



# THE PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE

## Mayor of Philadelphia: To be or not to be

Robert Woodard | Posted: Friday, May 29, 2015 5:15 am

Jim Kenney was one of the last of five candidates to make up his mind, to be or not to be mayor of Philadelphia, but at the finish line, he arrived with a win.

Our present Mayor Michael A. Nutter, gave our city worldwide recognition. Now it's time to take Philly back inside the neighborhoods, where the new work must be done and the man for the job is Jim Kenney.

Hats off to the voters of Philadelphia, especially those who are fighting to stay in their neighborhood homes all over Philadelphia, even with the threatening rise of regentrification spreading all over our city. People who have lived and owned property in this city for twenty years or more should be applauded for staying in their homes through those risky unfortunate times of the lack of proper city services in so called undesirable communities.

Mayor Michael Nutter's Administration really put Philadelphia on the international map of the world, by bringing Pope Francis to our City. The Pope will arrive in September 2015 and in 2016, the Democratic Convention will be hosted in the City of Neighborhoods, all under the Nutter Administration.

All this has caused people with the big bucks to buy and invest in the real estate. The purchasing of property is raising the prices so high, that it takes the cost out of reach for those who were already in their homes for twenty years or more. This means well to do people moving in, causes not so well to do people to move out, because of a sudden drastic rise in real estate taxes in just one year, 2014.

The hope for many long-term residents is that the new administration will protect long-term citizens, who have lived and owned their properties for twenty years or more, from the unfair tactics of regentrification. Neighborhoods of all ethnicities should be guarded from this discriminatory act that I have chosen to call greenlining. Remember, redlining meant "Stop!, you can't move in to certain neighborhood, if you were considered an undesirable." Greenlining means "Go!, get out of your own neighborhood, if you don't have the big green bucks to stay in and it doesn't matter whether you are Black or white." This discriminatory act is because of how much money you don't have.

In the recent primary election for mayor, Jim Kenney's campaign seemed to take on a multicultural appearance of many ethnic neighborhoods of long-term residents, because he is a long-term resident of Philadelphia. His understanding of the importance of recognizing long-term residents of twenty years or more is crucial for the future of the history of this city and its growth.

Philadelphia has always been the city of neighborhoods. Let's keep our long-term residents in their homes by protecting those who have owned and been in their property twenty years or more. This will show the world that Philadelphia respects its past and in regard of the elder long-term residents, our city will be painting an even better picture of the future for our new residents just moving into Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love"

Congratulations to another brother of Philadelphia, Councilman Kenyatta Johnson. He lost his mother early during his Council seat and while campaigning to retain his position, his grandmother passed, who was one of his biggest fans. Ori Feibush was Johnson's opponent. Feibush ran negative after negative advertisements and spent millions of dollars on most major networks against Johnson, but at the end of the day, the best man won. Thank you Councilman Kenyatta Johnson for persevering, even under unsurmountable odds.

We as Philadelphians must learn from a multicultural perspective, how to be a better city of neighborhoods. Let's start by taking the "RACE Test" at [www.BarbershopTalkHFD.org](http://www.BarbershopTalkHFD.org). Then make Jim Kenney the next mayor of this city of many culturally diverse neighborhoods. By working from the inside out, Philadelphia can become a great example for multiculturalism, around the world.

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