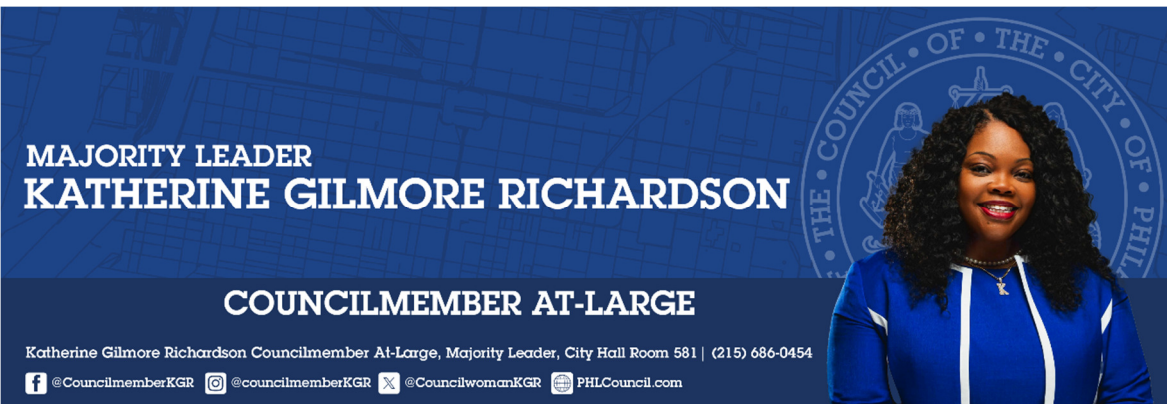




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Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson Partners with CWA and DHS to Donate Luggage to Children in Foster Care

Philadelphia, PA – On July 23, 2026, Philadelphia City Council Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson partnered with the Philadelphia Department of Human Services to facilitate a luggage donation from the Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 13000. The donation is part of a nationwide initiative led by the CWA's Human Rights Committee to collect wheeled luggage for children in the foster care system, ensuring they have a safe, reliable, and dignified way to transport their belongings as they transition between homes.

"When CWA Local 13000 gained a better understanding of the circumstances children in foster care face, our Human Rights Committee and our members wanted to do anything we could to make it a little easier for them," said CWA Local 13000 President James J. Gardler. "They are in this situation through no fault of their own, and it was important to us to find a way to provide them with more care and support while they're going from place to place. We appreciate Majority Leader Gilmore Richardson and DHS Commissioner Kimberly Ali for helping to coordinate this donation and their ongoing work to serve Philadelphia's children."

"It was a true honor to partner with CWA Local 13000 and DHS on this meaningful initiative supporting our young people in foster care," said Majority Leader Gilmore Richardson. "Every young person deserves to feel valued and cared for. Too often, children entering or transitioning between foster homes are forced to carry their belongings in a trash bag or whatever else is available. A suitcase may seem like a small gesture, but it sends an important message that they are seen, they are supported, and they deserve to have the same basic comforts and care as any other child."

"We are grateful for this generous donation from President James J. Gardler, and the members of CWA Local 13000 and the support of Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson," said DHS Commissioner Ali. "We are incredibly thankful for partners who recognize the unique needs of our youth. The luggage will have a meaningful impact on

youth receiving child welfare services, offering dignity and respect at a time they need it most.”

Attached are photos of Majority Leader Gilmore Richardson, CWA Local 13000 President Gardler, CWA Local 13000 Vice President Jeff Reamer, DHS Commissioner Ali, and representatives from the Philadelphia Department of Human Services with the donated luggage. Photo credit: Matthew Boncek for the City of Philadelphia.

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Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson is the youngest person to be elected majority leader and the youngest Black woman ever elected to Philadelphia City Council. As an at-large councilmember, she has championed issues such as advancing workforce development opportunities, protecting Philadelphia’s fiscal stability, uplifting working parents, addressing quality of life issues, and ensuring environmental justice and climate resiliency. Stay updated at [PHLCouncil.com](https://www.phlouncil.com), on Facebook & Instagram @CouncilmemberKGR and on Twitter @CouncilwomankGR.