



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
CITY COUNCIL

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COUNCILMEMBER – 7TH DISTRICT

February 24, 2023

To the leadership of the Please Touch Museum,

We recently learned that your staff filed a petition to unionize, stating in part that they seek:

- Fair pay and benefits “to sustain a career at the Museum they love;”
- Transparent processes for onboarding, scheduling, training, and promotion;
- “A safe, inclusive workplace free from discrimination and harassment, and systems of accountability when discrimination and harassment occur;” and
- A say in the policies that affect them the most.

We are told that early conversations were cordial, but that the organization is now engaging in union busting tactics. A supermajority of staff expressing intent to unionize is a powerful indicator that the union will form, soon, or after a drawn-out process that will weigh heavily on all involved. We saw the effects of last year’s strike at the Art Museum when leadership delayed coming to the table, and we are seeing them now while the Temple University Grad Students’ Association (TUGSA) is on strike.

City Council allocated \$2.1 million to the Please Touch Museum from this fiscal year. We call on the museum to voluntarily recognize this union, or to let the union vote occur promptly, so that everyone can make the best use of that money and focus on supporting the growth of the children of Philadelphia, the state, and the country.

With utmost respect,

Quetcy Lozada
Councilmember, 7th
District

Cindy Bass
Councilmember, 8th District

Katherine Gilmore Richardson
Councilmember, At Large

Anthony Phillips
Councilmember, At Large

Sharon Vaughn
Councilmember, At Large

Kendra Brooks
Councilmember, At Large

Mark Squilla
Councilmember, 1st District

Kenyatta Johnson
Councilmember, 2nd District