

June 13, 2025

The Honorable Daryl Hendricks  
President, Allentown City Council  
435 Hamilton St.  
Allentown, PA 18101

Dear City Council President Hendricks:

On behalf of Community Action Lehigh Valley and all of the programs and services we offer, I am pleased to write a letter of support encouraging Allentown City Council to rename Valania Park, located at S. 6<sup>th</sup> and Union Streets in memory of Mr. Clyde Bosket, Sr.

Clyde epitomized the definition of a community leader. After relocating to Allentown in 1956, he opened his first barber shop at 215 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St. As a prominent African American business owner, his barber shop became a focal point of the neighborhood. A trusted role model, it was there that Clyde mentored kids and adults of all ages. Drawn to the barber and cosmetology profession at a young age, Clyde became the first master barber in the Lehigh Valley. He later became a certified barber instructor with his manager's and teacher's licenses, and went on to establish additional barber shops in Bethlehem and Easton. Known throughout the Lehigh Valley as "Mr. Clyde", he also established and successfully operated "Mr. Clyde's Barber Shop" at the Allentown Fairgrounds for over fifteen years. Committed to serving his community, Clyde used these locations to provide teaching, instruction, guidance, and nurturing to over 150 barber and cosmetology students, many of whom now own and operate their own successful businesses.

Clyde also served his community as a faithful member of Union Baptist Church, located at 302 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St., where he was a member from 1957 until his passing in 2023. Known as "Deacon Bosket", he served in many leadership roles including Chairman of the Deacon Board, Superintendent of Sunday School, and Men's Day Chairperson, and often used his many other skills to provide needed maintenance and repairs to the church in its earlier years. In appreciation of his willingness to share his experiences and wisdom with the younger generation of Deacons and future church leaders, Clyde was designated as "Deacon Emeritus", an honor that meant a lot to him.

Shortly before his passing, Clyde was recognized for his long-term contributions to the Lehigh Valley business community as both the City of Allentown and Lehigh County declared February 24, 2023 as "Clyde Bosket Day" as part of their 2023 Black History Month celebration.

Perhaps his greatest achievement was instilling the importance of education and serving one's community in his family. We are lucky to have his one son, Dan, as our director of Community Action Development Allentown, where he has followed his father's footsteps in actively serving the residents of Allentown.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dawn Godshall". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dawn Godshall  
CEO  
Community Action Lehigh Valley