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Dear Residents of SD-44:

On Friday, the SEPA region moved into the green phase as [outlined](#) by Governor Wolf. I share in the excitement that many of you are feeling, but please keep in mind that the restrictions listed below are still in place to ensure that we do not see a resurgence of the virus:

Masks are still required in businesses

↔ Continue to practice social distancing

Disinfect surfaces and wash your hands for at least 20 seconds

If you are not feeling well seek medical attention and avoid contact with others

The green phase eases most restrictions with the suspension of the stay-at-home and business closure orders to allow the economy to strategically reopen while continuing to prioritize public health. Our continued effort to combat the virus will help ensure that businesses that reopen can do so without having to shut again, as is the case in some states.

The application portal for the \$225 million allocated to the Department of Community and Economic Development for COVID-19 relief to small businesses through a distribution to [Community Development Financial Institutions](#) (CDFIs) has officially opened today! In the newsletter below, we have outlined information on how businesses can prepare for the grant application process. This is not a first come, first serve application window. I will continue to advocate on behalf of businesses in SEPA who have been hit hardest by the economic effects of the pandemic.

Our district office opened on June 29th from 9-5 pm by appointment only. My staff and I are always available by phone at 610-792-2137 and by email at senatormuth@pasenate.com to help answer your questions and provide you with the resources that you need. We will also continue to share new information through E-blasts, social media and on my [website](#) as we receive it to ensure you, your family, schools, and small businesses have the most up-to-date information.

Sincerely,

Senator Katie Muth

District Office Reopening

Our district office opened on June 29th. To continue to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, will be operating from 9AM-5PM, by appointment only.

