

HARRISBURG ONLINE

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NEW BLUE

The Pennsylvania Capitol Police Department is accepting applications through August 14 for its January 2027 Recruit Program, which provides paid training for individuals seeking Act 120 certification. Recruits earn a salary while attending the six-month police academy. After, they will complete field training to become Capitol Police officers. The program is supported by a \$2 million investment in the 2026-27 budget as part of broader efforts to strengthen law enforcement recruitment.

BLOOD SHORTAGE

The American Red Cross has issued a national blood supply crisis warning as blood donations have dropped to their lowest summer levels in four years. The shortage is placing additional pressure on hospitals that rely on a steady blood supply for emergency treatment, surgeries, and patients with medical conditions. Officials are encouraging eligible donors to give blood as soon as possible to help reduce the risk of treatment delays.

INVASIVE JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Pennsylvania residents are being urged to watch for **Japanese knotweed**, one of the state's most aggressive invasive plants. Often mistaken for bamboo, the fast-growing plant can reach heights of 3 to 12 feet and spread rapidly through an extensive underground root system. Japanese knotweed grows fast and pushes other species away, which means that the birds and insects that those plants need to survive are also in danger of disappearing.

PA ROBOCALL RESTRICTIONS

A new Pennsylvania law is cracking down on unwanted telemarketing calls starting this fall. Introduced by Senator **Michele Brooks** (R-Crawford, Lawrence, Mercer), the law bans phone solicitations on Sundays and prohibits telemarketing calls, texts, and robocalls before 9AM and after 7PM. It also strengthens protections for consumers who have already requested not to be contacted. Telemarketers may need to get the message... *literally*.

STAFF SHAKEUP

Two high-ranking officials in the ***Cherelle Parker*** Administration in Philadelphia are stepping down. Managing Director ***Adam Thiel*** and City Solicitor ***Renee Garcia*** are both leaving government to take positions in the private sector. Thiel was Mayor Parker's go-to crisis manager, and his office was responsible for delivering city services like snow cleanup and homeless shelters. Garcia was the city's top lawyer, providing legal counsel to Parker and litigating on behalf of the city. Both Thiel and Garcia worked for the Mayor's office since Parker took office.



Happy Birthday

- State Representative ***Malcolm Kenyatta***
- Former State Representative ***Jerry Knowles***
- Former State Representative ***John E. Pallone***
- ***Todd Nyquist***, Partner, Long Nyquist & Associates
- ***Tim Nyquist***, Chief of Staff & Director of Policy & Communications, Long Nyquist & Associates
- ***David Tideman***, Adjunct Professor, Houghton University
- ***Greg Moreland***, State Director, NFIB
- ***David Freed***, Former U.S. District Attorney
- ***Vince DiCenzo***, Recording Secretary, Pennsylvania State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police



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