



# Allentown

435 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, Pa. 18101

## Minutes - Final

### City Council

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Wednesday, June 18, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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#### Public Hearing

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Allentown City Council will consider for possible adoption an Ordinance amending the Zoning Code of the City of Allentown, § 660-6. Definitions, Community Center, by removing the meal preparation and provision for only senior citizens limitation within the community center definition. The definition of Community Center would read as follows: A building used for recreational, social, educational and cultural activities owned and/or operated by a public or nonprofit group or agency. Any residential uses or a treatment center shall only be permitted if they also comply with the requirements for such use.

City Council will consider the foregoing at a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 435 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101. Copies of the full text of this Ordinance are available to any interested party for examination and copying at the City Clerk's Office or for inspection during regular business hours at the offices of this newspaper and the Lehigh County Department of Law. All documents can also be found on the City website. City Council may adopt this amendment to the Zoning Ordinance at the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting at 6:30 PM on June 18, 2025 immediately following this Public Hearing.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that the purpose of this hearing is to take comments from the public on Bill 16. Because of questions that have been raised, we will begin the meeting with a review of the petition from Jennifer Gomez, the Planning Director. After her review, we will take comments from the Public – please fill out a card in the back of the room if you can – you will be asked for your name and address when you are at the podium. After public comments we will adjourn the meeting. The Bill is on City Council's agenda for adoption. At that time, we will open up the discussion to the dais.

Mr. Michael Hanlon asked should he read the Bill into the read first.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated yes.

Mr. Michael Hanlon read Bill 16 - Amending Chapter 660 (ZONING) of the City of Allentown Zoning Ordinance by amending Section 660-6 by removing the meal preparation provision for only senior citizens limitation

within the community center definition and to read as follows: a building used for recreational social and educational cultural activities owned - or operated by a public or nonprofit group or agency. Any residential uses or treatment center shall be committed if they also comply with the requirement for such a use.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and stated now, Ms. Gomez if you would.

Ms. Jennifer Gomez stated hi, good evening. Jennifer Gomez, Planning Director for the city. She stated that Mr. Hanlon just read in the definition of Community Center. The application before you today is simply to amend that definition. She stated that the amendment would be to remove the specific provision of meals for senior citizens and open it up more broadly to any meal provision. No further amendments besides that definition change would be made today. No decision on any particular property would be made today as well. The current Petitioner, RCI Properties owns a property within the city at 1539 Chew Street that was denied a special exception for a Community Center by the city's zoning hearing board. The Zoning Hearing Board decision cited concerns that the applicant failed to prove the use would not negatively impact the residential neighborhood and that the use exceeded the existing definition of community center. That became a subject of litigation between RCI and Village Properties on the Zoning Hearing Board. She stated that for this particular action, the applicant is seeking to remove the ambiguity related to senior citizens. The requirement for a special exception approval which will have a public meeting, if it is within a residential context would remain. Currently, in today's Zoning Code, a community center is allowed by right within most business districts and in industrial districts and by Special Exception and in most residential zoning districts. The city is currently preparing an amendment or a broader amendment re-write to the city's Zoning Code. The new definition that they are proposing would actually remove the specific language to senior citizens as well. The Petitioner claims that the senior citizen is not defined in the Zoning Ordinance which staff agrees with. The current provision restricting meals to senior citizens would be difficult to enforce and could result in ambiguities which could never enforcement to legal challenges. In many respects, the provision of meals could be considered customarily incidental to certain uses. With this said, the Planning Commission offered a positive comment to this particular application as did the LVC Planning Commission. They did receive a lot of comments and questions on this particular application. She stated that they thought it would be helpful to clarify, again the particular application. This decision is regarding the definition. It is not a decision to allow a use at a specific location, particularly the one owned by the applicant which has a residential zoning district and a requirement for a special exception

