

At-Large Council Candidate Blondell Reynolds Brown

*Question 1*

A reading of the Urban Institute's *Beyond Recreation: A Broader View of Urban Parks* provides an emerging perspective to the power of parks and recreation. While it has long been understood how a park beautifies and enhances a neighborhood or how a baseball field supports a sense of community, there is new evidence that the power of parks and recreation is strong. For example, Parks & Recreation promotes health, as walks in the park or playing on fields and courts provides exercise to keep bodies and minds strong. They provide opportunities for youth to build a career through life guard and other summer positions. Our current Parks and Recreation leaders realize this as we seek to add 500 acres to our system by 2015. I support that plan as I certainly recognize the need to expand, enhance, and protect our parks and recreation facilities as they play a vital role in a 21st Century City.

*Question 2*

As the co-author, with Councilman Darrell Clarke, of the legislation to create the new Department of Parks and Recreation, I take the funding of this Department seriously. City funding has been difficult to increase due to the economy and mandated services over the last few years. Therefore, it is incumbent on us to find new sources of revenue. We should encourage concession and restaurant development, though only where appropriate and with strong community support. With the revenues raised, a significant percentage should administratively be returned to Parks & Recreation, as opposed to the 100% that currently goes to the City's General Fund. I stand ready to work with the Department and all stakeholders, including the Philadelphia Park Alliance, to uncover and pursue new revenue streams to build, sustain, and preserve our parks and recreation facilities.