

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. - 2020

, 2020

AN ORDINANCE

Establishing a Citizens Police Advisory Board for the Allentown Police Department

WHEREAS Allentown City Council is committed to an ongoing dialogue between all components and members of our Allentown community, including our citizens and our Police Department, in order to strengthen those relationships and assist each other in serving our Allentown community;

WHEREAS, this dialogue will help our elected officials, our citizens and our Police Department, in considering the ways in which our Police Department serves the community;

WHEREAS, this dialogue should: consider the roles and function our Police Department should serve; consider the means used to fulfill those functions, including examining police operations and policies; and suggest additional legislative and regulatory action that may be advisable to be pursued at the municipal, Commonwealth, and Federal levels;

WHEREAS, IX of the City of Allentown Home Rule Charter authorizes the creation of boards;

WHEREAS, Article IX further provides that “City Council shall encourage the participation of citizens in their government through the establishment of ... boards ... to carry out City business”;

WHEREAS, Article IX further provides that such boards shall be established by ordinance including a clear statement of whether they shall be advisory in nature or they shall power and authority under City Ordinance or state or federal code”

WHEREAS, consistent with HRC Article IX, City Council establishes here a Citizens Police Advisory Board to encourage our non-police citizens’ “voice” to better understand and opine on ways in which our Police department may serve the community;

WHEREAS, the Citizens Police Advisory Board would have the ability to make ongoing independent recommendations to the Allentown Police Department on matters such as training and procedures; and now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allentown City Council will take all further legislative action to implement the creation of a Citizens Police Advisory Board within forty five (45) days of enactment of this Ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN

SECTION ONE That Article 180D be added to Title 11 of the Administrative Code and read as follows:

ARTICLE 180D

CITIZENS POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

SECTION 180D 1. Purpose

To review and make recommendations to the Allentown Police Department on matters of procedures and policies. The Board shall be advisory in nature.

SECTION 180D 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

Size of Board. The Citizens Police Advisory Board shall consist of 7 members appointed by the Mayor and approved by City Council.

Membership Eligibility. Members shall be City of Allentown adult citizens and shall reflect all of Allentown's diversity of backgrounds, experiences and viewpoints. Members shall not be employed by the City or any of its authorities, shall not hold any other public office and shall serve without compensation. No resident who has been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor, excluding summary offenses, shall serve as a Board member. Persons appointed to the Board shall be fair minded and committed to the efficient and effective operation of the Board.

Initial Appointments. The terms for the seven positions will be staggered for the initial appointment to each position such that two of the positions shall have initial appointment term of four years, two of the positions shall have an initial appointment term of three years, two of the positions shall have an initial appointment term of two years, and one of the positions shall have an initial appointment term of one year. If vacancies occur during the initial appointment term for any of these positions, a successor shall be appointed to that position to serve the remainder of the initial term for that position.

Term for Each Appointment. After the initial appointment term for a position is concluded, all subsequent appointments for that position shall be for a term of 4 years. Appointments shall cease at the conclusion of the term.

Vacancies. If vacancies occur during the term of a position, a successor shall be appointed to that position to serve the remainder of the term for that position.

By-laws. Shall be developed to assist with conducting the functions of the Board. Bylaws shall be consistent with Robert's Rules of Order. Bylaws, and changes to the bylaws, shall only become effective after Allentown City Council has considered them and approved them by resolution.

SECTION 180D 3. POWERS AND DUTIES

1. The Board shall serve as an advisory body. It shall be tasked with discussing and advising as to the following:
 - a. the roles and function our Police Department should serve;
 - b. the means used to fulfill those functions, including examining police operations and policies;
 - c. additional legislative and regulatory action that may be advisable to be pursued at the municipal, Commonwealth, and Federal levels;
 - d. Particular instances of concern raised to the Board by the community;
2. Provide an annual report for Council, making sufficient numbers of copies available to the public, summarizing the activities and recommendations of the Board, including the tracking and identification of trends during the reporting period.
3. Provide outreach to the public and inform the public about the Board and its duties.

SECTION 180D 3. MEETINGS

FREQUENCY, REGULARITY, ADVERTISEMENT. The Board shall conduct meetings every other month. The meetings shall be conducted on a regularly scheduled time, that shall be advertised to the public.

OPEN MEETINGS. All meetings shall be open to the public and shall be subject to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS. Meetings will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.