



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER
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REBECCA RHYNHART
City Controller

Thursday, June 04, 2020

The Honorable James F. Kenney
Office of the Mayor
City Hall, Room 202
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Mayor Kenney:

Over the past several days and nights, the City has been gripped by protests calling for police and criminal justice reform and an end to systemic racism. Most of these have been peaceful displays of righteous anger and frustration, but we have also seen opportunists capitalize on the unrest, leading to looting and the destruction of neighborhoods and businesses, vigilantism and violence.

The City has had to make quick decisions on how to deploy limited resources in response to the civil unrest. I know that your job, as well as the jobs of the Managing Director and all the dedicated public servants who have worked around the clock, have been particularly trying with these protests layered on top of the pandemic.

When city resources are stretched thin, it is particularly important to make sure City dollars are being used in the best interest of the taxpayer, every day and in a crisis situation. As the Controller, my office is tasked with ensuring taxpayer money is used in the most efficient and effective way to serve and protect all of Philadelphia. Over the last few days, questions have been raised about the City's preparation for and response to the protests, and the unrest that followed. To that end, I am writing to notify you and your administration that my office will undertake an independent review of the City's response to the civil unrest following George Floyd's Murder to analyze what went right and what went wrong around deployment of City resources and tactics used, led by an outside expert. We hope this review will serve as a resource to inform and guide decision-making moving forward.

I look forward to your administration's cooperation and I sincerely hope that by shining a light on the decisions made, both what went right and what went wrong, we can ensure the public that government truly works for them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Rynhart'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent horizontal stroke across the middle.

Rebecca Rynhart
City Controller

CC: Brian Abernathy, Managing Director
Tumar Alexander, First Deputy Managing Director
Jim Engler, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Nicole McCormac, Chief of Staff, Office of the City Controller
Commissioner Danielle Outlaw, Philadelphia Police Department
Kellan White, First Deputy Controller, Office of the City Controller