



Open for Exsciting Possibilities™

March 29, 2024

Allentown City Council
c/o Dr. Cynthia Mota, President
425 Hamilton St.
Allentown, PA. 18101

Re: **Civic Naming Request: Senator Pat and Heather Browne Plaza**

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for naming the Plaza in front of the new Da Vinci Science Center at PPL Pavilion after Secretary Pat Browne and his wife Heather in recognition of their significant contributions to the residents and businesses in the City of Allentown. With strong support from his wife Heather, Browne has worked tirelessly for the Allentown community, a place he has called home for most of his life. For the Da Vinci Science Center, Browne worked closely with the Lehigh Valley delegation and the Governor's Office to secure millions in funding to build a major new facility downtown.

The Plaza in front of the new science center is owned by the City of Allentown. Located on Hamilton St., it is an ideal location to recognize Secretary Browne's contribution to the revitalization of downtown and his support for education. The new science center will provide thousands of students in Allentown with greater access to rich educational experiences that build 21st century skills and prepare them for careers that pay family-sustaining wages. It will also be a major new "day-out" family venue, expected to welcome over 400,000 visitors to downtown Allentown annually, bringing new business to Allentown restaurants and retail establishments 360 days per year.

Without state support, the new science center would not have been possible. Browne crafted the legislation that directed \$20 million in Gaming and Economic Development Funds to support debt service for the construction of the new Da Vinci Science Center at PPL Pavilion in downtown Allentown. These funds provided the foundation required to consider development of a major new facility. Subsequently, working closely with the Lehigh Valley delegation and the Governor's Office, he secured millions in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Development (RACP) funds to support the project.

Pat and Heather Browne have dedicated the majority of their adult lives to making a difference for residents in the City of Allentown. Their ongoing commitment to the City of Allentown is

3145 Hamilton Blvd. Bypass, Allentown, PA 18103 • 484.664.1002 • www.davincisciencecenter.org



The Da Vinci Discovery Center of Science and Technology, Inc. (or "Da Vinci Science Center") is an independent nonprofit organization with IRS 501(c)(3) status. Its Federal Tax Identification Number is 23-2824084. The official registration and financial information of the Da Vinci Science Center may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. The Da Vinci Science Center also is authorized or registered to solicit contributions in the states of California, Florida, New Jersey, and New York. Additional information about these registrations is available on the web at www.davincisciencecenter.org/support.



extraordinary. Their investment in expanding educational opportunities for Allentown youth will benefit Allentown families for decades to come. I can think of no more deserving individuals for this honor.

I urge you to move forward with this naming opportunity.

Sincerely,



Lin Erickson
Executive Director and CEO

