An Open Letter to Mayor Cherelle Parker:

Adopt Bitcoin as a Strategic Treasury Reserve Asset

Dear Mayor Cherelle Parker,

Philadelphia is a city steeped in revolutionary history. The Declaration of Independence was signed here. The Constitution was debated and ratified here. The Liberty Bell rang out from this soil. This city has always stood for liberty, innovation, and bold leadership.

Today, as we confront growing economic uncertainty, technological disruption, and rising distrust in traditional financial systems, it is time once again for Philadelphia to lead—not by following the status quo, but by forging a new path.

I urge you to consider adopting Bitcoin as a strategic treasury reserve asset for the City of Philadelphia.

🌟 Why Bitcoin Makes Sense Now

1. Hedge Against Inflation & Fiat Risk

U.S. municipal budgets face mounting pressure from inflation and expanding expenditures. Bitcoin's finite supply cap (21 million coins) makes it a digital store of value that doesn't fall prey to inflationary monetary policies—unlike cash reserves that can lose real value over time.

2. Diversification & Resilience

Current reserves likely sit in treasuries, money market funds, and bank deposits. Allocating a modest percentage—say, 1–5%—to Bitcoin diversifies these holdings. In periods of fiscal crisis, Bitcoin has historically shown low correlation with traditional assets, potentially helping Philadelphia weather downturns.

3. Economic Innovation & Civic Reputation

Philadelphia's history is anchored in being a cradle of revolution and progress. Embracing Bitcoin would modernize that legacy. Cities such as Miami, New York, and Austin have explored Bitcoin treasury strategies, capturing media attention and reinforcing their reputations as forward-leaning economic hubs.

💡 Bold Civic Applications for a Bitcoin-Backed Philadelphia

This initiative is not just about treasury diversification—it's about empowering Philadelphians through access, education, and opportunity. Below are **practical ways** Bitcoin can directly benefit city workers, commuters, small businesses, and everyday residents.

1. SEPTA Integration & Transit Rewards

Launch a pilot where SEPTA riders earn small Bitcoin rewards (via the Lightning Network) for using public transit:

- Incentivize sustainable transportation
- Partner with local fintech startups to build a SEPTA Lightning app or integrate wallets
- Position Philadelphia as a global innovator in mobility tech

2. Retirement Account Diversification for City Employees

Allow municipal employees to opt-in to a retirement option with Bitcoin exposure:

- Through a regulated Bitcoin ETF, trust, or retirement account add-on
- Provide educational workshops to ensure financial literacy
- Support long-term wealth preservation for the working class in a world of monetary debasement

This initiative costs the city nothing but provides powerful future-proofing for its workforce.

3. Bitcoin-Powered Neighborhood Revitalization Grants

Test a micro-grant program in underserved communities:

- Use small Bitcoin stipends to support financial independence
- Encourage local merchants to accept Lightning payments
- Study outcomes on household savings and community resilience

Philadelphia could become the first city in the U.S. to use **programmable Bitcoin-based stipends** to support real economic empowerment.

4. Support for Tech Hubs & Local Innovation

Create incentives for blockchain startups to base their headquarters here:

- Offer partial grants or contract payments in Bitcoin
- Establish a "Bitcoin Business District" in North or West Philly
- Attract capital, talent, and developers to boost Philadelphia's innovation economy

5. Sustainable Bitcoin Mining as a Public Utility

Philadelphia can pilot a **green Bitcoin mining initiative** to generate additional income:

- Use rooftop solar on city buildings, water plant excess, or waste-to-energy byproducts
- Partner with local universities or clean tech firms to develop modular, container-based rigs
- Automatically pause mining during peak grid demand to help stabilize energy use

This operation would create jobs, bring in new tax revenue, and monetize unused electricity—without harming the environment.

