



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation: Council President Hendricks

City Hall is still closed. Public comments will be accepted in writing through an email to the City Clerk at Michael.Hanlon@Allentownpa.gov. Emailed public comment must be submitted by 5:00 pm on the day of the meeting to make it available and distribute it. The comments received will be read into the record by the City Clerk. The email must follow the regular format of council meetings – include your name and address on the email. A Courtesy of the Floor section will be created for items not on the agenda. Please forward these requests to the City Clerk's email noted above.

Live Comments During the Meeting: Email - Council will be taking live comments during the meeting following the regular protocols using email. Email can be sent to the City Clerk at Michael.Hanlon@Allentownpa.gov or to Public.Comment@Allentownpa.gov. A reminder that comments must be directed to legislation under review except for Courtesy of the Floor.

The meeting is live streamed and can be found at the city website: <https://www.allentownpa.gov/> under Public Meetings or simply go directly to the link <https://allentownpa.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. Make sure the drop-down menu references City Council and is on the current month. The complete agenda and legislation are found there. When the meeting starts, it will say Meeting in Progress on the right-hand side. Click that and you will join the meeting. The live stream works best with up to date browsers. After the meeting is over, the video will be uploaded into the file. Should you have any questions on this, call the City Council Office at 610-437-7556.

Record of Meeting: The video and minutes of the meeting will be posted on the City website as soon as possible after the meeting for review.

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

It is my understanding the Allentown City Council is refusing to place the AHRC's proposed police reform resolution on the Council agenda for discussion.

I'm wondering how that could be given this time of social upheaval. The moment we're in begs for a discussion about effective ways to have a safe community. This is the time to take a fresh look at the role of police within our communities. This is most definitely the time to discuss the importance of police accountability.

As my local government representative, I implore you to place their resolution on your agenda. Let's talk.

My preferences or recommendations.

1. The City of Allentown should take the lead on being known as a city that has economic mobility for all. Make "City Without Limits" mean something. Economic disparity is by design, not by accident. It is not solely about individual effort, as some would like to believe. There is an uneven playing field, and the outcomes within our systems (education, employment, income, home ownership, criminal justice) reflect the racial disparity that is baked into our systems. Economic equity improves the quality of life of residents, resulting in a reduction in violence.
2. Hire a consultant team to evaluate the culture of the Allentown Police Department. Is it welcoming? Is it pro-equity? What are the attitudes about race? How do these attitudes impact performance and relationships with residents? The evaluation should include feedback from current police staff, retired Black and Latinx police staff, and residents. The other night I called the Allentown Police desk (610 437-7753). The voice on the other end - the one going through the menu options, was an upbeat white female sounding voice. Her voice was jarring to me - in a city that is over 60% Black African Heritage and Latinx, I would expect to hear a different sounding voice. And then on top of that, there was no option for Spanish. Almost every customer service number I call for businesses such as phone or cable, has a Spanish option. Even the local grocery self-check screens have a English or Spanish option! But there is no Spanish speaker option for the APD. With our numbers? With their interface with the public? An evaluation will reveal the other ways APD fails to be inclusive and welcoming.
3. Explore police reform. Step back and look at everything to include: What do we want from police? Are the police responding to calls that should be handled by other professionals? Are the police trained to understand and manage their implicit biases? Are the department policies just (fair) and protecting both police and the public? (e.g. the 8 Can't Wait).
4. Of course an analysis of the APD workforce. To what extent is the workforce representative of the community? And if there is a gap,

what is the recruitment and selection plan to have a workforce that reflects the residents they serve? And again, what is the plan for all officers to accept, respect and celebrate diversity amongst themselves as well as within the community?

Phyllis Alexander

Dear Mr. Hanlon,

My name is Kieva Mark, and I am a student at Muhlenberg College (2400 W. Chew St.). I am writing to you in the hopes that the issue of defunding the police be brought up at the next council meeting. I want to extend my support of the reallocation of a portion of the police budget to at risk members of the community and other community support measures, such as a mental health support committee, support for the homeless community, and trauma intervention specialists to assist in cases of domestic violence. With the funding currently given to the police, the community could create support networks outside of this institution which asks too much of its officers.

Please consider this important issue at the next meeting of the council.

Best,
Kieva Mark

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the egregious use of force demonstrated by the Allentown Police Department in front of St Luke's Hospital at around 6pm Saturday. In the video widely circulating around social media, it is painfully obvious that the APD's use of force in this scenario was excessive and dangerous. Use of force like that evidenced in the video is disproportionately used against Black people and other people of color. Allentown and other Lehigh Valley residents have been demanding action towards defunding and reforming the police and disrupting the system of racist law enforcement for nearly two months now and it is clear that these cries continue to fall on deaf ears. Rest assured that the people of Allentown are not going anywhere and we will not stop disrupting the peace in this city until there has been real change.

Thank you,
Anna Tjeltveit

This email is meant to be read at the City Council Meeting this upcoming Wednesday.

Dear City Council,

My name is Alison Cummins, my address is 2400 W Chew Street. I am appalled at the force used to arrest an Allentown resident outside of St. Luke's Hospital on July 11th. Despite the recent release of the Use of Force Policy by the APD, we saw excessive force used against a citizen. It is clear that these policies are not working and that the officers are not taking them seriously enough. I'm writing to encourage you to defund the police and invest in the Allentown community. What good is a police force that will not adhere to its own policies and continuously put citizens, particularly Black citizens, in harm's way? The only way to fix this problem is to divest in policing and invest in communities; I urge you to act now before we see more destruction--and even death--in the city of Allentown at the hands of police and politician complacency.

Sincerely,
Alison Cummins

Dear Mr. Hanlon,

At the request of my county chairman, I'm attaching this correspondence for the floor both in the body of this email (see below my signature block) as well as in PDF format. Please email me with any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

VR,

Lola Rosa
Secretary, Veterans Party of Lehigh County

July 12, 2020

City Council Chambers
Allentown City Hall
641 South 10th Street
Allentown, PA 18103

ATTN: Courtesy of the Floor

To the distinguished members of Allentown's City Council,

Given the tenuous nature of the social climate in Allentown, I will be keeping my remarks succinct since I am sure there will be many other comments for the floor to be discussed tonight. However, recent events

have made apparent the most pressing of those issues, that being the rights and responsibilities of protestors as well as the rights and responsibilities of those not involved in protests, or more precisely, those who are simply "there" where and when protests occur.

This letter is not meant to be a social critique of any kind; quite the contrary. While I have my reservations about the motives of ideological entities like BLM-reservations which should not be misconstrued as invalidating the simple, and self-evident message that black lives matter-my sole purpose today is to enquire as to the council's position regarding issues of safety for all parties involved in legitimate protest, and those surrounding said protest. One need only point to the death of Seattle's Summer Taylor (and subsequently the fate Dawit Kalete), and the incident surrounding the defense of Missouri's Mark and Patricia McCloskey's home to see the two sides of this particular issue manifest in reality, and, given the event from this week where an Allentown police officer placed a knee on the head of a detainee, these realities can be assumed to set themselves upon the Lehigh Valley as well.

My question for the council is simple: how will we, as a city, make sure that the right to assemble and protest peacefully as a people will be upheld so that incidents like those in Seattle do not occur, while simultaneously protecting the right and safety of private residencies-rights protected under Pennsylvania Title 18, statutes 505 and 507 i.e. the "Castle Doctrine"? In both instances listed above, the crimes of manslaughter, assault (on the part of Kalete and the McCloskys), and criminal trespass (on the part of the protestors) *could* have been avoided had the protestors in question been acting responsibly, which is to say not standing in the middle of a public roadway in the middle of the night, dressed in black, and not committing a defiant trespassing offense (as per Section 3503 of the Statutes of Pennsylvania), thus forcing the residents of said location to defend their property from a crowd with indeterminate, and thus threatening intentions. What steps does the council envision to ensure that protesters are allowed to peaceably protest in our otherwise admirable city without endangering themselves, or others?

Thank you for your time, and consideration of this matter. I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,
//SIGNED//
Ryan Wasser, County Chairman

Mellisa Felix

A Black man in Allentown was held down with an elbow/knee to his neck by the police yesterday. Arrest the police officer who did it and the accomplices.

Dear City Council,

My name is Kyra Hickey and my address is 2400 W Chew Street. I am distraught by the aggression used to arrest an Allentown resident outside of St. Luke's Hospital on July 11th. Despite the recent release of the Use of Force Policy enacted by the APD, there was excessive force employed against a citizen. Clearly, these policies are insufficient and the officers are not acting in accordance with them. I am writing to demand that the city council defund the police and invest in the Allentown community. What use is a police force that does not abide by its own policies and repeatedly put its citizens, particularly Black and Brown citizens, in danger? The only solution to this problem is to divest in policing and invest in communities; I urge you to act now before we witness more devastation - and even death - in the city of Allentown at the hands of police and politician complacency.

Sincerely,
Kyra Hickey

This email is meant to be read at the City Council Meeting this Wednesday.

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Courtesy of the Floor is the first order of business in the Charter, not Council's Rules.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if they can Suspend the Rules. He asked Mr. Kloiber to enlighten Council on that.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Council used to have Courtesy of the Floor at the end of the meeting, and then the framers of the Charter specifically put it in at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that he is tracking down the language of the Charter.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he does not have the Charter with him, but he was at the city when the Charter switched.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that in the procedure, it has Rules - Section 212, the Council should determine its own Rules and Order of Business.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she knows that there are a hundred emails or more, but the reality is at this point just listen to the people out there. The last thing we need is that we don't read people's letters. She is not saying that they are not going to read it, but she is saying let's go over them. People want to be listened to. This will be a good way to tell them we are listening even though and she has babies at home. She is willing to stay as long as she needs to stay to hear what people have to say. She stated that is her humble opinion.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that regardless of when they read these Courtesy of the Floor comments, they know that this is going to be a long meeting so why not just stick to the program because she would not want someone to make a claim. She had some concerns about when she had people advocate for the Homeless Commission, those letters weren't read. She stated that she knows that these will be read, but she wouldn't want someone to make a claim like, wait we wrote about this issue so we put it to the end and the next meeting we got people writing about planting more trees, and we read that in the beginning. She stated that she would not want to get into that. Let's just stick with the program. It is going to be a long meeting. Get your coffee ready and let's just get going.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it is 6 to 1 and a half of dozen to the other.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he doesn't mind having it now. Some of them just want to get to the business at hand first, but if you prefer to do that this way, he is ok with it.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that with the procedural thing, there is a motion. There needs to be a second for the discussion. The Charter would allow this, but it is imperative that comments are read.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he thinks they are sending the wrong message. He thinks they need to stick to the Agenda. The Charter states that Courtesy of the Floor is the first thing. It needs to be the first thing. They need to go through it. If it takes 15, 20, 45 it is what it is. We all know it is going to be a long night. Stick to the Agenda.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he doesn't have a problem with it. He was asked to make a motion and he made a motion, but as the Solicitor stated it has to be seconded. It is just the discussion part.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if it was a second to the Motion. He suggested that Council go back to the Agenda as listed.

Mr. Julio Guridy withdrew the Motion.

After Kyra Hickey's comments, Julio Guridy made a motion to Suspend the Rules

and request to finish the business of the Agenda and come back later to read the rest of the letters and change the Courtesy of the Floor to the end.

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Dear City Council,

My name is Desire Suarez and my address is 2400 Chew St Allentown, PA. I am writing to demand accountability of the Allentown Police Department for their use of excessive and potentially deadly force. The kneeling of an officer onto a handcuffed man's neck, George Floyd, is what sparked the revolution the nation is going through today, and also what took Floyd's life in 8 long minutes. To see this situation be replicated in a town I call home does not sit right with me, and I know it does not for all of my peers and neighbours. Police should be equipped to diffuse tense situations without the use of strong force. But they are not. Because of this, that is why we are calling for them to be defunded. The extensive funding that goes into the police force could easily be directed elsewhere to ensure the support and growth of the Allentown community. The funds could be distributed instead to schooling and education, environmental issues, and quite literally---any other place that genuinely needs it. Police departments all over the nation have been abusing their power for far too long and we urge Allentown to be a part of the change in a long overdue reinvention of this broken system. We need to protect our Black citizens just as we do our White ones. Black lives matter.

Sincerely,
Desire Suarez

City Council,

My name is Cindy Funes and my address is 2400 W Chew Street. After seeing what occurred on July 11th outside of St. Luke's hospital and the unnecessary force used against a man, I must ask what message are you sending? Allentown has a large black and brown population, so what are you telling them by letting the police officers that used this type of force go unpunished? It's a serious question. What message are you sending to the black and brown children of the community? I ask you to strongly consider defunding the Allentown Police Department as it is clear that they have too much funds and time on their hands as for THREE officers felt they were all needed to push a man into the ground. One of them even felt the need to put his knee on this mans neck and head. I demand that you take action against these police officers and that justice is served. Defund the Allentown Police Department.

Regards,

Cindy Funes

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Sincerely,
Cindy Funes

This email is to be read at the city Council Meeting this upcoming Wednesday.

Dear City Council,

My name is Sydney Baron. I am a student at Muhlenberg College and a registered voter in PA. I reside at 2400 W Chew St. I'm writing today to express the importance of defunding the Allentown Police Department. One June 11th, mere days after Allentown's new use of force policy was put in place, video footage was released showing an APD officer with his knee to the neck of a man outside St. Luke's hospital, Sacred Heart campus. I don't know what further evidence you may need that the passage of new regulations and reforms is not going to change the pandemic of police brutality and racism that this country is facing. As a citizen of Allentown and a civil rights activist, I demand that the names of the officers involved in this incident be released to the public. I demand that the body camera and security footage of the incident be released to the public. Most importantly, **I demand that you immediately begin removing funds from the Allentown Police Department.** These funds should be reallocated to programs including but not limited to; mental health services, substance abuse treatment, education and affordable housing. This is critical to the safety of Allentown's Black and Brown communities and the strength of the community as a whole.

