

July 27, 2020

Mayor Ray O'Connell
Allentown City Council
435 Hamilton Street
Allentown Pa 18101

Dear Mayor O'Connell and Allentown City Council Members,

My name is Jeff Barber and I am the President of Lehigh Financial Group LLC in Downtown Allentown. My company has been arranging financing for real estate investors and small business owners throughout the Lehigh Valley for over 20 years.

My father and his family emigrated from Syria to Allentown in the 1950's. My father worked for the City of Allentown for 25 years and my mother was a nurse whom graduated from Allentown School of Nursing and worked for Allentown Hospital, now LVHN for over 30+ years. As you can, see my family and my business are a part of the Allentown community for over 70 years.

Over the years I have had many positive interactions with the Allentown Police Department. The APD has always been nothing but professional. We have one of the best police forces in the State of Pennsylvania.

But today, we have people that want to dismantle our police departments nationwide. DEFUND THE POLICE is about a small minority of people who want to abolish law and order and allow crime to run rampant. The majority of Americans do not back the cause or political agenda to DEFUND THE POLICE.

If you support DEFUND THE POLICE, then you are supporting more drugs on the streets and into our communities. You support more domestic abuse. You support more rape. You support more theft. You support more crime. As you see, nothing positive will come out of DEFUNDING THE POLICE. It will only bring chaos to Allentown's neighborhoods.

When people do not feel safe or see Allentown as safe, they will not want live here, invest here or come to Allentown for any reason. We have spent years trying to change our image of being an unsafe city. We have come so far, but if you give into this destruction of our police department, you will be giving into political pressure that will negatively impact our city for years to come.

If you love our city and you want people to continue to live, work, play and invest in Allentown, please make the right choice and stand behind the Allentown Police Department.

Regards,



Jeffrey Barber
President