

AUGUST 5TH COMMENTS:

All meetings will be livestreamed. The link to the meeting can be found on the city website with the agenda and legislation at <https://www.allentownpa.gov>. Council will receive comments on the legislation prior to the meeting and will consider all comments from city residents. All comments must include name and address, including your city, and be emailed to Michael.Hanlon@AllentownPa.gov by 2:00 PM on the date of the meeting. Comments received from city residents by that deadline will be forwarded to the Mayor and Council members prior to the meeting and will also be noted at Courtesy of the Floor or Public Comment periods of the meeting. These timely received comments will also be posted on the City's webpage as a supporting document to the meeting. Any comments received on the meeting day, after the 2:00 pm deadline, will be forwarded to the Mayor and Council as soon as practicable.

TYLER FATZINGER, 512 NORTH NEW STREET

Fairview Cemetery

There has been correspondence going back sometime between Mr. Fatzinger, the Administration and Council. He wanted this noted for the record. He is requesting the city look at helping with the clean-up and maintenance of Fairview Park. The city should aid in some sort of way whether send people there for community service or pushing the association to do a better job. Bethlehem sends non violent offender to cemeteries to cut the grass as mandatory community service. When it comes down to it there is no long term plan for Fairview. What the future holds is unknown. Also city ordinance is just that. No grass over 10 inches of height, no breeding of rodents which is a health department rule, and no blight. All of which can be clearly seen from my photos.

He has forwarded a number of pictures that have been forwarded to you and a number of people that have been interned there.

Good evening. As I posted names of important people buried in Fairview online I got a rush of requests to add a few more which they are below. I hope you are able to share this list with council members and the mayor.

Frank N.D. Buchman nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952 and 1953

George Hardner the man who built William Allen Hs.

Francis d raub longest serving superintendent.

Samuel miller founder of morning call

Mr Raker founder of good shepherd rehabilitation.

Fred F Kramer, a Fairview cemetery founder and a well known musical professional of the area.

Robert paynter a famous chef who was requested to serve presidents.

Dr Richard K. Snyder, a well known family doctor fire fighter and emt who trained multiple firefighters cpr and other life saving techniques.

Gen Harry clay trexler founder of allentown parks system, trexler park, game preserve and many more things.

john Mack, a founder of mack truck.

Henry leh, founder of leh department.

Max hess, founder of Hess departments

Louis F. Neuweiler founder of neuweiler brewery.

William Henry Ainey, founder of lehigh iron, Aineyville in allentown was named after him.

James Solomon Biery, us congressman.

Samuel Augustus Bridges, us congressman

Arthur Granville Dewalt, us congressman

Constantine Erdman, us congressman

Marcus Kline, us congressman.

Norton Lichtenwalner, us congressman Henry Clay Longnecker, us congressman

John Dodson Stiles, us congressman

Dr. Alfred J. Martin, allentown mayor

Dr. Edwin G. Martin, allentown mayor

Werner Knauss Rhue, allentown mayor

Henry Willard Allison, Allentown mayor

Col. Samuel D. Lehr, allentown mayor

James L. Schaadt, Allentown mayor unveiled the monument at 7th and Hamilton.

Dr. Alfred J. Yost, allentown mayor co founder of west park.

Dr. Charles D. Schaeffer, allentown mayor

Henry Herbert Herbst, Allentown mayor well known doctor and a school was named after him.

Charles O. Hunsicker allentown mayor

Charles W. Rinn, allentown mayor

Alfred L. Reichenbach, allentown mayor maker of the current allentown flag, renovate trout hall, renovate Hamilton street.

Malcolm W. Gross allentown mayor, founded many wpa projects, worked with trexler to form both the rose garden and allentown park system.

George F. Erich, allentown mayor

Brighton C. Diefenderfer, allentown mayor.

Samuel B. Lewis most experienced iron worker in the world prior to his death.