Sincerely,
Sydney Baron

Dear City Council,

My name is Nate Stratton, my address is 2400 W Chew Street. Personally, I am taken aback by the lack of professionalism among the Allentown Police Department. Despite their inordinate amount of funding, they have consistently failed at protecting Allentown citizens. I believe it is long overdue that the city takes the appropriate actions to defund the APD. Their over 40 million dollars worth of annual funding has only become part of the problem.

Signed,

Nate Stratton

HOLD THIS OFFICER ACCOUNTABLE

https://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2020/07/12/video-of-allentown-police-officer-putting-his-knee-on-mans-neck-during-arrest-prompts-protests/?fbclid=IwAR3aDbyVFM7F5AzRmZ2z7bGK7r_IPqno9LciLQUiY5ISVKeYXG8NRYQmM40_<https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fphiladelphia.cbslocal.com%2F2020%2F07%2F12%2Fvideo-of-allentown-police-officer-putting-his-knee-on-mans-neck-during-arrest-prompts-protests%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3aDbyVFM7F5AzRmZ2z7bGK7r_IPqno9LciLQUiY5ISVKeYXG8NRYQmM40&data=02%7C01%7CMichael.Hanlon%40allentownpa.gov%7C6869fa2957d946ddf4b208d826960ff9%7C1b6e3ffc79834623ac728e476fef6b0d%7C0%7C0%7C637301773250700948&sdata=ijtM6nDlaPZBCf6h6lceL46ShWfDpcxAZ0%2BMqmTIWCY%3D&reserved=0>

~Suzanne Brown~

My name is Katie Weeks and I am a constituent from Fogelsville, PA ZIP code 18051.

I am disgusted and disappointed to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

Release body camera and security footage
Release the names of the officers
Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support reforming our police and justice system, by acknowledging the necessity of Black Lives Matter.

Thank you for your time,
Katie Weeks

Dear Allentown City Council,

My name is Alexander Setlow. My address is 2400 W Chew St. I am disgusted at the obvious example of police brutality that occurred in Allentown and how there has been no action taken to fire and arrest the officer who knelt on the neck of an Allentown resident on July 11th outside of St. Luke's Hospital. The policy you implemented has been proven to be ineffective and has not been enough action on your part, and I demand you defund the Allentown police department and redistribute the money to the Allentown community. I strongly suggest using the money to fund public schools and invest in better housing for black and brown communities in Allentown, and prove you actually care about their lives.

Dear Allentown City Council,

This email is to be read at the City Council Meeting on 7/15.

My name is Kyra Dates, and my address is 2400 W Chew Street. I am disgusted by the use of force during the arrest of an Allentown citizen on July 11th. This is unacceptable, and it proves that the APD's newly released "use of force policy" does not actually serve as tangible, effective safety measures for Allentown citizens. These "reforms" in policy do not make real change, and your citizens' lives are still being put at risk by the police. The solution to Police brutality and excessive force is not policy reforms, but to defund the Allentown Police Department and invest in the Allentown Community. As a citizen of Allentown, I urge you--demand you--to defund the police. This city's citizens are currently being put at risk by the very people you claim serve to protect them; you have the power to fix this by defunding the police and investing in the Allentown Community.

Sincerely,
Kyra Dates

I just saw the video of what seemed to be pretty excessive force outside the hospital. Why was that necessary? Was there no other way that guy could be held down? Did that officer need to put a knee on that guy's neck? I'm a PA resident (Pittsburgh) and really like to see our state do better. Can you please enroll your force in deescalation training, crisis training and training that focuses on lethal forms of restraint? This is not ok.

Caldwell Linker
15201

Dear City Council,

My name is Cameron Eaton; my address is 2400 West Chew Street. After the Allentown Police Department released its new Use of Force Policy prohibiting "the use of neck restraints or similar weaponless control techniques (chokeholds)" an officer exhibited the same use of force that killed George Floyd on an Allentown resident outside of St. Luke's Hospital on July 11th. This blatant disregard of policy is telling of the Allentown Police Department's disingenuous attempt at appeasing the public with no intention of enacting real change. I demand the release of body camera footage immediately. I demand a statement from the mayor, City Council, and chief of police about this violent arrest. I demand that the City Council consider the reallocation of funds from the Allentown Police Department to other community resources such as housing, education, mental health counseling, and substance abuse treatment. I demand that the officer who committed this atrocity be permanently removed from the Allentown Police Department. We need more than an investigation. We need real change.

Sincerely,
Cameron Eaton

Dear Allentown City Council,

My name is Philippa Edstrand-Hearn and I am a resident of Allentown, my address is 2400 Chew Street. I am enraged to learn of the incident of police brutality on 11th July and have seen the video of a police officer putting his knee on a handcuffed civilian. Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death" I am calling for an unbiased, just investigation to the incident, where the police officer is held responsible for his actions. This was an abuse of power and a violation of human rights, and the city of Allentown has a duty to address this. I demand that the local officials defund the Allentown police and invest in the community.

Thank you for your time,

Philippa Edstrand-Hearn

My name is Alex Goldman and I am a constituent from Allentown, PA, 18104.

I am enraged and horrified to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the traumatic video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. How can you watch that video and not recognize the clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights?

I am DEMANDING that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was “the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd’s death.” I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support the COMMUNITY. Your job is to serve the people. Do it.

Thank you for your time,
Alex Goldman

Dear City Council,

My name is Florence Arnold and I am a constituent from Allentown, 18104. I am horrified and disgusted to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

These demands are the least of what your department can do. It has become increasingly clear the so-called bias-training and reformation called for and supposed demonstrated is no longer enough nor satisfactory.

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was “the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd’s death.” I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support and implement these four demands.

Thank you for your time,
Florence Arnold

My name is Kelly McCoy, and I am a constituent from Easton, ZIP code 18045. While I am not a resident of Allentown, I believe everyone in the Lehigh Valley and beyond deserves to live in a world free from police violence.

I am appalled to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July

11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. -Release body camera and security footage
2. -Release the names of the officers
3. -Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. -DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community (increased access to mental health services, extracurricular programs for students, food banks and shelters, etc.)

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was “the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd’s death.” I urge you and your colleagues to stand against this dangerous and inhumane behavior and to strongly support compassionate, community-focused alternatives to our current policing structure.

Thank you for your time,
Kelly McCoy

My name is Samantha, and I'm a constituent from Slatington. I am appalled to learn of the incident that occurred in Allentown on July 11th. I have chosen to view the video that is now circulating online. The video shows a civilian on the ground, being held by three officers, one of which uses their elbow then their knee to press the civilian's head into the pavement. Appalled does not even truly explain the feelings of anger and disgust I am experiencing. What this officer did was a clear violation of the use of force policy and of human rights.

I am demanding that local officials release the body camera and security camera footage, release the names of the officers in question, ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation, and the Allentown Police Department's budget be redistributed to investments in the community.

I love our city. But now the nation, and the world, know that we, too, are not an exception to police brutality. If you love our city too, you will fight for it's people. I urge the city council to stand up against racism and police brutality, and to actively fight for the lives of the black and brown communities in Allentown.

This is a public statement to be read at the city council meeting on 7/15.

Dear City Council,

My name is Hannah Warnick, and I am a constituent from Allentown, PA, 18104. My Address is 2400 Chew Street. I was appalled to hear about the

incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I've watched the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was clearly a harmful violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

We are in the midst of a national reckoning with racism and police violence and I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing other victims of violence and police brutality George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated upon seeing this video, that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against racialized violence and abuses of power and to strongly support the defunding of the Allentown Police Department as well as the reinvestment of that money into the community. This reallocation of funds is sure to have a positive impact on the citizens of Allentown.

Thank you for your time,

Hannah Warnick

This email is meant to be read at the City Council Meeting this upcoming Wednesday

Dear City Council,

My name is Jack Slomin, my address is 2400 W Chew Street. I am deeply disturbed by the force used to arrest an Allentown resident outside of St. Luke's Hospital on July 11th. Despite the recent release of the Use of Force Policy by the Allentown Police Department, we witnessed excessive force being used against a citizen. It is clear that these policies are not working and your police force is either against change or incapable of properly protecting ALL citizens to the best of their ability. I am writing to encourage you to defund the police department and use these funds to support the growth of the Allentown community. If a police force is not held accountable, and will not adhere to its own policies, while continuously putting citizens, particularly Black citizens, in harm's way. This blatant racism and lack of empathy for one's community will continue to divide the citizens of Allentown. I am urging the City Council to properly and seriously

reexamine the funding of the Allentown police force. The only way to improve the ongoing issues of police violence and racism in this city is the invest in YOUR communities. I call upon you to do the right thing and take steps towards a better community and a better city of Allentown. This divide and destruction in the city of Allentown is at the hands of the police and the political complacency. I urge you, be on the right side of history.

Sincerely,
Jack

Dear City Council,

My name is Amanda Clark and my address is 2400 W Chew Street, Allentown, PA. After hearing of the force used to arrest an Allentown resident outside of St. Luke's Hospital on July 11th, I felt compelled to reach out to you and share mine and others distress. We call upon those with the power to shape policy in Allentown to deeply consider your responsibility to citizens, particularly those of color who are disproportionately affected by police violence and other symptoms of systemic racism. We call on you to divest in policing and invest in communities, with the hope of healing the hurt and pain that has been caused by systemic racism and preventing further violence in the future. This is the time to act. Now, in the face of the failure to protect a citizen in the process of arrest, is the time to make a change for the betterment of the entire community of Allentown.

Sincerely,
Amanda Clark

This message is to be read aloud at the Allentown City Council meeting on 7/15:

My name is Chloe Buergenthal, a resident at 423 Leh St in Allentown. I am disgusted to have seen the video of the latest incident of police brutality on July 11th in front of Saint Lukes Hospital. It is clear that a change of force policy is ineffective, as this incident came nearly a week after APD released a policy against using this kind of force.

I am asking you to defund the Allentown police and instead invest in the Allentown community. How many more Black and brown bodies must be taken away and assaulted before the change is enacted? I urge you to be on the right side of history at this moment and protect the community you are here to serve.

Thank you.
Chloe Buergenthal

To the Allentown City Council -

My name is Brooke Weber. I currently live in York, PA, but I spent the last four years of my life living at 2400 W Chew Street in Allentown, PA. The following should be read aloud at the City Council Meeting on July 15. I am saddened and horrified to have seen the video of the incident in which a police officer appears to have used excessive force to arrest an Allentown resident in front of St. Luke's Hospital on July 11. I was once encouraged by the fact that the Allentown Police Department released their Use of Force Policy, but this action defies all that that policy claims to establish.

Local officials must release body camera and security footage of this incident, carry out a full investigation, and suspend the officers involved whilst the investigation is being carried out. I also implore you to consider re-distributing some of the monetary resources currently allotted to the police department back into the Allentown community. I love Allentown so much - it fostered me during a formative and wonderful period in my life. Please invest in the communities that make your city so diverse and beautiful.

According to attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." Please take steps to ensure that use of force like this never occurs again.

Thank you for your time,
Brooke Weber

My name is Alegra Secor , and I am a Student from Muhlenberg College in Allentown

I am furious to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against racism and oppression

Thank you for your time,
Alegra Secor

This email is meant to be read at the City Council meeting this Wednesday.

City Council,

My name is Elena Yingling and my address is 2400 W Chew St. I am sickened by the force and lack of empathy used to arrest an Allentown resident outside of St Luke's Hospital on July 11th. I support the Use of Force Policy released by the APD, but it is clearly not enough and the officers are not taking it seriously. I am writing to encourage you to defund the police department and invest in the Allentown community instead. I love this city and want to see that every resident and visitor feels safe and welcome. Act now before we see further destruction.

Sincerely,
Elena Yingling

My name is Lisa Stein, and I am a constituent from Allentown, PA, 18104.

I am profoundly upset to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have heard members of the Allentown City Council say that what happened to George Floyd in Minneapolis would never happen in Allentown. Well, they were wrong. It happened.

I am demanding that local officials take the following 6 actions:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Thank you for your time,
Lisa Stein

Hello,

My name is Gwen Dietrich and I am a resident of New Tripoli, Pennsylvania. I am reaching out to you all today regarding the recent video of an APD officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian.

This incident was a clear violation of APD's Use of Force Policy and human rights.

Attorney Ben Crump, who is currently representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor started that this was, "the same kind of arrest that lead to George Floyd's death."

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body cam and security footage
2. Release the names of all officers involved
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
5. Defund the Allentown Police Department and invest into the community

I am urging all to stand against police brutality and racism and to strongly support the defunding of the APD and investment of more funds in Black and POC communities.

Thank you for your time,
Gwen Dietrich

To the Allentown City Council,

My name is Janvi Madhani. I am a constituent of Allentown, PA.
My address is 1619 Penn's Crossing, Allentown, PA. 18104

In light of the recent event of police brutality within our own city, where an officer placed his knee on a man's neck using dangerously violent force, I ask that this officer, first and foremost, be terminated, effective immediately. The victim of this horrifying aggression may or may not have been Black, but when officers of the law, commissioned to protect us, to uphold the great values of justice and truth, fail Black lives, they fail all of us. Murder, even committed by officers with seeming impunity, is not just. Incarceration of innocent lives is not just. Racially charged mass incarceration is not just. Over-policing of Black and Latinx neighborhoods is not just. It is not justice the police are upholding, it is authority.