approval which will go before the Zoning Hearing Board. She stated that she wants to note that at the Planning Commission, when this was heard, the Planning Commission Chair specifically asked the applicant if the decision and the definition was changed would they submit a new application and apply again as a community center and have a Public Hearing before the city's Zoning Hearing Board and they said yes. The Chair clarified again, your intent is not to resolve this with the courts if the definition was to change. They responded no. They would file a new application. She will say that she personal followed up with the applicant and she confirmed again that their attempt if this were to change will be to file a new application which would be subject to a Public Hearing by our Zoning Hearing Board. She stated that it might be helpful to have that applicant say that on the record tonight since that has been the point of a lot of confusion and questions. For the Zoning Hearing Board to approve a Special Exception use, the applicant must present evidence to proof that the use would result in either a Traffic Study would be denied if it was found to result in a traffic safety hazard, a public health or safety hazard. The negative impact on the desirable character of the residential neighborhood and other criteria of the code so at that time, if there was an application made within a residential zoning district, those are the criteria's that the Zoning Hearing Board would follow to make a decision at that time. She also noted for the record. As mentioned, we are moving forward with a Zoning re-write. She stated just to provide a little update on that, they just submitted the advertisement for the Public Hearing to start the process through the Allentown City Planning Commission. It is the planning agency and a little out of the ordinary. The process typically and this Bill would be introduced by Council first because it is such a massive rewrite. It would actually restart with the Planning Commission to go to City Council to be introduced and then follow the normal protocol. She stated that they have some extra steps to follow and they are going to start that process and the advertised for the July 8th Planning Commission meeting to start that process. She stated that this concludes her comments and stated that she is available for any questions.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Gomez.

Ms. Kristina Schware, 118 S. 16th Street, asked is this the right time to talk about.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated yes, please. When you name is called come up to the podium and speak to them.

Ms. Kristina Schware stated that she was not ready to be first. She stated that her concern about the changes in Zoning has to do with what she has seen in her own neighborhood and what has been allowed and what has

been ignored. She stated that she read lots of the attachments that were on for today's agenda. She stated that some of the things that stood out to her were the fact that it says including, but not limited to all prior Zoning Ordinances and amendments for other parts of prior zoning ordinances and amendments, including fire, zoning maps that are inconsistent here within our hereby repealed. She stated that she looked at other things and the letter from Mike Handzo, the Zoning Director. She stated that she did not and stated let her just because she has concerns because she is close to West Park. She has seen other issues that they had contacted Zoning about prior. Having to do with Rooming Houses, illegal car shops and garages. She sees and hear from Zoning that they don't have the time to check everything out. That they are short staffed. That they rely on the public and yet as she says this, they give preemptive concerns to Zoning about properties that are potentially going to be used for a Zoning Request that is not in line. It was on the Zoning Ordinance now. She stated that her concern with this is that it is going to open up for more people to do whatever they want in any neighborhood regardless of what the neighbors want it or don't want it. She stated that she just doesn't see current Zoning being enforced. She stated that she doesn't see how it says that anyone who wishes to do this have to submit a Zoning application. She stated that she has seen so many people or so many properties who bypass the Zoning application and are just fine and everything just remains as is and hunky dory despite numerous requests and concerns from our neighbors. She stated that is her concern with this. In fact it would not be enforced.

Ms. Sherri Binder, Executive Director of Ripple Community, Inc. - 1553 W. Turner Street, stated and a resident of 16th Street. She stated that she just wanted to start of her comments by affirming what Ms. Gomez mentioned earlier that as our organization and has a Project that they are doing at 16th and Chew. After this decision is made, our intention is to submit a new application to the Zoning Hearing Board for the Special exception request related to a Community Center use at that specific property. She stated that she just wants to reiterate that for the record as requested. She stated today it is not about that property. She stated that today she is here along with their nonprofit partners and other supporters to ask Council to remedy an issue in the current Zoning Ordinance that impacts all nonprofit community centers in the city of Allentown. The current definition of Community Center in the Zoning Ordinance includes ambiguous language as has been mentioned around meal service to senior citizens and this was highlighted at a recent decision by a Lehigh Court of Common Pleas Judge where the Judge interpreted the language in the current zoning code to mean that nonprofit Community Centers might only serve meals to senior citizens, exclusively to senior citizens. She stated as you know nonprofit organizations in Allentown serve vital functions to ensure our neighbors are well cared for. She stated that one of the ways they do this is by serving

