



# Allentown

435 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, Pa. 18101

## Minutes - Final

### City Council

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Wednesday, August 3, 2022

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

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#### Invocation:

#### Pledge to the Flag

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

**Excused:** 1 - Ce-Ce Gerlach

#### Courtesy of the Floor

#### Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. John Morewerth (sp), 2200 Hamilton Street, stated that he is coming to talk about Bills that are being proposed Bills 60, 61, and 62.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that if you want to talk about Bills 60, 61, and 62, they are on the agenda. She suggested when the Bills come up, you are entitled to come up and Council will listen to your opinion.

Mr. Gregory Shamp, 335 N. Eighth Street, stated that he has several building in Allentown and has gone through a horrible period with Code over non-investigatory work that they did not do before they looked at the buildings. He stated that 1110 W. Allen Street, the guy that inspected it never even had the courage to call him. The tenants complained about kittens in the back. He stated that he is not Animal Control. Code gave him 30 days to repair the building which he finds egregious. He sold it and it closed last week. The other one on 1337 Chew Street was totally redone with electrical and plumbing in order to get it up to Code. They have fined in \$575. He is replacing things slowly, and he has no help. He asked Council to go back and re-track these charges.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that she has heard this and she will look into 1130 W. Allen and 1337 Chew and will give Council a Report.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked Mr. Shamp to give Mr. Hanlon and Ms. Kistler your phone number.

Ms. Candida Affa asked for his name again.

Mr. Don Ringer, 1801 Liberty Street, stated that he just wants to say something about Dr. McGuire. He considered him his best friend. They were dear friends. He stated that they can see how far apart they were politically, but they got along tremendously. He stated that he loved David McGuire. He then stated that he wants to talk about zoning here in the city. A couple of years ago he put close to a half of million dollars in his place to remodel it. He stated that he made it nice then Covid came and he thought out of the line and started putting parking lots and now they have seating in the parking lot for patrons. Last year, he applied for something to finish a porch. Not to expand, but to finish a porch. That is when it started with Zoning. Zoning crucified him to no end. Over a shed, part of his roof, and the number of spaces. We have plenty of on-street parking. That does not count. He had to go around and get businesses in the area to lease him space within 500 feet so that he can adhere to the city Code. If you go to Bethlehem, Easton or Emmaus, you don't put up with this stuff. They want business. You need business in your city to survive. He stated that he called Ms. Kistler in Economic Development and he asked her for a little help with Zoning. She got back to him and said Mr. Ringer there is nothing she can do. She sided with Zoning because there are numerous complaints about your business with parking and noise. He stated that he finds it appalling. He stated that he spent \$6,000 to defend himself and went through these hearings and guess what, he won 3 - 0. Why couldn't we have talked as people with Zoning and worked it out. There was no need to go to these hearings and spend \$6,000. It is ridiculous. He wishes that the city would support businesses better. On Sunday night, he witnessed on Seventh and Tilghman Streets, the aftermath of the Puerto Rican Day Parade. It is totally unacceptable of what he saw. There were four-wheeler bikes and a whole row of motorcycles on Seventh Street. The music was blaring as loud as you can get. The police were going by and the bicyclers were giving them the finger. Nothing was happening. He saw police driving up Seventh Street. They were doubled parked. They did nothing. The quality of life in this city is deteriorating. We have beautiful parks in the city. Second to none. We have a school district that is not doing very well right now. We cannot have this stuff with these bicycles ruling our city right now. They are ruining everything here.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that they will talk.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that they do have a process with Zoning for the Zoning Hearing Board and Zoning appeals. That is fortunately or unfortunately based on our Zoning Regulations. The process that Mr. Ringer is speaking of is a process in which you want a variance. He applied for that variance. It is not up to the directors in the departments to handle that process or work around.

Mr. Don Ringer stated that he did apply for everything and asked him for help and you said no. You sided with the Zoning Board because he was wrong.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated to Mr. Ringer is the positive of everything is that you won.

Mr. Don Ringer stated that he won, but why does he have to spend \$6,000.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that they can talk offline.

Mr. Don Ringer stated please do something about these motorcycles.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Ringer and stated that they are working on that.

## Contract Approvals

[15-5220](#)

R117

Award of Contract to ABE Doors Inc in the estimated budgeted sum of \$50,000 per contract year, for the unit prices as set forth in the Proposal. This was competitively bid, and two (2) bids were received, one (1) was rejected.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [R117 Overhead Doors](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated this was done as Bid 2022 - 29. It was advertised on Public Purchase and accessed by 17 vendors. Two proposals were received. One proposal was rejected. The contractor will provide the time and materials for on call, onsite overhead door replacement repairs inspections and maintenance at various city owned and operated facilities. These services are provided on an as needed basis and the department is recommending an award to ABE Doors Inc. The annual estimated budgeted sum for a contract year is \$50,000. We have successfully done business with this vendor before.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Ms. McNeil. She asked if there are any questions from the dais or the public.

**Yes:** 6 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

**Absent:** 1 - Ce-Ce Gerlach

Enactment No: 30476

[15-5221](#)

R118

Engagement of Professional Services with Daniel E Koplisch for an annual estimated budgeted sum of \$60,000 per contract year for an on-call independent consultant. This was competitively bid and only one (1) response was received.