I demand you reexamine the definition of justice. I demand that you defund the police. I demand that you invest instead in building an infrastructure where trained specialists and unarmed de-escalation professionals are called in instead of the police for non-violent intervention methods. I demand that you invest in the community in the forms of education and

mental health resources. I demand that you establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality

I remind you that the institution of slavery and the control of minorities were two of the most formidable features of American society shaping early policing. Thus, whether or not you agree with the current status of racial equality in today's policing strategies, it remains a fact that the police in the United States have an inherently racist origin. This racism has been propagated over decades through the prison industrial complex and has reared its ugly head daily in the lives of BIPOC people. Today, you are faced with a reckoning because for centuries they have endured this violence singularly; their voices silenced and oppressed. Today, they have allies.

And we will be relentless.

I promise you, that my vote, and millions of others' votes will be showing up to the polls and we will vote for the changes society needs. I hope to find you on the right side of this change.

Best,

Janvi Madhani

My name is Katharine Henry, and I am a constituent from Emmaus, ZIP code 18049.

I am saddened and angry to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against racism and police brutality and to strongly support Black Lives Matter. Because they do, always, not just when filmed.

Thank you for your time,
Katharine Henry

My name is Madelyn Kohler, and I am a constituent from Allentown, Pennsylvania 18106.

I am unsettled to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police Brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against the systematic injustices deeply rooted in America's police force and to strongly support the movement to bring justice to the POC community that have suffered extensively at the hands of systematic racism.

Thank you for your time,
Madelyn Kohler

My name is Tessa Fritz and I am a constituent from Emmaus, ZIP code 18049.

I am very upset, frustrated, and saddened to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality

6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community
Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was “the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd’s death.” I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support the Black Lives Matter movement.

Thank you for your time,
Tessa Fritz

Sent from my iPhone

Dear Mr. Hanlon,

My name is Lili Daskais, and I am a constituent from Allentown, PA 18104.

I am outraged to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
6. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was “the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd’s death.” I urge you and your colleagues to stand against the officers and to strongly support Black Lives Matter.

Thank you for your time,
Lili Daskais

My name is Jenna Teague, and I am a constituent from Fountain Hill, PA.

I am infuriated to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights. There are no circumstances that warrant such violent and lethal force, especially since this incident occurred in front of a hospital where there are several different resources for restraint. I know this from several years of working in an inpatient acute behavioral health unit. I have had patients brought in by police, from prisons, and have NEVER once had to put my knee in or anywhere around a person's neck in order to properly and safely restrain them. How appalling that the very people that are intended to "protect and serve" our citizens aren't able to do the same.

Regarding the incident from July 11th, around 6:40pm outside of St. Luke's Hospital on the 400 block of W Chew St., I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage from the officers on site
2. Release the name and badge number of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just a

Dear City Council,

Trauma can be defined as a series of events or a set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual that will have long lasting adverse effects throughout their lifespan. It can impair the person's overall cognitive, physical, social, or emotional well being. We can see these traumas through some individuals we come in contact with in our very own communities that suffer with various issues such as mental health illnesses, substance abuse disorders, and even through a period of loss or bereavement . We just saw how a man this past week in Allentown was treated from health professionals and the police, as he was going to get help from a local hospital.

Trauma does not discriminate. We all are carrying our own traumas from our own experiences. This is most evident in that, 67% of the population has an ACE

(adverse childhood experiences) score. People with elevated ACE scores are more easily triggered and re-traumatized. Most of us carry invisible traumas of our own lives that can be conscious and unconscious. Trauma informed programming or trainings will highlight how to recognize the signs of trauma in ourselves and the signs of those we are working with that have triggers. This brings us to the question of, "How do we approach ourselves and the community we serve?".

The one thing that separates how we handle our own traumas is by the supports and tool box that we are able to receive to help us during this that time of hardship. Unfortunately, many people in our community have a harder time reaching resiliency due to the lack of resources, access, and/or support. It is imperative that we as leaders of this community prioritize trauma informed training not only in our police departments, but in our schools and healthcare systems. I

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am disappointed of how the various professions in the city of Allentown handled Edward Borrero, Jr of Allentown this past week, in his time of need. The use of the leg to head/neck was over excessive even if it was on for a few seconds. Instead of Borrero being treated like a human in dire need of immediate help, he was treated like collateral damage. We can't allow this to become the norm or set a precedent. By developing trauma informed training it allows each individual to have a lens of trauma no matter what one is doing, which then will inform one's choices and responses to issues along the way. We need our leaders to prioritize and implement this training because it will not only benefit us as professionals, but it will benefit the community and people that we serve. It will also improve the way the city and police force is viewed. It will

improve our city collectively as a whole. It will heal those who feel unheard and will show professional courage in the midst of uncertainty and confusion. It will validate those who want to be heard and those who want to make Allentown a better place.

The City of Allentown should allocate their funds more appropriately to serve its community as a whole. The City of Allentown needs to prioritize crisis intervention and an increase of trauma informed care/protocols by the implementation of it here in our various emergency services and social services that serve our city. Lackawanna county has been doing crisis training for the past six and a half years and has developed, "The Northeastern Pennsylvania Crisis Intervention Team," which was formed after an unfortunate event in 2009 where a woman in her 50's, was shot and killed in the cities north side. Investigators said that she had threatened the officers with a knife during a mental health crisis" (Lange, 2015). Deabill interviews a Scranton Police officer, Joe Kearny, who proceeds to explain, "You want everyone to go home safe, but sometimes, unfortunately, it doesn't end up that way. But the program that

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we have going right now, the CIT program, helps police officers deal with people who are in crisis" (Lange, 2015).

The benefits of prioritizing trauma informed trainings and crisis interventions can be seen in Lackawanna County. It is said that, "Roughly 45 percent of Scranton's patrol officers have gotten crisis intervention training, statistics show a 66-percent drop in the use of force that is needed when responding to mental health incidents" (Deabill, 2017). Ray Hayes, Co-Coordinator of the NEPA CIT program stated, "It is not against the law to suffer from a mental disability or a mental illness and that is what were trying

to stress". I understand that the APD has had trauma trainings but I believe that similarly to the 5 hour mandate for public schools, it is just not enough. If Lackawanna County can implement such a task force, I am most positively sure that with the proper allocation of funds the City of Allentown and our police department receives, that Lehigh County can create a task force that can provide this city with the change it needs. The cooperation between the city, police, and people will become stronger and the job of the police and other professionals will become easier. The people of Allentown can't and will not accept the use of force on mentally ill or sick individuals who need our help. If we don't implement change by implementing action, then when? If it isn't us who implements it, then who will?

I would like prioritization , validation, and some transparency that states that action such as implementing trauma informed protocols will be put into place after this incident to make sure it doesn't happen again or that a crisis team will be formed to appropriately handle a situation like this in a more appropriate way. There is room to grow. There really is , if there is a willingness to improved. Being complacent to growth is where no positive change can be met.

References

- Deabill, E. (2017, June 14). Scranton police see success with "Crisis Intervention Training". Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://www.pahomepage.com/news/scranton-police-see-success-with-crisis-intervention-training/740080271/>
- Lange, A. (2015, August 11). Police Learning Crisis Intervention. Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://www.wnep.com/article/news/local/lackawanna-county/police-learnin-E-crisis-intervention/523-02a59ee4-fcba-41dc-9df0-da0f8950c2d9>

My name is Rebecca and I am a constituent from Bethlehem, PA. I am DISGUSTED to learn of the incident of police brutality in Allentown on July

11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

- Release body camera
- Release the names of the officers
- Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
- Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted
- Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton to address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
- DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor has stated that this was "the same kind of arrest that led to George Floyd's death." I urge you and your colleagues to stand against police brutality and to strongly support black lives.

Thank you for your time,
Rebecca

WE are writing to let you know please don't defund the police department. People are crazy thinking of asking for this. We do not agree with this at all, law and order has to be done in Allentown. Without the police Allentown is done. My name is Claribel Sanchez my husband is Fidel Sanchez we live at 313 n west street behind the Lehigh valley Hospital when ever we go for a walk and see an officer we say thank you for all you do we are grateful for them. We saw the news of the protest this week and a lady had a mask which said defund the police I thank God I wasn't there I think I would have pulled that mask off. It made me upset. I am just writing to thank Allentown police department please don't let them defund them we need them,

Good Evening sir,

My name is Nevin Maury & I live at 130 W Montgomery St in Allentown 18103. My wife (Karina) & I are whole heartily against this concept. Do I think training and refresher training(s) could/should be done yes. But this concept leads to bigger issues. I served in the USAF and let me tell you I have been to countries that changed to communism and we are heading down that same road. First, the media causes chaos, next the population is divided on key issues which leads to freedoms being taken away, then you remove the police force so the unruly take to the streets and lastly the military is called in for martial law and there you go communism. If PA truly

wants to change things it starts with the Gov and works all the way down the chain of command. If anyone allows or supports the Police to be defunded you are apart of the going problem. Yea again I am against police brutality and racism. But as I say to everyone if we can't say all Muslims are not terrorists (which they aren't) then we can say not all cops are bad neither.

#backtheblue

My name is Sarah Bartholomew and I am against those who want to defund and abolish the police! We need the police to serve and protect us when we arent able to for ourselves. The past 17 plus years Ive worked with people who suffer from mental illness, drug addiction and neurological disabilities as a Crisis Worker. Somtimes when working with these people they can become violent and I had to rely on the police that serve our great Lehigh Valley to help my staff and myself to deescalate those who have become violent towards others and themselves.

I also was in a very abusive relationship that I had to turn to calling the police to help me. I dont believe all police are bad and the police officers that have and do take advantage of their duty as police officers should be dealt with accordingly. To abolish the police is absolutely absurd and if this were to happen all of our PA law abiding citizens will surely protect themselves however they can. This would be the fall of our beautiful PA state! Dont follow those who want to tear down our laws put in place to protect us!

Sincerely,
Sarah B

Diane Emrich

No defunding of the Allentown police. Education and policy review is needed.

Please note that myself and my husband (Linda and Sam Gentile) are against defunding the police.

I do not support the defunding of the police!! I feel this is absolutely insane! This city and people would not survive, it is wrong so wrong! I support Chief Glenn Granitz and the APD!

Pam and Charles Rodgers

My name is Enid Santiago and I reside at 1243 S. Jefferson St. I will like to express my frustration as a women of color, community activist and mother to Black and Brown children.

Most of my life I have worried about my babies First their treatment by their day care workers, little league coaches, then school and finally authority.

I seen my son go thru the school to prison pipeline, criminal un-justice system and my biggest fear was my baby loosing his life by those meant to protect them. As a black man, this fear lives in me EVERYDAY!

The un-justices my children have experience will take all night to go thru, so I will make this short and get to the point. Black lives matter is not something new to me, I have been fighting for this for a VERY long time, the majority of my life. I always fought for those that lost their voices Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Atatiana Jefferson, Botham Jean, Philando Castile, Alton Sterling, Freddie Gray, Gabriella Nevarez, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Tanisha Anderson, Carlos Ingram-Lopez, Andres Guardado, Kalief Browder, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd. This are just some of the many names we fight for!

On July 12th right in our city we all witnessed what the community see as excessive force at a minimum. We are tired, we are frustrated, we are mad, we are hurt and we are as Rodney B will say are "Done Dying".

I will like to show my support and ask that you accept the resolution brought to you by council women Ce-ce Gerlach and Councilman Josh Siegal. Let's begin healing by allowing the community to know you are listening, you are open to real change and you also believe Black Lives Matter.

Allentown has the opportunity to lead our nation. Remember we are not just the third largest city in the state, we are also a minority MAJORITY city and currently the focus of the entire nation.

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

~Barack Obama

Thank you for your support! Let's change the world!

Sincerely,

Enid Santiago

Hi Mike can you please read this 7/15 at the city council meeting during courtesy of the floor.

I wanted to address an issue that should be put out there for the residents of Allentown. This past Saturday night two city council members were in

front of the Allentown police station yelling F the police with a crowd of other protestors. These two members were also marching down Hamilton St. yelling and screaming in protest of the police. I personally do not care if your involved with the Black lives matter movement or against social injustice or whatever people support anymore. I also respect our 5th Amendment and your right to speak out if you so choose too. However, if you are representing the City of Allentown on the council board and you are acting in this manner you clearly are not impartial to the police which is a huge problem. It would be like a county Judge marching with a black lives matter shirt on, then hearing a "Possible" police brutality case. No very fair to be judged by those who are suppose to represent you and the good of the city. You two jumped to conclusions about these officers after seeing a 9 second video that had no facts. As evidence comes out, you two, Representative Schlossburg and Schwyer will all look very foolish by your actions without knowing the facts first. One would think the 2 of you given your positions would gather the facts and evidence before making impulsive hate speeches and tainting any possible investigation. If you want your "no justice, no peace," why don't you Mr. Spiegel and Ms. Gerlach practice what you preach? I am calling for immediate removal from office since you two have clearly shown your true colors and Also Ms. Gerlach do not go on lehighvalleylive and say you aren't anti-police, when I was standing by you watching you yell F-the police and defund the police.

Thank you for your time
Lonnie Robinson

Mary Catherine Smith

I seen on Facebook today that it's being suggested that we defund the police. How about giving them more funding so that they can be provided with more training. If we defund the police what will be the result of that, what does that mean for those that protect and serve our communities? How will that make things better? I SUPPORT MORE FUNDING!!

