

**Mayor Jim Kenney's remarks  
welcoming City Program - September 21, 2016**

Good morning, everyone. It's fantastic to see so many of you coming out for this event to celebrate unity and diversity.

Philadelphia is by many measures a welcoming city, but in order to live up to our motto - the "City of Brotherly Love" - we still have some challenges to overcome.

Challenges like House Bill 1885, authored by State Rep. Martina, White which passed out of committee yesterday.

If this legislation passes, police officers across the state will be required to ask the documentation status of any individual who comes forward to report or act as a witness to a crime. In a year where we have already seen too much violence, this bill would make it even more difficult to solve and prevent crimes.

At times challenges like these can seem overwhelming, but the solution is really quite simple: we need those groups who have sometimes stood in opposition of each other - whether it be the police and Black Lives Matter or pro-Israeli and Palestinian groups - to sit down at the same table and talk about their common goal of peace. Because at the end of the day, that is what we all want.

The International Day of Peace, which is observed around the world on September 21st, calls on all of us to take action for peace in your home, your community, your city.

These actions can be small. Currently, many members of our immigrant community are participating in the first ever Philadelphia International Unity Cup. This event was meant to bridge divides through the international language of sport. I encourage you all to attend a game and meet some new neighbors and learn about their culture.

Those little interactions can make all the difference. It is easy to hate what you do not understand, but when we take the time to learn about one another's history, it is very easy to find common ground.

So thank you again for coming out to celebrate today and let's make Peace Day a beginning to practice more peace in our lives.