**Attachments:** [R118 Compliance Consultant](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as RFP 2022 - 07. It was advertised on Public Purchase and accessed by 43 vendors and one proposal was received. The evaluation committee made of four people evaluated the proposal and scored based on the RFP requirements. After all evaluations were computed, the committee is recommending an award to P Joseph with an annual estimated budgeted sum per contract years is \$60,000.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked what does that service includes.

Ms. Seth O'Neil stated that they have been having discussions about this segment of our meetings. The contract approval segment and the reason the reason that the Purchasing Agent presents this is to present City Council with a summary of and it is difficult to put this on Ms. McNeil. The fundamental nuts and bolts behind every one of these contracts. The reason she presents this and not department heads because it supposed to speak to the proper procurement process is followed. That being said they will be happy to see if someone can answer your question. He will be asking that maybe some of these sort of questions about the substance of the contract can either be dealt with ahead of time or in a committee of something like that. It is his understanding what they are really support to be doing here is insuring that the proper procurement process is followed. He asked Mr. Zucal what was his question and they will try to make sure that it gets answered.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked what does this include is his question.

Mr. Mark Shahda stated to Mr. Zucal it is to provide an on call independent consultant to provide services that will perform tasks and identify concerns relating to the Concession Lease Agreement with LCA. The consultant will also help us develop, evaluate and represent the city's position in Act 537 planning. If you have additional questions regarding this plan, he does have Brian Chamberlain that is on the line to be more than happy to get into the specifics.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that his thoughts are why Lehigh County Authority hiring this person.

Mr. Brian Chamberlain stated the reason why is pretty much represent the city's side. You can't really have LCA hire them and represent the city side. This is a consultant for the city so they can evaluate everything with Act 537. That will be agreements amongst all the parties. There are 15 other municipalities that pretty much sewage comes from them to our plant. That is why the city hired him to be a consultant for the city's representation.

Mr. Ed Zucal thanked Mr. Chamberlain.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the public.

Mr. Seth O'Neil stated that in the coming weeks he is going to work with the City Clerk and members of the dais to maybe try and get these questions sorted through so this section of the meeting is something that we can get through without a lot of confusion and a lot of different people jumping on the mic. He stated that he appreciates the moment to speak on that.

**Yes:** 5 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

**No:** 1 - Ed Zucal

**Absent:** 1 - Ce-Ce Gerlach

Enactment No: 30477

## Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-5236](#) July 20, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [July 20, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

**Yes:** 6 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

**Absent:** 1 - Ce-Ce Gerlach

**Communications: NONE**

## Old Business

### Note:

For the record, during the codification process a piece of legislation was not picked up, it ORDINANCE NO. 15517 which gave the Allentown Parking Authority flexibility in the fixing and adjustment of parking rates during special events – as previously approved legislation, that will be added to codification.

**REPORTS**

**Note:** In consultation with the sponsor of Bills 60 through 63, I have set up a Special Committee to handle these bills consisting of Mr. Hendricks, Mr. Siegel and myself. I plan to refer those bills to that committee.

**Special Council Meetings:** Council will hold a Special Meeting on ARPA funding to take testimony on public safety, infrastructure, and capital projects on August 10 at 6:00 PM

**Budget and Finance:** Chair Siegel, Hendricks, Santos

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for August 24 at 5:30 PM.

**Community and Economic Development:** Chair Gerlach, Siegel, Mota

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for August 10 at 5:30 PM.

**Human Resources, Administration and Appointments:** Chair Santos, Hendricks, Siegel

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

**Parks and Recreation:** Chair Affa, Gerlach, Santos

The Committee met this evening; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

**Public Safety:** Chair Hendricks, Zucal, Affa

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

**Public Works:** Chair Zucal, Affa, Hendricks

The Committee met this evening; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

**Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy:** Chair Mota, Zucal, Gerlach

The Committee met this evening; there are no future meetings scheduled.

**Controller's Report (3 minutes)** - Controller is on vacation and will not be reporting this evening.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that he has one brief Report on Accounts Payable Audit from July 2nd to July 29. During that time period, the Controller's office reviewed 429 computer checks, 16 manual checks and five wires. In total, there were 795

documents that were reviewed. There were issues with 37 other them with a total of about 4 1/2 percent. He stated that there are 10 findings on the Report. They noted that a healthcare benefits wire in the amount of \$457,110.51 was paid twice. A potential over billing, the department paid for a vendor on a statement. We pay on invoices. Review of previous invoices displayed on a credit balance had been there previously. The printed balance did not appear on a statement. Without an invoices the propriety of the statement balance cannot be verified. The check was voided. The department was asked to request the invoice services in the amount that can be verified. At the time of this report, those invoices have not yet been paid. There was an over billing on one of the city's contracts for \$76.

### Mayor's Report (3 minutes)

Mr. Seth O'Neil stated that the Mayor is on a much needed vacation and he is keeping in touch with things. He expresses his regrets that he does not have a Report to give this week.

### ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

#### [15-5189](#)

Bill 48

Amending the 2022 Trexler Fund, by transferring supplemental appropriation from the unappropriated balance of the Trexler Fund in the amount of a total of Sixty-Five Thousand (\$65,000) Dollars from the unappropriated balance of the Trexler Capital Budget to the Cedar Creek Bridges capital project, to repair the vehicular bridge at Ott St in Cedar Creek Parkway.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 48 Trexler appropriation 7-12-22](#)

[Ordinance #15827](#)

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it was voted 2 - 0 favorably.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

**Yes:** 6 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

**Absent:** 1 - Ce-Ce Gerlach

Enactment No: 15827

#### [15-5192](#)

Bill 49

Amending the 2022 General Fund, Solid Waste Fund, Stormwater Fund, and Rental Fund by transferring a total of Five Hundred Thousand (\$ 500,000) Dollars to allow for the continued purchase of fuel for the remainder of 2022.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 49 FUEL TRANSFER](#)  
[Ordinance #15828](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it was sent favorably 3 - 0. This is needed because we obviously know about the price increases for our fuel.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

**Yes:** 6 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

**Absent:** 1 - Ce-Ce Gerlach

Enactment No: 15828

[15-5188](#)

Bill 52

DIRECTING THE LEHIGH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE A REFERENDUM QUESTION BEFORE THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN VOTERS ON THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022, BALLOT TO AMEND THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN HOME RULE CHARTER TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY OF THE CONTROLLER EQUAL TO 80% OF THE MAYOR'S SALARY WHICH IS CURRENTLY AT \$95,000. Controller

**Sponsors:** Affa and Mr. Siegel

**Attachments:** [Bill 52 Home Rule Charter Controller's Salary - Question](#)

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Bill 52 was pulled contingent upon questions going to the Solicitor's office.

**Bill 52 was tabled.**

## CONSENT AGENDA

### RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-5226](#)

R119

Appoints the following, as a Patrolman, at a base salary of \$64,511 per annum, contingent upon the candidate passing physical and psychological examinations as stipulated in the Police Civil Service Rules and Regulations and obtaining and maintaining a valid state certification from the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission.

Sloan, Ryan - Pottstown, PA  
Leonard, Jonathan - Nazareth, PA

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [R119 Hiring 2 Patrolmen 8-3-22](#)

Assistant Chief of Support Services James Gress stated that Ryan Sloan comes from Pottstown, PA. He is under the Bill 66 hiring list. He is 25 years old and a graduate of Pottstown High School and Montgomery County Community College. He is Act 120 certified. He has worked for a couple of small agencies in Montgomery County and now wishing to come here and the Police Department would like to currently hire him. The second one Jonathan Leonard from Nazareth, PA. Not to be confused with the current Sergeant Leonard. No relations. He is 26 years old and graduating from Nazareth High School and Lackawanna Area Community College. He has worked for Hazleton City and he is the third or fourth from Hazleton.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

**Yes:** 6 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

**Absent:** 1 - Ce-Ce Gerlach

Enactment No: 30478

[15-5199](#)

R120

Approves three transfers: (1) \$47,500.00 from City Council needed to ensure that the correct amount is in the Legal Services Account to Pay for the Legal Services of Smith Law Offices (Council's Solicitor); (2) \$55,000 from Risk Management to provide funding for the CDL certification training to our employees; (3) \$24,000.00 from Fire due to the unprecedented increases in materials, the cost to manufacture the firefighter turn-out gear has had four price increases in the last eight months; (4) \$15,000.00 from Public Safety/Police due to the large number of trainings and required recertification trainings that were rescheduled to this year, the current training budget has been exhausted.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [R120 Transfer Funds](#)

[Due to Unprecedented Increases in Materials, the Cost to Manufacture the Fire Fighter Turn-out Gear has had Price Increases Due to the large number of trainings and recertifications rescheduled the curent training budget has been exhausted To Provide Funding for the CDL Certification Training for Employees For the Legal Services for Smith Law Offices](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions or comments from the administration, the dais or the public.

**Yes:** 6 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

**Absent:** 1 - Ce-Ce Gerlach

Enactment No: 30479

[15-5227](#)

R121

Authorizes Submission of a Formal Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for a Grant of Five Hundred and Fifty Nine Thousand Dollars (\$559,000) to support installation of new street lights along Martin Luther King Jr Drive from the 8th Street Bridge overpass to Union Street.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [R121 MLK Lighting Grant 8-3-22 REVISED](#)

[MLK Lighting Grant Approval](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the administration, the dais or the public.

