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March 17, 2025

The Honorable Daryl Hendricks
President, Allentown City Council
435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18101

c/o: Michael Hanlon (michael.hanlon@allentownpa.gov)
Clerk of City Council

RE: **Bill No. 16 – 2025**

Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance (Community Center)

Bill 16 - An Ordinance amending Section 660-6 to remove the limitation on the preparation and provision of meals meant for only senior citizens within the community center definition.

Dear Mr. Hendricks:

The Allentown City Planning Commission (ACPC) has reviewed the proposed amendment to the definition of **COMMUNITY CENTER** in Chapter 660-6, Zoning, as requested by petitioners RCI Village Properties and Lehigh Conference of Churches. Staff prepared a detailed report on the text amendment, which was presented to the ACPC to consider alongside public comment and deliberation. This matter was before the ACPC on March 11, 2025.

The Commission passed a formal motion supporting the conclusions and findings of the Planning Staff Report and endorsing the revisions proposed by the petitioners. The proposed revisions strike the second sentence of the definition of **COMMUNITY CENTER**, which discusses meal service to senior citizens. The revision would have the below effect on the definition.

A building used for recreational, social, educational and cultural activities owned and/or operated by a public or nonprofit group or agency. ~~The use may also include the nonprofit preparation and provision of meals for senior citizens.~~ Any residential uses or a treatment center shall only be permitted if they also comply with the requirements for such use.

Enclosed, please find a copy of the Planning Staff Report and a copy of the minutes from the March 11, 2025, ACPC meeting.

Yours truly,

ec: Proponents (sbinder@ripplecommunity.org, ncentrella@filblaw.com, agoldfarb@lehighchurches.org)
COA (Handzo)
ACPC (cbrown@browndesigncorp.com)
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