

ORDINANCE NO. 16120

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 29 - 2025

April 2, 2025

AN ORDINANCE

Amending the African-American Advisory Council by clarifying and adding a section on selecting members stating: 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 African American community leaders and city residents.

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

SECTION ONE: That the following change be made to the African American Advisory Council.

ARTICLE
African American Affairs Council

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of the African-American Affairs Council is to advise the Mayor and Council on any relating to African-American issues.

ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION

The African-American Affairs Council of the City of Allentown shall consist of seven volunteer members (9), appointed by the Mayor and approved by Council.

The list of potential appointees will be provided to the Mayor by African-American run or African-American affiliated organizations within the city to select qualified applicants from.

~~The list of African-American Organizations that may nominate or select applicants for the African-American Affairs Advisory Council for nomination by the Mayor will include the following: 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 African American community leaders and city residents.

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 African-American 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 bi-monthly 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 which shall be approved by Council by resolution.

POWERS AND DUTIES

The Council shall serve as an advisory body. It shall be tasked with offering suggestions on the following:

Identifying issues of concern of African-American 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;

Facilitate communications, networking and referrals within the community advocating intercultural interests, events and activities.

Provide a representation or a “voice” for African-Americans in the community.

The list of African – American Organizations that may nominate or select applicants for the African – American Affairs Advisory Council for nomination by the Mayor will include, but not be limited to, the following.

African – American Business Organizations

1. African American Business Leaders Council (AABLC)
2. Black Women Connect Lehigh Valley

African – American Community Organizations & Nonprofits

3. Promised Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley
4. Cohesion Network
5. Global Hope International
6. Lehigh Valley Black Church Housing Alliance (LVBCHA)
7. The Rising Sun Initiative
8. Allentown NAACP
9. Martin Luther King Jr. & Coretta Scott King Memorial Project of the Lehigh Valley

10. Power Lehigh Valley
11. Resurrected Life Community Development Corporation

African – American Led Youth Services & Programs

12. Boys and Girls Club of Allentown
13. Youth and Teen Renovations (YT Renovations)
14. James Lawson Freedom School
15. The Thrive Hub
16. Fine Feather Foundation Inc.

African – American Churches/Faith-Based Organizations

17. St. James AME Zion Church
18. Union Baptist Church of Allentown
19. Living Spring International Center
20. Resurrected Life Community Church
21. Restoration Temple
22. Rehoboth Church – Kenyan Congregation
23. Black Christian Churches and Ministers Alliance

African – American Owned Businesses – Service – Based

24. Achieve Coaching & Consulting
25. Erin Resilience, LLC
26. Lehigh Valley Black News Network

African – American Owned Businesses – Retail/Brick & Mortar

27. Be'Skintiful House of Glam
28. Banks Beauty Bar
29. Mishka Premium Vodka
30. Wicksquisite Candles
31. The Kulcha Kernel
32. Nappy By Choice
33. CeCe J's Snacks
34. VIP The Next Level Barbershop
35. Nkasso African & Exotic Foods

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.

AMENDMENT FOR THE LIST OF AFRICAN – AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS THAT MAY NOMINATE OR SELECT APPLICANTS FOR THE AFRICAN – AMERICAN AFFAIRS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR NOMINATION BY THE MAYOR WILL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING PASSED 6 – 0:

African – American Business Organizations

- 36. African American Business Leaders Council (AABLC)
- 37. Black Women Connect Lehigh Valley

African – American Community Organizations & Nonprofits

- 38. Promised Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley
- 39. Cohesion Network
- 40. Global Hope International
- 41. Lehigh Valley Black Church Housing Alliance (LVBCHA)
- 42. The Rising Sun Initiative
- 43. Allentown NAACP
- 44. Martin Luther King Jr. & Coretta Scott King Memorial Project of the Lehigh Valley
- 45. Power Lehigh Valley
- 46. Resurrected Life Community Development Corporation

African – American Led Youth Services & Programs

- 47. Boys and Girls Club of Allentown
- 48. Youth and Teen Renovations (YT Renovations)
- 49. James Lawson Freedom School
- 50. The Thrive Hub
- 51. Fine Feather Foundation Inc.

African – American Churches/Faith-Based Organizations

- 52. St. James AME Zion Church
- 53. Union Baptist Church of Allentown
- 54. Living Spring International Center
- 55. Resurrected Life Community Church
- 56. Restoration Temple
- 57. Rehoboth Church – Kenyan Congregation
- 58. Black Christian Churches and Ministers Alliance

African – American Owned Businesses – Service – Based

- 59. Achieve Coaching & Consulting
- 60. Erin Resilience, LLC
- 61. Lehigh Valley Black News Network

African – American Owned Businesses – Retail/Brick & Mortar

- 62. Be'Skintiful House of Glam
- 63. Banks Beauty Bar
- 64. Mishka Premium Vodka
- 65. Wicksquisite Candles
- 66. The Kulcha Kernel
- 67. Nappy By Choice
- 68. CeCe J's Snacks
- 69. VIP The Next Level Barbershop
- 70. Nkasso African & Exotic Foods

	Yea	Nay
Candida Affa	X	
Ce-Ce Gerlach	X	
Cynthia Y. Mota		
Santo Napoli	X	
Natalie Santos	X	
Ed Zucal	X	
Daryl Hendricks, Pres.	X	
TOTAL	6	0

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was passed by City Council on April 16, 2025 and signed by the Mayor on April 21, 2025.


 CITY CLERK