TOM SOUL, 837 N 8th

My name is Tom Soul and I am an Allentown resident residing in the 8th ward. I have been so situated since 2007. At the last city council meeting, resident observers were made to endure the chattering buzz of radical ideologues parroting two form letters that were likely drafted by an adjunct sociology professor at Muhlenberg college. For nearly two hours, tax payers were forced to listen to the same verbiage, cut, copied and pasted by children receiving extra credit for Xeroxing such drivel. Eight out of ten of these letters were from residents at the 2400 block of Chew street – Muhlenberg College- that I'd add are protected during the semester via extra duty assignments by the very Allentown Police Officers some of them have sought to vilify. It is my sincere hope my letter receives the same attention as did their little homework assignment.

I will not belabor the St. Luke's Hospital incident except to say that; since the last council meeting the District Attorney's Office, after an independent investigation, has decided there would be no charges against the officers and the Allentown Police Department has decided no policies were violated. In the interim, however, it has come to my attention that, at least two City Council Members, Ce-Ce Gerlach and Joshua Siegel, were seen marching with "Black Lives Matter" activists chanting "fuck the police." The obvious impropriety of such behavior on the part of a sitting city council person needs no further discussion. And neither does the 8 second head (NOT NECK!) restraint that was used by the Allentown officer. What is necessary, and I hope you'll permit me, is a closer examination of the underlying ideology that motivated two city council persons to turn their backs on their own police force in the absence of any evidence whatsoever.

For weeks Allentown residents, via a 20 second cell phone clip, were made to believe that one of their own had narrowly dodged the fate of George Floyd, the black man extinguished on the side of the road via nine minutes of asphyxiation in Minnesota. Moving forward, and to provide context for the next use of force incident – and there will be one – it is imperative that these two city council persons are educated about the rarity of a George Floyd and are censured for their deliberate and political misrepresentation of the facts in the Allentown incident. In interest of that...

In 2015 The Washington Post -hardly a bastion of conservatism – began tracking police involved killings in the U.S. There are approximately 330 million citizens in the United States. African Americans make up about 13 percent of that, about 43 million people.

Last year in 2019, according to the Washington Post, **EXACTLY NINE UNARMED** African Americans were killed by police officers and a substantial majority of those nine were actively fighting the officer -who is armed- at the time they were shot. That's .0000021 percent of the population. To say George Floyd -while tragic- was an anomaly would be an understatement. And yet, for two weeks "Black Lives Matter" activists descended on our fine City and were joined by Joshua Siegel and Ce-Ce Gerlach in painting one of our officers as a murderous racist in the total absence of any facts and without the benefit of any review of relevant policies and procedures.

Allentown tax payers should demand immediate censure of Ce-Ce Gerlach and Joshua Siegel and I believe council in its entirety should be forced to review the Black Lives Matter website whereby they will formulate a better understanding of the socialist ideological machine they will be forced to contend with in the coming years. To wit, an excerpt from their own website...

"we disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and "villages" that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable."

Absent – as is the case in so many dysfunctional households regardless of race- is any mention of a father. This is no accident. And neither is their total misrepresentation of the men and women that swear an oath to protect majority minority cities like Allentown. I demand an immediate public apology from both Ce-Ce Gerlach and Joshua Siegel for their reckless conduct and blatant disregard for the safety of Allentown's finest.

ALISON CUMMINGS, 321 N. 30th Street

My name is Alison Cummins and my address is 321 North 30th Street, Allentown, PA. I have been a member of the Allentown community for three years now, and have never been so disheartened by the attack on community representation. I strongly oppose Resolution 94. Both council members Gerlach and Siegal are merely listening to the Allentown community, which is the job of city council members in the first place. It is hypocritical for Gerlach and Siegal to be targeted for supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, when Zucal and Affa have been seen supporting Blue Lives Matter ideals. Not to mention, that council members Hendricks and Zucal are retired police officers--making them clearly unable to remain objective on these topics, whereas Gerlach and Siegal are listening to the community's cries for justice and objectively communicating those demands. How can you learn the demands of your community without showing up and listening? Because of these

reasons, I largely disagree with Resolution 94, and have found Gerlach and Siegal to be the council members who actually represent the public the most, who care about the changes being asked for in their community. The best leaders are those who listen to marginalized voices and fight for them--it is not a subjective action to do so, and Gerlach and Siegal have prioritized their communities, which is the mark of true leadership. I could not disagree with Resolution 94 more.

