



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No: 31131

RESOLUTION

R138 - 2025

Introduced by the Administration on October 1, 2025

Authorities, Boards, Commissions Appointments

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

City Council does hereby give advice and consent to the following appointment to the Human Relations Commission submitted to this Council by Mayor Matt Tuerk.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Jose Rivera

Term Expiration: 9/18/2026

	Yea	Nay
Candida Affa	X	
Ce-Ce Gerlach	X	
Cynthia Y. Mota	X	
Santo Napoli	X	
Natalie Santos	X	
Ed Zucal	X	
Daryl Hendricks, President	X	
TOTAL	7	0

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the above copy of Resolution No. 31131 was adopted by the City Council of Allentown on the 1st day of October, 2025, and is on file in the City Clerk's Office.



City Clerk



MATT TUERK
MAYOR

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown PA 18101

OFFICE ♦ 610.437.7546 EMAIL ♦ Matt.Tuerk@allentownpa.gov

TO: Michael Hanlon
City Clerk

FROM: Matt Tuerk
Mayor

DATE: September 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Authorities, Boards, Commissions Appointments

Mayor Tuerk has approved the following appointments for City Council's consideration.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Authority/Board/Commission</u>	<u>Term to Expire</u>
Michael Daigle	Human Relations Commission	9/18/2028
Craig Beavers	Human Relations Commission	9/18/2028
Travis Bonney	Human Relations Commission	9/18/2028
Krissi Echevarria	Human Relations Commission	9/18/2027
Nikayah Hill	Human Relations Commission	9/18/2027
Arundhati Khanwalkar	Human Relations Commission	9/18/2026
Jose Rivera	Human Relations Commission	9/18/2026

All will be filling vacant seats on the Commission. Their resumes are attached.

Jose Rivera

118 ½ S. 15th Street
Allentown, PA
(484) 666-7002
J.A.Rivera71727@gmail.com

Driven and self-motivated professional with a focus on community outreach and engagement. Skilled at communicating, developing, and maintaining relationships.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

High Fidelity Wraparound Facilitator

Pinebrook Family Answers, 2023-Present

- Developed and implemented individualized plans for youth with complex behavioral health and/or other challenges,
- Coordinated evidence-based, intensive care approaches grounded in the standards and requirements established by the National Wraparound Initiative
- Facilitated meetings between professionals, natural supports and families- specifically focusing on family's voice and prioritizing choices based on identified as needs or priority concerns.

Independent Researcher / Health Equity Consultant

Health Equity Activation and Research Team (HEART), 2023- Present

- Served as lead context expert on research project for community health.
- Developed and presented findings at the American Hospital Association conference and collaborated with HEART team on 6 abstract submissions around health equity and inclusion health.
- Co-created Radical Welcome replication guide.
- Leads and oversees retention of 7 context experts on community based participatory research.

Administrator

The Real Estate Lab, City Center Allentown, 2022- 2023

- Led the Real Estate Lab community outreach program and training classes for cohorts of 10-12 participants.
- Implemented economic mobility programming curriculum to community members.
- Developed and taught relevant courses around leveraging strength to develop communities. Topics were inclusive of real estate management, home ownership, banking, construction, and associated topics around personal finance.
- Initiated communications strategy, including social media and the Real Estate lab stakeholder engagement.
- Designed and implemented data collection techniques to prioritize objectives, deliverables, and evaluation.
- Prepared and presented proposals, budgets, work plans, and reports for Senior Leadership.

Education/Certification

Bachelor of Arts, Business Administration and Management

Muhlenberg College
Allentown, PA

Associate in Business Administration

Lehigh Carbon
Community College
Allentown, PA

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Certification

National Coalition Building Institute
International
Silver Spring, MD

Credible Messengers Institute Certificate

Credible Messenger
Justice Center
New York, NY

Construction Safety and Health

Occupational Safety and Health Administration,
Allentown, PA

SKILLS

Community Organizing

Public Speaking

Team Building

Stakeholder Engagement

Mentoring

Organizing Volunteer Efforts

Bilingual-English/Spanish

**Director of Community Transformation/Operation Lead /
Volunteer/ Credible Messenger**

Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley, 2019-2022

- Coordinated volunteer efforts.
- Led operations during COVID in the distribution of 180,370 diapers and food to over 350 families.
- Developed a youth and leadership team to engage and create opportunities for the youth to stay active in their community.
- Provided case management as needed. E.g., assisted youth and adults transitioning out of prison, served as a court advocate and mediator, mentored youth, and adults in recovery.
- Canvassed in the community to identify gaps and needs.
- Advocated for several marginalized communities.
- Provided insight and feedback in branding and marketing.
- Created and oversaw departmental budget.
- Assisted with grant writing and data collection.

BOARDS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

Board Member

Neighborhood Partnership Program

Co-Chair

Coalition of Difference Makers

Task Force Member

Hispanic Serving Institution LCCC

Board Member

Lehigh Valley Justice Institute

**Selected Media Appearance:
Restorative Practices in
Storytelling**

Jose's Story. Lehigh Carbon Community College.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxDS hG2o Mk>.

Isaacson, Andrew. 2021. Jose Rivera and QB Godfrey start anew in the Lehigh Valley. The Brown and White.

<https://thebrownandwhite.com/2021/03/27/https-thebrownandwhite-com-2021-03-26-jose-rivera-qb-godfrey-start-anew-in-the-lehigh-valley/>

Backover, Justin. 2020. Local Real Estate Lab Helps Empower Community Members to become Real Estate Investors.

[WFMZ. www.wfmz.com/tncms/asset/editorial/50c479a0-44a9-11eb-b08e-b7c73868e6a0](https://www.wfmz.com/tncms/asset/editorial/50c479a0-44a9-11eb-b08e-b7c73868e6a0)

Business Matters- Gun Rights vs. Gun Reform.

https://www.wfmz.com/business/business-matters/business-matters---gun-rights-vs-gun-reform/video_681f2360-d2c3-57bf-a830-6cd987426ec6.html.

Give Me Shelter: Perspectives on Youth Violence.

https://www.wfmz.com/news/give-me-shelter-perspectives-on-youth%20violence/video_09096d29-69db-5ccc-a978-2ad6b755a6b1.html

Promise Neighborhoods: How the Allentown neighborhood group is responding to the coronavirus crisis.

<https://www.pbs.org/video/promise-neighborhoods-p0oawp>.

You Broke It, You Fix It: Rebuilding Community Through Hope.

<https://www.lccc.edu/about-lccc/news/jose-rivera>

Verzemnieks, Inara. 2020 was a year of reckonings across the United States. CNN <http://www.cnn.com/2020/12/24/politics/reckoning-pandemic-2020-election/index.html>