

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 84 - 2022

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NOVEMBER 2, 2022

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AN ORDINANCE

Amending Part I Administrative Legislation, Authorities, Boards and Commissions, Article XIV Commission on Homelessness by updating the language in Sections 12-75 through 12-77.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That Sections 12-75 through 12-77 be amended as follows:

**Article XIV  
Commission on Homelessness**

**§ 12-75 Purpose.**

The purpose of the Commission to advise the Mayor and Council and to make recommendations on issues relating to ~~the homeless and near-homeless populations~~ those who are experiencing homelessness or near-homelessness in the City.

**§ 12-76 Establishment and composition.**

A. The Commission on Homelessness shall consist of 15 members appointed by the Mayor and approved by City Council. Members shall include representatives from government, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, hospitals and other stakeholders involved in advocacy and service for ~~the homeless or near homeless~~ those who are experiencing homelessness or near-homelessness. The Mayor shall appoint the Chairperson of the Commission with the approval of Council. One member of Council shall serve as a nonvoting liaison. The Mayor shall designate staff support for the Commission.

**§ 12-77 Powers and duties.**

The Commission shall serve as an advisory body. It shall be tasked with offering recommendations and suggestions on the following:

- A. Educating the public about homelessness and ways in which we can help people in need.
- B. Providing policy-based advocacy on behalf of ~~the homeless~~ those who are experiencing

homelessness to appropriate agencies.

- C. Making recommendations aimed at ending and preventing homelessness.
- D. Facilitating communications, networking and referrals within the community to deal with the issues of homelessness.
- E. Providing a representation or a "voice" for ~~homeless~~ those who are experiencing homelessness in the community.

SECTION TWO: That this Ordinance takes effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION THREE: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

## Legislative Template

Please email this form to [Legislation@allentownpa.gov](mailto:Legislation@allentownpa.gov) when ready to submit

- What department or bureau is this bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?

Administration and the chair of the Commission on Homelessness. This originated from the Commission.

- Summary and facts of the bill.

This amends Chapter 12. Article XIV. Commission on Homelessness by replacing the phrase “the homeless” with “people experiencing homelessness”

- Purpose

This changes the language of the bill by replacing the phrase “the homeless” with “people experiencing homelessness.” According to the chair of the commission: Humans are more than their circumstance. Given that one of the tasks of this commission is to be sure “civil rights are respected and protected,” not defining people by their living situation is important.

- Financial Impact

N/A

- Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:

N/A

- Priority status – Are there any deadlines to be aware of?

There are no deadlines

- Why should Council unanimously support this bill?

There are no downsides to this change, it simply makes the language more respectful to those experiencing homelessness.