JOSIE LOPEZ, 1424 MIDDLESEX ROAD

Dear City Council,

My name is Josie Lopez. My address is 1424 middlesex rd, Allentown PA. I have been a resident of the city on and off my entire life. I am a white passing hispanic woman living in this city and I have witnessed first hand just how subtly and blatantly racist our city is sadly capable of being at times.

While Resolution 94 is no longer on the agenda for tonight I would still like to note that this was a BLATANTLY racist move. It's evident to anyone that knows about who our council members are that members of our council, president included, are former members of APD. It is no secret that the police force is considered a brotherhood that protects their own (quote) membership (end quote) this brotherhood does not end upon retirement.

It taints the seats these council members occupy when they criticize Gerlach and Siegel for supporting Black Lives Matter when Zucal and Affa in-fact have been photographed standing in solidarity with the dog whistling crowd opposing Black Lives Matter. Councilwoman Gerlach and Councilman Siegle were correct to question the actions of the police surrounding the brutality incident on July 11th. This is important to the process of checks and balances on these parties. There is nothing wrong with politicians marching & participating in protests, even Mitt Romney marches with BLM....

Ce-Ce is such a powerful woman. It takes such talent, bravery, and charisma to be the type of woman she is. She is shattering any glass ceilings that get put before her and as a woman I am inspired on a regular basis by her integrity, her willingness to listen to the people she represents, and most of all just because she's such a boss. She really is an inspiration to so many people out here is such a disgrace that anyone would even consider trying to have her removed from this council. As a minority woman in this city I take this move very personally. It has certainly opened my eyes to what happens behind closed doors here and I know I am not alone in this thought. To anyone who opposes Ce-Ce or Josh I say Bye Felicia, we are coming for your seats.

Hugs and Kisses.

Jocelyn Aka Josie

BETTY RIDDLE, 728 S FILMORE

Dear Council,

First, I want to make something abundantly clear: Black lives matter is not a political agenda, it is a human rights issue. Police are killing Black and brown people at alarming rates all across this country, whether or not you personally know somebody who has been killed by police. This is contributing to a systemic genocide that must be examined in every single police department in every city in this country. And it goes above and beyond just the police. This is about 400 years of oppression for which there is no end in sight.

Now that we have cleared that up, shame on you for the attempted censure of Cece Gerlach and Josh Siegel for standing up for human rights. Shame on you for not standing with them and with the citizens who are screaming out for their lives. Shame on you for supporting "back the blue", which is an attack on the Black lives matter movement. Which is an attack on human rights. Allow me to reiterate: "back the blue" arose out of opposition to a marginalized group of people demanding the right to live, demanding to not be killed by police. And we saw two of our very own council members stand with them last week. That is an absolute shame.

Now is the time for all non-POC people living in America to do some deep self reflection and thoroughly examine their privilege. Ask yourself why you stood with the "back the blue" crowd. Is it because you have never felt your stomach drop as a cop car pulls up behind you, worried that you might "fit the description"? Is it because when you watched a police officer kneel on the neck of George Floyd you didn't fear for your life? Is it because when we saw yet another officer kneel on the head and neck of a sick man in Allentown, you didn't cringe at the image of an officer's body weight scraping this man's face into the ground? Is it because you have never considered what it is like living as a person of color in this country? I urge you to ask yourselves these types of questions, and really try to understand something that has never personally affected you.

I don't know how many times I have to say this, but I will keep saying it: we are not asking for a complete dismantling of the police department overnight. We are not here asking for firefighters to replace police officers. We are not here to support the rape and murder of our citizens. You have got to be kidding me. We are not here saying every single police officer is personally corrupt or ill-willed. We are saying there is a systemic problem that is killing people and we need to talk about how to solve it. How can you still not see that? You couldn't even vote last week on whether or not we can have a public conversation?

