



COUNCILMEMBER JAMIE GAUTHIER'S OFFICE

Student Interns:

Justine Garfinkel, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program

Hannah Legerwood, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program, Medical Simulation Program

Hannah Smith, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program

Michael Young, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program

Academic Preceptors:

Robert Dustin, MA, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Meshonea Fox, BS, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Community Preceptors:

Martese Clark, Councilmember Jamie Gauthier's Office

Alexis Wright-Whitley, Councilmember Jamie Gauthier's Office



Community Partner

Councilmember's Jamie Gautier's office serves constituents of the 3rd district of West Philadelphia. The councilmembers office addresses constituent concerns and advocates for community resources, with priority on creating and preserving affordable housing, improving educational outcomes, connecting residents to family-sustaining jobs, and advancing small businesses.

<http://phlcouncil.com/jamiegauthier/>



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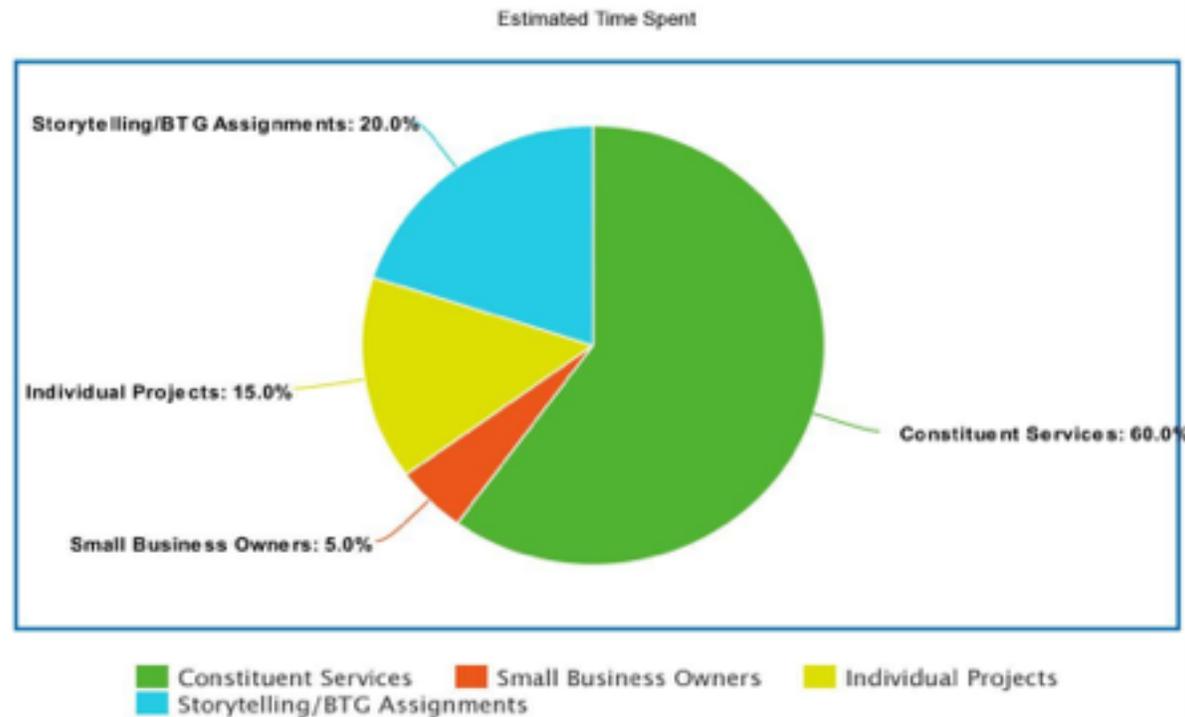
Project

The interns called constituents that previously called the councilmembers office to assist them with resolving their outstanding concerns; among the concerns were issues with food access, COVID testing, property maintenance, and more. The interns also called Bangladeshi business owners who were affected by the looting and protests in early June to see how the Councilmember could best help them rebuild. Each intern was also assigned a special project to work on; Hannah S. used a database to compile a spreadsheet with affordable housing expiring in the next 10 years. Justine and Michael listened to budget hearings regarding the police/fire/prison departments, managing directors, and commerce departments then noted common topics and questions for the councilmember's future reference. Hannah L. called members of the community to inform them of upcoming meetings on zoning in their area and attended these meetings to judge community support or opposition to help formulate a stance for the councilmembers office when attending the zoning board hearings.