Dear City Council,

Trauma can be defined as a series of events or a set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual that will have long lasting adverse effects throughout their lifespan. It can impair the person's overall cognitive, physical, social, or emotional well being. We can see these traumas through some individuals we come in contact with in our very own communities that suffer with various issues such as mental health illnesses, substance abuse disorders, and even through a period of loss or bereavement . We just saw how a man this past week in Allentown was treated from health professionals and the police, as he was going to get

help from a local hospital.

Trauma does not discriminate. We all are carrying our own traumas from our own experiences. This is most evident in that, 67% of the population has an ACE (adverse childhood experiences) score. People with elevated ACE scores are more easily triggered and re-traumatized. Most of us carry invisible traumas of our own lives that can be conscious and unconscious. Trauma informed programming or trainings will highlight how to recognize the signs of trauma in ourselves and the signs of those we are working with that have triggers. This brings us to the question of, "How do we approach ourselves and the community we serve?".

The one thing that separates how we handle our own traumas is by the supports and tool box that we are able to receive to help us during this that time of hardship. Unfortunately, many people in our community have a harder time reaching resiliency due to the lack of resources, access, and/or support. It is imperative that we as leaders of this community prioritize trauma informed training not only in our police departments, but in our schools and healthcare systems.

I am disappointed of how the various professions in the city of Allentown handled Edward Borrero, Jr of Allentown this past week, in his time of need. The use of the leg to head/neck was over excessive even if it was on for a few seconds. Instead of Borrero being treated like a human in dire need of immediate help, he was treated like collateral damage. We can't allow this to become the norm or set a precedent. By developing trauma informed training it allows each individual to have a lens of trauma no matter what one is doing, which then will inform one's choices and responses to issues along the way. We need our leaders to prioritize and implement this training because it will not only benefit us as professionals, but it will benefit the community and people that we serve. It will also improve the way the city and police force is viewed. It will improve our city collectively as a whole. It will heal those who feel unheard and will show professional courage in the midst of uncertainty and confusion. It will validate those who want to be heard and those who want to make Allentown a better place.

The City of Allentown should allocate their funds more appropriately to serve its community as a whole. The City of Allentown needs to prioritize crisis intervention and an increase of trauma informed care/protocols by the implementation of it here in our various emergency services and social services that serve our city. Lackawanna county has been doing crisis training for the past six and a half years and has developed, "The Northeastern Pennsylvania Crisis Intervention Team," which was formed after an unfortunate event in 2009 where a woman in her 50's, was shot and killed in the cities north side. Investigators said that she had threatened the

officers with a knife during a mental health crisis" (Lange, 2015). Deabill interviews a Scranton Police officer, Joe Kearny, who proceeds to explain, "You want everyone to go home safe, but sometimes, unfortunately, it doesn't end up that way. But the program that we have going right now, the CIT program, helps police officers deal with people who are in crisis" (Lange, 2015).

The benefits of prioritizing trauma informed trainings and crisis interventions can be seen in Lackawanna County. It is said that, "Roughly 45 percent of Scranton's patrol officers have gotten crisis intervention training, statistics show a 66-percent drop in the use of force that is needed when responding to mental health incidents" (Deabill, 2017). Ray Hayes, Co-Coordinator of the NEPA CIT program stated, "It is not against the law to suffer from a mental disability or a mental illness and that is what we're trying to stress". I understand that the APD has had trauma trainings but I believe that similarly to the 5 hour mandate for public schools, it is just not enough. If Lackawanna County can implement such a task force, I am most positively sure that with the proper allocation of funds the City of Allentown and our police department receives, that Lehigh County can create a task force that can provide this city with the change it needs. The cooperation between the city, police, and people will become stronger and the job of the police and other professionals will become easier. The people of Allentown can't and will not accept the use of force on mentally ill or sick individuals who need our help. If we don't implement change by implementing action, then when? If it isn't us who implements it, then who will?

I would like prioritization, validation, and some transparency that states that action such as implementing trauma informed protocols will be put into place after this incident to make sure it doesn't happen again or that a crisis team will be formed to appropriately handle a situation like this in a more appropriate way. There is room to grow. There really is, if there is a willingness to improve. Being complacent to growth is where no positive change can be met.

References

- Deabill, E. (2017, June 14). Scranton police see success with "Crisis Intervention Training". Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://www.pahomepage.com/news/scranton-police-see-success-with-crisis-intervention-training/740080271/>
- Lange, A. (2015, August 11). Police Learning Crisis Intervention. Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://www.wnep.com/article/news/local/lackawanna-county/police-learning-crisis-intervention/523-02a59ee4-fcba-41dc-9df0-da0f8950c2d9>

Hope Sabbagh

My name is Siobhan McKenna, and I am constituent from Philadelphia, PA 19125.

I lived in Allentown for 4 years while I studied at Muhlenberg College. The graphic video of the Allentown Police officers who held down a civilian while one officer placed his knee on his neck is astounding and disgusting. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights that was released LAST WEEK by the APD: "Use of neck restraints or similar weaponless control techniques (chokeholds) is prohibited."

I am demanding that the local officials release body camera and security footage. I am demanding Allentown release the names of the officers. I am demanding there is a just and unbiased investigation, and most importantly I am demanding we defund the Allentown police and redirect these funds to benefit the community-- meaning investing in education (teachers, counselors, and social workers). Investing in mental health and restorative services. Investing in community-led harm reduction. I am demanding Allentown spend less on law enforcement and incarceration. I am demanding Allentown make investments into the Black communities. I am demanding Allentown replace police officers with trained, unarmed professionals to respond to calls for help on non criminal matters involving mental health, the homeless, school discipline and neighbor disputes.

I am emailing the following public comments to city council and the mayor that as a lifelong resident of the city, I fully support our current leadership within the Allentown Police Department including our current police chief Glenn Granitz.

Granitz is the police chief that the community wanted as chief and fully deserves the position. Granitz is an outstanding police chief and has improved the public communication from the police department to it's residents. He has also improved the community policing efforts of the police department. He is an upstanding and ethical chief and person.

He knows the issues residents deal with on a daily basis because him and his family live in the city and he has been involved with the community for many years when he was captain. He has been very responsive to resident's concerns and is always willing to listen to the residents.

He has always been a professional and stand up guy. He cares about the city and has been working to address the problems in the city. He has come up with excellent ideas to serve the community and it's youth.

Granitz hasn't been police chief for even a year yet and has done more than

any other police chief that we have had in many years. I hope that Granitz continues to be our police chief for many years to come and look forward to continuing to work with him and the department during these difficult times.

Julian Kern
252 E. Walnut St Allentown, PA

sheena valero
I do not support DEFUNDING THE POLICE
Thank you for doing your jobs

The officers do what they need to do in the situations, if they want to break the law then they should be held accountable and stop resisting!

Please note I do not support defunding our police! I feel we should be supporting them!

If this happens it will be like living in the Wild West, you will have more violence on the streets.

Lisa Walker - lives in Allentown for 53 years

1. My name is LuisAcevedo, and I am a constituent from Allentown, PA, 18103.

I am demanding that local officials:

2. *Release body camera
3. *Release the names of the officers
4. *Ensure that there is a just and unbiased. investigation
5. *Suspend the officers involved while the. investigation is conducted
6. *Establish a criminal justice review board. in Allentown with civilian members to *address issues related to racism, social injustices, and police brutality
7. *Invest in community and nonprofits

We need to stay transparent so that the integrity is not banished and the trust can be earned.

I urge you and your colleagues to stand against this type of use of force and to strongly support the bill.

Thank you for your time,
Luis Acevedo

Denise Kametz
Do Not Defund the Police

Dear City Council,

My name is Zoe Kane, and my address is 2400 Chew street. I am angered and disgusted at the force used to arrest an Allentown resident in the incident that happened outside of St. Luke's hospital. Despite the recent release of the use of force policy by the APD, we saw excessive force used against a citizen of this town. It is clear that these policies are not working and the officers and the department are not taking them seriously enough. I am demanding that local officials:

1. release body camera and security footage
2. release the name of the officers
3. ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest the money taken from them into the community

I urge you to act NOW before we see more destruction in the city of Allentown at the hands of the police and the politician complacency!

Sincerely,
Zoe Kane

Dear City Council,

My name is Larissa Dowling, and my address is 2400 W Chew St. I am absolutely disgusted by the incident that took place outside of St. Luke's Hospital on July 11th, in which an officer used brutal force to arrest an Allentown citizen. This act of violence against a citizen was seen by myself and others, and was a clear violation of the Use of Force Policy recently released by the APD. It has come to my attention that the APD Officers are not abiding by these policies, and that they are not working to protect the lives of Allentown citizens. I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

I strongly urge you to act now before we see more destruction in the city of Allentown, at the hands of the police and politician complacency.

Sincerely,
Larissa Dowling

Remember going into today's City Council meeting that shootings in NYC for the week went up 277%, 49 compared to 13 in 2019. The number of victims is up 253%, 60 compared to 17 in 2019. We could easily see a similar spike of violence in Allentown if we aren't extremely careful. Sadly, some politicians in America have recently shown us that there is some black death that they are comfortable with, and some they are not. I hope Allentown's politicians will be mindful that the lives of all Black people matter. All Black Lives Matter, including those forced into gang life, and the drug trade, and who live by the fearful and violent street codes that govern both. An Allentown spike in violence will disproportionately destroy and end the lives of Black and Brown people. We should follow the lead of the reformer Chief, Glenn Granitz who strives to make our police department a better and more fair organization, with meaningful reforms that don't lead to an increase in violent crime and murder.

James Whitney, Allentown PA.

Mr. Hanlon,

I hope this email finds you well. At almost 30 years old, I am a lifelong resident of Allentown and I'm also a newly-graduated licensed social worker (LSW) for the State of Pennsylvania. The events of Sunday evening circulating social media, regarding APD excessive use of force, directly after a new policy was introduced regarding these practices, has me deeply concerned. As I am on vacation and unable to make the city council meeting this evening, I felt an email or a phone call advocating on behalf of the man in crisis was sufficient, as well as voicing my concerns on behalf of my black brothers and sisters throughout the country and throughout the world.

America is watching how Allentown responds to this injustice, and I know our city has made amazing strides over time. I understand everyone responds to crisis situations differently, but I also believe this could've been avoided and there is no excuse for this officer's actions.

I hope you have a good rest of the week and I look forward to your response.

Warm regards,
Rosemarie Young, LSW
R. Young Consulting

The following statement is intended to be read at the Allentown city council meeting tonight. Thank you.

I'm Katherine Dickey, and I live at 2400 W Chew Street in Allentown Pennsylvania. I am horrified by the public display of force recorded just a few days ago outside of St. Luke's. It is clear to me from watching this video that the man who was taken into custody needed assistance, not a dangerous use of force against his person by Allentown police officers. I am calling for the release of the names and the firing of the officers involved. This incident was a clear failure in their responsibility to protect the community and the people who live in it, including the man they used undue force against (whose name I am purposefully not using because he doesn't deserve national attention for his victimization, especially when the names of those police officers in power who have failed us remain hidden).

In researching food insecurity for a recent story at my college newspaper, I found that per a USDA study, an estimated 22,500 people live in food deserts in the Allentown alone. I went to a local food bank and saw people lined up in 39 degree weather just to get some food to put on their tables. In the Allentown School District, all students receive free and reduced-price lunches because of the district's high poverty rates. People are going hungry and we aren't helping them enough.

This uncalled-for use of force by an Allentown Police officer amidst national reckonings about police brutality has convinced me the we need to defund the Allentown Police. Further, we need to reinvest in our community and social services. We could expand the free emergency student lunch program currently in effect to include larger swathes of the population, because everyone deserves to be fed regardless of age or student status. We could work to provide more affordable housing in the face of the gentrification of downtown Allentown. I urge you to vote to defund the Allentown Police Department and fund our community.

Dear City Council,

My name is Anya Epstein and my address is 2400 W Chew Street Allentown, PA 18104.

I am appalled and upset learning about the incident of police brutality in Allentown in July 11th. I have seen the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian. This was a clear violation of the use of force policy and human rights.

I am demanding that local officials:

1. Release body camera and security footage
2. Release the names of the officers

3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation
4. DEFUND THE ALLENTOWN POLICE and invest in the community

I am writing in the hopes that you will take these demands to heart and hear and listen to your community.

Black lives matter.

Sincerely,
Anya Epstein

I would like to submit a request for courtesy of the floor during tonight's city council meeting:

My name is Justan Parker
315 W Linden Street
Allentown, PA 18101

Allentown was placed in the national spotlight due to the negligence of the Allentown Police Department and the city of Allentown. No sooner than 9 days after the police department's use of force policy was released, we witnessed abuse of power and a lack of care for an Allentown resident in need.

An officer placed their neck on the neck of a victim while other arresting officers stood by with no intervention. This is dangerous and is becoming reflective of the police state in Allentown.

I am calling on City Council to demand justice for the residents in the city of Allentown. You can no longer be idle in this fight. You need to rally behind Ce-Ce and Josh and get these initiatives put into action.

The residents of Allentown have been watching. But now the people of America are watching, and the actions you take today will be reflective of the representation, or lack thereof, we can expect to see in 2021.

Thank you for your time,

Justan Parker | Founder & Organizer
Black Lives Matter Lehigh Valley

Sharon Fraser
25 N 11 Street
Allentown PA 18101

I Sharon Fraser a citizen of Allentown and a Member of Allentown Human Rights Commission fully support the resolution that Council Woman Ce-Ce Gerlach proposes and I hope all of City Council will too. Police reform is needed. A person who is going through a crisis and takes themselves to a hospital should not be treated in that manner the video displayed. A partial solution is to appropriate a portion of the 40 million police budget to hire the right people to intervene in those circumstances and do not have policemen being mental health crisis intervenors. Change is being demanded by the citizen of this city. It is time to listen and act.