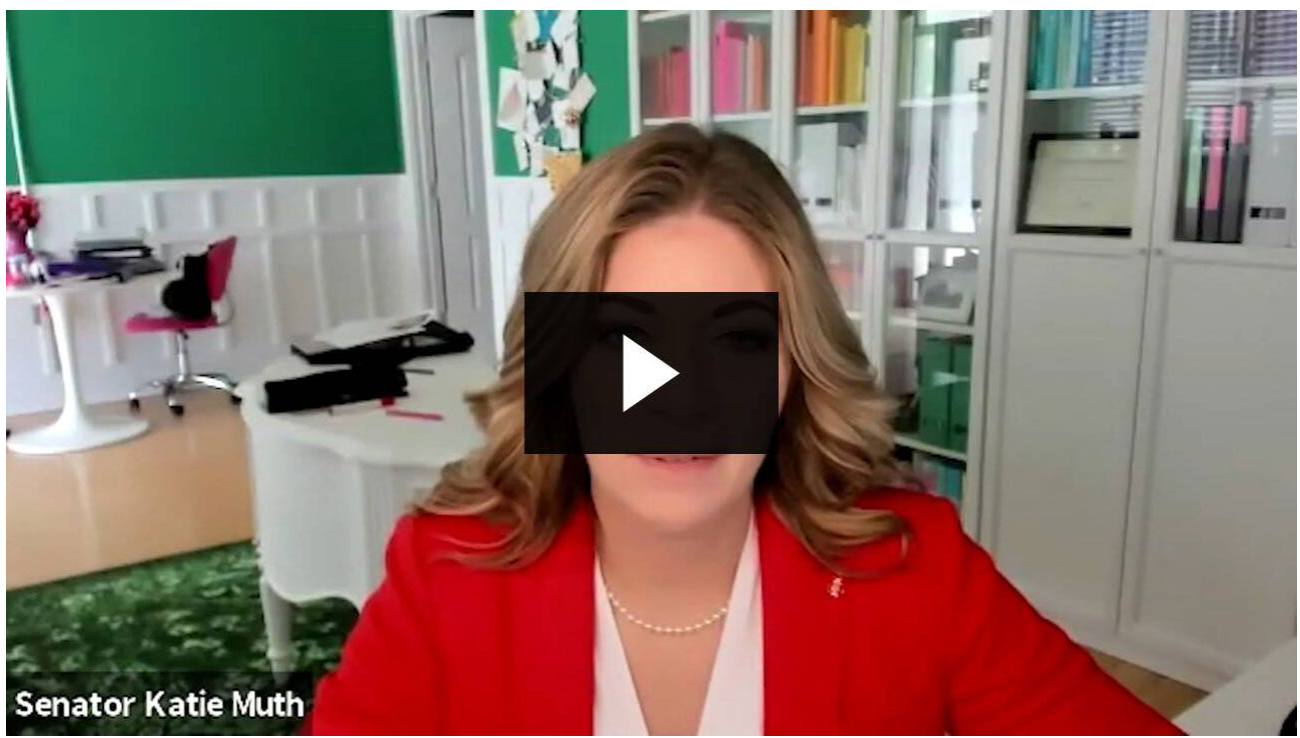
Office COVID-19 Etiquette

- Constituents must wear masks (hand sanitizer will be available)
- Bring all required documents in one envelope
- If you are unable to wear a mask please call for service
- Our office is set up to ensure social distancing
- Evening and weekend appointments are available upon request

Small Business Assistance Applications

The Department of Community and Economic Development received \$225 million in COVID-19 relief for small businesses through a distribution to [Community Development Financial Institutions](#) (CDFIs).

On June 19, 2020, my staff and I held a SBA townhall with Joan Broadhead, Senior Executive Vice President of Community First Fun, and Jim Burnett, Executive Director of West Philadelphia Financial Services Institute, to answer many of your questions about the SBA Application window. If you were unable to make our townhall or want to re-watch the townhall, the video is available on my website or by clicking the picture below.



Linked are a list of resources we believe can help you with your application process. Guidelines for the [COVID-19 Relief Statewide Small Business Assistance Program](#) are available [here](#), as well as a list of [17 participating CDFIs](#).

The application window opened today. Businesses should prepare the following:

- 2018 or 2019 tax return;
- business registration, license, or articles of incorporation;
- must have an e-mail address;
- valid ID;
- electronic versions of documents;
- most recent bank statement;
- a description of how the business was impacted by COVID-19;
- and a description of how the business plans to use the funds.

Please sign up for email alerts about the program at www.pabusinessgrants.com, which also serves as a resource portal for the grant program. At this website, you will also be able to receive up-to-date information as it is released.

No Consent in Custody Bill Amended into House legislation

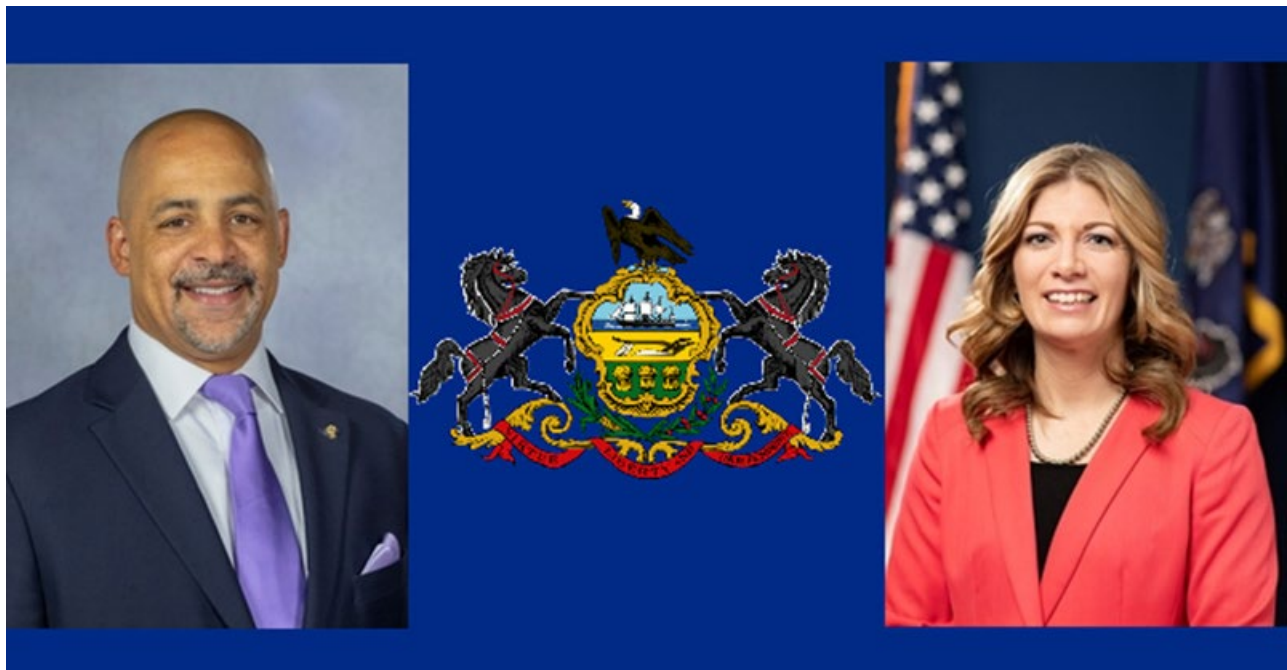
Last week, The PA Senate unanimously passed two major pieces of police reform legislation from the Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Caucus and moved another piece out of committee.