**Yes:** 6 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

**Absent:** 1 - Ce-Ce Gerlach

Enactment No: 30480

## **ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION (To be referred to Committee with public comment prior to referral)**

[15-5213](#)

Bill 56 Public Works, this evening

Providing for the vacation of Utica Street from the centerline of North Brick Street to its Eastern Terminus in the Sixth Ward of the City of Allentown:

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 56 Utica Street from the centerline of North Brick Street](#)

[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Utica Street from the western property line of 16 W. Tilghman Street \(Parcel E\) to 1 West Allen Street](#)

[Report to the City Clerk and Allentown City Planning Commission - Utica Street from N. Brick Street to its East Terminus](#)  
[Staff Report - Utica Street from N. Brick Street to its East Terminus](#)

[Letter from Vicky Kistler regarding Allentown Planning Commission decision on Utica Street from N. Brick Street to its East Terminus](#)

[Letter from Lehigh Valley Planning Commission - Utica Street from N. Brick Street to its East Terminus](#)

[Utica Street Labels](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

## REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-5214](#)

Bill 57 Refer to Public Works

Providing for the vacation of North Lumber Street from the centerline of Clay Street to the centerline of Whitehall Street in the Eighth Ward of the City of Allentown:

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 57 North Lumber Street from the centerline of Clay Street to the centerline of Whitehall Street](#)  
[900 Block of N. Lumber and Refwal Street from Clay Street to Dead End](#)  
[Letter from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission - 900 Block of N. Lumber and Refwal Street from Clay Street](#)  
[Report to the City Clerk and Allentown City Planning Commission - N. Lumber Street from Clay Street to Whitehall Street](#)  
[Staff Report - N Lumber and N Refwal Street from Clay Street](#)  
[Letter from Vicky Kistler regarding Allentown Planning Commission decision on 900 Block of N. Lumber and Refwal Street from Clay Street](#)  
[Lumber Refwal Labels](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

## REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-5224](#)

Bill 58 Community and Economic Development, forwarded favorably An Ordinance providing for the expenditure of certain monies received by the City of Allentown under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1976, as amended; The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009; and Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended; for the purpose of undertaking programs of housing and community development within the City.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 58 Expenditure of certain monies received by the City of Allentown under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

## REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

[15-5225](#)

Bill 59 Public Safety

Amending the 2022 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental

appropriation of Thirty Seven Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty Seven Dollars (\$37,237) as a result from a grant from the PEMA, Office of the State Fire Commissioner, EMS COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program, to the Allentown Emergency Medical Services to purchase equipment.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 59 EMS PEMA Grant 8-3-22](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

[15-5229](#)

Bill 60 Refer to Special Committee  
Amending the City of Allentown Code, Part II, General Legislation, by adding Chapter 474, Regulating Rights and Actions, § 474-1, Buffer Zones, creating buffer zones at hospital, medical offices or clinics engaged in assisting patients and other persons entering or exiting such facilities.

**Sponsors:** Affa, Gerlach, Mota, Santos and Mr. Siegel

**Attachments:** [1 Bill 60 Buffer Zones](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. John Milworth, Bright Hope Pregnancy Support Centers, stated that not everyone who considers themselves pro life think the same way, have the same mission, agenda, or take the same approach. Some protest, some stand outside of the clinics, some educate, some try to get legislation passed, and separate from all that, some just simply support women and help women and men who wants to have a baby and want to give birth to their baby. You can't attach certain positions from one pro life person or group to another. Before ordinances or passed, it is important to know what the truth is and what reality is. How many hospitals and abortion clinics are there in Allentown that this 15 foot buffer zone apply to. Do we know? What specific problem or problems have occurred that the Council is aware of that would suggest that a buffer zone is needed. What is exactly is the problem that Council wants to forbid or prevent. Do you want to forbid a peaceful conversation that leads to a woman to resources that she did not know existed to help her achieve her goal of becoming a parent. Because that happens. Would a 15 foot buffer zone include a public sidewalk? Preventing a citizen from its use, including speaking from that sidewalk which both of those are Constitutional Rights. There have been recent attacks and protests at pregnancy centers in Pennsylvania. He stated that he is not aware of any on abortion clinics. Will you also

create an ordinance that would put a 15 foot buffer zone around pregnancy centers. Why do you label pregnancy centers as limited services pregnancy centers. Under Section 8 of Bill 61, the Council is essentially saying centers will be scrutinized because they don't offer contraception or abortions. He asked Council to seriously reconsider and the Mayor to veto any bill that says that if you support pregnant people, you must provide abortion and contraception. If you provide pregnancy support, you must provide ending a pregnancy. That just does not make sense. That is under the Section of Deceptive Practices. That is deceptive itself. They support pregnancy, but will help you end one. What is really going on? How many crisis Pregnancy Centers are in Allentown? He stated that he wants to know, do they know how many Pregnancy Support Centers are in Allentown. Does anybody know? He stated that he will take that don't know answer as you don't know. We don't know. So we are going to produce an ordinance that we don't know answers to. What deceptive advertisements are you aware of? He stated that he can't think of any advertising for Pregnancy Support Centers. What proof do you have on the misleading information that has been given out to Crisis Pregnancy Centers? Which Centers or Center is providing it? Finally, what criteria do you use to determine which laws you ask the Police Department to de-prioritize. What's the criteria? Ordinances are set in place to prevent and restrict. Creating an ordinance just as something is happening or going to happen. He is asking Council and all the other Magistrates to be certain of the facts and know the truth before they go creating new ordinances. He oversees a pregnancy center here in Allentown. He and his wife have experienced abortion themselves when they were teenagers. He was 18 and she was 16. They just celebrated their 35 wedding anniversary this year. They have three sons now and everybody is doing well. He stated that he speaks on abortion issues from experience. Their Pregnancy Resource Center only provides medically verified fact based information to their clients. He will be happy to meet with anybody who wants to see the materials that we share. We have had clients that told us that they were referred to them by the Allentown Planned Parenthood. Would Allentown Planned Parenthood refer their clients to us if we give misleading and false information. From time to time, women do not want to have abortions find their way to an abortion clinic and somebody that is outside of that abortion clinic gets to have a conversation with them. They tell them about resources that are needed. It has happened. They come to them and are happy parents now. They respect a woman's right to choose what she wants to do. We never try to convince anybody to do anything. We just give facts and tell them their rights and they decide. Although they don't provide or refer for an abortions, they want every woman who does choose an abortion to know that we don't judge her, we don't shame her, and she is welcome to come back to them any time she wants if we provide something she thinks will help.

