

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CITIZENS COMMISSION FOR LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Allentown, Lehigh County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial and depoliticized process of the decennial drawing of state legislature and congressional districts of near equal population; and

WHEREAS, legislative and congressional redistricting has at times resulted in gerrymandered districts that favor one political party over others; and

WHEREAS, such gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts has worked at times to the detriment of our representative democracy; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a truly independent citizens redistricting commission devoid of political motivation or partisanship will: ensure a fair, transparent, and accurate legislative and congressional redistricting process that respects political subdivisions; prohibit districts from being drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party or candidate; require the use of impartial and sound methodology when setting district boundaries; require public input; and fully comply with the constitutional requirement that “no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward” be divided “unless absolutely necessary,” and

WHEREAS, legislation to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to reform the decennial legislative and congressional redistricting process with the intent of using fairness and sound methodology in a non-partisan fashion is required to ensure these reforms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Allentown City Council does hereby support legislative efforts to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to assign the decennial task of both legislative and congressional redistricting to an independent citizens redistricting commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon all those elected officials and party leaders in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who represent the citizens of the City of Allentown, Lehigh County (see list below) to publicly announce their support of and commitment to work towards passage of such legislative efforts, and that a copy of this resolution be delivered to each of them.

Governor Tom Wolf

Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack

Attorney General Josh Shapiro

Secretary of State Pedro A. Cortés

United States Senator Bob Casey

United States Senator Pat Toomey

United States Representative Charlie Dent

Pennsylvania Senator Pat Browne

Pennsylvania Representative Michael Schlossberg

Pennsylvania Representative Peter Schweyer

Chair of the Board of Lehigh County Commissioners Marty Nothstein,

County Commissioner, District 4 Geoff Brace

Mayor Ed Pawlowski