Residents express outrage over construction in Point Breeze

By Ayana Jones

The virtual events will be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube. Fernandez-West said last year’s event received a wonderful response from the community.

People really tuned in,” she said. “We’re going to take it to another level. We’re trying to use our social media and streaming platforms to reach our communities.”

Kenney seeks 7.8% spending increase in $5.18B budget

Mayor says proposal would help Black, brown residents

By Michael D’Onofrio

Mayor Jim Kenney proposed a $5.18 billion budget with no prosper- ity tax but with $422 million in spending gap that would have called for “major cuts to our departments” and “significant tax increases.”

The federal funding won’t fully make up for revenue lost due to the pandemic but saves off harmful cuts.

“It would have been a devastating budget without the federal money,” Mayor Kenney said during a news conference with state leaders.

Kenney’s proposed budget projects a $2.5 billion in year-over-year spending by 7.8% (6.5% revenue). Revenue is expected to jump by 13.5% compared with the current fiscal year, with the bulk coming from the CARES Act Relief Plan ($375 million) which passed last month.

Before the passage of the federal stimulus plan, Finance Director Robert Dubow told the city was facing an “ugly budget” with at least a $600 million shortfall.

Kenney’s proposed fiscal 2022 budget projects revenue will rise 13.5%, mostly from federal aid.

‘A step toward atonement’

Penn Museum to repatriate skulls of Black Americans and slaves from Cuba

By Peter Crimmins

Dozens of human skulls of Black people — some hundreds of years old — will be returned to their communities of origin for reburial, according to a plan to repatriate them.

The Penn Museum and the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Last week, the Penn Museum issued both an apology for possessing the skulls in its historic Morton Collection and an announcement of its plan to repatriate them.

“Considering the Penn Museum and the University of Pennsylvania’s long history of supporting uneth- ical possession of human remains, we’ve come to the decision that these collections are in the best interests of the communities of origin for reburial,” said a statement.

The Morton Collection consists of more than 1,000 human skulls was assembled in the 18th century by Dr. Samuel Morton, who used them in an attempt to find an anatomical basis for white supremacy. He died in 1815 and his conclusions are now regarded as deeply racist.

Some of the remains were not acquired through ethical or legal means, including 51 skulls of enslaved Black people that were dug up from a graveyard and sold at an auction in 1851 and his conclusions are now regarded as deeply racist.

The Morton Collection’s holdings include more than 1,000 human skulls are now regarded as deeply racist.

Morton assembled his collection while working at the Academy of Natural Science. In 1863, more than a century after his death, the collection was moved to the Penn Museum where researchers used it to study the effects of diet, trauma and disease on human anatomy.

A step toward atonement...