The attempt to censure CeCe Gerlach and Josh Siegel is an attempt to censure Black lives. This censure is deeply rooted in white supremacy and only goes to show how much work needs to be done right here in Allentown. We have to do better. Council, as community representatives of a majority Black and brown city, you have to do better. You are not listening and now you are attempting to silence us. Ask yourselves why.

Regarding Bill 48, this is a slap in the face to those of us who have been protesting in the streets, calling out for a defunding of the police. Reject the grant. Vote NO. Put this money into the community. If \$10,000 can be allocated to buying new shirts for the police, imagine what effect this money could have on the families in Allentown that are having to choose whether to pay their electric bill or feed their children. Council, please THINK about this. We are in the midst of civil outrage and a global pandemic that is killing Black and brown people disproportionately. And you want to give \$50,000 to the police for uniforms and equipment? Are you serious?

Regarding the APD Advisory Board: I clearly do not have enough time or space to break down everything that is wrong with this proposal. However, if the members of this board are to be appointed by the mayor and approved by city council, how can the community expect to be adequately represented? This draft prohibits any citizen that has a felony or misdemeanor from participating. Aren't those members of the community the ones that have the most valid understanding of how police treat people? Of how effective our criminal justice system is? Again, you are not listening. Take a minute and really try to understand another person's point of view. I am deeply disappointed in this draft resolution and demand that you do better. It is your duty and responsibility to educate yourselves on systemic racism and respond appropriately. This is not it. You have to do better than this. Lives are depending on it.

TERRY LINDER, 1411 LINDEN STREET

Mr. Hanson and City Council,

My name is Terry Lindner, I live at 1411 W. Linden St where I have lived for the last 44 years. I have lived in Allentown for the last 61 years. I have also owned multiple businesses here for over 50 years along with 3 others companies most of those three were at least 10 years each.

The reason I am sending you this email is because I have become extremely disgusted with what I saw in some videos involving BLM and 2 City Council members. To have City Council members bowing down to a drug filled out of control criminal, who was handled with kid gloves by the Officers who arrested him based on what I saw in the video and read is the most ridiculous thing I have ever seen and with my business hat on, opens the City Up to law suits. I also saw a video where one of the Council persons was in a group of BLM members yelling " FUCK THE POLICE"! The City Council members I am talking about are Ce-Ce Gerlach and Josh Siegel. Whether or not the City wants to admit it, these people represent the City when they are out in the public's eye. I think those two actors need to figure out if they want to represent the City or if they want to be Activists! Frankly, given the exposure these disgusting Council members just brought to our City will be far reaching, mark my words, also, if these people worked for me or any other business and did what they did, they would be immediately terminated. I believe at minimum they should be formally censured or reprimanded!

JUSTAN PARKER, 315 W LINDEN STREET

Good Evening,

I want to thank the mayor and council members for their time tonight as public comments are being read and acknowledged.

I wanted to touch base on a few items within my allotted time for today:

Black Lives Matter Lehigh Valley is not an anti-cop organization. We believe in accountability, transparency, police reform, and equality for the black and brown residents of Lehigh County. This also includes the underserved, oppressed white residents of our communities.

We stand with council members CeCe Gerlach and Josh Siegel in what we can only describe as an out of touch, tone-deaf, and dangerous motion to censure them along with bringing forth a vote of no confidence. This is in specific regards to their firm belief that black lives matter.

The hypocrisy was loud and clear when council members Candida Affa and Ed Zucal proudly supported and took pictures with the "back the blue" protest (yes protest, much like your council counterparts participated in).

Yes, by saying "F the police", it can be seen as a disregard for our police department. However responding to black lives matter with "all lives matter" or "blue lives matter" is seen as a disregard for black and brown lives.