Ms. Hannah Clark, 1739 W. Greenleaf Street, stated that she is coming to Council as a four year board member of Planned Parenthood, They are part of the board that oversees and assist the CEO and staff which includes the Allentown Center. The Allentown Center which you all know where it is located, right across from the PPL building. It is right on the public sidewalk. Folks that are going to get all types of healthcare from STD testing, to birth control, to pregnancy checkups, to abortions have to go onto a public right-a-way to enter the building. It is incredibly unsafe and dangerous and creates a habit to the environment for folks without a buffer. They know that there is very strong opposition here in Allentown. They show up often. They just don't show up and abortion days. They are harassing patients and making patients feel unsafe. They thankfully have a wonderful group of patient escorts who are able to assist those that are receiving healthcare. All types of healthcare, including abortion. Abortion is healthcare. They want to ensure that Council very much supports this. They thanked Mayor Tuerk who came, visited and toured our center. She invited anyone here, if you have not or if you are curious. It is a wonderful facility. It is one of their busiest. All of eastern Pennsylvania, except Philadelphia and they are providing all types of healthcare. She stated that she just wanted to come up and provide her support and thanked Council for considering this and to remind everyone that abortion is healthcare.

Ms. Margaret Housler, 1406 Hamilton Street, expressed her sincere thanks to Council that is looking at ordinances that seek to protect the rights of women to make choices for themselves and to seek reproductive care they feel appropriate for themselves. She takes particular note of this ordinance which is really critical. We need to create a buffer zone given the particular location of our clinic in Allentown and for that reason, she fully supports this proposed ordinance. She has witnessed the harassed that occurs and the bullying that occurs outside of that clinic. While she respectfully agrees that every person is entitled to their personal beliefs, no one in the city has the right to harass and to bully others. For this reason, she supports the creation of this buffer zone and feels it is really necessary.

Ms. Maggie Sweet, 3830 Macintosh, Orefield, stated that she has also experienced an abortion. On December 13, 1985, she had an abortion. Not only did her daughter died, but her soul died as well. She shared her story with a young girl 20 years ago looking to having an abortion. Trying to spare her from a lifetime of pain. She decided to choose life and from that day on for 20 years, she has been a peaceful Spanish advocate here at Planned Parenthood. The before and aftercare they provide will never make the media, but will remain in our hearts, the families hearts, and even on several occasions the hearts of previous Planned Parenthood workers because in that time for years, she has utilized her first amendment right

peacefully to Counsel on the same taxpaying public sidewalk that local workers shop, ride, and the entire public use. She has on several occasions even shook hands with some of the escorts. They have on many occasions paid salaries to previous Planned Parenthood workers, provided them with jobs, some of the workers have joined them, and there have been baby showers that they have had. They have had personal birthday parties for some of your previous Planned Parenthood workers. They have even eaten with them and invited them over for Thanksgiving. Last month, they provided rent for several of the women who chose life. They have had four baby showers in one day. Each one of these women are supplied with cribs, strollers, walkers, and over the years baby supplies. They are constantly invited to these children's birthdays as they have become their family. She stated that tomorrow, she will spending time with this young girl who just chose life try to find a job after we just paid her rent. She has experienced profound miracles. For example, she befriended a friend who is also ready to speak and give her testimony. She started bleeding after she left Planned Parenthood several years ago. For two months she bled because she still had tissue. Her name is Winnie and she is not afraid to say that because she told her to make sure she includes her name. One day while hospitalized, she had her on the speaker and was literally walking to Planned Parenthood to see if she could counsel anyone and had her on speaker. Talk about miracles. A young girl was leaving Planned Parenthood and was prepared for her abortion the next day, she began to counsel her. Winnie was still on the phone and asked who she was speaking to. She shared the name of the young girl and miraculously Winnie knew who she was and they saved another baby.

Ms. Victoria Nally (sp), Norristown, stated that the picture she just showed Council is the result of them able to go ahead and speak. They go ahead and have the ability to speak with women. She is a poster board of women and will be 67 this year. If she had women speaking to her and told her about different options that her mind would have changed. When you look at these things and look at people coming up here and telling you that pro-lifers are harassing and bullies. What would Jesus do?

