

Lincoln Alumna Voted in as Philly's 100th Mayor



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The city of Philadelphia has made history in 2023 by electing its first African American woman to be mayor. Mayor elect Cherelle Parker explains how she plans to rebuild Philadelphia and end the “hope deficit”. Parker won against her opponent, becoming Philadelphia’s 100th mayor as well, but won against her republican opponent David Oh by 73.5%. The mayor elect is also a Lincoln University alum, later earning her masters from UPenn. (Inquirer 2023).

While this may be a revolutionary change, there is attention being drawn to Parker's intentions as mayor. These intentions include deploying the National Guard to stop drug traffic in Kensington. Parker also intends to strengthen the police force, and reinstate stop and frisk tactics to tackle gun violence (Fox News 2023). I asked some Philadelphia natives on campus how they felt about these changes coming to the city. Seriyah Porter disagreed with the idea of stop and frisk, and thought they would lead to more violence. “All they want to do is arrest more of my people and make money off their backs. It’s either they lock us up, or shoot.”

On the contrary, Jeniyah Jergen agreed with the fact of Kensington needing intervention with its drug issues. “The last time I was down there, I remember driving past the stoplight and it was a group of crackheads just piled up on the sidewalk. And as I drove past, I wondered how this became a normal thing around there. Maybe the National Guard could actually make a difference”.

The mayor elect will have to choose a police commissioner to help her combat gun violence on the streets. Citizens await these changes, some with open minds, and some with bias. The city will have to await the arrival of Cherelle Parker in the mayor's office, and the end of the “hope deficit”. Parker talks about more of her intentions as mayor in her victory speech. “We are going to put people on a path to self efficiency”, she states. “We are going to use every legal tool in the toolbox to keep this city safe”.