

SPORTS B1
HAYES:
PARSONS
TRADE
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DALLAS



PHILLY & REGION A9
'ABBOTT'
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PICKED
THE RIGHT
GAME



NEWS A3
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ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.



State Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta, who is walking to Harrisburg to protest SEPTA cuts, stopped to speak with mass transit users at 69th Street Station in Upper Darby on Friday. Andrea Powell and her son drove from Eastwick for the Market-Frankford Line to avoid bus delays. Alejandro A. Alvarez / Staff Photographer

Judge orders SEPTA to halt next week's cuts

Regional Rail changes and fare increases won't go into effect, and current cuts may be reversed.

By Abraham Gutman and Andrew Seidman
Staff Writers

A Philadelphia judge on Friday ordered SEPTA to halt planned service cuts to Regional Rail and fare increases due to begin next week, following a daylong hearing in a City Hall courtroom.

Judge Sierra Thomas-Street issued her order from the bench, telling the attorney for the transit agency that "everything must stop." "Status quo must be maintained," Thomas-Street said.

The parties will meet again in court on Thursday, when Thomas-Street will consider whether to make the order permanent and expand it to include reversing cuts already in place.

The order puts SEPTA in a difficult position logistically. General Manager Scott Sauer testified during the hearing that new transit schedules can only take effect on a Sunday, and require preparation the 10 days prior.

Cozen O'Connor attorney Matthew Glazer, who represented SEPTA in court, told the judge that the earliest the agency could reverse the planned cuts is Sept. 14. Thomas-Street rebuffed that notion, saying no new cuts were to go into effect.

"The judge wants us to keep service at the levels that we're running today. That's going to take a lot of effort. We know we needed 10 days to turn this around, so we are gonna take a look to see how best we can comply with that order," Sauer said.

The ruling came after attorney George Bochetto filed a lawsuit this week in Common Pleas Court on behalf of a consumer advocate and two riders who argued the transit agency's actions were unlawful. They contended that the cuts — which started Sunday amid a state

→ SEE SEPTA ON A6

SEPTA CUTS

Pa. Rep. Kenyatta begins 105-mile trek in protest

By Sean Collins Walsh
Staff Writer

State Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta on Friday morning embarked on a 105-mile walk from his home in North Philadelphia to Harrisburg to protest the SEPTA service cuts that began this week due to an impasse over mass transit funding and the broader state budget in the Pennsylvania legislature.

"We're gonna be walking all the way to Harrisburg to draw attention to the very real fact that there are

folks for whom this — walking — is their new reality because SEPTA has had to drastically reduce services as a result of Republican inaction in Harrisburg," Kenyatta, a Democrat, said at a news conference outside SEPTA's 69th Street Transportation Center in Upper Darby.

Kenyatta, 35, who began his journey at 7 a.m. Friday, sported Brooks sneakers, black athletic pants, a golf shirt, and a green backpack.

"The plan is to stay at little cheap hotels along the way," he said. "I have no real idea where those will be. Shoutout to Expedia. We'll figure

it out."

Kenyatta planned to speak in West Chester on Friday night and Lancaster on Saturday before arriving at the Capitol steps Tuesday morning.

Kenyatta, a vice chair of the Democratic National Committee who has twice run unsuccessfully for statewide office, is clear about whom he blames for SEPTA's funding crisis.

"We have the money to fund mass transit," Kenyatta said. "What we don't have is the political will within the Republican Senate caucus.

What we don't have is Senate Republicans who give a damn about working Pennsylvanians."

State Sen. Scott Martin, a Lancaster Republican who chairs the Appropriations Committee, this week called on Democrats "to stop playing politics on the mass transit issue."

"When your side is staging rallies, press conferences, and protests every day and calling out individual legislators who are working hard to find solutions, how do you have the gall to accuse the other side of

→ SEE KENYATTA ON A6

Israel declares Gaza City a combat zone; death toll passes 63,000

The remains of two hostages were recovered Friday amid the military's escalation.

By Wafaa Shurafa, Sam Metz, and Julia Frankel
Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel declared Gaza's largest city a combat zone and recovered the remains of two hostages on Friday as the army launched the start of a planned offensive that has drawn international condemnation.

As the military announced the resumption of fighting, health officials said the death toll in Gaza has risen to 63,025, with 59 deaths reported by hospitals over the last 24 hours. Aid groups and a church sheltering people said they would stay in Gaza City, refusing to abandon the hungry and displaced.

The shift comes weeks after

Israel first announced plans to widen its offensive in the city, where hundreds of thousands are sheltering while enduring famine. In recent days, the military has ramped up strikes on the city's outskirts.

Plumes of smoke and thunderous blasts could be seen and heard across the border in southern Israel on Friday morning.

Israel has called Gaza City a Hamas stronghold, alleging that a network of tunnels remain in use despite several previous large-scale raids on the area throughout nearly 23 months of war.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that Israel needs to cripple Hamas' capabilities in the city to avoid a repeat of the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war.

While United Nations agencies and aid groups condemned the offensive, people in Gaza City said it made little difference.

"The massacres never stopped, even during the humanitarian

→ SEE GAZA ON A4

FREDERICA MASSIAH-JACKSON | 1950-2025

Pioneering Philly judge first Black woman to preside over civil trials

By Chris Palmer
Staff Writer

Frederica Massiah-Jackson, 74, a pioneering former Philadelphia judge who was the first Black woman to preside over civil trials in the city, and who was later elected president judge of the city's Court of Common Pleas — making her the first Black judge to serve in that role anywhere in Pennsylvania — died on Wednesday, Aug. 27, at her daughter's home in Virginia. The cause of her death has not been disclosed.

Judge Massiah-Jackson spent nearly four decades on the city's bench, including six years as president judge after winning a contested leadership election in 2000.

→ SEE MASSIAH-JACKSON ON A4



Former Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Frederica Massiah-Jackson in a 1998 photo. She spent almost 40 years on the bench. Vicki Valerio / Staff Photographer

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