My name is Ettore "Ed" Angelo, Esq., and I have been a criminal defense attorney in Allentown since 1985. I have seen the destruction reaped by a police/criminal justice complex, a destruction of young lives with the always way too quick resort to handcuffs and jail cells, and the heartless and mindless withholding of a helping hand.

I also fully support the Resolution presented by Council Members CeCe Gerlach and Josh Siegel.

I further state that we must reallocate a significant portion of tax dollars that fund not only the police department, but also the entire criminal justice complex, from police in schools to juvenile justice to court operations to the jails and probation department. This money should then be reallocated to social services--schools, mental health, drug treatment, housing, early childhood education and more--that will, in the end, reduce greatly the need for so much of the criminal justice complex. Such expenditures are investments in the future of the community.

I hope all of you listened to the presentation on Facebook live last night of young high school people of color who spoke so courageously and eloquently about the challenges those in power expect them to overcome, in a school district that is hobbled by grossly inequitable funding.

Please take action now.

Sincerely,

Ettore J. Angelo, Esq.
Office: 609 W. Hamilton St.

Yamelisa Taveras

This is a request for courtesy of the floor. Council members and Mr. Mayor. I, as most residents of Allentown watched the disgusting police brutality video this past Saturday against our brother

Where the incompetence of the hospital staff is evident, and now learning that this gentleman is being charged with a crime for seeking help. Even though, according to the official APD statement, he was not arrested nor was he charged the day of the incident when he was tripped to the floor and shoved on the curve by an officers leg, not once, but at least twice that I could see from the video.

Until this point not much has been done as far as holding the officers accountable for their clear violation of the policies in place by APD. I am requesting this encounter be reviewed and the officer held accountable. I expect a follow up on the outcome of your investigation and confirmation that this encounter appears on this officer's record.

I am requesting his name and record be released, as he is a public servant, and therefore we have the right to request to know his history in the department. Policing our community is a privilege, and every uniformed officer should be held accountable when their abuse that privilege.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to voting in the upcoming election for individuals that represent our community

My name is Andre Cooper and I'm a resident of Allentown, PA. I'm a Central Catholic graduate and I took community college courses in downtown Allentown at LCCC. I have witnessed the streets in Allentown. Maybe not as closely as some but as a student and like many others that attended CCHS, I've walked up to to that hospital where that man was accosted by the police. It makes me worried to think this could happen in our own town. And then i felt sick when I thought about how if we don't stop it now, it could happen to students in the future.

What we saw in that video is beyond disturbing. The first instance of police brutality in the video comes in the form of inaction, when the officers turn their back on a man in need. The next is when they advance on him after he pleads and begs on his knees to not come closer. After that we witness the police officer sweep the leg of this man and trip him so he is forced to the ground. After this, There are two instances when the officer pins his knee to the man's head and neck area. After the car drives by that shot the initial video, the police officer violently rips off his masks and spikes it on the ground. As if he knows he's been caught doing some thing wrong. These actions are unprofessional and in violation of the newly released and ratified APD use of force policy. Plain and simple.

Due to the fact that the police were not there responding to a call placed

about this individual, their intervention has been entirely problematic. Had we instead been investing in community based healthcare, housing, and education programs, a much more suitable and knowledgeable person could have been able to de-escalate the situation without the use of unnecessary and deadly force. I say deadly because it has been the cause of death in other cases and it is most fortunate that this case did not end in death. However, if we do not begin to work towards strategies that reallocate the APD budget into community based wellness programs, if we do not work to have absolute transparency and accountability from our officers, we will suffer more of these instances and our black a

Jenna Teague
940 Cherokee St, Fountain Hill, PA 18015

I am a lifelong resident of the Lehigh Valley, having been a resident of Allentown for several years prior to moving to Bethlehem. I am utterly disturbed to learn of Bill 49 that is up for introduction to tonight's council. Is this a deliberate slap in the face to those of us who have been out here in the streets fighting for human rights? How do you expect your citizens to trust and believe in our city officials when you are doing the exact opposite of what we have been demanding? A \$50,000 allocation to the police for safety equipment? WHAT IS THAT!? Based on the footage from Saturday night, it looks like our citizens need safety equipment to protect themselves from the police, NOT the other way around. It is clearly evident by the video footage of APD's encounter with Edward Borrero, Jr. that this man was assaulted by police officers, not assisted. I am sickened by the community response to this man's health crisis, by both the negligence of St Luke's Hospital staff and the unnecessary show of police brutality by the APD. This man was clearly sick and in need of medical attention. Instead of anyone offering him a wheelchair, stretcher, or even a tissue to wipe his mouth, he was left alone for over 4 minutes, vomiting, and staggering into oncoming traffic. Where else are our community members supposed to go for help if they are going to be assaulted by police on hospital property? As a former mental health professional who has cared for members of our community, I am well versed in body language and behaviors that indicate whether or not an individual poses a danger to themselves or others. Edward Borrero did not exhibit these types of behaviors and it is very clear to me that the officers on the scene were not properly trained to respond to this situation. Furthermore, Edward Borrero was Spanish speaking and may not have understood what the officers and hospital staff were saying to him before they threw him onto the ground. This speaks to yet another need of our community that the police continuously do not meet. Why would we allocate more money and more equipment to the police when they are not helping to address the real needs of our citizens in Allentown, needs such as health

care, drug and alcohol treatment, education, housing, legal representation, etc. The list goes on. And after all of that, the city has the audacity to charge this citizen with multiple crimes? How abhorrent. Council, we need to do better. Remember that there are lives depending on your decisions tonight.

I urge you all to vote NO on bill 49 and please support our efforts of allocating funds back into the community, back into the City of Allentown and its residents, and NOT to its police department. Thank you.

Hello,

My name is Oliver Reilly, I live 2615 W Fairview Street in Allentown. I was outraged when I saw the video of the police officer putting his knee on the neck of a handcuffed civilian, especially since revisions were just made to the APD's use of force policy. Not only was this a violation of that policy and a violation of human rights, but it was a violation of trust with our community - trust that was, at best, already incredibly thin.

That trust can't be rebuilt with ice cream and a nice photo. It can't be rebuilt by continuing to do the same things Allentown has always done. It can't be rebuilt by perpetuating and then defending injustices against our community.

I am demanding that our local officials begin to rebuild that trust in the following ways:

1. Release body camera footage from the incident.
2. Release the names of the officers involved.
3. Ensure that there is a just and unbiased investigation.
4. Suspend the officers involved while the investigation is conducted.
5. Establish a criminal justice review board in Allentown.
6. Defund the Allentown Police Department and invest in community resources.

All of these demands are crucial to rebuilding trust, but those last two are the first steps to long-term change in Allentown. Our community has experienced the trauma of over-policing and abuse of power from police for too long. It's time to divert those funds to community resources that allow our community to be supported and to thrive. Isn't that what we all want? Don't we all want to show true care and concern for the people we are in community with?

If that isn't what you want, you're in the wrong seat and we will make sure it's occupied by someone who better represents us. It's time to stop putting knees on people's necks when they are in crisis. These are human beings, and it's time to recognize that through real policy change and

accountability.

Ce-Ce, Joshua, and Cynthia are deep listeners that are leading the way to a more just future for Allentown. I urge the rest of Council to do what is right, what is transparent, and listen to what the people in your community are demanding. People's lives and well-being depend on it.

Thank you,
Oliver Reilly

Council Members,

We are asking that a true ward system be created to give the people of Allentown real representation. For far too long have we heard how the cries of our citizens fall on death ears in city council chambers.

We are asking that a resolution to amend the City Charter be entered to create a ward system with seven districts.

Where City Council members would be required to be elected from within the district they reside in.

Prohibit at-large seats for City Council. At-large seats would still give parts of our city greater representation than the rest.

This charter amendment should be placed on the ballot at the next election.

Giving city residents true representation should be the mission of every public servant.

Tim Ramos
Allentown Pa
Hello-

I, Connie Ticho, am a 22 year old white recent-college graduate who lives and grew up on 27th street in Allentown. I am emailing to demand the release of the body camera footage used during the arrest that took place on Saturday outside of St. Luke's. I also demand that all the officers be suspended pending an external investigation.

If I were to have had hurt someone at my university, by accident or not, legal or not- I would have been suspended. I would have been suspended until an external investigation was completed. It is only fair that these police officers are held to the standard that the rest of us are. We are all equal, police

officers are not above the law- they are no better than I am.

Thank you,
Connie

ARTICLE XI GENERAL PROVISIONS SECTION 1101 CONFLICT OF
INTEREST AND CODE OF ETHICS

Act in a private capacity on matters dealt with as a public official or
employee;

Yolanda Colbert
125 N 3rd St

This is a request for courtesy of the floor. Council members and Mayor O'Connell, I urge all of you to commit to an ethical and equitable reallocation of the Allentown City expense budget, away from the Allentown Police Department and towards social services. The people of the city you govern have been showing up in the streets expressing their anger, grief and discontent because the measures already in place are not working. As you know, our city and our police department have settled lawsuits for 1.7 million dollars over claims of excessive force since 2015. These settlements are paid for by Allentown taxpayers. In addition, the lack of transparency and accountability from the police department has made it impossible to quantify any other misconduct that takes place.

In May of this year Mayor O'Connell pledged to a group of protestors on 7th & Hamilton Street, to never allow an incident that took the life of George Floyd happen under this administration. On July 11, 2020 an excessive force incident happened outside of St. Luke's Sacred Heart Hospital under your administration and city council's watch.

The City of Allentown is now under the national spotlight and Mayor O'Connell and all City Council members have an opportunity to be on the right side of history and make the real changes necessary so that our community can begin the process of healing. I am requesting the name of the officers involved and full transparency in the investigation with the community. I am requesting that they are held accountable. It is time for Allentown, its leaders, and residents to create a more equitable city for all of us.

I leave you with a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.

"It may well be that we will have to repent in this generation. Not merely for the vitriolic words of the bad people and the violent actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence and indifference of the good people who sit around and say, "Wait on time."

The time is NOW! I look forward to seeing what side of history you choose.

April Moore
35 Spruce St.
Allentown PA 18101

Black Lives Matter. This is true without question. We live in a diverse city, and we are talking about our family, friends, and neighbors. Defunding the police is a new idea, that is not associated with previous civil rights struggles. Fred Hampton, a prominent Black Panther leader wanted to INCREASE police officers pay, even when the Black Panthers office was constantly shot up by the police. He believed professional pride was the key to reducing police violence. I believe Fred Hampton would have been impressed by our police force. I think it should also be noted that historic discrimination against black people by the police is not just violence, but refusing to show up to help. This systematic problem was voiced by the group Public Enemy, in their 1990 song, "911 is a Joke".

This idea that we should defund the police certainly wasn't around in December, when people were getting stabbed. What about when the Money Rules Everything gang stabbed and set Tyrell Holmes on fire in September of 2019? Or when Deja Vu had a shootout between the Bloods and Latin Kings in July 2019? There is going to be some police officers that act out of conscious or unconscious racism, but there is also going to be social workers, doctors, lawyers, and judges that do the same. That's why it's called institutional.

I agree that the viral video made our police department look hypocritical. However, the viral video did not show how much the man was vomiting, and giving the current health crisis, treating that man as a potential mass infector for COVID 19 was fairly reasonable. I understand that was not the case, but it was a possible outcome that the people initially handling the situation had to act upon. Unfortunately, since we are dealing with a pandemic, this does mean by any means necessary. Optics aside, outcomes are important, and we can't defund an essential public service because of harm that could have happened, but didn't.

In summary, while I would support racial bias training for the Allentown police, I do not support defunding them. Additionally training requires money, so I would encourage you to vote for the increase.

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discrimination against black people by the police is not just violence, but refusing to show up to help. This systematic problem was voiced by the group Public Enemy, in their 1990 song, "911 is a Joke".

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In summary, while I would support racial bias training for the Allentown police, I do not support defunding them. Additionally training requires money, so I would encourage you to vote for the increase.

Mayor, Solicitor, and Members of Council,

This weekend we saw several protests and in attendance were members of council marching, shouting, and appearing to be joining in the chanting:

- "F... the Police"
- "F... the who? The Police!"
- "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now! If we don't get it, shut it down."

The City Charter in Article XI Section 1101 states that it's a conflict of interest when a member should "Act in a private capacity on matters dealt with as a public official or employee;"

It is a conflict of interest to act in a private capacity when dealing with a public matter: Police Oversight and Police Reform are public matters. These council members should not have enlisted themselves in the protest as if they were just members of the public.

It is incumbent on council members to obey the law and to not encourage others to disobey it. Council members Gerlach and Siegel participated in

blocking the roads and ending freedom of travel for other Allentownians. Protestors were forcing drivers to make u-turns on one way roads, endangering drivers and risking head on collisions. Other protestors were threatening drivers with physical violence if they did not turn around.

There is also a violation of trust that occurred on Saturday night. Rodney Be was telling protestors to jam the police department phone number. When that seemed to not be working, he then asked for Mayor O'Connell's number to share with the crowd and the hundreds of viewers they had online in order to call and harass the Mayor's family. At that request, Councilman Siegel immediately went to Rodney and it appears he gave him Mayor O'Connell's personal number which Rodney immediately began to shout out for the crowd.

