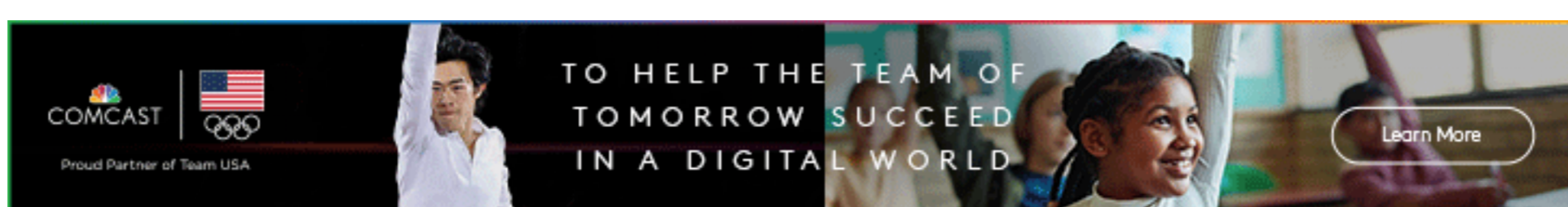


GET UNLIMITED ACCESS TO COMPELLING CONTENT

10¢ per week for 10 weeks  
Subscribe Now

Search...



# City breaks ground on victim help center

Aug 5, 2012 0



Mayor Michael Nutter, center, and number of other officials involved in the construction of a new special victim's center in North Philadelphia plunge their shovels into the ground on Friday August 3 at a ceremonial groundbreaking. — PHOTO PROVIDED

Police and city officials broke ground on a new special victim's center on Friday in Hunting Park, which will allow victims, their advocates, the police and prosecutors to come together at one location to investigate criminal allegations involving children.

"This co-location facility is critical to coordinating crime response strategies across the City of Philadelphia," said Mayor Michael Nutter, one of several officials on hand for a ceremonial groundbreaking. "Bringing together these different agencies that share the same goal, to support and protect the victims of sexual abuse, will further enhance the efficiency of investigations and the efficacy of services provided to victims."

The facility, at 300 E. Hunting Park Ave., will bring together the police department's Special Victim Unit, the city's Department of Human Services Sexual Abuse Investigations Unit, Philadelphia Children's Alliance and the district attorney's office.



Plans include a renovation and expansion, adding to the 30,000 square-foot building on the site. A 10,000 square foot addition will be added. The expanded space will feature a new, landscaped courtyard and a parking lot for approximately 140 vehicles. Once completed, the facility will have two entrances with police and district attorney's sharing one, and DHS and PCA sharing another.

Officials expect the building to be done early next year.

At the moment, victim services are spread over four buildings in Center City.

The Philadelphia Children's Alliance helps police and attorneys interview victims of sexual abuse without re-traumatizing them. They operate in a small facility near City Hall. The new building will give them more space.

"Our dream is truly becoming a reality today as we break ground on this remarkable facility," said Chris Kirchner, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Children's Alliance. "This co-located facility will be a testament to how much the City of Philadelphia cares about its kids, and how child victims of sexual abuse deserve the best response when they have the courage to share what happened to them."

With DHS officials also in the building, investigations should go more smoothly.

"We are thrilled to be breaking ground on this co-location facility that will enable DHS and our partner agencies to provide better care and services to children who have been sexually abused," said DHS Commissioner Anne Marie Ambrose. "The thoughtful design of the center will allow us to lessen the trauma of the investigative process so victims will no longer have to repeatedly relive the events of their assault"

Police and prosecutors lauded the new facility too.

"We have to do everything we possibly can to help victims of sexual abuse," said Deputy Commissioner Richard Ross. "The process of coming forward will always be difficult, but we [the Police], DHS and our advocate partners can work as a system to treat everyone with compassion."

