



Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters,

So much is happening so quickly under the Trump administration that we are barely given space to grieve one attack on migrant communities before the next one comes. This is an authoritarian tactic. They want us exhausted. But we are here: grounded in community, rooted in faith, and fueled by hope.

The City of Brotherly and Sisterly Love is, and must remain, a Welcoming and Sanctuary City, a city that opens its doors to every human being. And for that, we must take action!

The Parker administration has pledged to litigate when Trump tries to strip Philly's federal funding for refusing to let police collaborate with ICE. That commitment needs encouragement and accountability, because we know the pressure will only increase.

Over the past weeks, more than 118 faith leaders have signed a letter urging Mayor Parker to continue defending Philadelphia as a Welcoming City. On Thursday, September 4, at 3:30 PM (North side of City Hall), we will gather to present this letter and urge Mayor Parker to remain steadfast in defending Philadelphia as a Welcoming City.

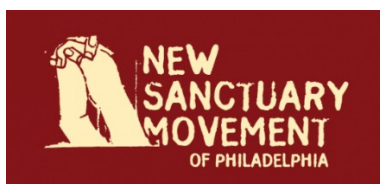
Together, we will deliver the letter and hold a ritual of anointing, marking everyone present as protectors of human rights in our city. This an action and a declaration: we will not back down, Philadelphia belongs to all of us. Together, we'll tell Mayor Parker loud and clear: Do not fear. Do not back down. Stand up for All of Philly.

Bring your spirit. Bring your courage. Bring your love for our immigrant neighbors.

Let's show up, stand strong, and keep Philly a place of welcome.

In peace and solidarity,

The NSM Team



NEWS | CITY

# Immigrant advocacy group to Parker: Resist Trump's sanctuary threats

By Fallon Roth  
Staff Writer

With a small cream-colored envelope and a large laminated letter in tow, Bishop David Barrett and the Rev. Hugh Shields entered the visitor's entrance on the northeast side of City Hall with a mission: to deliver a letter to Mayor Cherelle Parker and his threats to no-called sanctuary cities, like Philadelphia.

But they didn't make it to the mayor's office — or even past the lobby.

Security personnel intercepted the letter and promised it would be passed on to the mayor. The conversation between security and the two clergy members was lighthearted and ended with a handshake and a chat about the Philadelphia Eagles.

It's unclear to Barrett and Hughes, who were representing New Sanctuary Movement — an interfaith immigrant advocacy organization — and more than a hundred clergy members who signed onto the letter, if or when they will receive a response from Parker.

The mayor has rarely spoken on the sanctuary issue since Trump took office even as the policy enacted under her predecessor remains in place.

But they still maintain their optimism that they'll get a meeting with the mayor after she receives the letter.

"We're not here politically to protest," Shields said afterward to a crowd of rallying clergy members and allies. "We're here to say 'God wants us to say something.'"

Clergy members and immigration activists were hoping to

facilitate a collaboration with Parker on protecting the city's immigrant communities — an effort that the Parker administration has been widely keeping out of the public eye.

City Solicitor Renee Garcia said in a statement to The Inquirer Thursday that "the City of Philadelphia's 2016 executive orders on detainees remain in place, and we remain a Welcoming City."

It's that 2016 executive order from Mayor Jim Kenney — who frequently and publicly criticized Trump during his time in

office — that has linked Philadelphia on a list with other major cities deemed by the Trump administration as "sanctuary jurisdictions."

The 2016 Kenney executive order prohibits Philadelphia's jails from honoring detainee requests, which consists of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement asking local jails to hold inmates suspected of immigration violations for longer to help facilitate arrests by federal immigration agents.

The Parker administration's defense against Trump on this

issue has come in rare public spurts. Garcia said in May that the city is willing to litigate if the Trump administration tries to touch federal funding, but the mayor won't say how they are responding to the Department of Justice's letter demanding them to end their immigrant-friendly policies.

The letter that Barrett and Shields hoped to deliver Thursday both praised Parker for her administration's willingness to litigate and the executive order staying in place.

"Do not back down. Do not

surrender," the letter urged.

Those sentiments were echoed in an accompanying rally organized by New Sanctuary Movement, on the north side of City Hall Thursday. A large group of allies gathered with colorful signs and vibrant songs and impassioned speeches by activists and faith leaders.

"Mayor, go forward, God's got your back," said Elder Melanie DuBose, of Live Free Philly, a police accountability group.

@livefreephilly  
#followwith



Supporters of the New Sanctuary Movement rally outside City Hall to urge Mayor Cherelle Parker to stand up to Trump on sanctuary cities. Fallon Roth / Staff

Page 6

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS — INQUIRER.COM

Friday, September 5, 2025





**Multi-Faith Service of Anointing Rally to Deliver Letter to Mayor for Philadelphia to remain a Sanctuary City**



Good multi-faith gathering including a time of anointing with oil in pairs.



I wonder why the camera person decided to cover her face. The event made it to the evening news and both local Philadelphia newspapers the next day (9/5/2025)



**Multi-Faith Service of Anointing Rally to Deliver Letter to Mayor for Philadelphia to remain a Sanctuary City**

We had a good showing from the St. Vincent's NSM committee. The Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News had photo, with Diana and an article in the Sept. 5, 2025 papers.

[Philadelphia Inquirer link](#)

The Daily News article is on page two of this document.



St. Vincents NSM committee meetings are monthly, usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8PM. For more information you can email us at [NSM@Saint-Vincent-Church.org](mailto:NSM@Saint-Vincent-Church.org)