

## Allentown City Council Scheduled to Appoint First Latina Solicitor

ALLENTOWN, PA (September 16, 2024) – Reflecting Allentown's population of over 50% Latino, Allentown City Council will consider appointing Maria Montero as its first Latina solicitor on September 16<sup>th</sup> at a special council meeting. With September 15-October 15 being recognized as National Hispanic Heritage Month, the appointment emphasizes the growing influence of the City's Latino population.

Maria Montero is an attorney with the law firm Haggerty, Goldberg, Schleifer, & Kupersmith with offices on Hamilton St. in Allentown. Attorney Montero's role as solicitor includes the functions of parliamentarian, overseeing Council's regularly scheduled evening meetings, providing procedural and/or legal advice, reviewing legislation, and responding to Council's legal service requests.

Attorney Montero is no stranger to Council Chambers, saying "I have often sat in these chambers listening to heated debates and watching consensus build for the good of the people of Allentown. To be here now, as counsel to this elected body is an honor, especially at this pivotal juncture in the City's history. I am humbled by this appointment."

City Council President, Cynthia Mota, stated, "I feel immense pride and confidence in this appointment of Attorney Maria Montero, an intelligent, fair, Allentown homegrown talent to the role of solicitor. Her first home was in Allentown's 9<sup>th</sup> Ward and as for many of us with humble upbringings, Allentown continues to be a City of great opportunity. Council and I look forward to collaborating with Attorney Montero to guide us in our efforts to improve the lives of the people of Allentown."

City Councilwoman, Candida Affa, who, as Chair of the Human Resources, Administration, and Appointments committees, was key to Montero's appointment, said, "Attorney Montero's deep Allentown roots, strong legal and political experience, and dedication to the progress of the City of Allentown are a welcome addition to our team. Our council members look forward to working with Maria who will provide our Council members with fair, sound advice." .

For more information on Allentown City Council please visit the city website at: www.allentownpa.gov/City-Council

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The Allentown City Council aims to offer good services in a fair and clear way. Their goal is to make Allentown a better place for everyone to live, work, and have fun. Council meetings are published on the City's <u>Public Meeting Calendar</u> and usually held at Allentown City Hall in the **City Council Chambers on the 1st Floor at 425 Hamilton Street, Allentown PA 18101**.