

Testimony Of:

The Philadelphia Parking Authority

**Before the
House Transportation Committee
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Good Morning and thank you for inviting me to testify on Senate Bill 888. My name is Corinne O'Connor and I am the Deputy Executive Director of the Philadelphia Parking Authority. I am tasked with overseeing all departments that fall under our On Street Division along with the Red Light Camera Division and the TLD/TNC Division.

The Ticketing Department is one of the Departments that fall under the On Street Division. To supply you with some background, there are two hundred and sixty-five (265) budgeted Parking Enforcement Officer positions along with twenty-eight Supervisors. On an average day there are one hundred and seventy Parking Enforcement Officers patrolling the City Streets due to our officer's regular days off and scheduled time off. Their hours consist of the following: Sunday from 7 am to 11 pm, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 6:30 am to 10:30 pm and Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 6:30 am to midnight.

The ticketing staff primarily patrols the Center City and University City areas of Philadelphia along with a multitude of business districts and residential permit parking areas. The patrol hours are based off the hours on the posted regulations. The majority of outlining areas hours of regulations end at 6:30 pm, which would be when our patrol time would end. The outlined areas consist of any location north of Spring Garden Street, south of Bainbridge Street and west of 40th Street.

After reviewing Senate Bill 888, the Authority cannot fully commit to being available at all locations and hours that this bill is requesting without additional staff. The Authority fully supports the disabled community and would respond to this request for enforcement, but Philadelphia is a very large city so we may not be five minutes away and it may take some time to get to an area if it's not in a location that we normally patrol. The PPA seeks to utilize new technologies, such as cameras to enforce certain violations. Some violations may include bus

zones and handicapped parking. Cameras allow for video which is better evidence for court and could be displayed more effectively for this type of enforcement activity.

If the requests for this type of enforcement are substantial, we would gladly look at the data and form a special task force in which this would be one of their top priorities, but this would take some time since we would like to see how many requests for this type of enforcement would occur.

Another issue that we foresee being a problem with this particular bill is the term, “parking enforcement specialist.” While the definition itself reflects the duties and responsibilities of what we call “parking enforcement officers” at the Authority, those officers are members of District Council 33, Local 1697. The District Council has designated those individuals as officers, not specialist. This may create a practical issue for employment purposes, and the committee should consider revising that particular term in Senate Bill 888.

Again, thank you for allowing me to testify.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Corinne O’Connor
Deputy Executive Director of On Street