as a natural buffer for floodwaters in Eastwick, which was originally built on marshland. Studies of the watershed consistently recommend the restoration of these wetlands and greenways to absorb rising creek waters, and we need concrete facts of what the impact this project would have on them.
3. A cooperative, well-planned, and systematic effort on behalf of everyone is required to fix the problems in Eastwick. Resolving this matter cannot be handled in the fragmented way the parties are currently functioning, and a coordinated approach is necessary.

I strongly advise City Council to take my opposition into consideration before moving forward with any plans. At the hearing, the residents of Eastwick testified how the flooding impacts their homes, their lives, and their stress in these tough economic times. As always, I

appreciate the efforts of Council to respond to this issue. If there is anything I can do to help in this process, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony H. Williams".

Senator Anthony H. Williams
State Senator – 8th District

Cc: Michael Nutter, Mayor
Councilman Kenyatta Johnson
Rina Cutler, Deputy Mayor of Transportation and Utilities
Howard Neukrug, Commissioner
Amy Laura Cahn, Esq., Public Interest Law Center
Sara Beth Kalb, Senior Attorney
Ed Covington, Executive Director