meals. These are meals that ensure that people aren't going without food, but they are also making sure that our neighbors aren't lonely, aren't isolated, but instead are connected and valued in community and that matters. With the recent decision with the Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas, they are currently in a situation where every nonprofit Community Center in the city of Allentown that serves meals to anyone other than senior citizens is now out of compliance with the Zoning. She stated that means that is affecting our CI at our current location on the new street. It is affecting Daybreak which is run by the Conference of Churches. It is affecting Big Brothers, Big Sisters. It is affecting every nonprofit community center. They are talking about nonprofits that serve meals to adults with physical and mental disabilities. She stated that they are talking about organizations that serve veterans, youth, children in our community, people who are isolated. She stated that they are here asking Council to make this change to the Zoning Code so that nonprofits, like the ones here tonight can continue to serve meals to members of our community who we know struggle with food insecurity. She stated that she is representing an organization and asked for the five minutes, instead of the three minutes. She stated that she wanted to share and they are asking Council to take action now because we understand the Zoning Code is being revised or organization like are at risk in the interim. She just wants to share a story or something that happened to them recently to illustrate that. In this moment, they are at risk of being reported in being in violation of our Zoning approval in our current location which could result in a fine or sensation of services or other consequences. She stated that she wishes she can say to them, they can assume that it would never happen. They could just assume that this will go on until the new Zoning Code is implemented. She stated that, but they cannot. She stated last fall, a person came into our Community Center, introduced herself as an investigator from the Pennsylvania State Department office of the prosecuting attorney. She was there because out plaintiffs had filed a complaint with the Department of State claiming that RCI were providing unlicensed medical services in our community center. They were obliged to investigate, not just them, but in turn our partners at Valley Health Partners and St. Luke's. These fully licensed entities that provide medical services at our community center. She stated that complaint was dismissed ultimately of course because the claims were false and the were baseless, but the complaint was nevertheless an attempt to cause harm to our organization and to our community members and it resulted in a considerable ways of resources. She stated ours, our partners and not much in the states. She shared this to underscore the importance of approving this amendment and approving this tonight. Nonprofit community centers make our cities healthier and they make it stronger and they deserve our support. She encouraged them to lend that support tonight in keeping with the support that is already been shown by the

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. The Allentown Planning Commission and the city's bureau of Planning and Zoning. All of whom have indicated support for this change.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Binder.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated Melissa Zembc.

Ms. Melissa Zembc, 1314 1/2 W Chew Street, stated that all of them in this room is silently struggling with something at the moment. Maybe job, family, health, money, but is it how we are going to get our next meal. She rushed after work knowing that she would have a late dinner, but she is ok because she had breakfast lunch, snack and coffee today. She stated that she can't imagine knowing when or where she would get food. These centers give us a sense of security to our fellow community members, like it or not. She stated that they are part of us and they are our neighbors. She stated that she can't actually believe that this is a discussion right now. She asked who is anyone to define and decide who deserves a meal and who could serve them. She stated that she lives in the neighborhood and asked does she have gripes, absolutely. Parking, yeah, that's a big one, but no matter what she does she can't change it and stated tonight when she leaves here she will probably park a block away, if she is walking. At least she knows that she will be going home to food and security. The centers are crucial for our community. Even if they don't personally use them ourselves. She stated that at the end of this, she encourage people who are opposed to step out of your comfort zone. Go volunteer a few times. Meet these people and she is sure that you will be pleasantly surprised and change your mind. She stated that she support Bill 16 to encompass all individuals who need a meal and hopes they will vote in favor of that.

Ms. Ibolya Balog, 1522 1/2 Chew Street, stated that she is here on behalf of the West Park Civic Association and she would like to read a letter that our association board has composed and signed. She gave a copy to Mr. Hanlon. The board of the West Park Civic Association opposes pending Bill #16 - 2025 in which City Council would redefine a Community Center. West Park Civic Association understanding is that Bill #16 - 2025 has been drafted based upon a request of Ripple Community, Inc to overturn the decision of the Allentown Zoning Board and the subsequent meal decision by Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas regarding Ripple's use of Emmanuel Church as a drop in center serving Lehigh Valley homeless population interpreted by Ripple Community Center. Since the founding of West Park Civic Association in 1976, members and other neighborhood residents have invested time, and improvements to reserve Allentown's only downtown majority homeowner neighborhood with West Park at its heart. The community and West Park Civic Association are animable to

Emmanuel Church transforming into below market rate apartments and housing Ripple offices. However, residents of the West Park neighborhood and in particular residents who reside in close proximity to Emanuel Church are opposed to any Zoning variance to allow Ripple a drop in facility at the Emmanuel Church. Citing the negative impact on the community provided by well documented evidence presented to the Zoning Board and the Lehigh County Common Court of Pleas. Both Agencies ruled against Ripple's variance request. For City Council to propose a change in Zoning definition to permit the proposed variance is at odds with good governance especially troubling while the city is in the process of updating its Zoning Code regulations. She stated respectfully submitted the Board of the West Park Civic Association.

