



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION**

**R52 - 2025**

***Introduced by City Council on April 16, 2025***

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Establishing a Special Committee for reviewing and developing Community Policing and Collaborative Efforts the Police Department is currently involved in creating a strategic plan going forward that helps build partnerships between police, community members and organizations to address issues, create partnerships and create collaborative opportunities.

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***Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That***

**WHEREAS**, providing Public Safety is a core and essential service of local government; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council's **RULE XI – COMMITTEES, B, states that** Special committees may be created from time to time by Resolution and the duration of a special committee will be no more than six (6) months unless reestablished by Council or the President; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Safety is a major component of the city budget: in 2025, \$50,299,382 was budgeted for the police department out of a total 2025 expenditure of \$145,486,825; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Administration under the leadership of Chief Roca has been working on community policing and collaborating with the community to deal with neighborhood issues; and

**WHEREAS**, Community policing is defined in the literature as a philosophy of policing that promotes organizational strategies which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

**WHEREAS**, Community policing is, in essence, a collaboration between the police and the community that identifies and solves community problems. With the police no longer the sole guardians of law and order, all members of the community become active allies in the effort to enhance the safety and quality of neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, the city developed a community policing program in the early 1990s that consisted of police having offices in neighborhoods, walking the beat, working with the residents, and dealing with crime and disorder in a proactive fashion; and

**WHEREAS**, other examples of community policing include neighborhood patrols, officers walking or biking through a specific area, getting to know the community and its residents, and addressing any issues or concerns residents may have.

**WHEREAS**, effective community policing can be key to creating trust and positive relationships with the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that a committee be established and work with the Administration and the Chief of Police to review and develop policies that relate to community policing, community asset mapping and forming strategic partnerships in our neighborhoods.

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT THIS COMMITTEE CONSIST OF** Councilpersons Mota as Chair and Councilpersons Gerlach, Hendricks and Affa.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT** the findings be presented to the full council in a brief white paper no later than six months after the passage of this resolution at a public meeting. The paper shall lay out a framework for developing community policing in the city neighborhoods and recommend budgetary allocations to empower the Administration and Chief to strategically plan for implementing community policing.