The first bill, introduced by Senator Jay Costa, would require that all police departments maintain records detailing each incident that requires the use-of-force. Additional information regarding the reason for the use-of-force, detail of the injuries inflicted, as well as property damage or death would also be mandated. These records would then be forwarded to the Pennsylvania State Police and reports would be issued to the PA General Assembly.

A bill from Senator Sharif Street bans the use of chokeholds in a police officer's efforts to detain an individual. The legislation would also require every municipal police department to adopt a use-of-force policy, publish that policy for the public, and train its officers to that standard.

These two bills are a part of a package of police accountability and transparency reforms developed by our Caucus.

A third piece of legislation was [amended](#) by my colleague Senator Farnese to include language from the '[No Consent in Custody](#)' bill introduced by me in the [Senate](#) and in the [House](#) by Rep. Chris Rabb. Currently in Pennsylvania, if a police officer sexually assaults someone in custody, they can claim in court that it was consensual. Under the legislation, any sexual contact between law enforcement and someone in custody would be a third-degree felony and closes the loophole that allows members of law enforcement to abuse their power with individuals within their custody.



Montgomery County Anti-Hunger Network

Last week I joined the [MontCo Anti-Hunger Network](#), the RSVP Volunteer Corp, and a host of other volunteers and organizations to distribute food and pet supplies to families at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center. Over 450 cars were served in 3 hours! Thank you to all of the tireless volunteers who contributed their time and donations to make this event such a great success.



Environmental Education Grants



Each year, Pennsylvania invests in its schools, county conservation districts, and other nonprofit organizations to improve environmental awareness among students and adults alike by awarding Environmental Education grants.

Administered through DEP, the funds are used for projects ranging from creative, hands-on lessons for students, teacher training programs, and outdoor learning resources to conservation education for adults.

The recipients in SD44 are:

Montgomery County Conservation District (Conservation and Water Pollution Prevention (Workshop) for Homeowners)

Stroud Water Research Center (Brandywine Watershed Discovery Day Camp 2020 for Undeserved Youth)

Norristown Area School District (EJ Project for Norristown Students)

Learn more [here](#).

How to Stay Informed

Below is an extensive list of information, statistics, and resources to ensure you stay up-to-date with any changes happening due to COVID-19.

Check out [my website](#) for a comprehensive list of resources or one of the helpful site below.

Pennsylvania Department of Health

- The PA DoH [Daily COVID-19 report](#). Updated regularly throughout the day.
- Follow the PA Health Department on [Twitter](#).
- Follow them on [Facebook](#).

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- [Track confirmed cases in the US](#). (This site is updated weekdays at noon and shows numbers that were current as of 4 p.m. the previous day.)
- CDC provided information regarding "[What you should know about COVID-19](#)"
- Follow the CDC on [Twitter](#).
- Follow the CDC on [Facebook](#).
- Learn how best to [prevent "community transition"](#) with specific details on what to do before, during, and after outbreaks.

World Health Organization

- Learn what's happening Worldwide with the [WHO's Daily report](#). The most recent report is located at the top of the page. It includes confirmed case and death tallies.
- Additional COVID-19 information is provided on their [website](#).
- Stay informed on [Twitter](#).
- Follow their [Facebook](#) page.

Be sure to check out the complete list of information, data, and resources available to those in:

[Berks County](#)

[Chester County](#)

[Montgomery County](#)



Submit your mobile number to stay up-to-date with the latest events and happenings from Senator Katie Muth sent right to your phone.



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