A censure of Councilman Siegel should be submitted for this violation of trust and, I would suggest, each member should change their numbers and not share it with him. Councilman Siegel should resign for his violation of trust and the harassment he facilitated. We cannot have someone on council who is willing to place officials and their families at risk and in fear.

Each of these members should be censured and need to choose: are you a protestor or an elected official? They took an oath to uphold the constitution and the charter. If they cannot fulfill their oaths, they should resign and join the mob.

Steven Ramos
Lehighon, PA

The Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern, LEPOCO, a valley-wide membership organization, works for peace, nonviolence, and justice in our community, the nation, and the world. We are deeply disturbed by the videos that show an Allentown police officer restraining a distressed person who appears to be in need of medical attention. Allentown's own guidelines for police officers state that "Use of neck restraints or similar weaponless control techniques (choke holds) is prohibited."

A thorough investigation of this event is in order and we look forward to learning the results of the inquiry. If warranted, disciplinary action should be administered; that may include dismissal of the officer and/or criminal charges as appropriate.

LEPOCO has a long history of protesting through vigils, marches, and civic action. We applaud the people and groups who are leading the way in protesting the use of unnecessary and dangerous force by the police.

We support all efforts to restrain the use of force by police officers that may include mandating the use of body cams and banning, without excuse, abusive behaviors such as chokeholds, neck restraints, stop and frisk, and no knock warrants. At the same time, we support the exploration of alternative methods for solving problems in the community. A police officer with a gun may not be the appropriate response to many situations.

We support restorative justice that seeks to prevent crime and violence by addressing inequity and injustice for at-risk individuals. And, we call for greater outreach to the community of caring citizens who will work for a more peaceful society free of violence and injustice. Citizens' Review Boards are assisting many cities around the country.

Consistent with LEPOCO's disavowal of war, we oppose funding for militarization at the national level. Militarization of the police force that provides weapons and vehicles designed for war must be rejected.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this critical concern.

Submitted by Janet L. Ney, 823 N. 25th Street, Allentown, PA 18104, for the Steering Committee of the Lehigh Pocono Committee of Concern.
Dear Allentown City Council Board Members:

Thank you for ensuring that the residents of this wonderful City have a chance at positive reform.

Both my father, as well as I, were born here, and I'm proud to be a native of this historic place. Although now living only a few thousand yards north of your border with Whitehall Township, I am impressed by your collective action to keep improving every aspect of what you hold dear: the perception that Allentown is responsive to the needs of its people.

Please humbly accept my support of Resolution 86.

Thank you.

Jenna Teague
940 Cherokee St, Fountain Hill, PA 18015

I am a lifelong resident of the Lehigh Valley, having been a resident of Allentown for several years prior to moving to Bethlehem. I am utterly disturbed to learn of Bill 49 that is up for introduction to tonight's council. Is this a deliberate slap in the face to those of us who have been out here in the streets fighting for human rights? How do you expect your citizens to trust and believe in our city officials when you are doing the exact opposite of what we have been demanding? A \$50,000 allocation to the police for safety equipment? WHAT IS THAT!? Based on the footage from Saturday night, it looks like our citizens need safety equipment to protect themselves from the police, NOT the other way around. It is clearly evident by the video footage of APD's encounter with Edward Borrero, Jr. that this man was assaulted by police officers, not assisted. I am sickened by the community response to this man's health crisis, by both the negligence of St Luke's Hospital staff and the unnecessary show of police brutality by the APD. This man was clearly sick and in need of medical attention. Instead of anyone offering him a wheelchair, stretcher, or even a tissue to wipe his mouth, he was left alone for over 4 minutes, vomiting, and staggering into oncoming traffic. Where else are our community members supposed to go for help if they are going to be assaulted by police on hospital property? As a former mental health professional who has cared for members of our community, I am well versed in body language and behaviors that indicate whether or not an individual poses a danger to themselves or others. Edward Borrero did not exhibit these types of behaviors and it is very clear to me that the officers on the scene were not properly trained to respond to this situation. Furthermore, Edward Borrero was Spanish speaking and may not have understood what the officers and hospital staff were saying to him before they threw him onto the ground. This speaks to yet another need of our community that the police continuously do not meet. Why would we allocate more money and more equipment to the police when they are not helping to address the real needs of our citizens in Allentown, needs such as health care, drug and alcohol treatment, education, housing, legal representation, etc. The list goes on. And after all of that, the city has the audacity to charge this citizen with multiple crimes? How abhorrent. Council, we need to do better. Remember that there are lives depending on your decisions tonight.

I urge you all to vote NO on bill 49 and please support our efforts of allocating funds back into the community, back into the City of Allentown and its residents, and NOT to its police department. Thank you.
Good afternoon!

Please accept this communication as a sign of my support for establishing a citizens review board to increase transparency in use of force actions

within the City of Allentown. As an elected official, I often hesitate to offer my thoughts to other elected officials. The issues we face are often challenging and require careful study and reflection. However, on this issue, I am very comfortable stating my position because I feel it will help to increase transparency and confidence in policing efforts in our community. Frankly, I think this is a course of action which should be implemented in any jurisdiction with a police force. If the County of Lehigh had a police force, it would be a policy I would work to enact.

The hard work and dedication of community officials is strengthened when the public is heard and the many concerns are integrated into policy making decisions. That process can be messy but our community is strengthened when more voices are heard. A citizens review board would act as an appropriate venue for concerns that arise surrounding use of force in Allentown. While not acting in a policy-setting capacity, the opportunity to hear concerns from the public on this subject would be very important to council and the mayor in ensuring sound community policing strategies.

We all have a lot of work to do on this subject. We need more resources for mental health services. We need to end the cradle-to-prison to grave pipeline. The students attending the Allentown School District deserve the same community schools as students in the Parkland School District. On these subjects, and others, the City of Allentown and its municipal officials are left at the whims of other people, many of whom have no direct interest in the success of our community and our neighbors. However, on the subject of a citizens review board, city council and the mayor set course.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter. As a citizen of Allentown, thank you for your hard-work and careful deliberation.

Sincerely,

Geoff Brace
227 N 9th St
Allentown, PA 18102

Dear Allentown City Council and Mayor O'Connell,

I hope that you all see how important more treatment centers for addiction, mental health clinics, housing is for our unsheltered and in crisis individuals. Aside from the police investigation going on with that gentleman it is clear that he has possibly an addiction issue and possibly Mental health related issues. With the block grants that Senator Browne assisted in passing for the state of Pennsylvania surely some of the money that Allentown

Received can be directed towards more social services and access to affordable and safe housing for our unsheltered community members. Also with the Covid crisis continuing we will be facing more homeless individuals as landlords move to evict people from their homes this is going to put a stressor on the city overall I am hoping being part of this commission we can solve many of the problems that so many of us see on a daily basis

Respectfully

Carolyn J Hoffman

Valley Against Sex Traff

We have a great opportunity at hand. The incident at St Luke's is a chance to show who Allentown is. If we handle this with the respect for one another we deserve, we can show the nation that communities can work together to solve these social problems. By "respecting one another" I mean: peaceful protests, which is what has been happening and quick, transparent investigation shared with the public. This step would express the sincerity of addressing our style of policing and actually exhibiting that EVERYONE matters. This is also the right time to institute an oversight commission drawn from our community. Leaders, let's do this right.

Mark Smith

Hawthorne Real Estate

Park Ave Property Group

3 Diamond Development

I do not carry weapons in my job and yet I am bound to "do no harm." Stop harming citizens, explicitly or implicitly, defund the police, and invest in our youth. I'm tired of it.

Lisa Wilson

3666 Cottage Dr Bethlehem PA 18020

I do not carry weapons in my job and yet I am bound to "do no harm." Stop harming citizens, explicitly or implicitly, defund the police, and invest in our youth. I'm tired of it.

Lisa Wilson

3666 Cottage Dr Bethlehem PA 18020

[15-3702](#)

Courtesy of Floor Comments

Attachments: [Public Comments - July 15](#)

[Public Comment II](#)

[Public Comments III](#)

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Courtesy of the Floor is the first order of business in the Charter, not Council's Rules.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if they can Suspend the Rules. He asked Mr. Kloiber to enlighten Council on that.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Council used to have Courtesy of the Floor at the end of the meeting, and then the framers of the Charter specifically put it in at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that he is tracking down the language of the Charter.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he does not have the Charter with him, but he was at the city when the Charter switched.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that in the procedure, it has Rules - Section 212, the Council should determine its own Rules and Order of Business.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she knows that there are a hundred emails or more, but the reality is at this point just listen to the people out there. The last thing we need is that we don't read people's letters. She is not saying that they are not going to read it, but she is saying let's go over them. People want to be listened to. This will be a good way to tell them we are listening even though and she has babies at home. She is willing to stay as long as she needs to stay to hear what people have to say. She stated that is her humble opinion.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that regardless of when they read these Courtesy of the Floor comments, they know that this is going to be a long meeting so why not just stick to the program because she would not want someone to make a claim. She had some concerns about when she had people advocate for the Homeless Commission, those letters weren't read. She stated that she knows that these will be read, but she wouldn't want someone to make a claim like, wait we wrote about this issue so we put it to the end and the next meeting we got people writing about planting more trees, and we read that in the beginning. She stated that she would not want to get into that. Let's just stick with the program. It is going to be a long meeting. Get your coffee ready and let's just get going.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it is 6 to 1 and a half of dozen to the other.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he doesn't mind having it now. Some of them just want to get to the business at hand first, but if you prefer to do that this way, he is ok with it.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that with the procedural thing, there is a motion. There needs to be a second for the discussion. The Charter would allow this, but it is imperative that comments are read.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he thinks they are sending the wrong message. He thinks they need to stick to the Agenda. The Charter states that Courtesy of the Floor is the first thing. It needs to be the first thing. They need to go through it. If it takes 15, 20, 45 it is what it is. We all know it is going to be a long night. Stick to the Agenda.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he doesn't have a problem with it. He was asked to make a motion and he made a motion, but as the Solicitor stated it has to be seconded. It is just the discussion part.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if it was a second to the Motion. He suggested that Council go back to the Agenda as listed.

Mr. Julio Guridy withdrew the Motion.

Approval of Minutes:

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

[15-3658](#) June 17, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [June 17, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

Old Business

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he brought up two Resolutions that he believes that procedures were not legally followed. He was going to make a Motion tonight about those, however, Solicitor Kloiber has come up with a memo that will address those. He asked Mr. Kloiber to read that memo for the record.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that he will be glad to summarize it. It is lengthy, but the gist of it was that they were asked on June 3rd there were PMA Contracts, one that you can describe as a WC processing contract, one was a Fleet Claims Processing Contract. The administration has discussed and seeking an amendment for these two Contracts. For each of them. The administration explained why they were pursuing this amendment in large part it was because of the Covid Pandemic situation and businesses being closed and concerns about businesses being able to respond to that and that the city would get a fair response to an RFP (Request for Proposal) if it was put out. Council heard that and voted for each of those and ultimately agreed to the amendments. At the July 15th

meeting, concerns were raised by Councilman Zucal as well about the process and we were tasked with taking a look at these two contracts which they did. In looking at the process for June 3rd, we believe that the process was followed. The amendments were presented to Council and it was identified why the request was made to amend each of the contracts related to the Covid situation given the situation and Council's consideration of it that would likely withstand scrutiny if it was opposed. They looked at individual contracts. The Fleet Contract was first entered in 2017 and it appears to be adopted using appropriate processes. There were an RFP that was issued. There was a sole bidder and then that sole bidder was presented to Council as a Professional Service which is required under the Home Rule Charter. Council approved it and then the Contract was entered into for a three year term. This amendment extended that timeframe from the beginning of the June Amendment extended the timeframe for one year. The second contract we looked into which we will call the Worker's Compensation Contract. When the Solicitor's office looked at the process for that it was clear from what we saw that the required processes were not followed. They were not an RFP or other competitive process followed which is required by the Home Rule Charter. Additionally, it does not appear from our review this was ever submitted to Council as a Professional Service for approval which is required by the Administrative Code Contracts Code Revisions. This Contract seems to be defective in how it was initially adopted from our review, the situation seems that it was done in good faith and there wasn't any illicit or improper motivations behind that. It just wasn't done properly. The recommendation from that as they recommend City Council issue a Resolution at a forthcoming meeting indicating that the administration proceed with the competitive process for the WC Contract (Worker's Compensation Contract) as soon as practicable and then an appropriate contract be entered with a result of the successful bidder to be entered at the conclusion of the competitive process. We would suggest Council enter a Resolution to encourage and require the administration to proceed with proceeding with this as soon as practicable as to the Worker's Compensation Contract. There has been some discussion that the administration wanted to combine both of these contracts together, if they wanted to do that then they would have to include the second one and that Fleet Claims Contract with that Worker's Compensation Contract. Just reporting back as they were directed to look into these PMA's. That was the result of what we found.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it is reasonable and he will accept it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he knows that the administration has agreed to it and will change the process going forward.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated absolutely.

Mr. Joe McMahon thanked Councilman Zucal for bringing it to our attention.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated yes, very astute of him.

Communications

Census 2020 - Erin Yasenchak

Mr. Ed Zucal read a Proclamation for Nat Hyman.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he wants to make sure that if another person does the same type of thing, does a mural or something like that, we do recognize him as well and this does not turn into a political issue knowing his background.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she is really glad that Mr. Hyman did what he did with the very famous artist. She gives him a lot of credit for that, but she will also like to add that there is an amazing artist also in the city of Allentown that is more than willing to do a fantastic job. She stated that she always says that they have to make sure that they look from within. She stated that she knows many great artists as they all know.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that you live with one.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated yes Mayor, she does live with one.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he knew it was going to be a long Courtesy of the Floor so he bagged out.