Mr. Mike Israel, South Whitehall Township, stated that John the first speaker answered a lot of the questions. There were still a few that he had questions about. On Bill 60, like every other Bill, there is no purpose given. There is no reason given. What was the reason for this specific Bill. It does not have a specific problem to be addressed like all the other ordinances that are typically passed. Where there evidence of specific issues that have gone on before? If they were, are they narrower solutions addressing the specific problems head on as opposed to a buffer zone restricting free speech in a certain area or perhaps a certain type of

speech. This might be similar to a picket strike. If someone were to cross to the picket and the protesters and union members were to get upset and call them a scab or traitor would that also be a similar thing that the city would be concerned about. If not, why wouldn't they be concerned about it? Is engaging someone on the street to talk to them is something that the city should be concerned about? Politely educating and stopping someone to talk. He thinks that the city needs to address its concern, to write them down and see if there could be a narrower solution that everyone can come together whether there is a noise ordinance or people bothering somebody. Think about a solution within the confines of solving the problem that the city and he does not know the problems that the city is having, identifying the problem and seeing if it could be a narrower solution.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that before they continue if you have materials or pictures, please give it to Mr. Hanlon.

Mr. Jacob Stofko, 1040 S. 12th Street, stated that he is here to just to talk about creating a buffer zone. Sure for hospitals and medical centers, but then if people want to protest at some offices or restaurants. He stated that he goes to a lot of demonstrations and he would hate to see him not allowed to demonstrate in front of his representative offices. It starts little. It is like the old cookie jar, if he steals a cookie and now he will take this and take that. That is going to happen with this. We will end up creating buffer zones all over the place and will not have a right to express their opinions.

Ms. Maria Martinez, OBGYN Research Fellow, stated that she has been looking into the research in abortion and mental health because that is her particular interest. She read the association between abortion and higher rates of anxiety, depression, substance abuse, traumatic symptoms, sleep disorders and other negative outcomes is statistically significant in most analysis which means that some women will be hurt by abortion. They will not be helped. The people that stand outside of Planned Parenthood Clinics are helping those women that are most likely to be hurt by abortion. By doing this Bill we are putting women at risk. We are not helping them in any way because there is nobody that is going to tell them there is just another clinic that offers pregnancy resources that are completely free for you. She might not know and might have an abortion because she did not have money to have a pregnancy when the pregnancy resource center had the money to help her. Having this buffer zone is not helping anybody. It is not helping America. It is not helping Allentown. She stated that she knows this for a fact that most research already shows that mental health and abortion are very closely related. She stated that they need volunteers. She does not call them advocates because nobody is paying them their time. They are doing this on their time and on their own, sometimes no payment from work to be there for these women to say that they are here

for them. Is there anything that they can do for them and can they help you. She stated that she has never experience anyone bullying somebody in the clinic. She has not been there that many times, but has to accept, but the times that she has always been there, they have always been respectful and loving to all of them. If they go inside, no one says you kill your baby. They say it's ok. It is your decision. We still love you if you decide come out, we will be here and can talk about the resources that we have. She stated that she does not think that this will help anybody. Not even at Planned Parenthood.

Mr. Pas Simpson stated that he greatly disagrees that they are saying that the buffer zone won't help anyone. As someone who is an expert in violence, we don't want to give anyone an opportunity to create violence. If we can create space where these women can get education and be safe along the way that is great. But, putting them in a position where they can be compromised at any moment, is very dangerous. We don't want to give somebody the opportunity and allow somebody to have just a split moment to be off. It is a second to make a bad decision. If these women have their buffer zones, and stated that he is not pro life or pro choice, he is pro-safety. These women having these buffer zones gives them a chance to have to deal with an additional pressure. He asked that the advocates that fight for pro life also fight for the living. After the birth, there is 18,19 years that happens after that. Poverty is striking in our city. He doesn't see people fighting for the same things for the kids that are living. There are real things that they are facing in the city. If you can give a woman the opportunity to make a decision safely in her own peace of mind. He agrees that these people should give some form of information because some woman may come into a situation uneducated, but they should not be there in a space and a place where they need to make their most critical decision. That is up to that woman. Council should continue to push forward to find a buffer zone. Because the last thing you want to do is not be in a place where you provided safety for a woman who might already been in a bad position. She might have been raped, she might be going through something that no one knows and you are allowing other people to badger her. Just ask.

Mr. Tim Ramos, Allentown, stated that he is forced to disagree with his dear friend Mr. Simpson. The idea of re-crime is a violation of our Constitution. We cannot do things in the idea of what might happen. One of those things and those members of Council that does know him knows he has a different approach to some of these issues. He is not approaching it from a pro life issue. He is not approaching it from a pro choice issue. His approach is simply the Constitution and freedom of speech. He witnessed members of this Council protest for their freedom of speech. He respects their ability to protest for your freedom of speech.