Ms. Margaretha Haeussler, 1406 Hamilton Street, stated good evening and stated that one of the things that she thinks is somewhat maybe troubling and/or confusing to her and when she looks at the current Rules where a Community Center isn't permitted in a residential neighborhood unless it is giving special exceptions and one of the things that is looked at in the terms of that special exception is the impact on the neighborhood that Community Center will have. It would seem to her that the historical definition that we had which is to limit the amount of meals that would be prepared and served at a Community Center is in a sense speaking to the impact the density of use with the facility and therefore she is wondering how this change in definition hasn't been really thought through in terms of the impact of the granting of special exception to allow community centers in the residential neighborhood. She stated that to her that is kind of an inter-dependency and a linkage and it concerns her that while she is not going to say serving meals to the population that needs it is certainly something that we should be doing in the city. She stated that she is just not sure they should be doing it in a residential area. It is that link of special exception in the residential area and opening up the meals to a broader population that troubles her. She stated that is something that should be discussed in detail while they are doing the rezoning rewrite. They are talking in a couple of weeks or in a few weeks, July 8th where they are going to start the process. She would really like to request that Council let their procedures follow out as they should as opposed to making a special exception here for the request of a couple of nonprofits have made in a sense short changed the communities opportunities to really discuss this in more detail.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanks Ms. Haeussler.

Ms. Marie - Sophie Armstrong, 1516 W Turner Street, stated that there is no room for doubt that Bill 16 was tailored made to circumvent the rulings of both the Allentown Zoning Board and Lehigh County Court that ruled

against Ripple Communities request for variance for a community center at the former Emanuel Church at 16th and Chew in the West Park neighborhood. The West Park Community made clear its objections to the community center and when the facts were considered prevailed. This is how local government is supposed to work. When Ripples Community appeal that ruling to Lehigh County Court, the community again came together and again, prevailed based on the facts. Again, this is how local government is supposed to work. Bill 16 is a perfect example of how government is not supposed to work. When members of this body draft legislation that makes the informed official rulings of local government bodies effectively null and void while ignoring the will of the affected community. It is betraying democracy and the idea of good government. All this is to provide special favors to and insist on enforce this crap bag into a very resistant round hole. She stated that this is text book bad government. She stated that tonight, this body must decide will it side with the very keenly expressed sections of the US residents of the West Park neighborhood or will it participate in a run around express will of the people and twin rulings of the Lehigh County Court and the Allentown Zoning Board. She stated to trust in government has never been more in doubt that it is these days. The people seen as reaching special favors done for special interests are countered to theirs. She stated that the choice is yours.

Mr. Arnaud (Arno) Armstrong, 835 Hamilton Street, stated that the proposal that they were just discussing tonight maybe rooted in good intentions and they may very well be ways to fulfill the spirit of this amendment in some other way. This particular proposal attempts too much. Food pantries and soup kitchens have guidelines that must be followed. These are guidelines that protect the workers, those accessing these facilities and the broader community. He stated on the other hand community centers are an entirely different entity with an expressly different purpose. The city does not presently permit any nonprofit to provide whatever services it pleases and for good reason. He stated city officials must have the capacity to enforce clear laws and guidelines for the purposes of achieving health and safety. This amendment will make this less than impossible. He stated that they have no way of knowing how many community centers would take advantage of this blanket provision. It is not difficult to imagine that the city would struggle immensely to conduct the health, safety oversight necessary to make this work. Food service is a difficult and complicated process. Community centers and shelters have their own unique and difficult needs as well, especially in terms of city services. Is the city prepared to do the strenuous work of conducting necessary health and safety oversight for possibly dozens of new large scale food preparation facilities that would serve a notable number of people from an unknowable number of places. He asked does APD and the Parking Authority have resources to spare to

do their jobs as it relates to an influx of these facilities. Most people will assume that the answer is no. He stated that we don't want to find out and risk being correct. There are other potential downstream affects as well. At what point does a community center become something else entirely. He asked what would be the difference between a soup kitchen, a community center, and a shelter. If all three suddenly have more or less with the same capabilities. He stated blurring these lines will not serve residents, nonprofits or vulnerable populations and only sow confusion and creates legal and administrative headaches for the city. He stated beyond this, they have to consider a very likely outcome. What happens if any community center in the city can turn itself into a de facto daytime shelter. If this Council believes that the residents of the City of Allentown want this and does this Council wants to spend future years trying to untangle the administrative and legal consequences of what that would entail. He stated to finish at a time when many cities are reconsidering their decision to enact policies similar to this. Allentown can do well to learn from other municipalities and handle zonings considerations like these carefully. He stated that he hopes that they are not the subjects of an experiment on Allentown's neighborhoods. He thanked them for their consideration.