Mayor Ray O'Connell asked who did, Erin?

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated yes.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**Committee of the Whole:**

Council will have a committee of the whole meeting on July 22 at 6:00 PM to review the agreement worked out the LCA, and two charter questions and on July 29 to look at resolution 86.

Budget and Finance: Chair Siegel, Guridy, Mota

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

CEDC: Chair Guridy, Gerlach, Affa

The committee met this evening; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Gerlach, Mota, Zucal

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Mota, Gerlach, Siegel

The committee met this evening; the next meeting is scheduled for July 29 at 5:30 PM.

Public Safety: Chair Affa, Hendricks, Zucal

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is not scheduled.

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Affa, Siegel

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for August 5th, time to be determined.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chair Hendricks, Guridy, Gerlach

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; no future meetings scheduled.

Administration**City Controller**

[15-3696](#)

R3 - Final Capital Blue Wellness Credit

Attachments: [R3 - Final Capital Blue Wellness Credit](#)

APPOINTMENTS:

[15-3651](#) Sukwon Lee, Human Relations Commission, 12/31/2022

Attachments: [Sukwon Lee - Human Relations Commission](#)
[Resolution #30004](#)

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30004

A motion was made by Julio Guridy, seconded by Ed Zucal, that these Appointments be voted on together. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

[15-3693](#) Anna Lightner - Commission on Homeless, Term Expiration 7/15/2022

Attachments: [Anna Lightner - Commission on Homeless](#)
[Resolution #30005](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated to Mr. Kloiber that the question was asked by Mr. Guridy if the next group of Commission on Homeless can be voted on as a group.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that they can be voted on as a group. If anyone has an issue with any one of these they can do a motion as to that particular person.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated to move that separately. He asked if anybody had any complaint about doing them as a group. He asked if Council needed a motion to do so.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated a Motion and second with that and if that would pass, he would encourage anyone that has any comments from any of these people to put them in right now and just leave a few moments. He knows that the hour is late, but allow for a little bit of time for comments if anyone has on any of these individuals so that Council would have that input.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from his colleagues or the public.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that the motion has to be taken as a group, then you vote for them as a group. If the motion passes.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he has a comment from Patrick Palmer. He

says hello Council, now that we are reading Commission appointments, he would like to know when the Youth Advisory Council would be up and running and if Ce-Ce can get her Commission going so fast, if we push the youth to the waist side, there are late nights that are spent to get things together and nothing happens. Clearly, Covid is not a deterrent.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30005

[15-3682](#) Carolyn J. Hoffman - Commission on Homeless, Term Expiration 7/15/2022

Attachments: [Carolyn J. Hoffman - Commission on Homeless Resolution #30006](#)

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30006

[15-3683](#) Ellen Denizard - Common on Homeless, Term Expiration 7/15/2024

Attachments: [Ellen Denizard - Common on Homeless Resolution #30007](#)

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30007

[15-3690](#) Jennifer Miklus - Commission on Homeless, Term Expiration 7/15/2021

Attachments: [Jennifer Miklus - Commission on Homeless Resolution #30008](#)

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30008

[15-3684](#) Robert Nicolella - Commission on Homeless, Term Expiration 7/15/2024

Attachments: [Robert Nicolella - Commission on Homeless Resolution #30009](#)

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30009

[15-3695](#) Larry D. Pickens, Commission on Homeless, Term Expiration 7/15/2023

Attachments: [Larry D. Pickens - Commission on Homeless](#)

[Resolution #30010](#)

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30010

[15-3691](#) Hope Sabbagh - Commission on Homeless, Term Expiration 7/15/2021

Attachments: [Hope Sabbagh - Commission on Homeless](#)

[Resolution #30011](#)

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30011

[15-3687](#) Charlene Smalls - Commission on Homeless, Term Expiration 7/15/2022

Attachments: [Charlene Smalls - Commission on Homeless](#)

[Resolution #30012](#)

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30012

[15-3688](#) Benjamin T. Stephens - Commission on Homeless, Term Expiration 7/15/2024

Attachments: [Benjamin T. Stephens - Commission on Homeless](#)

[Resolution #30013](#)

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30013

[15-3689](#) Michelle Wagner - Commission on Homeless, Term Expiration 7/15/2022

Attachments: [Michelle Wagner - Commission on Homeless](#)

[Resolution #30014](#)

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30014

[15-3699](#) Tom Harrington, Commission on Homeless, Term Expiration 07/15/2023

Attachments: [Tom Harrington - Commission on Homeless](#)

[Resolution #30015](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if any of them are online that wants to speak. He realizes the late hour.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated no.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the city has a strong Human Relations Commission under Tatiana Tooley's leadership. He commended Ce-Ce Gerlach. When the city started this Homeless Commission he thinks in February - March. We are in April, May, June boom, she filled the slots. We have city departments that are going to be on the committee: EMS, Fire, Police, and CED. As long as he has known Ce-Ce she has been an advocate for the homeless. He commended her for that. She filled the slots like this and she is ready to go.

Ms. Ce-Ce Gerlach stated that they are beyond ready to go. It is a nice kind combination of folks. We have folks who are leaders within the hospitals. We have folks with lived experience. Either they are homeless or who have been homeless. We got the grassroots like volunteers to people serving the soup. Then we got people that are running the organizations that are serving the soup. It is a nice combination of people. She is hoping that with their leadership, she just plans to attend and just be there to listen and she is very confident that in a year or two years from now or even a couple of months from now they will see great strides made when it comes to homelessness. This is the reason why she decided to run for Council. Not to get all mushy, but her heart is fluttering. She is very happy to see this is happening. We have some tough issues to talk about tonight, but at least this is a good one. We can all agree that this is something good tonight.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30015

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-3641](#)

Bill 36

Amending the 2020 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) as a result of a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation from their Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) grant for the Jordan Creek Greenway Trail.

Attachments: [Bill 36 Jordan Creek Greenway Trail PennDOT](#)
[TASA Award Letter Jordan Creek Greenway Trail](#)
[Ordinance #15616](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that they voted 3 - 0 favorably. They are very

happy about this grant.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if Ms. El-Chaar is still on the line.

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated that she doesn't have any comments.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if anyone had any questions at all about this concerns or comments.

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated that certainly she is willing to answer.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated no.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15616

[15-3647](#)

Bill 39

Amending the Administrative Code, Article 181, the Human Relations Commission by editing the following sections: Purpose, Definitions, Unlawful Employment Practices, Unlawful Housing Practices, Unlawful Public Accommodations, Human Relations Commission, Procedure, Enforcement, Judicial Review and Penalty.

Attachments: [Bill 39 Allentown Human Relations Commission](#)
[Ordinance #15617](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments and concerns from his colleagues.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if they are adding these to change the language in them.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that there are some verbiage changes to make sure that all classes are covered.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there are any other questions, comments or concerns. Are there any questions, comments or concerns from the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15617

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-3649](#)

R78

Denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness – 405 N. 9th Street

Attachments: [R78 HARB DENIAL - 405 N 9th](#)
[405 N 9th St Jun 1 2020 HARB Final](#)
[Resolution #30016](#)

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Leonard is still on the line. He sent Council an email about taking Bill 43 and passing it. He stated maybe you want to move that to Ordinances for final passage and adding a Section on there that it goes into effect immediately providing 6 out of 7 Council people vote for it. Leonard made that ask this afternoon.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that this is coinciding with R84. These two go hand and hand. This is for the Federal Covid dollars that the city received of \$999,000 to get that approved through HUD in order for acceptance that is in line with the city's Action Plan.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that this was forwarded favorably from the Community and Economic Development Committee because the city could not get a hold of the property owner. If you would deny it, he could reapply. If you don't deny it, it will become effective automatically.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if this one is the one that Community and Economic Development Committee discussed about the windows.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated yes.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that this is the one that they have to be completed within the 75 days and the 75 day is the 21st day of July.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if he could reapply. This is an issue of having vinyl windows.

Mr. Michael Hanlon asked Mr. Lightner if he could reapply.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated yes, he could reapply, but we have to make a decision today and he could reapply which ever direction if Council denies this or approve the denial. He has that opportunity to come back.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he has no comments from the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30016

[15-3672](#)

R83

Recommends Zoning and Land Development Review include examining

Community Benefit Agreements, Work Force Housing Incentives and
Maximizing Citizen Participation

Sponsors: Gerlach and Mr. Siegel

Attachments: [R83 Consultant Recommendations](#)
[Resolution #30017](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments, or concerns.

Ms. Ce-Ce Gerlach stated that she and Joshua Siegel are co-sponsors to this Resolution. Essentially, what this Resolution states is that the consultants that we already have with the Zoning Maps and the Zoning Ordinances and see how they might revamp that and as they do so the two issues that would tie directly into that would be issues that came up time and time again a Community Benefits ordinance which the actual Resolution does say ordinance and/or agreement. There is a clear distinction of the two. If anyone wants more information she will be happy to provide that to them. It does not mean that next month Council will have an ordinance for either of them. It just means that the consultant will look in to see how and if they can actually work and do this legally. She urged her colleagues to support this and see what the consultant comes back with and go from there.

Mr. Joshua Siegel echoed the sentiments from Ms. Gerlach. The reason why he co-sponsored with her is because they have seen time and time again the frustration and the anger. Residents come into Council and they plead with them to try to stop development that they feel has gone on without their input or their engagement. They feel that their communities have changed without any aspect of input or opportunity to make their voices heard. And, most importantly they feel that they get nothing out of development. Frankly, he sympathizes and completely understands why they feel that way because they haven't gotten anything out of it. We are really a tale of two cities in a lot of ways. There is this tremendous growth and progress that is shared by a few. It is not translated to others. Ms. Gerlach would tell you the number of cities that had successful Community Benefits Agreements. In Detroit, where they built basketball courts, and community centers for local residents. There is a way to grow your city so that everybody benefits, everybody receives a degree of equity and access and affordability. Especially, now in light of Covid where we have tens of millions of Americans who are on the verge of eviction. Prior to that, we were in a country where tens of millions were renters and they paid 50 percent of their income for rent. We owe it to ourselves as a city to investigate or evaluate every conceivable way that we can expand access to workforce housing and make the process of development a community driven process. Not just one that exclusively benefits the individuals that

have money in their pants. He stated that he is proud to support this and urge all his colleagues in the eyes of the world upon them with Covid baring down on them to do the right thing and make sure we make this a priority as they go forward and redo our rezoning and the way they develop in the city. Let's balance the scales for our citizens.

Ms. Ce-Ce Gerlach stated that the only thing she would add in terms of workforce housing. The decision to put forth this Resolution wasn't just on an asylo without consulting with other people. Some folks who on the surface would even be against this and after listening to it local developers she really feels that workforce housing, having some type of Ordinance is more than possible. If we put forth the right incentives for local developers so that they can still make their money, but yet still provide a public good, Workforce Housing that we would have a better community and we will have a more inclusive community. This is not about stopping development. If we stop development, we wouldn't get any community benefits or any Workforce Housing because this is directly tied to that development. We need the development in order to get the Community Benefits. In order to get the Workforce Housing so to institute any type of legislation that will cripple that development is counterproductive. That is why it is important to work with those who are building the buildings and see how could we best work with what you are doing so you can keep doing what you are doing and also grocery stores, Laundromats, daycare, recreational centers and a couple of Workforce Units along the way. There are ways. She echoed Mr. Siegel's statements and urged Council to support this. She stated that she understands that may be kind of foreign and she came here before urging this. This is something not again something where tomorrow we are going to wake up and do this. Give the Consultants a chance. If they come back and say they can't do it, we can't do it.

Ms. Candida Affa stated if it is just consultants.

Ms. Ce-Ce Gerlach stated that this is consultants figuring it out if they can do this.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that Ce-Ce is absolutely right. This is not creating an adversarial relationship. This is very much a collaborative driven process for the city and the developers have to be partners in progress. That means sitting down with them and having an honest conversation about what do we do to make sure that they can make their profit and at the end of the day deliver the things that citizens actually need. This is not about anti-development. This is not about stopping development. This is about making sure that the city use the development in a manner that residents actually see some benefits. Let's be honest, most people who live in the city probably would never work in the office

towers or get an opportunity to go to the game as of now, but they deserve access to quality neighborhood amenities. They deserve access to mentorships and internships where they can eventually achieve economic mobility. They can get access to better jobs. They can get access to a better education and community amenities that are going to enrich their lives and at present that is not possible. That is why it is so critical for our residents.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked just a short follow up on what he said earlier. This will be examining the opportunity. It is part of the Vision 2030. It is already embedded in there, probably not specifically with this terminology as used here. It is something that he had an opportunity that he may say he and Ce-Ce spoke to a developer and there wasn't really any opposition to do something like this. In regards to looking at incentives that the city maybe able to provide. Maybe in combination in cohort with another entity. He stated that he thinks it would be good. It is already in embedded in Vision 2030. We should give it a try.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it is more or less formalized.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she would like to support this Resolution. She stated that she and Ce-Ce spoke a few weeks ago with the whole issue with Barnes Lane and how people were so upset that they did not have a say when it came to the development and what was going to be happening in their community. They felt that they did not have a voice and felt helpless. Believe it or not, she was one of them. That is happening right across from my house. She will support this Resolution and urged the rest of Council to do so.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other comments, concerns or questions from his colleagues or the public.

