

Blondell Reynolds Brown
Councilwoman At-Large

Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown is dedicated to enriching the lives of Philadelphia residents by **“Putting People First.”** As an educator, community activist, political leader and concerned parent, her clear focus and commitment to help others not only defines her past endeavors prior to her election to Philadelphia City Council, but also continues to inform her current goals through her ability to sponsor and gain passage of legislation that promotes greater access to and the availability of meaningful opportunities in education, the arts and culture, and small business development.

A sought-after speaker, Councilwoman Reynolds Brown devotes her programmatic and legislative efforts toward improving the quality of life for residents through childcare, cultural arts and education initiatives. The annual “Women Making A Difference Celebration,” her signature program held during Women’s History Month in March, showcases women’s accomplishments and provides a platform for issues that impact women.

Accomplishments:

Since assuming office in January 2000, Blondell Reynolds Brown has worked tirelessly to ensure the passage of her platform issues:

- Convinced the Phillies and Eagles, along with Mayor John F. Street, during negotiations for the new sports stadium, to establish a “Fund for Children” that specifies that each team contribute \$1 million annually for 30 years.
- Consistently has advocated and won funding for arts and culture programming in the City budget.
- Fought to ensure the integrity of the City's "Percent for Art" programs.
- Earned passage of “smart” bills that have simplified the approval process for childcare providers, eased the tax burden on new businesses, and allowed the City to save money by taking advantage of lower cost procurement contracts.
- Enacted resolutions in City Council that supported organized labor unions (SEIU – Janitors and 1199C – Childcare Teachers) in their efforts to gain fair contracts.

Public Service Positions:

- Legislative Director for former State Senator Chaka Fattah
- Community Affairs Director for State Senator Vincent Hughes
- Delegate for the Democratic National Convention in 1984, 1988, 1996, and 2000
- Committeeperson for the 24th Ward
- Director of Community Affairs and Fund Development for the Philadelphia Opportunities and Industrialization Center
- Youth Project Director for the Philadelphia Urban League
- Director of Pennsylvania State University’s Philadelphia Recruitment Center
- Elementary School Teacher

Professional/Leadership Training:

- Completed fellowship in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Urban Health Initiative Program that provided an intensive learning experience in planning and implementing strategic and innovative policy system changes for youth.
- Graduated from the University of Pennsylvania’s Community Leadership Program.
- Member of the Charter Class of the Philadelphia Urban League Leadership Institute.

Education:

- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education & Master of Science in Education from Pennsylvania State University

Organizational Affiliations (current):

- Board Member of The Philadelphia Convention and Visitor's Bureau, The Pennsylvania Ballet, The Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, The Marian Anderson Award, The Franklin Institute, The African American Museum of Philadelphia and The Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.
- Member of the Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public service organization, and Pinn Memorial Baptist Church in West Philadelphia.
- 2nd Vice Chair of the Black Elected Officials of Philadelphia (2004-2005)

Councilwoman Reynolds Brown resides in Philadelphia's Wynnefield section with her husband, Howard A. Brown, and their children, Andrew and Brielle.

“The secret of leadership is to think of your position as an opportunity to serve, not as a trumpet call to self-importance.”

J. Donald Walters

As of Nov-08