



MEMORANDUM

TO: Council

FROM: Julio A. Guridy, Councilmember

DATE: January 8, 2019

SUBJECT: Nomination for Vice President of Council

I would like to ask for your support this year as Council Vice President. It is a great honor to work with each of you. I would like to serve as Council Vice President as our city moves forward.

As you know, next year there is a City Council election, which can possibly turn into 3 new Council members, depending on the outcome of the election (I am not expecting this outcome). You also know I have been in City Council for the past 18 years which makes me the longest serving elected official in the City. I have been Vice President 6 years and President 3 years. I have been reelected more times to the City Council than any member in recent history. This gives me much experience in our City Government when considering the diverse population of Allentown.

I will not just be learning the job of the Vice President. In fact, as Vice President and as President, I have presided over some of the most strenuous and memorable meetings in the past 2 decades of City Council, which included the misfortune of having to terminate a police officer. I presided over the hearings on the Water and Sewer Lease Concession and was a significant player in the development of the NIZ.

In the past 18 years, I have sponsored and cosponsored several laws to move our City forward and make it a better place to live work and play for all citizens. In addition to being a strong advocate for housing and economic development programs, I have been a very strong advocate and supporter of public safety, public works and as Chair of Budget and Finance committee as having oversight over the city's \$116,000,000 budget, I strive for financial stability.

I have effectively chaired the Public Works Committee (8 years), the Public Safety committee (2 Years), the Community and Economic Development Committee and Budget and Finance Committee and have chaired or co-chaired other ad-hoc committees. Currently, I am still an active member of some of some of these committees.

I have been passionate about having equitable support for ALL residents of our great city and believe that together we have made some strides. However, there is a lot more that needs to be done to propel our City to a level that we can all feel proud to live and work.

Here are a few examples of items I find important:

- Have strong and active representation on the many boards, authorities, and commissions of the City that represent its residents.
- Explore ways on how the city can be more self-sustainable financially so that we can hold the line on fees and avoid higher taxes to keep our middle class in the city.
- Continue to attract new businesses to develop more jobs in the city.
- Do a better job in providing appropriate environment for our youths to grow healthy and safely in the city.
- Promote a better relationship among ALL residents of our city and the regions, especially with the growing minority population.
- Ensure that the city's workforce reflects its diverse population and that we can capitalize on each other's skills.
- Enhance the enrichments of social and cultural contributions of our citizens in the arts and entertainment.
- Enhance and develop relationships with local companies and businesses to make it easier to do business and prosper in Allentown.
- Continue to work with the administration to enhance and promote Allentown as a jewel of the Lehigh Valley.

Finally, in the last 37 years in Allentown (and 43 in the LV), I have been actively involved in community boards and support an array of community organizations. I have an excellent grasp of the community, what people want, what is needed, and how to assist in delivering it. I am humble and appreciative that so many people have demonstrated confidence in me to elect me to council to represent them, and to the dozens of community organizations to help them move their mission forward.

I am proud that I am among smart and caring individuals, such as yourselves, and respectfully ask that you show the same confidence in me as many in the Lehigh Valley have done for so many years. I will not let you down.

Thank you for your consideration.