Protest and let your voice be heard. What he witnessed down on Ninth Street is people praying quietly. He has witnessed it day in and day out. Those of them that knows him knows that he had an office just right around the corner and ate lunch right at Rodriguez Bakery which is right next door almost every single day. He stated that what he witnessed first hand were people standing in silence. People standing and praying. Beyond that they were there to receive people. They are going in and coming out and help them with a mental health issue which is a very serious issue. The member of Council some who sponsored this Resolution being introduced would consider setting a precedent that he would not support to be pushed against you. If he would not support it being pushed against them and know that many of them disagree on political issues and he would stand right beside them and fight for their freedom to speak and would hope that those of them of Council will honor our Constitution, our US Constitution and our state Constitution which gives all of us the right to be heard. Remember that the precedent that can be set is that today is 15 feet, tomorrow is 20 feet, 30 feet, around the corner and even right to your doorstep. Would we be fighting a fight against the encroachment of your constitutional rights in 20 to 30 years if this dais flips the other way. He can tell them that if there was an extreme right radical sitting in the seats that you guys hold trying to encroach on your rights all of you that know him knows that he will be standing here fighting for your ability to speak, to be heard, and to issue a grievance. He is hoping that they will not be hypocrites on this dais. Express and practice your freedom of speech and violates the freedoms of others.

Ms. Cindy O'Brian, Bethlehem Township, stated that she has written several Op-Eds for The Morning Call regarding abortion and pro life issues. She stated that she knows some of the people here. She has written about the Bright Hope Pregnancy Resource Center. She has interviewed sidewalk counselors who has gone to Planned Parenthood and who have met pregnant women and actually helped them. These women when they actually went to Planned Parenthood didn't really want an abortion, but they did not know where else to go. The availability of sidewalk counselors (loosely referred to as protesters), but some of these people are very well qualified. She knows a woman that almost has a master's degree in counseling and therapy. She is very well qualified to talk to women out on the sidewalk. In fact, she thinks that she is more highly qualified than some of the people that she might meet in Planned Parenthood. She stated that she wants to emphasize that many of the people who are on the sidewalks trying to reach out to pregnant women are highly qualified people. They have master's degrees. They are teacher's. They come from a wide variety. Just like the lady that was here who is a doctor or working on a medical degree. There is a wide variety of people who goes to Planned Parenthood to reach out to women in crisis

pregnancies. The other point that she would like to make is that very often pregnant women in crisis pregnancies are only counted to have abortions. That was her case when she had her third son. The doctor thought he had down syndrome and counseled her to have an abortion. Then she had to go to a specialist and the specialist counseled her to have an abortion. Even when the test results showed that the baby did not have down syndrome, the doctor still wanted her to have amniocentesis to prove to himself that the baby did not have down syndrome. The doctor just did not want that baby to be alive if he had down syndrome. That happens all over the world. She stated that her baby was healthy. She is happy to tell them. The fact that nobody gave her an alternative. No one said this treatment is available for your baby. None of those doctors did. They all wanted her to have an abortion. Getting back to the sidewalk counselors, there are women who need to hear the alternatives to abortions and that is what these sidewalk counselors do.

Mr. Reggie Pearce, 1066 W Wyoming Street, stated that Mr. Simpson is right. The solution is really bad. He said that you can't let a woman in any situation be somewhere where she is in danger. Well, you know where that is, Saudi Arabia. When you lock women indoors and you don't let them out. That is the attitude that he expressed. Most of the opinions expressed here is not about increasing women's freedom so much they are about keeping women away from things. Protecting them and making them do what they want to do and that is not right.

Ms. Nancy Skok, 1332 Fairview Street, stated that all due respect to the Council, some of the speakers they had are confusing you with the Supreme Court. We are talking about a 15 foot buffer. She stated that she is 5'4 1/2. Three of her is all they are asking for. She doesn't think that is so much to ask for. We can't say they can't stand outside to counsel women. She stated that all they are asking is to give them a little bit of space and three of her is not such a terrible thing to ask for.

[15-5230](#)

Bill 61 Refer to Special Committee  
Amending the City of Allentown Code, Part II, General Legislation, by adding Chapter 474, Regulating Rights and Actions, § 474-2 Regulation of Deceptive Advertising by Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

**Sponsors:** Affa, Gerlach, Mota, Santos and Mr. Siegel

**Attachments:** [2 Bill 61 Regulation of Deceptive Advertising](#)  
[Women's Law Project](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated people were referring to Bill 61. She asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

Mr. Reggie Pearce stated that reading through this it seems like the

verbiage of this Bill is basically just a limited subset of the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices Act. It clips a little bit out of that Bill and puts it in a Bill for the city of Allentown. It seems to him that the intent is to create a local board that can be closer to the citizens and listen to their concerns and address them better. It is a good idea. He thinks Council is over complicating it. If you just cross-out most of the words in the Bill, it works just as well. If you say in paragraph B, no center with the intent to perform a service shall make or disseminate for the public or cause or may disseminate before the public any newspaper or any publication or advertising device in any manner including but not limited to the internet any statement, any service or position or any service that is deceptive whether by statement or mission or reasonably knowing should be deceptive. That is good and something we should take care of. We should not be letting people in the city of Allentown be advertising deceptively and we do not need to define pregnancy related services. We don't need to define anything about examining tables because we should be taking care of everybody in the city of Allentown. You are right, going through the state and having to go to the state means that you are going through an extra step. You are not necessarily getting you concerns heard and the state does not necessarily know what is most important here. Giving the narrow state of this, and the lack of any supporting evidence stating that is really our highest concern here in the city when it comes to fraudulent advertising, he questions whether Council knows what the highest priority is or is it really the responsibility of Council to define what the highest priority of an agency to investigate complaints of deceptive advertising is. He advised that they create the agency proposed and give them a broad latitude, instruct them to respond to complaints, that most often comes up to the community. There are many things in the city of Allentown that we can complain about. The Attorney General's office knows his wife pretty well because she complains about the utility suppliers a lot. There are things like that. People come to your door and say you get a gift card if you just show me your utility bill and they sign you up for a service. They come to the neighborhood and know people are impoverished and those people do not know where to turn when they are being deceptively advertised. He supports Council decision, and intention to provide a local board to respond to complaints about fraudulent advertising. He asked Council to broaden the scope. If Council insists making it about pregnancy centers, he thinks the definition of a limited pregnancy center should be one that do not provide prenatal care, ultrasounds, contraception or abortions.

