

Lawrence, Sharon

From: Denise Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 5, 2022 3:07 PM
To: Luzerne County Council Meeting Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Public Comment - Agenda Items - Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022 Voting Session

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Public Comment for Agenda Item (Drop Box Ordinance) Voting Session - August 9, 2022

Under County Council - Section 2.17 - Limitations/Non-Interference in the Home Rule Charter, it states:

C. No member of County Council, or committee or employee thereof, shall publicly or privately give directions or orders to the County Manager, any employee of the Executive Branch, the Controller, District Attorney or any employee of their offices, any member or employee of a County authority, board, or commission, or any employee of the Judiciary or Office of Court Administration, or in any way interfere with their work or duties, except as may specifically be provided for in this Charter.

It also states under Section "E":

The Accountability, Conduct, and Ethics Code as required by Article IX of this Charter shall provide penalties, sanctions, and remedies for violations of this Section.

It appears that the ordinance Councilman Urban is proposing is clearly directing/giving orders to the leadership of the Bureau on the handling of Ballot Drop Boxes and interfering with the duties of the Board of Elections & Registration which has given the Bureau a directive on providing ballot drop boxes.

Also,

The Administrative Code, under Article VII, Elections, Sections 7.01 & 7.02 note that the Board of Elections has a "supervisory" role over the Bureau that includes: prescribing, conferring, and imposing duties & orders. The County Manager also has a similar role over the Bureau. I do not see anything noted about the Council having this type of role over the Bureau in this "Elections" section of the Administrative Code.

The Charter framers took the Council out of the Elections process and placed it under the Board, Bureau and County Manager.

Remember when Mr. Urban went out of his lane when he accepted the Chairmanship of the Elections Bureau? Well, this proposed ordinance puts him out of his lane again.

This ordinance, if passed, sets the Council up for potential lawsuit(s).

Who pays for Council's legal fees?

The citizens of Luzerne County.

Respectfully,

Denise Williams
Shavertown, PA

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