



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. __

RESOLUTION

R80 - 2024

Introduced by City Council and Administration on May 1, 2024

Allentown City Council and the Administration of Mayor Matt Tuerk approve the dedication and naming of the Plaza in front of the new Da Vinci Science Center at PPL Pavilion after the Browne's; Secretary Pat Browne and Heather, in recognition of their dedication to enhancing educational opportunities for Allentown students and their families; and for their dedication and impact in advancing the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, Secretary Browne, a graduate of Central Catholic High School, the University of Notre Dame and Temple University Law School served as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (1995–2005), Pennsylvania Senate (2005–2022) and on January 12, 2023, Democratic Governor-elect Josh Shapiro nominated Browne to serve as Secretary of Revenue; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Browne Pat Browne and his wife Heather have made significant contributions to education for young people and to city of Allentown in general; Secretary Browne worked in governmental space where an elected official actually led and governed, shaping Allentown and the Lehigh Valley in a way that will be hard to match; and

WHEREAS, the Browne's support for the construction of the Da Vinci Science Center at PPL Pavilion will serve as a lasting legacy, benefiting Allentown youth and families for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, Da Vinci and the Allentown School District have entered a multi-year partnership to expand educational opportunities to create measurable impact for our students.

Quoting Superintendent Birks: *"The new science center will be the second campus for Central Elementary School students and the District's first theme-based academy. Rich learning experiences will also be available across the District, including free memberships for all ASD*

families. A state-of-the art resource for STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math) education. All would not have been possible without Browne's leadership securing state funding for the new science center."

WHEREAS, Secretary Browne impacted the city school system and educational system in a myriad of ways:

Working to close gaps in the Allentown School District budget gaps in the millions of dollars to prevent the lay-off of teachers;

Secured grants to support a collaboration between Lehigh Carbon Community College LCCC and the Allentown School District (ASD) to provide opportunities for Allentown School District students.

Secured a grant for Building 21

Chaired the commission that created a new formula to fund Pennsylvania schools that led to additional dollars to poor school districts, usually in small, rural communities and crowded urban centers.

WHEREAS, Secretary Browne changed the landscape of center city - over 1 billion dollar has been invested in Allentown under the Neighborhood Improvement Zone, initiated tax cuts for seniors, working families and small business people in Pennsylvania that helped save taxpayers billions and helped broker a result where, Allentown, Bethlehem and Lehigh and Northampton counties shared tax revenue generated by the casino.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by Allentown City Council and the Administration of Mayor Matt Tuerk that they hereby support naming the Plaza in front of the new Da Vinci Science Center at PPL Pavilion the Pat Browne and Heather Browne Plaza in recognition of their significant contributions to education for young people and families in the City of Allentown.
