Dear Mayor Kenney and Deputy Mayor Lazer,

As COVID-19 spreads across the globe, working people in Philadelphia are facing unprecedented threats to their health and safety as they go about the necessary work that allows other Philadelphians to stay at home and help curb the spread of disease.

Sanitation workers and other essential workers are working hard to keep our city clean and operating while facing dangerous working conditions. As the COVID-19 crisis deepens, the risks they face coming to work each day grows as well.

In this moment, we are learning that we are all deeply interconnected and it is up to all of us to keep each other safe.

As organizations that fight for a just, healthy, and environmentally sustainable world for working people, we are writing today to ask you to support sanitation workers and all essential workers employed by the city during the duration of the pandemic by:

1. immediately granting hazard pay to all sanitation workers;
2. granting hazard pay to all essential workers; and
3. extending the contract with AFSCME District Council 33 with pay scales equivalent to the extensions granted to AFSCME District Council 47 and FOP Lodge 5.

AFSCME District Council 33 includes workers from the sanitation department as well as the health department, emergency dispatchers, traffic controllers, airport workers, and many more of our city’s most essential workers. The City must ensure that all workers are protected and adequately compensated for their contributions to our city and to our public health.

With appreciation,

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Program Manager, Philadelphia Climate Works

Devan Spear
Executive Director, Philadelphia Jobs With Justice

Nicole Fuller
Executive Director, PhilaPOSH
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