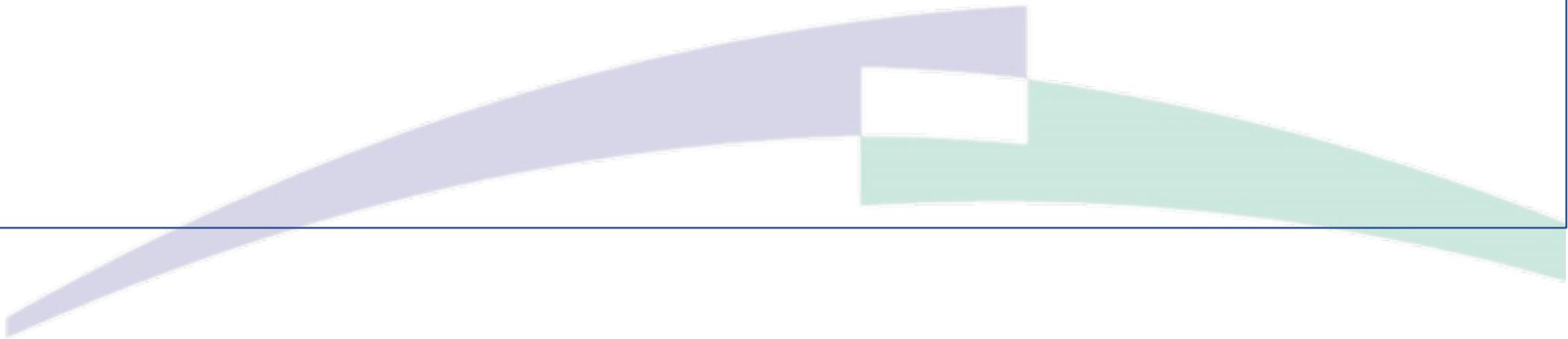
Project Results

During the 6-week period with Councilmember Jamie Gauthier and her team, we were able to work with over 250 constituents. We also worked on making a comprehensive resource document that includes websites and information for a range of topics such as food access, senior citizen health, education resources, etc. After the Councilmember saw how much we were able to accomplish this summer, she has created five permanent internship spots year-round for other students to join her team.



Reflection

We feel super fortunate to have been able to work with Councilmember Jamie Gauthier and her team this summer. Our supervisors, Alexis and Martese, were super welcoming and wanted to ensure we had the best internship possible. We recommend this site for future BTG interns because we learned a lot about the city of Philadelphia and what makes the community special. We were able to help constituents with a variety of problems and learn about the resources/ services Philadelphia has to offer. This experience will help us as future physicians in the community because we worked with individuals from different cultures and backgrounds who we will continue to work with during our medical careers.



Reflection

“The past year I have felt like I have somewhat lived in a medical school bubble, so this internship has really allowed me to learn more about the Philadelphia government and programs, as well as learn about the communities and constituents. This experience has helped me as a future healthcare professional in the Philadelphia area because I have seen firsthand the everyday hardships, how their struggles can be affecting their health, and I can also help them by guiding them to different resources. I really enjoyed speaking to different constituents and working with the Councilmember’s team to learn about the people and programs/ services that make Philadelphia a special place.” -**Justine**

“I felt this internship helped me with my personal professional development by helping me learn to manage my anxiety surrounding making phone calls and communicating with complete strangers. I also feel that I can better navigate the city’s healthcare system and assist patients as this internship has bettered my knowledge and understanding of the city’s resources; cost is a major barrier to patients seeking healthcare- so this knowledge is invaluable.” -**Hannah L.**

“The BTG internship gave me the opportunity to understand the community concerns in Philadelphia. I feel this experience gave me a great perspective, as a medical student, on the social determinants of health my future patients might face. As an osteopathic medical student, we learn to prioritize patients as a whole. I now understand the types of questions to ask my future patients to better understand their life and how their environment might be affecting their health.” -**Hannah S.**

“As a future healthcare provider, I believe this experience was helpful in getting to know the types of people that I may be treating in my future. It is important for future physicians to get to know the types of backgrounds, cultures, and everyday struggles that their patients face in order to have better patient-doctor relationships. By speaking with many constituents and gaining a better understanding of resources in Philadelphia, I believe I will have a better understanding of where some of my future patients are coming from. This will give me a more compassionate relationship with my patients, so that I can see them more as whole human beings than just a disease to be cured.” - **Michael**