

PENN KNOX NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Joseph and Lisabeth Marziello Chief Executive Officers

Boys & Girls Clubs of Philadelphia

1518 Walnut Street, Suite 712

Philadelphia, PA 19102

8 July 2015

Dear Boys & Girls Clubs of Philadelphia:

We welcome the proposed investment from the Boys and Girls Club and its donors to the Germantown Boys and Girls Club. This is a long-standing neighborhood institution, beloved by many in our community and far beyond who have participated in the programs provided throughout the 120 years of its presence.

We encourage the Philadelphia Boys and Girls Club to include a community and stakeholder engagement process that provides multiple opportunities for the community and the undersigned organizations to meaningfully participate in this important process.

The proposed redesign of the Germantown Boys and Girls Club on Penn Street is a project that will have significant impact on the immediate neighborhood. This clearly will be a complex process, and the plans so far revealed suggest some concerns with demolition, zoning, traffic and design. Working together with civic organization may speed the planning process, and will engender considerable goodwill in the whole community and help to ensure a positive outcome for all.

The Germantown Boys and Girls Club location is in the Penn Knox community, a small, diverse area, with three important schools, Germantown Friends School, Greene Street Friends and the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, and many churches. The Boys and Girls Club property is on a narrow residential street, just feet away from the historic Great Road, Germantown Avenue. Commercial development is at its initial stage on this part of The Avenue. Perpendicular to this block of Penn Street are three tiny lanes that have thirteen small, old homes whose residents, as do those in the other twenty one houses on this block, deserve to maintain their quality of life.

Sincerely,

Julie Baranauskas, chair

Penn Knox Neighborhood Association and RCO