



# PHILADELPHIA E&T CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

1420-22 Chestnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19102 • [www.petchs.org](http://www.petchs.org) • Phone: 267-514-1823 • Fax: 267-514-1834

---

## **Media Statement from Erin Dougherty, CEO** **RE: Violent Incident on November 20, 2019 and School Dismissal**

Our school community, including our Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty, Staff and Students, is saddened and angered by the incident of violence that took place this week at 15<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut. We are cooperating with the Philadelphia Police Department and currently investigating the matter. We will pursue disciplinary consequences for all students involved in illegal activity or activity that is in violation of our school's Code of Conduct.

As part of our ordinary practices, we communicate with our students, their families, our local community, and the Philadelphia Police Department to try to ensure that students do not engage in conduct that is illegal or inappropriate. Each day we have at least ten staff members circulating and posting in the areas surrounding our school, including on the streets and nearby corners, and along the routes to the major SEPTA points. We are proud that our Climate Team has a presence in this community. As a result of that presence, our Team was able to intervene with this week's incident to aid with this situation. We will continue to be visible at this area at our dismissal time to help with the large number of people at this intersection, and to support police efforts.

Philadelphia E&T has been located at 1420-22 Chestnut Street for eighteen years, and has graduated hundreds of successful students, many of whom are also upset with the negative reflection this incident has had on our school community.

We are also aware of concerns that have been raised that 15<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut and the surrounding area has become a gathering point for large numbers of teenagers in the after-school hours, from many schools throughout Philadelphia including Philadelphia E&T. We have been working with the Philadelphia Police Department and School District of Philadelphia to alter dismissal strategies and develop other options to ensure everyone's safety in the after school hours. Our school leadership is always willing to cooperate with local businesses and law enforcement. We encourage the local community to communicate with school officials and Philadelphia Police regarding their frustrations and not to communicate with groups of students.