Allan Domb’s Pledge to Philadelphia:
High Quality, Effective City Services in Every Neighborhood

Allan Domb knows that a foundational part of being mayor is ensuring the delivery of high quality, effective services in every neighborhood. From picking up trash and plowing the streets to keeping libraries and rec centers open and safe to providing timely responses to permits and applications, the quality of city services is critical to making a city a place where residents and businesses can thrive.

Public polling reveals that Philadelphia residents are unhappy with the direction of the city and among their complaints are city services. While there have been attempts to improve services in recent years, the city remains plagued by potholes, abandoned houses, burned out street lights and trash on the streets. While the poor delivery of services in Philadelphia will be remembered as among Jim Kenney’s biggest failures as mayor, the problem did not start with him. The prevalence of Special Service Districts, which are specifically designed to provide services the city fails to do, is a testament to that fact.

This failure to significantly improve city services in recent years cannot be tied to a lack of available funding. Over the last eight years, our city’s budget has increased from $4.02 billion in fiscal year 2016 to $6.1 billion in the most recent budget proposal – an increase of more than 50 percent. Unfortunately, that funding has not been used effectively, and today, too many neighborhoods remain underserved.

Allan believes that the best way to improve the city’s operations is to make the details of its performance public so that those responsible can be held accountable for results. That’s why, as detailed in his plan to make Philadelphia’s elections and government more transparent, accountable and ethical, he will make the city the most transparent in America. Allan will expand Open Data Philly to require all city...
departments to monitor, evaluate, and report on their respective programs and to transfer the information in a responsible and timely manner to the Office of Information and Technology for the purposes of sharing on Open Data Philly. He will also institute biennial surveys of city residents to measure how the city is performing.

While Allan prefers that city services be provided by city workers, he recognizes the severe understaffing many departments face and their difficulty hiring replacements for those who have left. But a lack of city worker staffing does not mean that city services can or should be limited on an ongoing basis. As just one example, Allan will plow all city streets, just as former Mayor John Street’s administration did, even if it requires hiring contractors to supplement the service.

As the only candidate for mayor who has successfully built a business from the ground up, Allan is uniquely qualified to take on the challenge of fixing what’s broken in Philadelphia. As mayor, he will make providing high-quality, timely services a pillar of his administration.

As mayor, Allan Domb will:

**Dramatically improve government approvals by creating an Application Tracker.** As mayor, Allan Domb will create a publicly available Application Tracker to increase transparency around the applications process to provide predictability and accountability for producing quick, reliable and accurate answers. The Domb Administration will provide responses within two (2) weeks for most applications for job creators and residents and a maximum of a three (3) month review for development projects.

**Improved 911 response times.** According to a government audit, 911 response times can be as long as 40 minutes in some neighborhoods, with wide disparities across the city. As mayor, Allan Domb will work with city officials, firefighters and emergency personnel, and the police to dramatically improve 911 response times. Allan believes that every neighborhood should have confidence that its emergencies will be responded to quickly and properly. Allan will especially focus on Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support ambulance response times with a goal of every call being responded to within 10 minutes – because Allan knows when someone’s life is at risk, every second counts.
Move city services online to expand accessibility. Philadelphia residents expect to be able to obtain information, pay bills, and apply for permits and licenses online. While Philadelphia's website has dramatically improved in recent years, it remains difficult to use and does not provide all the services that should be included. As mayor, Allan will rebuild the city's website, modeled after other cities whose websites are more functional and easy to use. Allan will ensure every city service is either fully available online or able to be requested online.

Maintain “mini City Halls” in neighborhoods. The City of Philadelphia provides services and has requirements that sometimes are too complex to be handled online. To help ensure that city services are easily accessible across the city, Allan will add a third “mini City Hall” in West Philadelphia to the existing ones in Northeast Philadelphia and North Philadelphia.

Keep libraries and rec centers open 7 days a week. Keeping libraries and rec centers open seven (7) days a week is a key component of Allan Domb's plans to help improve community safety, particularly for young people, and to make every neighborhood an amenity-rich place to live. As mayor, Allan will fully fund our library system and rec centers to keep them open seven (7) days a week and adjust operating hours to maximize residents ability to take full advantage of these entities.

Open every pool. Pools are a critical amenity in many neighborhoods, but in recent years the city has either not been able to open at all or had their hours circumscribed. As mayor, Allan will ensure that every city pool is open full time during the summer months unless they are otherwise undergoing renovations or repairs.

Clean every street. For far too long, Philadelphia has been tagged with the insult of being “Filthadelphia” due to the trash that is too often strewn across neighborhoods and Philadelphia's status as the only major U.S. city that does not have a street-sweeping program. While the city began street cleaning pilot programs in a limited number of neighborhoods, as mayor, Allan will expand the needed program to every neighborhood from April through November each year.
Plow every street. Under Mayor John Street, Philadelphia began to plow every street for the first time. This important civic service was cut back due to budgetary cutbacks, but never restored when the city's coffers were again flush. As mayor, Allan Domb will once again ensure that every street of Philadelphia that can be plowed will be. As they can now, residents and businesses will be able to track when their streets will be (or have been) plowed through the city's app.

Create a real-time Garbage Truck Tracker so residents never miss a pick-up again. As part of Allan's plan to keep Philadelphia clean, Allan will create a real-time Garbage Truck Tracker, modeled on the city's snow plow tracker, to make it easier to bring out trash just before the trucks arrive.

Replace street lights within 72 hours. Allan knows that when street lights go out, safety is compromised. That's why, as mayor, his administration will replace any burned out or broken street lights within 72 hours after an outage has been reported.

Clean and seal abandoned buildings, clean vacant lots. As part of his community safety plan, Allan pledged to clean and seal abandoned buildings across the city as part of the 10 things he will do in the first 100 days. Anyone found living in an abandoned building will be given access to needed wrap-around services.

Tow abandoned cars within 48 hours. When Mayor John Street took office in 2000, his administration removed 40,000 abandoned cars in its first 40 days. Unfortunately, the problem of abandoned vehicles has returned, with an estimated 36,000 abandoned cars choking neighborhood streets. As mayor, Allan will tow abandoned cars within 48 hours of being confirmed as abandoned.

Fix broken sidewalks and curbs. Every neighborhood is riddled with broken sidewalks and shattered curbs, even many with newly repaved streets. As mayor, Allan will ensure that as streets are resurfaced, sidewalks and curbs will be repaired.

Fix the city's potholes, create a tracker to know when repairs are scheduled. Philadelphia has some of the worst potholes in the country, with many streets plagued by car rattling holes. As mayor, Allan will deploy more personnel and
improve response time for pothole repair, and he will create a public tracker to create public accountability for fixing them.