

To the members of Allentown City Council;

I am here tonight to again call for stricter oversight of the Allentown Parking Authority and excesses by parking enforcement officers who are apparently targeting specific streets and specific individuals, including myself, to fulfill alleged quotas and not as a result of parking complaints to city dispatch. Officer #506 has returned to my home on four occasions in less than four weeks to cite me three times for “parking on a [non-existent] sidewalk” and most recently for “parking opposing the flow of traffic/too far from the [non-existent] curb.” All were given in the wee hours of the morning and the latter was given less than 14 hours after I attended the APA monthly meeting on January 25 where I was promised by Chairman Zeller the situation would be corrected.

Officer #506 appears to be making up the rules as he/she pleases despite their incredible inconsistency. Is the “curb” my garage door? Is the “curb” the gate to my back door? Or is the non-existent “curb” actually a physical but unseen “sidewalk?” How can I be parking on a sidewalk in one instance and too far from the curb in another when I am parked in exactly the same spot? And what is the “flow of traffic” on an alleyway? This has obviously become something personal with this officer but this is not a joke, nor is it a game. Had council acted in 2019 to address this problem as promised none of this would be at issue now.

Therefore, I have retained a lawyer and will pursue legal action against the APA and the City of Allentown if this harassment continues. Not only do I have to waste my own time and that of my local magistrate to fight the tickets but also to fight the emotional toll of not feeling safe at my own home from a seemingly vengeful municipal worker and the worry of where the money will come from as late fees and court costs must be paid by check up front before the case is even heard.

The APA has become so big and so powerful that it can no longer sustain itself without passing on its excesses to the financially struggling citizens of this city through ever-increasing parking rates, quotas and violations. By buying bigger and better surveillance equipment the APA has in effect become a secondary policing force. It then uses those expenses to avoid paying back funds collected on public-owned streets to the city that desperately needs them. This excess has to end.

We need a city government that works for every citizen of the downtown and the surrounding wards—every race, every age, every income—and not just for the predatory parking authority and the center city developers bent on the gentrification of Allentown, all seemingly with the blessing of the mayor and City Council and all without paying a penny in city taxes.

Therefore, I call for the immediate removal of Council President Daryl Hendricks from the Allentown Parking Authority board of directors as it is a clear conflict of interest and a violation of Administrative Code - Title 11, Authorities, Boards and Commissions, ARTICLE 168.02 that states: “...the Board shall include a **member** of the Council of the City of Allentown.” I also respectfully ask for an apology from Councilperson Affa in writing for the rude and condescending remarks she made to me at the APA board meeting when I brought up this issue.

I thank you all for your time.

Betty Cauler