

D Kelly O'Day

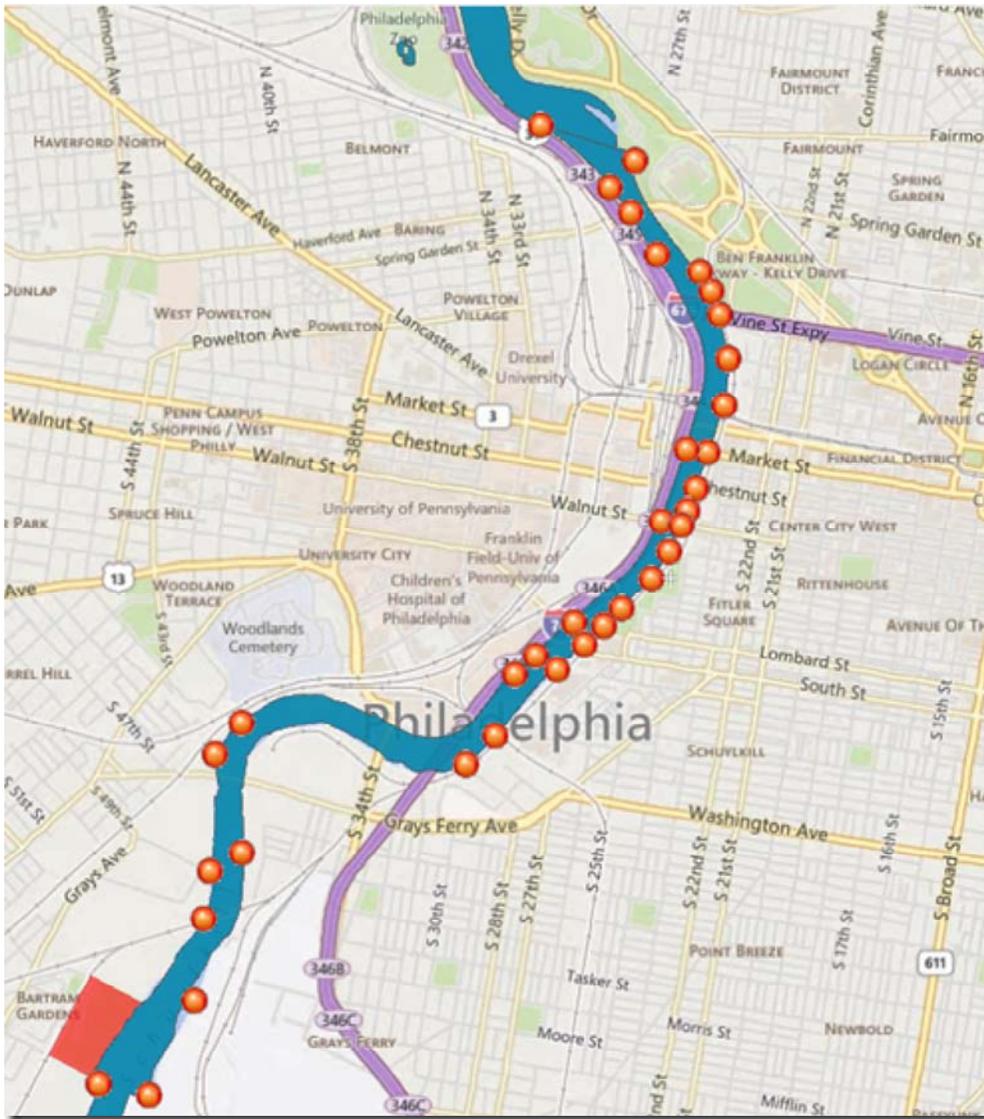
From: "D Kelly O'Day" <dkod@comcast.net>
Date: Thursday, September 04, 2014 10:09 AM
To: "Mayor Nutter" <Michael.Nutter@phila.gov>
Cc: "Shawn Garvin" <Garvin.Shawn@epa.gov>; "Jenifer E Fields" <jefields@pa.gov>; "Jennifer Adkins" <JAdkins@DelawareEstuary.org>; "Robert Benson" <benson.robert@epa.gov>; "Kara Lavender Law" <klavender@sea.edu>; "Bob Perciasepe" <Perciasepe.Bob@EPA.gov>; "Nathan Boon" <nboon@williampennfoundation.org>; "Courtney Arthur" <courtney.arthur@noaa.gov>; "Maitreyi Roy" <mroy@bartramsgarden.org>; "Joseph Syrnick" <info@schuylkillbanks.org>
Subject: Philadelphia's Plastic Trash Discharge to Tidal Schuylkill River

Dear Mayor Nutter:

I have previously written to you about the accumulation of Philadelphia stormwater trash in the Tookany-Tacony-Frankford Creek. In this email I want to advise you about the situation in the tidal portion of the Schuylkill below Philadelphia's 35 stormwater outfalls and provide suggestions on how you can lead Philadelphia in reducing our stormwater plastic trash discharge to the Schuylkill-Delaware River-Bay and North Atlantic gyre.

Tidal Schuylkill River Plastic Debris Assessment Location

I photo surveyed the banks along the Bartram's Gardens banks on Sept. 3, 2014 at low tide to begin to assess the extent of plastic trash accumulation in this tidal section of the Schuylkill. I chose this location because of its importance as a Philadelphia historical site, the Schuylkill Banks future plans to increase access to the Schuylkill River and because it is a convenient location to assess debris accumulation downriver from a major portion of the City.



This photo shows the tidal Schuylkill at low tide, with Center City in the background.



Please note that the low tide mud flats are relatively plastic free while the high water line has extensive plastic trash as shown in the next several photos.









I am sure you will agree that this is no way to treat an historic Philadelphia site.

Any Philadelphia plastic stormwater trash that is not caught by natural trash traps along our creek-river banks makes it way down the Delaware to get caught on our downstream neighbors beaches or eventually it makes its way to the N Atlantic gyre plastic accumulation zone.

What Steps Can Philadelphia's Mayor Take to Address the City's Plastic Water Pollution Issue

As mayor, you have the critical leadership role in tackling Philadelphia's street litter plastic water pollution problem. You have the opportunity to begin to change the Schuylkill-Delaware-N Atlantic gyre plastic litter marine trash dynamic by encouraging and pursuing the establishment of financial incentives for City residents to avoid using and/or return plastic bags, bottles and fast food containers. Washington DC is using its plastic bag fee revenue to fund trash clean-ups. They have recently passed polystyrene container regulations.

I have included several experienced marine pollution professionals from EPA's Trash Free Waters and NOAA Marine Debris Program as well as Dr. Kara Law of SEA to the distribution list. I am sure that they can provide you with detailed

information on the detrimental effects of the City's stormwater plastic discharges on River-Bay-Ocean marine life.

Your leadership is needed to focus the City efforts to reduce/stop the plastic pollution of our local creeks, Schuylkill & Delaware Rivers-Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

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