

## **KWY Broadcast: March 5, 2005**

Good morning. This is Mayor John Street.

Philadelphia has a long tradition of innovation. We were home to the nation's first public grammar school, botanical garden, zoo and public library. We had the first medical, nursing and dental schools, the first children's hospital and eye hospital, and the nation's very first cancer center. We opened the first stock exchange, founded the first university and hosted the first World's Fair. In 1799, we began operation of the first municipal water system in the country and by 1932 we had erected the world's first modern skyscraper.

My Administration has made a commitment to innovation and making innovation work for the residents and businesses of Philadelphia. Our Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, Wireless Philadelphia Project, Safe Streets Program and our cutting-edge activities in support of children, families and homeless individuals are respected across the nation as creative and pioneering approaches to urban challenges.

*Fleet Executive*, a national magazine for vehicle management, has saluted another Philadelphia innovation first.

We have been recognized by Fleet Executive for an innovative partnership with Philly CarShare that has enabled our City to reduce the size of our municipal fleet; maintain vital important services; and generate savings in fuel, insurance, parking and maintenance costs.

Philly CarShare is a Philadelphia-based non-profit organization committed to reducing automobile dependency in our region through community car sharing. This novel concept has brought us a lot of great publicity, but it has also made Philadelphia a healthier city – while saving us money.

Since last April, we have reduced the city's fleet by hundreds of vehicles. In their place, Philly CarShare allows us to hire cars on an as-needed basis. We now have access to more than 700 Toyota station wagons and gas-electric hybrid sedans. For three dollars and ninety cents per hour and thirty-nine cents per mile, we have round-the-clock access to this new fleet of cars. Reservations can easily be made on the Internet or by phone – even if the car is only needed for 15 minutes!

By the end of last year, we calculated that we had saved about one point six million dollars on recurring maintenance, gas, parking and insurance costs. This year, we're expecting to recoup another two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars when we auction the cars we no longer use.

Yesterday afternoon, I placed a call to Philly CarShare and within a few minutes, I had a brand new gas-electric vehicle at my disposal. It was great!

Anyone can join Philly CarShare. It's great for people who don't need a car every day or for households not wanting to take on the high costs of car ownership. Remember: Philly CarShare takes care of insurance, maintenance, cleaning and even gas. You only have to pay for how much YOU drive.

With Philly CarShare, the benefits to city residents have been enormous, too. In addition to saving taxpayer dollars, with fewer cars on the roads, the quality of our air has improved. By using hybrid gas-electric vehicles, auto emissions are lessened by up to ninety-four percent. Clearly, this reduced use of fossil fuels is good for our city – and our planet.

A special thanks to MDO Phil Goldsmith, Fleet Manager Jim Muller and all the folks who work in our fleet Management Division for a job well done!

From City Hall, this is Mayor John Street. Have a GREAT weekend - and PLEASE don't forget to drink your water!