Mr. John Milworth stated that on this particular issue on deceptive practices, he totally agrees on what was just said about they already have regulations that prohibits deceptive advertising. This is targeting the way it is written and the definition where you define limited services pregnancy centers as one who must provide abortion information, abortion referrals,

and contraception. Now, you created a definition and in this deceptive practices part, this is just targeting limited pregnancy centers which you have put them in that box. They already experienced fake reviews online and fake clients coming into our pregnancy support client asking very odd questions, trying to see if they can extract something from us that they can use against us. Two years ago, there was a group that came into the community in Lehigh Valley and they held an event trying to gather people who will go out and protest in front of a pregnancy support center. What they were telling people to do was to take your cell phone, your recording devices and try to find something that they said that isn't true and report it to the local news organizations. He stated that by targeting them this way, they are just setting them up for somebody to come in and lie and fill out a fake complaint that puts them in unnecessary scrutiny and investigation. He asked Council to consider that.

#### REFERRED TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

#### [15-5231](#)

Bill 62 Refer to Special Committee  
Amending the City of Allentown Code, Part II, General Legislation, by adding Chapter 474, Regulating Rights and Actions, § 474-3 Enforcement Limitations Regarding Bans of Certain Reproductive Health Care Services, adding a provision that if abortion ever becomes illegal nationwide or in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Council of the City of Allentown instructs all city officials and law enforcement agencies to deprioritize enforcement of any abortion-related crime to the fullest extent possible.

**Sponsors:** Affa, Gerlach, Mota, Santos and Mr. Siegel

**Attachments:** [3 Bill 62 Enforcement Limitations](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

? asked what is the criteria that you used that police and law enforcement should de prioritize a law. What criteria did you use to determine a law should be de prioritized.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that this is not a question and answer. This is your time to speak.

Mr. Jake Stoko stated that he doesn't think the city of Allentown does not have the right to change. That is the state legislatures, and governors. They are the ones that make the laws. We have to follow them. We can't make special privileges saying that we are not going to accept that law. We are going to do it our way. It is the same thing with other laws that they tried in Allentown. We are making our own rules on this. There is a second

amendment rule. The city of Allentown is not allowed to do it. The city of Bethlehem was not allowed to do it. You are trying to do the same thing with this abortion thing. If the state says that abortion is not allowed, you are going to say well, Allentown is ok. You cannot make your own rules. You have to go by the state law and the Pennsylvania Constitution.

REFERRED TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

[15-5232](#)

Bill 63 Refer to Special Committee  
Amending the City of Allentown Code, Part II, General Legislation, by adding Chapter 474, Regulating Rights and Actions, § 474-4 Protection of Reproductive Health Care Services Providers from Out-of-State Investigation or Prosecution for Providing Legal Abortion Care.

**Sponsors:** Affa, Gerlach, Mota, Santos and Mr. Siegel

**Attachments:** [Bill 63 Protection of Out of State Prosecution](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

Mr. Seth O'Neil stated that on behalf of Mayor Matt Tuerk, the administration supports a woman's ability to safely access her reproductive healthcare needs.

Mr. Tim Ramos stated that he is just rewarding as it is being introduced. Council is stepping out of their depth. That is the job of the District Attorney. There is no difference then when the Resolution was introduced then passed to basically decriminalize marijuana uses in the city of Allentown in the last couple of years and we face the same issues. He stated that for him, it is a procedural issue and Council is getting in over their heads. You are stepping into the driver seat of the District Attorney and our police. He stated that they are opening the city up for lawsuits and a big headache. Whoever the District Attorney is and with the District Attorney we have right now is very strong headed and will definitely push back on an encroachment on his office. You were elected and so was he. Just consider that.

Ms. Margaret Housler, 1426 Hamilton Street, stated that she is in support of this Bill as presented. She stated that she is in full agreement that no officer of the law in Pennsylvania should in any manner assist law enforcement officers of another state in preventing any woman in the United States in seeking reproductive care that is legal in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

REFERRED TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

**RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION (Can be voted on or Referred to Committee):**

[15-5223](#) R122 Community and Economic Development Committee, Forwarded Favorably  
Approves the Submission of the Action Plan to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [R122 Approves the Submission of the Action Plan](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**GOOD AND WELFARE: NONE**

**ADJOURNED: 7:47 PM**