Forget the movement. Forget the organization. Before it was ever a slogan put on t-shirts or chanted in the streets, those 3 words, BLACK LIVES MATTER, hold weight and should be regarded with the utmost importance.

Instead, we are met with "All Lives Matter" or "Blue Lives Matter" as a response. Please understand. We never said All Lives didn't matter. We said Black Lives Matter. And please also understand that there is no such thing as a "Blue Life". It is a profession. The black and brown residents of Allentown cannot take off their "black skin" as opposed to a police officer who can take off their "blue uniform".

We are calling for a reinvestment back into the community. Back into our schools. Back into our people. Back into the unsheltered neighbor population.

With regards to Bill 48. What specific safety and other equipment is being purchased for the Allentown Police Department? Why is \$38K going towards uniforms? Did anyone actively seek out grants to help the community since this falls under "Community and Economic Development"? We need these answers.

We will continue to push for policy change and legislation at the local, county, and state level until equality and equity are provided for all.

Thank you for your time,

JEREMY WARMKESSEL, IAFF

My name is Jeremy Warmkessel. 936 Hawthorn Rd Allentown Pa 18103. President of IAFF Local 302 Allentown Firefighters.

The International Association of Fire Fighters Local 302 would like to address Bill 51 that appears on the agenda this evening directing Lehigh County Board of Elections to place a Home Rule Charter referendum on the ballot in November's election.

Local 302 is of the opinion that the result of these actions will force all contract negotiations into arbitration. The Home Rule Charter is clear, and I believe the framers took into consideration how ACT 111 and all collective bargaining negotiations work. Adding City Council approval at the conclusion of the negotiation is unfair to both City and Bargaining Unit, having no knowledge of evidence or context which led to the settlement they are being presented.

Additionally, Local 302 believes that any discussion held in Council will have to be conducted publicly per Pennsylvania Sunshine Laws and the Homerule Charter. Currently the Mayor has the authority to appoint his negotiating team so a far better option would be to lobby for representation from council on the team or seek a referendum to make it happen.

In conclusion the way the Council is trying to become involved will ultimately be detrimental to the negotiation process. Having a member on the team from the beginning is fairer and more productive. Local 302 nor the City should have to explain a negotiated settlement approved by both parties publicly before a final ratification from City Council (a third party) who was not involved at all.

Thank You and if you have any questions feel free to call.

KENNETH HEFFENTRAGER, Representing the Allentown Tenant Association, 252 E. Walnut St.

I would like to know why Council members are given a City email that is posted on the City website?

Reason I'm asking is over the past couple years I have been keeping track of who responds...

Former Councilman Courtney Robinson, Roger McClean and current Council members Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, and Ce Ce Gerlach have responded everytime. Councilwoman Candida Affa around 80%, Councilman Joshua Siegal, I have yet to email through the City,

Councilman Julio Guridy has responded around 50-60% of the time. Councilwoman Cynthia Mota has never once responded to either Julian Kern or myself ever since she has taken office. If I'm not mistaken, Council members are elected by the residents of Allentown, and paid an Annual salary by the taxpayers of Allentown. So again, why is getting a timely response an issue for some Council members.

ROBYN WEAVER, 2037 WEST WASHINGTON STREET

I am writing in support of Councilwoman CeCe Gerlach and Councilman Joshua Siegel. I am a voting constituent of the city of Allentown and I am passionate about racial and ethnic justice. The City Council's treatment of CeCe and Josh has been abhorrent and discriminatory. I voted for them to represent me and my interests as a constituent of Allentown and THEY WERE ELECTED by others who feel as I do. They have every right to stand up for what they believe in and to speak out against the racist structures and policies that have long existed in the city of Allentown, its government, and its police department. I support their work, passion, and commitment to our city and I am grateful to have such brave, compassionate, and ethical individuals representing the city of Allentown in its fight for equity and racial justice. The behavior of Councilpersons Zucal, Hendricks, and Affa towards their fellow colleagues is immoral, unethical, and unjust and it speaks to the white supremacy culture deeply embedded in the institution of Allentown's government.

