

Remarks by Nancy Goldenberg on April 15, 2011 on signing of Bill #110002

WE ALL KNOW HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION.

WELL, NOT ONLY IS THIS ORDINANCE THE FIRST MAJOR INITIATIVE OF THE COMMISSION, IT IS IMPRESSIVE. FOR THE FIRST TIME, PHILADELPHIA HAS A CONSISTENT, PREDICTABLE AND TRANSPARENT PROCESS TO HELP PROTECT ITS PARK AND RECREATIONAL LAND. MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY WERE AT MANDER REC CENTER IN JULY, 2009, WHEN MAYOR NUTTER APPOINTED HIS NEW COMMISSION ON PARKS AND RECREATION. HE ASKED US THEN TO DELIVER TO HIM LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF PARK AND RECREATION LAND. TODAY, HERE AT BELMONT PLATEAU, WE ARE PROUD TO SAY, "WE DELIVER!"

IN ESSENCE, THIS LEGISLATION SAYS THAT NO NET LOSS OF PARK AND REC LAND.

SOUNDS PRETTY SIMPLE, RIGHT? BUT LEST ANYONE THINK THIS ASSIGNMENT WAS A WALK IN THE PARK, LET ME ASSURE YOU IT WASN'T. IT TOOK A LITTLE LONGER THAN WE HAD ANTICIPATED BUT THAT'S BECAUSE WITH EACH ITERATION, IT GOT STRONGER AND BETTER. AND THAT'S BECAUSE THIS ORDINANCE IS THE PRODUCT OF MANY PEOPLE WHOSE EXPERTISE PROVIDED GREAT GUIDANCE AND COUNSEL TO US.

I WANT TO PARTICULARLY ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK: LAUREN BORNFRIEND AND THE PHILADELPHIA PARKS ALLIANCE, PARTICULARLY MAURA MCCARTHY AND THE FOW, LARRY COPELAND, RICK AUREBACH, STEPHANIE MARSH AND TUMAR ALEXANDER OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, ALL OF CITY COUNCIL AND THEIR STAFF, BUT ESPECIALLY COUNCILMEMBERS CLARKE, JONES, COUNCILMAN O'NEILL AND BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN WHOSE LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT HAS BEEN TRULY UNWAVERING. OF COURSE I'D LIKE TO THANK THE MAYOR FOR CHALLENGING US AND FOR BEING SO COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT PHILADELPHIA HAS THE BEST PARK AND REC SYSTEM IN THE NATION.

AND I'D LIKE TO THANK AND RECOGNIZE MY COLLEAGUES ON THE COMMISSION, WHO WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE THIS LEGISLATION A REALITY. AT THE RISK OF SINGLING MEMBERS OUT, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT NONE WORKED HARDER AT THIS THAN DEBRA WOLF GOLDSTEIN. HER DEDICATION TO THIS ISSUE IS NOTHING SHORT OF REMARKABLE AND I'D LIKE TO ASK DEBRA TO SAY A FEW WORDS.