Mr. James Whitney stated that the community has many opportunities to provide input in regards to Allentown Real Estate Development. He stated that he has taken advantage of these opportunities many times and his comments have been very effective in informing the redevelopment process. We as taxpayers are tapped out. We cannot afford to pay for the administrative costs of developing another board that would make it even harder for developers to invest in our great city. Look at the Waterfront. It is languishing. Developers are having a hard time building as it is. Our taxes have gone up hundreds of dollars every year since moving here. City Center Development has provided us hope that our investment will some day provide us with financial stability needed to retire. He stated that he and Shelby do not have college degrees and are not wealthy people and absolutely do not support this.

Ms. Steven Ramos stated that residents are frustrated because members continue to ignore residents. They have been ignored for years now. We said no to the incinerator and members said yes. We said no to the Water Lease and members said yes. The answer is a Ward System with seven districts, seven members and members are accountable to the people in their Ward.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he thought Mr. Whitney supported this earlier.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he already has avenues to participate.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that his understanding is there is no cost to this. This is something that is being looked at anyway.

Ms. Ce-Ce Gerlach stated that the consultants will look into it. She stated that she can't think of a cost. If they find one, they will present that cost to us. If that is something that this body feels that no we can't do that at this time then we either find an alternative way to do it or we don't. In Detroit, their Neighborhood Advisory Council make the developer pay for the pizza that they order at the meetings. The developer finds the space for the people to meet. That is really getting into the weeds and the details, but in terms of costs at this time she can't think of any. If the consultant finds some.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that at least not at the initial stage.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that he thinks what winds up happening is that you have organizations or neighborhood organizations that organically begin to develop themselves and the Community Benefits Agreement and an Ordinance is really which enshrines your ability to have the power to negotiate. For Example: In Houston, TX which is not a city in terms of our laws. It is quite different. It is just as famous as the only city in the country that doesn't have any Codified Zoning laws. There are in fact, you might ask how the city develop itself in a responsible manner. There is a very long and proud history of coherent neighborhood organizations that negotiates directly with developers to prevent the spread of robust or unequal development. If you ever been to Houston or seen Houston before these neighborhood organizations were powerful because there are no Codified Zoning Ordinances, you will see skyscrapers pop up by single family homes. There are a lot of inconsistencies. These neighborhoods organizations really emerge as a coherent and organic entity to stop that from happening. It is a testament of the power of neighborhood based entities to hold developers in check, especially when the city respects and recognizes their importance. That is what ultimately he hopes to

accomplish here over time is strengthening each individual neighborhood and give them their own sort of organizing capacity. That doesn't come with a cost. It comes with the strength and support of legislation behind it. Ultimately, developers often subsidize that at a miniscule cost of pizza and food and a couple of meetings.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that it is the meat of this Resolution really and Director Lightner if he is still on can probably speak more to this. His understanding is the DCED is doing an evaluation of the city's Zoning Ordinance and that is what the consultants have been hired for or in the process of doing. The meat of the Resolution is essentially telling these consultants take a look at this and see what the options are and after they have done that there will be a subsequent means of enacting some sort of Zoning changes placed upon something that they would say. If you look at the Resolution there may be Whereas Clauses that perhaps individual Councilmembers wouldn't agree with and might want to strike those by Motion if they wanted to do that. The Resolution itself, the meat of it is Consultant, please come take a look at this and report back your findings.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other questions, comments or concerns from his colleagues or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30017

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION (To be referred to Committee with public comment prior to referral)

[15-3661](#)

Bill 40

Amending the 2020 Federal Grants budget by creating one (1) HUD Grants CDBG Administrator (11N) and one (1) HUD Grants HOME Administrator (11N). Both positions are completely funded with Community Development Block Grant funds.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 40 Bill HUD Admin positions](#)
[HUD ADMINISTRATOR POSITIONS JD](#)
[Ordinance #15623](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked can Council hear.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that all of these are referred to your committee.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated to Mr. Lightner, if he wants to make a

comment, but these are for introduction. The time will come for a committee meeting.

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15623

[15-3662](#)

Bill 41

Amending the 2020 Capital Projects Fund to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two Hundred Eighty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Five Dollars (\$286,645) as a result of the annual receipt of capital improvement funds from the Trexler Trust as designated by Court Order.

Attachments: [Bill 41 Trexler Capital Appropriation](#)
[Ordinance #15624](#)

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15624

[15-3663](#)

Bill 42

Amending the 2020 Trexler Fund Budget and the 2020 Capital Fund to provide for a transfer in the amount of One Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Five (\$142,455) Dollars from the unappropriated balance of the Trexler Fund to the 2020 Capital Fund Project 2206, Jordan Creek Greenways Trails to complete a vital link in the City's trail network and allow easier access to center city residents for recreational activities. Funds will also help the City meet its requirement of the Trexler Trust.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 42 Jordan Creek Greenway Trails - Trexler Capital](#)
[Ordinance #15625](#)

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15625

[15-3665](#)

Bill 43 Refer to CEDC

An Ordinance providing for the expenditure of certain monies received by the City of Allentown under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1976, as amended; The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009; and Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended; for the purpose of undertaking programs of housing and community development within the City.

Attachments: [Bill 43 HUD NEW ACCOUNT SETUP - COVID - PHASE 2](#)
[Ordinance #15618](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions on either of these Bills.

Ms. Matthew Kloiber stated that each one has to be addressed separately then voted on separately.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated on Bill 43 are there any questions from his colleagues, comments or concerns. Are there any comments or questions from the public.

Mr. Michael Hanlon asked Council to add a Section that this will become effective immediately upon final passage if 6 out of 7 Council people approve it.

A motion was made by Cynthia Mota, seconded by Ed Zucal, to take Bill 43 and R84 out of order and vote and pass concurrently after they pass.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Enactment No: 15618

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15618

A motion was made by Cynthia Mota, seconded by Ce-Ce Gerlach, to add SECTION SEVEN: Pursuant to Section 218 of the Home Rule Charter, the 14 day period between introduction and final passage is hereby eliminated upon affirmative vote of 6 of 7 members of Council.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Enactment No: 15618

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15618

[15-3666](#)

R84 Refer to CEDC
Approves the Submission of the Action Plan to the United States
Department of Housing and Urban Development

Attachments: [R84 Phase 2 HUD Action Plan](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns. He asked if there were any comments from the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30018

[15-3664](#)

Bill 44

Amending the 2020 Capital Fund Budget by transferring the available balance from Capital Project 1905 – Citywide Parks and Playground Improvements, 2202 – WPA Structures and 2210 – Park Facilities Improvements to Capital Project 2206 – Jordan Creek Greenways Trails and 2213 – Valania Park Renovations in the amount of Ninety-Six Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Five (\$96,965) Dollars to complete the Jordan Creek Greenways Trails and renovations at the Valania Park.

Attachments: [Bill 44 Jordan Creek Greenway Trails and Valania Park Renovations Projects Ordinance #15626](#)

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15626

[15-3667](#)

Bill 45

Amending the 2020 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Six Thousand Six Hundred Fourteen Dollars and Forty-Nine Cents (\$6,614.49) from the EMS Council State EMSOF Funds to be used to further prepare for a potential resurgence of COVID-19.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 45 EMS Council Contribution Ordinance #15629](#)

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15629

[15-3670](#)

Bill 46

Amending the 2020 Trexler Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Ten Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Five (\$110,965) Dollars from the Trexler Trust as the balance of the 2020 contribution per General Trexler's will.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 46 Trexler Additional Appropriation Ordinance #15627](#)

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15627

[15-3671](#)

Bill 47

Amending Article 125.01(d) of the Administrative Code by modifying a provision requiring the Solicitor's Office to sign off on all bills and resolutions in regard to form, substance and compliance with the charter, administrative code and other relevant statutes, prior to the legislation being placed on council agenda for introduction.

Attachments: [Bill 47 Solicitor Approval](#)

REFERRED TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

[15-3678](#)

Bill 48

Amending the 2020 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000) Dollars from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to purchase safety equipment for the police.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 48 Police Safety Equipment Grant](#)
[Ordinance #15630](#)

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Ms. Ce-Ce Gerlach asked if Council could clarify for the public what this is saying. They seem to be very concerned about this. The public thinks that we are spending \$50,000 from our money and buying equipment, but it is coming from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and it is a grant which means it is for specific items.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it is money which does not come out our budget whatsoever. It is a Pass-Through Grant which otherwise we wouldn't even have.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that is a good point. Not one dollar of taxpayer money.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that the grant is specifically for this purpose.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it is something that can't be adjusted or altered. We either take the money for free or don't get it with no savings.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it might go to another municipality.

Enactment No: 15630

[15-3677](#)

Bill 49

Amending the 2020 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$250,000) Dollars from the

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to support the construction phase of Valania Park.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 49 DCNR Valania Park Grant](#)

[Ordinance #15628](#)

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15628

[15-3675](#)

Bill 50

Directing the Lehigh County Board of Elections to Place a Referendum Question Before the City of Allentown Voters on the November 3, 2020 General Election Ballot to amend the City of Allentown Home Rule Charter to Authorize and Permit the City Controller to Initiate and to Conduct all Manner of Audits, Including Performance Audits, without first being requested to do so by the Mayor or by City Council and to Permit the City Controller to have access to all types of Information, including payroll information, to conduct such audits.

Sponsors: Affa, Guridy, Hendricks, Mr. Siegel and Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [Bill 50 Controller Performance Audits- With Change to Section 210](#)

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

[15-3681](#)

Bill 51

Directing the Lehigh County Board of Elections to Place a Referendum Question Before the City of Allentown Voters on the November 3, 2020 General Election Ballot to amend the City of Allentown Home Rule Charter to Require Approval by City Council of all Collective Bargaining Agreements prior the Mayor executing each agreement.

Sponsors: Affa, Guridy, Hendricks, Mr. Siegel and Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [Bill 51 Charter - Contract Approval](#)

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

[15-3694](#)

Bill 52

AUTHORIZING AND SECURING THE ISSUANCE OF ONE OR MORE SERIES OF GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTES, IN THE MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$19,200,000, PURSUANT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT, TO (A) CURRENTLY REFUND ALL OR A PORTION OF THIS CITY'S (1) GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES A OF 2015, (2) GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES B OF 2015, (3) GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES OF 2017, AND (4) GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTE, SERIES OF 2009, (B) FINANCE AND/OR REIMBURSE THE COSTS OF

VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS, AND (C) PAY CAPITALIZED INTEREST, AND (D) PAY THE COSTS OF ISSUING THE NOTES; ACCEPTING A NOTE PURCHASE AGREEMENT; SETTING FORTH THE PARAMETERS, SUBSTANTIAL FORM OF AND CONDITIONS FOR ISSUING THE NOTES; PLEDGING THE FULL FAITH, CREDIT AND TAXING POWER OF THIS CITY TO SECURE THE NOTES; CREATING A SINKING FUND AND APPOINTING A PAYING AGENT AND SINKING FUND DEPOSITORY; AUTHORIZING THE REDEMPTION OF THE REFUNDED OBLIGATIONS; AND AUTHORIZING RELATED ACTION.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 52 - Final](#)

[Bill 52 2020 GO BONDS PARAMETERS REFUND AND NEW MONEY](#)

[Bill 52 Amd - ORDINANCE ALLENTOWN CITY 2020 GO BONDS PARAMETERS REFUND AND NEW MONEY \(L0888129-3xA35AE\)](#)
[Change-Pro Redline - L0888129 and L0888129](#)

[Council Summary 7.10.20](#)

[FIRST NOTICE ALLENTOWN CITY 2020 BONDS \(L0893912xA35AE\)](#)

[Bill 52 - N ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND SECURING THE ISSUANCE OF ONE OR MORE SERIES OF GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTES LEGAL AD](#)
[ALLENTOWN 2020 NOTES SECOND NOTICE COVER LETTER \(L0896676xA35AE\)](#)
[SECOND NOTICE ALLENTOWN CITY 2020 NOTES \(L0896669xA35AE\)](#)

REFERRED TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15622

[15-3697](#)

Bill 53

Amending Part Nine, Streets, Utilities, and Public Services Code, Title One, Street and Sidewalk Areas, of the Codified Ordinances of Allentown, Pennsylvania, by adding a new Article entitled "Small Cell Antenna".

Attachments: [Bill 53 Cell Tower](#)

[Ordinance #15631](#)

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15631

RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION (Can be voted on or Referred to Committee):

[15-3680](#)

R85

Authorizes the Administration to Execute the Integrated Agreements to Resolve and Settle All Pending Legal Disputes under the Allentown Water and Sewer Utility System Concession and Lease, dated as of May 1,

2013, between the City of Allentown and the Lehigh County Authority

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [CLEAN EXECUTION COPY 8.10.20- City of Allentown LCA- Final Amendment to Lease Agreement](#)
[Blackline of EXECUTION COPY 8.10.20](#)
[R85 LCA Disputes- Council Resolution for Introduction on July 15, 2020](#)
[Amendment to Lease- LCA Final as of 8.5.20](#)
[Amendment to CCRC MOU -CITY FINAL 7.6.20](#)
[Amendment to Lease CITY FINAL 7.6.20](#)
[Amendment to Water Supply Agreement CITY FINAL 7.6.20](#)
[Allentown City Council Committee of the Whole 072220 c](#)
[Stand-Alone Settlement Agreement- CITY FINAL 6.36.20](#)
[August 12 Lease Comments](#)
[Resolution #30026](#)

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Enactment No: 30026

[15-3700](#)

R86

Recommends Community Strategies for Policing and Police Oversight

Sponsors: Gerlach, Mr. Siegel, Mota and Guridy

Attachments: [R86 Police Oversight Final](#)

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE: NONE

ADJOURNED: 11:06 PM