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ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.



A view of a snow-lined North Second Street as seen from the Ben Franklin Bridge on Monday. “We’re going to continue doing everything that we can” to clear the streets, Mayor Cherelle L. Parker said. *Alejandro A. Alvarez / Staff Photographer*

How snowstorm response could play out for Parker

With many Philly streets still icy, the mayor acknowledged frustration but added: “We were prepared.”

By Sean Collins Walsh and Ryan W. Briggs
Staff Writers

Mayor Cherelle L. Parker often says she isn’t a fan of “Monday-morning quarterbacks” and “expert AOPs” — her shorthand for so-called articulators of problems who don’t offer solutions.

Now she has a city full of them.

After a heavy snowfall followed by a week of below-freezing temperatures, Philadelphia’s streets are still laden with snow, slush, and ice; SEPTA buses are packed; and numerous cars are still stuck in the

spots residents left them in 10 days ago.

The mayor acknowledged residents’ exasperation at a news conference at the Pelbano Recreation Center in Northeast Philadelphia on Wednesday, her first appearance dedicated to the city’s snow response since Jan. 26, the day after the storm walloped the region.

“For anyone who is frustrated right now about the ice, about the

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BORDER CZAR: BIG ICE DRAWDOWN IN STORE FOR MINNESOTA

About 700 federal officers will be withdrawn after state and local officials agreed to cooperate with immigration enforcement, he said.

By Steve Karnowski
Associated Press

The Trump administration is reducing the number of immigration officers in Minnesota but will continue its enforcement operation that has sparked weeks of tensions and deadly confrontations, border czar Tom Homan said Wednesday.

About 700 federal officers — roughly a quarter of the total deployed to Minnesota — will be withdrawn immediately after state and local officials agreed over the past week to cooperate by turning over arrested immigrants, Homan said.

But he did not provide a timeline for when the administration might end the operation that has become a flashpoint in the debate over President Donald Trump’s

mass deportation efforts since the fatal shootings of U.S. citizens Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis.

About 2,000 officers will remain in the state after this week’s drawdown, Homan said. That’s roughly the same number sent to Minnesota in early January when the surge ramped up, kicking off what the Department of Homeland Security called its “largest immigration enforcement operation ever.”

Since then, masked, heavily armed officers have been met by resistance from residents who are upset with their aggressive tactics.

A widespread pullout, Homan said, will occur only after protesters stop interfering with federal agents carrying out arrests and setting up roadblocks to impede the operations.

Gov. Tim Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, both Democrats who have heavily criticized the surge, said pulling back 700 officers was a good first step but that the entire operation should end quickly.

“We need a faster and larger drawdown of forces, state-led investigations into the killings of

→ SEE MINNESOTA ON A5

Pa. officials push back on latest Trump attack about voting in Philly

The president name-checked the city in talking about where the federal government should run elections.

By Katie Bernard and Rob Tornoe
Staff Writers

Pennsylvania Secretary of State Al Schmidt on Wednesday rejected President Donald Trump’s false claims about voter fraud in the state as Trump targeted Philadelphia in his push to nationalize elections.

The state’s top election official said Trump’s proposal would violate the Constitution, which he noted clearly gives states exclusive authority to administer elections.

“Pennsylvania elections have never been more safe and secure,” said Schmidt, who served as Philadelphia’s Republican city commissioner in 2020, when the city was at the center of Trump’s conspiracy

theories.

“Thousands of election officials — Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike — across the Commonwealth’s 67 counties will continue to ensure we have free, fair, safe, and secure elections for the people of Pennsylvania,” he said in a statement.

Speaking to reporters Tuesday in the Oval Office, Trump cited Philadelphia, Detroit, and Atlanta as examples of where the federal government should run elections. He singled out three predominantly Black cities in swing states but offered no evidence of voter fraud or corruption to support his claims of a “rigged election.”

“Take a look at Detroit. Take a look at Pennsylvania, take a look at Philadelphia. You go take a look at Atlanta,” Trump said. “The federal government should get involved.”

Philadelphia has been a frequent target of Trump’s false claims of election fraud for several years, going back to his efforts to overturn his loss in the 2020 election. City

→ SEE ELECTIONS ON A6

Reversing course, Philadelphia Museum of Art name returns

Some signs and materials will quickly go back to using PMA, while others will be revamped soon after. The logo will stay.

By Peter Dobrin
Staff Writer

About the new name for that big museum at the end of the Parkway: Nevermind.

Four months after rolling out a new name with great fanfare, the

Philadelphia Museum of Art is once again calling itself the *Philadelphia Museum of Art*. The museum’s board Wednesday afternoon voted unanimously at a special meeting to scrap the name *Philadelphia Art Museum*, which had been announced Oct. 8 as part of a larger rebranding.

Some signs and materials are being quickly changed over with the old-new name, while others will be reprinted or revamped in coming weeks. The new PhAM acronym used in marketing materials will be dropped, and the museum will once again refer to itself in shorthand as the PMA, as many Philadelphians

long have.

Why the retreat?

In short, the new name was widely disliked.

The museum spent the past several weeks surveying opinions, said director and CEO Daniel H. Weiss, and “I think what we learned from our survey, and it’s not surprising, is that people who have any knowledge of the institution — donors, staff, trustees, members — they know the name and it resonates with them. It’s something distinctive, it’s who we are. And changing the name for no obvious reason created a sense of alienation and didn’t

make sense to a lot of people.”

Philadelphia Museum of Art had been the name of the nearly 150-year-old institution for 87 years until the change this fall.

The museum will, however, keep visual elements of the larger rebranding — the logo that echoes one of the griffin figures along the roofline of the museum’s main building, and bold fonts in signage and promotional materials.

As for the continued use of slightly irreverent tag lines that came with the rebrand — phrases like “Youse should visit more often,” — “Probably not so much,”

said Weiss. “We will modify those a little downstream, but the idea is to return to a slightly more aligned presentation more closely tied to our mission.”

The rebranding — which was widely, though not universally, criticized upon its rollout — was a major initiative of former director and CEO Sasha Suda and marketing chief Paul Dien.

When the museum announced the name change, Suda explained it by saying that it was “truly a reflection of what the community has called it for a long time,” and that it

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