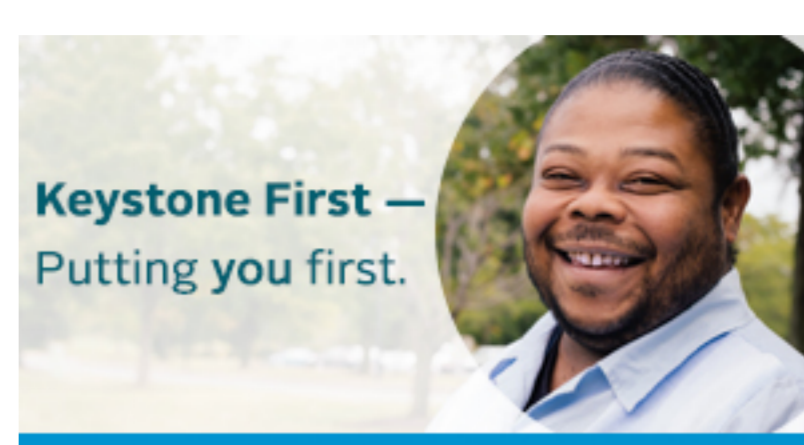
This is not only an extremely important day, it is very long overdue," said District Attorney Seth Williams. "For over 20 years now the district attorney's office has been working with the Philadelphia Children's Alliance to make this day a reality."

Facebook Twitter Email Print Bookmark

(0) comments

Welcome to the discussion.

Log In



Keystone First

**LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY**  
Myeloma Link: Connecting African American Communities to Information, Expert Care and Support  
**Conversations about Racial Disparities in Cancer Care**  
Wednesday, March 23rd, 2022  
6:00PM - 7:30PM EST  
[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

NEWS AT 11  
**take a deeper dive**  
Jacqueline London  
10 NEWS AT 11PM weeknights

**JUDGE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON**  
*is committed to*  
**EQUAL JUSTICE**  
*for all AMERICANS,*  
*not just the rich and powerful.*  
SIDE WITH RISE BUILDING BACK TOGETHER  
CALL 202-224-3121 and tell your US Senators to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson now!  
<https://buildingbacktogether.org/take-action/>

## Videos sponsored by: Independence

Recent Videos



### WATCH LIVE | Ketanji Brown Jackson's Supreme Court confirmation hearings

Ketanji Brown Jackson, President Biden's pick for the Supreme Court, appears before the Senate Judiciary Committee. If confirmed, she would replace retiring Justice Stephen G. Breyer, becoming the first Black woman to sit on the Supreme Court.

### Submit Your News & Events

We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!

[Go to form](#)

### Submit An Obituary

Obituaries and death notices are paid. The editorial department may decide to cover someone's passing.

[Go to form](#)

**Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, Love leaves a memory no one can steal.**  
CLICK HERE to leave a lasting message of sympathy for someone on PhillyTrib.com's obituary section.

### Most Popular

Articles

- Arnold Schwarzenegger tells Putin in video: Stop this war
- 40th anniversary of historic '82 Cheyney women's championship basketball team
- Russians are blocked at US border, Ukrainians are admitted
- Black clergy group gives Kenney an 'F' for his gun violence response
- Kenyatta Johnson corruption case heads to trial after pandemic delays
- Southwest Philly native uses the arts to start her own schools
- Philadelphia updates COVID response levels
- PHA seeks more landlords for voucher program
- Live updates: 20 babies from surrogate moms in bomb shelter
- Firefighters gain ground on Texas wildfires on Saturday

### Latest e-Edition



### Sections

- Home
- News
- Metros
- Lifestyle
- Local Events
- Religion
- Sports
- Entertainment
- The Learning Key
- Obituaries
- Commentary

### Services

- About Us
- Advertise with Us
- Careers
- Contact Us
- Newspaper Sales Locations by ZIP Code
- Promote Your Event
- Submission Forms
- Subscriptions
- Site Use and Privacy Policy

### Follow Us



### Contact Information

phillytrib.com  
520 S. 16th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19146  
Phone: 215-893-4050  
Email: info@phillytrib.com

Phillytrib.com has met the standards for accessible design and is compliant with the American Disabilities Act. (ADA)



JUDGE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON is committed to EQUAL JUSTICE for all AMERICANS, not just the rich and powerful.

TAKE ACTION: <https://buildingbacktogether.org/take-action/>