

Confront Crime. Rebuild Our Neighborhoods.

A Public Safety and Neighborhood Action Plan for Northeast Philadelphia

Executive Summary: Bill Griffin

Public safety is about more than crime statistics. It is about whether families feel comfortable in their homes, seniors feel safe walking to the store, businesses can operate without fear of theft, and children can play outside in neighborhoods that are clean, stable, and secure.

Reducing crime requires strong law enforcement and consequences for people who commit crimes. But it also requires something more: strong neighborhoods.

As State Representative, my approach will combine law enforcement, accountability, state resources, neighborhood revitalization, and community leadership. I will use every tool available to the office—not only my vote in Harrisburg, but also the ability to bring people together, advocate for resources, demand answers, and help residents improve their own communities.

1. Confront Crime and Support Law Enforcement

I will support the men and women of law enforcement and work to provide police with the resources necessary to prevent crime, apprehend offenders, and solve cases.

That means pursuing state resources for police recruitment and retention, training, investigative technology, forensic capabilities, and programs that improve violent-crime clearance rates. I will also review Pennsylvania laws involving repeat offenders, sentencing, probation, and parole with public safety and victims at the forefront.

Government must also examine what happens after an arrest. Residents deserve transparency and accountability throughout the criminal justice system from arrest and prosecution through sentencing, probation, and parole.

2. Use the Influence of the Office to Get Results

A State Representative cannot direct Philadelphia Police, the District Attorney, or city departments. But that does not mean a State Representative is powerless.

I will use the influence of the office to bring together the Philadelphia Police Department, City Council, city agencies, the Pennsylvania State Police, Attorney General, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, schools, civic associations, businesses, and community leaders.

When a problem crosses governmental boundaries, my office will work to get the responsible people to the same table. When residents cannot get an answer from government, we will advocate for one. When taxpayer-funded programs are not producing results, I will ask questions and use legislative oversight to seek accountability.

I will establish a Northeast Philadelphia Public Safety and Neighborhood Working Group to identify problems, determine who is responsible for addressing them, establish objectives, and follow up on results.

3. Bring Public-Safety Resources Back to Northeast Philadelphia

Pennsylvania provides millions of dollars through programs supporting law enforcement, crime investigation, violence prevention, victims, school safety, youth programs, and neighborhood improvement.

My office will actively identify these opportunities and help eligible police agencies, schools, nonprofits, civic organizations, and community groups connect with available resources.

Potential opportunities include funding administered through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for local law enforcement, violent-crime investigations, investigative technology, violence prevention, victims, school safety, and after-school and summer programs. Pennsylvania economic-development programs can also encourage businesses to invest in qualifying neighborhood revitalization and crime-prevention projects.

But grants are **taxpayer dollars**, not free money. I will advocate for Northeast Philadelphia to receive its fair share while also insisting upon transparency, measurable objectives, and accountability for results.

4. Rebuild Our Streets and Neighborhoods

We cannot arrest our way out of every neighborhood problem.

Crime and quality of life are connected to the condition of our communities. Abandoned properties, illegal dumping, broken streetlights, deteriorating commercial corridors, graffiti, abandoned vehicles, and neglected public spaces can undermine residents' confidence in their neighborhoods.

My office will work with city and state officials to address these problems while helping residents organize to improve their own blocks.

I want to expand the concept of Adopt a Street by connecting residents with existing block captain programs, civic associations, Town Watch, city services, community organizations, businesses, schools, and available grants.

Government should help residents who are willing to help themselves.

That could mean organizing neighborhood cleanups, establishing new block captains, improving landscaping, addressing abandoned vehicles and properties, supporting Town Watch organizations, organizing block parties, improving commercial corridors, and connecting neighborhood organizations with businesses willing to invest in their communities.

5. Empower People to Help Themselves

Some of the strongest resources in Northeast Philadelphia are already here: the people who live here.

My goal is not to create another government bureaucracy. It is to make government work better for the people already working to improve their neighborhoods.

My office will help residents learn how to organize a block, access city services, find available grants, establish community partnerships, and communicate effectively with government agencies.

I also want to strengthen partnerships among block captains, civic associations, churches, schools, recreation centers, businesses, police, and community organizations.

When residents know one another, communicate with one another, watch out for one another, and take pride in their streets, neighborhoods become stronger.

6. Prevention Must Be Part of Public Safety

Confronting crime also means preventing the next generation of crime.

I will support effective after-school programs, summer activities, mentoring, job opportunities, career and technical education, and other initiatives that give young people productive alternatives and pathways to success.

Programs receiving taxpayer funding should have measurable objectives. We should continue programs that demonstrate results, improve those that can be improved, and reconsider those that cannot demonstrate that public money is accomplishing its intended purpose.

The Commitment

My public-safety strategy is straightforward:

Confront criminals. Support police. Stand with victims. Demand accountability. Invest wisely. Rebuild neighborhoods. Empower residents.

I spent more than 35 years in education learning that leadership is not simply identifying a problem. Leadership means bringing people together, developing a plan, assigning responsibility, measuring progress, and following through.

That is the same approach I will bring to public safety and neighborhood revitalization.

Harrisburg cannot solve every problem in Northeast Philadelphia. City Hall cannot solve every problem. Police cannot solve every problem. And residents should not be expected to solve every problem themselves.

But when state and city government, law enforcement, businesses, schools, community organizations, and residents work together, we can accomplish much more.

Together we can make things better.