

CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. ____

RESOLUTION

R15-2021

Introduced by City Council and the Administration on February 3, 2021

Recommends Lehigh County Administration, Courts and DA pursue policies to reduce the risk of COVID contagion in the county prison including placing Non-Violent Offenders under house arrest, limit future incarcerations, and following all CDC guidelines.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, the Lehigh County Jail is currently experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases among staff and inmates;

WHEREAS, the Lehigh County Jail as of December 21, 2020 had 227 inmates testing positive, including 62 active cases with one person being hospitalized; and

WHEREAS, a 54 year old man detained in the Lehigh County Jail who was hospitalized for several weeks has died of COVID-19 on Thursday, December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2021, a 30-year old Lehigh County Jail Corrections Officer died from coronavirus related complications; and

WHEREAS, the Lehigh County Jail continues to experience staffing shortages; and

WHEREAS, Allentown City Council would like the safeguard the health of the Lehigh County Jail staff, inmates and community at large; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Allentown City Council urges the County of Lehigh to ensure that all COVID-19 safety protocols recommended by the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) and are being fully implemented and that all staff, inmates and visitors have clean personal protective equipment; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Allentown City Council urges the County of Lehigh to send non-violent offenders who do not pose a threat to public safety home on house arrest.

FURTHERMORE, Allentown City Council urges the County of Lehigh to reduce the number of newly incarcerated people coming into the facility.