



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. R- 61

RESOLUTION

- 2020

Introduced by the Administration on May 20, 2020

A Resolution of the City Council of the City Allentown Authorizing the Preparation and Submission of Declarations of Taking and Related Documentation pursuant to the Eminent Domain Code of 1964, as amended, to Acquire Certain Property at 628 W. Turner Street, Allentown PA 18102, identified by the Lehigh County Assessment Office as Parcel Number 640701942421 1.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, the City of Allentown is a Third Class Home Rule City organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is authorized to acquire private property for an authorized public purpose under the Pennsylvania Eminent Domain code of 1964, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the parcel located at 628 W. Turner Street would be beneficial for the public purpose of widening N. Church Street to reduce a threat to public health and safety, and for safer ingress and egress to the common carrier bus terminal leased to Lanta located adjacent to N. Church Street and W. Turner Street; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has further determined that in order to make the intended improvements, it is necessary that 628 W. Turner Street, Allentown PA 18102, be acquired through appropriate means, including, if necessary, by exercise of eminent domain,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that

1. The Solicitor of his designee is hereby authorized and directed to prepare, and the Mayor is hereby authorized to pursue, acquisition of 628 W. Turner Street, Allentown PA 18102, through appropriate means, including but not limited to eminent domain proceedings, and to execute appropriate legal documents to carry out the intent of this resolution.

2. The Solicitor of his designee is hereby authorized to file such Declarations of Taking and related documents with the Clerk of Judicial records and the Recorder of Deeds in and for Lehigh County and to take such other steps as may be necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

- **What Department or bureau is Bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?**

Community and Economic Development

- **Summary and Facts of the Bill**

The request is for the future development and expansion of Church street between Linden and Turner Street. The Church Street expansion is for the improvement of the transportation center to allow two-way traffic, and improve the turning radius for the buses in and out of Church St from Turner St. To provide the proper street width of 28' the taking of the 628 W. Turner St property is necessary.

- **Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **What does the Bill do – what are the specific goals/tasks the bill seek to accomplish**
 - **What are the Benefits of doing this/Down-side of doing this**
 - **How does this Bill related to the City's Vision/Mission/Priorities**

This resolution will give the city the ability to move into a discussion with the owner for an amicable acquisition or eminent domain, whichever option that will allow for public improvement to take place for the widening of Church St. between Linden and Turner Street.

The benefit of approving this request will allow for Church St. to be widened for ingress and egress for LANTA buses in the transportation center. Another benefit will lessen curb and sidewalk damage on the corner of Church and Turner, and Church and Linden, where the buses are entering and exiting.

The downside to not approving this will not allow for the complete remodel of the transportation center. Therefore, enabling continued crime to be prevalent in the ATC. Shrinking the footprint provides for better monitoring of the activities happening there currently. The other downside is the inability to expand the road, therefore not allowing the buses two-way traffic to and from Church St on and off Turner St. Also, this would inhibit the completion of the development of the ATC.

This resolution aligns with the Vision 2030 plan under chapter 4 of the Connectivity and Accessibility section. It states, "increase complete safety streets integrates multiple types of transportation into a safe and functional streetscape for pedestrians, cyclists, cars, and public transit."

- **Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:**

- **Cost (Initial and ongoing)**
- **Benefits (initial and ongoing)**

There is no impact to the General Fund. Any resources used to amicably acquire the property and relocate any tenants are set aside from APA and HUD.

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

- **If transferring funds, please make sure bill gives specific accounts; if appropriating funds from a grant list the agency awarding the grant.**

N/A

- **Priority status/Deadlines, if any**

The deadline for this to be done and approved is within the reasonable time frame of legislation. However, we are waiting for the courts to open and would like to be ready to file when the courts open.

- **Why should Council unanimously support this bill?**

The council should unanimously support this bill because this overall project is in line with the City's Comprehensive and Economic Development plan Vision 2030.

- * It will help in the reduction of crime with a smaller footprint.
- * A well light ATC with cameras
- * Improved the ingress and egress
- * Lessen the property damage to the city's curb and sidewalk and save money from repairs.
- * Provide a better overall experience for our citizens utilizing public transportation.