Mr. Scott Armstrong, 1516 Turner Street, stated that yesterday was an op-ed in The Morning Call supporting Bill 16. It was written by someone from South Whitehall. A nice leafy suburb. He stated that they call us nibbies because we don't want a de facto homeless shelter, drop in center in our neighborhood. He stated that they already experiencing increase of homelessness in West Park. People are sleeping under trees along side his fence, defecating in his alley. He stated that he has been subjected to abuse and somebody publicly exposed themselves when he said please don't urinate on my back gate. This is already happening. Now the people from South Whitehall and from other areas and nice leafy suburbs not in Allentown are all in on this. He asked who is bending the knee here. He stated that he will admit, he does not want this in his backyard. It is not a question of aesthetics, it is a question of public safety. He stated that he and his wife have lived here for 33 years. It is a very clear fact that a lot of homeless people are drug addicted, mentally ill or both. He stated that his heart goes out to them. He stated that this problem is bigger than any one of us in this room or this city. They closed all the state hospitals years ago and these people are left to suffer on their own, but attracting them to the last stable neighborhood in Allentown will only under mind that neighborhood and add it to the list of the other failed neighborhood. He asked is that want we want. This Ripple Project can be done in countless other areas in the city. Why is it in West Park, close to a gorgeous city park, the band shell. He stated that this will all be undermined and this is a step towards that.

Ms. Susan Karpovich, 1513 W Turner Street, stated she also live in the West Park neighborhood and she supports this Bill. She stated that she volunteers every Tuesday at RCI and never feel in danger and she doesn't think hunger ask for an ID card. If someone comes to the window, and they are hungry and want food, we feed them. She stated that is a good human response. It should have nothing to do with Rules or anything else. If someone is hungry we should get them food. She stated that she understands that tonight is about rewarding and the language in the Bill that says not just senior citizens. It is not about the Project. It is not about anything else, it is about the language and the language from a purely human point of view should not say senior citizens. If any person comes up to her and they are hungry, she will feed them and every community organization in this city should be allowed to do the same thing. If they are not then shame on the city.

Mr. Darian Colbert stated dear Councilmembers and said that he is a property owner N. Third Street. He is also a part of the Franklin Park community group and he care deeply about our city supports this neighborhood. He urged them to vote yes on Bill 16 - 2025. The current zoning limits and provisions at community centers and senior citizens only. That restriction does not reflect the real needs for our neighborhoods. Families, young people, working adults and elderly all gather at these centers. They share meals and build connections and support one another and that is what a community is. This is not about loosening standards, it is about recognizing the value of nonprofit and public efforts that feed and care for our residents. Our communities are strong when centers serve everyone walks through the doors and not just select groups. As someone who actively involved in walk happening on the ground, he asked them to pass this Bill and let's give community centers the freedom to meet people where they are and offer what they need. He thanked them for listening and their leadership and also wants to say no one wakes up and say I want to be a nonprofit leader and stated that they do this because they care and this hard work.

Ms. Sierra Valentino stated good evening members of Council and stated that she serves as a nonprofit leader her in Allentown. She stated that she lives and work here in the city and her zip code is 18102. She stated as a resident, a friend and partner of Ripple Community Inc and someone working closely with neighbors across Center City, she knows firsthand that Community Centers are more than just buildings where folks from all walks of life can gather. There are places of welcome, of safety, and of care, especially for those who are often overlooked and excluded. She stated that shared meals are not just about food, they are about connections and they are the most affective and relational ways that people in our community can meet one another where they are at and begin the slow and

important work in building trust, honoring the resilience of all the members of our community and working for meaningful change in our neighborhoods. The Zoning Code current restriction which allows meals to be served to senior citizens, but not to all adults and children are placing unnecessary and harmful barriers in the way of the kind of care that she thinks Allentown represents. She stated that residents and organizations, like so many in this room are doing the daily work of making sure that our neighbors are not forgotten. She stated that she is asking that you consider that work when you are voting for this Bill and that you help to ensure that the Zoning Reflects the inclusive and compassionate city that we strive to be. She thanked them for their time and leadership.

