



August 26, 2021

This letter is a response to your front-page article of August 23 by Peter Hall, discussing Interim Chief Charles Roca's promotion to the permanent Chief position and the objection to his immediate appointment expressed by Julio Guridy and other Council members. Our board and members have had regular contact with Roca in the past couple of years, through his faithful attendance at our monthly meetings and at the events we host in West Park and in the neighborhood. We have been impressed by his communication skills, dedication to our community, reliability, quiet intelligence, humanity, and warm personality. Given the ongoing issues with noise, crime, and other problems our city faces, we feel that Interim Chief Roca should be immediately and officially appointed to the Chief position, with the matching salary. To wait several months until the new mayor comes in, when apparently most of council agrees that he is the best candidate for the job, is both unfair to Roca (he is drawing his Assistant Chief salary) and counter-productive to Allentown's safety.

Sincerely,

Board members of the West Park Civic Association:

Tom Yuracka, Ibolya Balog, Margaretha Haeussler, Peter Jodik, Scott Armstrong, Merrily J. Starkey, Nancy Jensen, Matthew Kramer-LaPadula, Ellen Roberts, Kelli Holzman, Cheryl Haughney, Christine Isabelle Oaklander, Ph.D.