

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO.2 - 2025

JANUARY 15, 2025

AN ORDINANCE

Establishing a Latino Advisory Council to facilitate a close working relationship between local City government and the Latino community: To recommend programs, projects and activities which promote good relations among all citizens throughout the city; To serve as a forum for those who need to voice their concerns to community leaders and City officials; To promote a network of communication among the various community groups and organizations in working with each other as the need arises; To receive and disseminate information regarding the City's assistance for those in need, important initiatives, emergency mandates, current events, and the scheduling and budgeting of capital improvement projects, particularly those which may have a specific effect on the Hispanic community; promoting cultural awareness among local government employees who serve communities with a significant Latine population; Increasing public participation in local government within the Latino community; Identifying issues of concern to the Latino Community. It shall, research, discuss and propose solutions to the concerns it identifies. The Council shall provide these recommendations to Allentown City Council and the Administration on a regular basis, at least annually as part of the annual report and presentation pursuant to the requirement below; Provide a representation or a "voice" for Latinos in the community.

Whereas, the Hispanic and Latino populations are among the fastest growing populations in the United States, since 1980, the Hispanic population of the United States has quadrupled to more than 62 million people; and

WHEREAS, 54.3% of the Allentown population classifies themselves as Hispanic; and

WHEREAS, the City strives to promote a culture of inclusion which values diversity, promotes equity and the involvement of all individuals regardless of their backgrounds, identities, perspectives and sexual orientation in the political process; and

WHEREAS, City Council understands community engagement is more than and visit to the polls come every November; and

WHEREAS, Allentown City Council desires to maximize community engagement in local government, and community and economic life.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALLENTOWN CITY COUNCIL HEREBY establishes the Latino Advisory Council with powers and duties set out in the legislation.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That the following be added to the city code as the Latino Advisory Council.

**ARTICLE
LATINO ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Purpose
Establishment and Composition of the Board
Powers and Duties
Annual Report

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Latino Advisory Council is to advise the Mayor and Council on issues relating to Latino affairs.

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

The Latino Affairs Council of the City of Allentown shall consist of seven volunteer members, appointed by the Mayor and approved by Council.

Duly appointed members shall serve a term of four (4) years, except that initial appointments shall be so staggered that the terms of the membership shall expire each year. On the initial appointments two members shall serve for four years, two for three years, two for two years and one member for one year.

Council and the Mayor must make every effort to ensure the board reflects the community it has been created to serve. Appointments to the board should prioritize Latino community leaders and city residents.

Whenever possible, the board should contain members from the East Side, South Side, Center City, and West End of the city. Council may take this under consideration in the approval process.

The board shall meet every two months or on an as needed basis – having at least four meetings a year - with additional meetings as determined by the board. All meetings shall be advertised and open to the public.

The Board shall develop and approve their by-laws'

POWERS AND DUTIES

The Council shall serve as an advisory body. It shall be tasked with but not limited to the following:

- To facilitate a close working relationship between local City government and the Latino community.
- To recommend programs, projects and activities which promote good relations among all citizens throughout the city.
- To serve as a forum for those who need to voice their concerns to community leaders and City officials.

- To promote a network of communication among the various community groups and organizations in working with each other as the need arises.
- To receive and disseminate information regarding the City's assistance for those in need, important initiatives, emergency mandates, current events, and the scheduling and budgeting of capital improvement projects, particularly those which may have a specific effect on the Hispanic community.
- Promoting cultural awareness among local government employees who serve communities with a significant Latine population.
- Increasing public participation in local government within the Latino community.
- Identifying issues of concern to the Latino Community. It shall, research, discuss and propose solutions to the concerns it identifies. The Council shall provide these recommendations to Allentown City Council and the Administration on a regular basis, at least annually as part of the annual report and presentation pursuant to the requirement below;
- Provide a representation or a "voice" for Latinos in the community.

ANNUAL REPORT AND PRESENTATION

The Board shall prepare a written report of the year's activities, a (1) one-year plan and long-term goals and scenarios. The report shall be given to the Mayor and shall be presented to Allentown City Council at an appropriate committee meeting no later than the second meeting in March.

SECTION TWO: That this Ordinance will take effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION THREE: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.
