



## MEDIA ADVISORY: For December 21, 2016

Who: Hundreds of Philadelphians will join **Mayor Jim Kenney**, **Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell**, **Councilman Derek Green**, **Councilwoman Helen Gym**, **Sister Mary Scullion** of Project HOME, homeless outreach organizers and community leaders.

What: **Homeless Memorial Day Philadelphia**, an annual event commemorated in over 150 localities across the United States on or near the first day of winter, recognizes those who have lost their lives while homeless or experienced homelessness. This year's memorial will include:

- Reflections by **Mayor Jim Kenney** and **Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell**
- A message of why we gather together by Sister Mary Scullion, Project HOME
- Stories of remembrance from Jaclynn Ries, Veterans Multi-Service Center, Jennine Miller, Project HOME and Dave Malloy, Northwest Human Services
- **Role call of nearly 200 names** in a solemn, candlelit ceremony by community members and Philadelphia City Council.
- Words of Motivation and action by Mel Wells from One Day At A Time
- The reading of "A Psalm of Lament" from The Welcome Church by Rev. Schaunel Steinagle, The Welcome Church; Rabbi David Strauss, Beth Elohim and Imam Salaam Muhsin, Philadelphia Muhsin
- Music by Magic Music Group and Circle of Hope

When: **Wednesday, December 21 at 5:00-6:00 pm**

Where: Thomas Paine Plaza, 1401 JFK Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA  
*(Rain location: Arch Street United Methodist Church, 55 North Broad Street, Philadelphia)*

Why: Last year in Philadelphia, homeless outreach organizations engage more than 6,500 individuals living on the street or in cars, abandoned buildings, transit stations, and other places not meant for human habitation. At least 15,000 people, including families, accessed shelter last year.

An important step in addressing homelessness is to assert the fundamental dignity of all persons who are in situations of homelessness and poverty, and to work tirelessly to protect their basic human and civil rights. A proper memorial truly nurtures a spirit of community and compassion for all individuals.

For more information on Homeless Memorial Day in Philadelphia, go to [www.projecthome.org/memorial](http://www.projecthome.org/memorial) and follow [#homelessmemorial](https://twitter.com/homelessmemorial).

Opportunities: Interview with Sister Mary Scullion  
Photos and video of Mayor Jim Kenney, members of City Council and event speakers  
Photos and video of community members taking part in candlelit, solemn ceremony

Contacts: Becky Lang Staffieri, Mission First Housing Group  
(215) 651-4858, [RStaffieri@missionfirsthousing.org](mailto:RStaffieri@missionfirsthousing.org)

Laura Weinbaum, Project HOME  
(215) 439-1618, [LauraWeinbaum@projecthome.org](mailto:LauraWeinbaum@projecthome.org)