> ***Let Philadelphia turn surplus energy into sound money. Let us mine value, not pollution.***

🧠 Civic Bitcoin Literacy & Academic Partnerships

We propose a city-sponsored **"Bitcoin for the People" campaign** to ensure this innovation is grounded in education:

- Free financial literacy workshops for residents and city workers
- QR-coded posters in SEPTA stations to explain Bitcoin in plain language
- A public dashboard created in partnership with **Drexel**, **Penn**, or **Temple** to track pilot results
- Internships and tech fellowships through local universities focused on Bitcoin infrastructure and policy

This isn't just about technology—it's about access, transparency, and public participation in shaping a new economic foundation.

🛡️ Digital Sovereignty for Philadelphia

Bitcoin is only the beginning. As a city, we can explore:

- Open-source infrastructure for public records and communications
- Decentralized ID and digital authentication tools
- Privacy-focused systems that reduce dependence on big tech

Let Philadelphia become the first American city to champion **digital sovereignty**—protecting our data, our finances, and our future.

🚀 Strategic Benefits for Philadelphia

Benefit	Description
Fiscal Innovation	Shows voters and investors that Philadelphia is

	fiscally agile and modern.
Economic Growth	Attracts fintech and blockchain startups to the city, diversifying our economy and tax base.
Public Empowerment	Opens doors for city employees and residents to participate in the next era of sound money.
Energy Efficiency	Monetizes unused electricity while supporting clean energy infrastructure.
Academic Leadership	Partners with local universities to lead the conversation nationally.

✅ Proposed Path Forward

1. **Pilot Program:**
2. Allocate a capped, modest percentage (e.g., $10–50 million) of treasury reserves into a secure, custodial BTC fund.
3. **Governance & Oversight:**
4. Establish a public-facing procurement process with independent auditors to ensure accountability and transparency.
5. **Public Communication & Engagement:**
6. Publish semiannual reports showing performance, risk, and educational outcomes.
7. Host town halls and media events to explain the program in plain language.
8. **Legal Review & Charter Amendments:**
9. Work with city council and state-level entities to ensure full compliance.
10. **Sustainability Integration:**
11. Collaborate with Philadelphia's Office of Sustainability to ensure any mining pilot uses 100% clean energy.

🏙️ Alignment with Your “One Philly” Vision

The “One Philly” strategy you championed through the $6.8 billion FY2026 budget aims to make Philadelphia safer, cleaner, greener, and more economically vibrant (phila.gov). A Bitcoin strategy supports this mission by:

- **Attracting next-gen industries**
- **Rewarding public service and civic participation**
- **Protecting taxpayer funds over the long-term**
- **Using sustainability as a foundation—not an afterthought**
- **Empowering citizens with economic and digital freedom**

🎯 Addressing Concerns Upfront

- **Volatility:**
- A small allocation limits exposure. Long-term holding mitigates timing risk.
- **Custody & Security:**
- Partner with regulated custodians (e.g., Fidelity Digital Assets, NYDIG). Implement multi-sig cold storage.
- **Public Trust:**
- Ensure full transparency through dashboards, external audits, and public education.
- **Environmental Impact:**
- Focus exclusively on renewable, surplus, or waste energy to power any mining operation.

✅ Next Steps

- Convene an exploratory working group
- Commission a feasibility study

- Host a Bitcoin Town Hall to gauge public interest and spark dialogue
- Draft a resolution for a pilot program

In Conclusion

Bitcoin is not about speculation. It is about sovereignty, security, and the future. And there is **no better city to lead this revolution than Philadelphia**—the birthplace of American freedom.

> ***In 1776, we declared independence from monarchy.***
> ***In 2025, let us declare financial independence from inflation and centralized control.***

The world is watching how cities respond to economic uncertainty. Let Philadelphia show them what courage, clarity, and leadership look like. Let the Liberty Bell ring again—not just for political freedom, but for economic sovereignty in the digital age.

With deep respect,
Dante Sisofo
Artist, Citizen of Philadelphia