I am also writing to express my sincere opposition to bill 48. As an MSW and an employee in the non-profit sector, I believe that allocating MORE MONEY to the APD will only deepen the divides felt in our community. The proposed \$50,000 in grant money should be reallocated to community entities and programs whose purpose is to support and serve the constituents and residents of Allentown, not oppress and criminalize them.

Lastly, release the names of the officers responsible for the police brutality against Edward Barrero. The citizens of Allentown have the right to know which officers feel excessive force against them is justified. These officers should be fired.

As a White constituent of Allentown, who benefits from the white supremest structures that its government perpetuates, I want to close by saying BLACK LIVES MATTER and we will have no peace in our community until there is JUSTICE for the Black and brown members of our community, not just the White and privileged ones

ERIN KELLER, 1934 W. Tilghman Street

My remarks are directed at Mayor O'Connell and all of City Council, with the exception of Ce-Ce Gerlach and Joshua Siegel.

It is to your benefit and the City of Allentown that you have declined to pursue sanctioning Ce-Ce Gerlach and Joshua Siegel. Many of the world's great leaders began as citizen activists and went on to hold political office. These include the late Harvey Milk, Lech Wałęsa, the late Nelson Mandela and the late indefatigable, non-violent civil rights warrior, United States Representative John Lewis. Do you for one moment believe that even the current idiots sitting in power in D.C. would dare to sanction this man as he walked with and supported Black Lives Matter? Your arrogance is stunning. As is your ignorance. Allentown is 40 years behind the times and you are part of that problem.

With regard to the Allentown Police Department. There are actually two of them, and I have interacted with both personally. One is exemplary and provides services to the people of the City of Allentown with great respect and compassion. The other is barbaric, enraged and aggressively hostile to citizens of all colors, but particularly people of color. The sad thing is when you need to call the APD you never know which one will show up.

This is directly part of your lack of leadership in dealing with the scourge of homelessness, addiction, and untreated mental illness rampant in the City. Additionally, that you would aid and abet the building of luxury apartheid buildings on our dime when affordable housing is desperately needed is criminal.

Nothing has changed since our former Mayor went to jail. It is obvious that you cannot lead, so resign and get the hell out of the way so those that can will, including Enid Santiago—and so that we will all have a viable City with decent housing, schools, police and prosperous futures, regardless of our race, religion, creed, color, sexual orientation and how much money we do or don't have in our pockets.

Julio Moreno, 333 N. Franklin Street

Called and wants this to be read during Courtesy of the Floor tonight. He stated that he wants to put a complaint in with City Council about the cancellation of the Valley Soccer League at Fountain Park.

Oliver Reilly, 2615 W Fairview Street

Hello, my name is Oliver Reilly. I live at 2615 W Fairview Street in Allentown. I'm writing to express my support and appreciation for Council members Ce Ce Gerlach and Josh Siegel. I voted for Ce Ce and Josh because even before they decided to run for council, I would see

them at community events for/by marginalized communities in Allentown—even groups whose identities were different from their own. They were elected by our community to amplify our voices.

When we witnessed the same thing happening in our community that has happened for decades all over the country, Ce Ce and Josh were there— to hear us, to learn, to empathize, and to propose solutions so that our community is truly supported by the people that represent us.

Perhaps they are doing things differently. Perhaps they are proposing things Allentown has never done before. Perhaps that is exactly what is necessary. Throughout history, it has been people like Ce Ce and Josh that have enacted real change.

The censure, to me, was an attempt to silence those voices, and therefore, silence the voices of our communities. Claiming Ce Ce and Josh put council members in danger also raises some questions for me. Do you view protests and protestors as dangerous? Do you think people of color are dangerous? What has made you think you're in danger? Because the folks that have been protesting and working to amplify the voices of marginalized folks are not the ones causing harm—they're actively working to prevent future harm. I'd ask you to really think about what it is that has made you feel threatened.

Lastly, while I truly want *everyone* in our community to be safe, I don't believe we should be further militarizing our police officers.