

Connie Santos, 827 S Jefferson St.

I am a commissioner on the Allentown Human Relations Board. As the budget for CED is being discussed this evening, I am requesting the opportunity to speak on the importance of our Commission and our needs. Currently we have 3 ACTIVE investigations in progress. I hold one of those and it is probably the oldest. As volunteers, our time and resources are limited, and these cases are time-sensitive. Our Commission could benefit from the employment of a PT investigator.

Discrimination is alive and well in our city. Our board strives to educate the community on what is discrimination, and what actions can be taken. Some of our best efforts were trampled with the onset of COVID 19, and our scheduled seminars and events were postponed.

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Sharon Fraser, 25 N 11 Street

Dear Council,

I have not been on the Human Relations Commission ( HRC) long but I am knee deep with investigative work. As a member of the HRC, there is no question that the (HRC) is providing a critical, important, and beneficial service to the citizens of Allentown. The HRC is the first line of defence that citizens have in protecting themselves from continued harassment and discrimination, that is so rampant now.

I and other commissioners are busy investigating cases and seeking resolution in housing, employment and other acts that violate our citizen's human rights. Most who we serve do not have the resources to hire a lawyer and seek our help to resolve these issues. We may not be shouting from the mountain top but the work is being done with diligence and fairness.

Our citizens need to know that the City of Allentown cares and the services that the HRC provides is one way relaying the message.

I implore you to keep funding the HRC and if available increase the budget, so we can increase our services and get more training. The city has some bright individual doing this work and most, are volunteers happy to be of service.