Ms. Angela Moyer, 1321 Hamilton Street, stated that she will read the email that she sent. She strongly urged all members of Council to vote in support Bill 16 to change the Zoning Code to permit community centers in the city to provide meals and essential services to anyone in need, not just senior citizens. She stated that she voted for almost all of them as you have pledged to serve the residents in this community and interrupt it to mean not just her as a voter, but all of the residents in our community. She stated that our community is at its best when we are engaged in supporting one another and finder solutions together. The existing Community Centers and nonprofit are placing that do this well. Inclusive and accessible community centers are essential for the thriving of our community. Please support this Bill so that no one is hungry doing difficult and vulnerable times in their lives, especially given our national situation where food stamps are at risk, Medicaid is at risk and all of these things are immediate needs in our community and they have the potential to only increase in the needs that our neighbors have. She urged them to support this Bill so that the needs of our community are met as City Council representatives. You are the ones that have the opportunity to make this city and make our laws reflect what the citizens in this community want and we certainly want everyone to have food, access as well as safe places to be together and support one another and be engaged in our community and care for one another.

Ms. Alicia Moyer, stated hello and said her name and live her in Allentown at 1413 W. Linden Street. She stated that she supports Bill 16. This Bill is ultimately about removing language that restricts who can receive food at community centers. She doesn't believe food access should be controversial. She stated that she hopes they vote in favor of Bill 16 so that community centers can continue to care for our neighbors here in the city of Allentown.

Ms. Laura Grace, 621 W., Gordon Street, stated good evening and stated that she works for a local nonprofit and her population that she serves are

homeless individuals ages 18 to 24. She stated that primarily the people that she works with lives somewhere in the city of Allentown and use these drop in centers quite frequently, especially during the winter. She stated that she guesses the only thing she wants to say is this Bill is just changing words. None of the agencies that are asking for this change are planning on changing what they are already doing. Things are going to change, it is the legality of what is already happening because stating we are already helping our neighbors that need the help. It is just with the way it is worded right now is not legal. She stated that she just wanted to address that because people are concerned about what is happening here.

Ms. Rose Binder, 2715 W Livingston Street, stated she is a Pastor and over the years living in Allentown, she has had folks that relied on the Boys and Girls Club, on RCI, on Daybreak. They were vital services that she can partner with and work with. She stated that she was really surprised to find out that the Judge pointed out this part of this Zoning law that said you know what, this isn't legal what you are doing. She stated that she was very surprised as many of them were. She thinks it is really important to say let's we want to support and it is al

#### 15-7500

#### Bill No. 16 – 2025

An Ordinance amending the Zoning Code of the City of Allentown, Section 660-6, by removing the meal preparation and provision to only senior citizens limitation within the community center definition and to read as follows: A building used for recreational, social, educational and cultural activities owned and/or operated by a public or nonprofit group or agency. Any residential uses or a treatment center shall only be permitted if they also comply with the requirements for such use.

**Sponsors:** Affa and Gerlach

**Attachments:** [Bill\\_16\\_Community\\_Center](#)

[ACPC actions\\_TextAmendCommunityCenter\\_03.11.25.pdf](#)

[Community\\_Center\\_Definition\\_Change - A building used for recreational, social, educational and cultural activities owned and or operated by a public or nonprofit group or agency.pdf](#)  
[Allentown - Community Center Definition.pdf](#)

[03\\_March Minutes\\_Draft.pdf](#)

[Planning & Zoning Staff Report - Community Center Definiton Text Amendment - MAR2025.pdf](#)  
[ZHB decision.pdf](#)

[Memo to City Council re Bill No. 16 - 2025 8APR25.docx](#)

[County of Lehigh Law Department Receipt for Filing of Municipal Ordinance City of Allentown \(Bill 16 - 2025\).pdf](#)  
[Ordinance #16141.pdf](#)

Enactment No: 16141

15-7816 March 10, 2025 Statement Given at Public Hearing (Board of the West Park Civic Association)  
Bill No. 16 – 2025 An Ordinance amending the Zoning Code of the City of Allentown, Section 660-6

Sponsors: System

Attachments: [March 10, 2025 Statement Given at Public Hearing \(Board of the West Park Civic Association\).pdf](#)

**ADJOURNED: 6:45 PM**