

CITY OF BETHLEHEM

City Council Memorandum

SUBJECT: Protecting the Economic Security of Residents and Local Businesses During the COVID-19 Pandemic

TO: Members of Council

FROM: J. William Reynolds, Member of Council

DATE: March 17, 2020

In addition to the public health dangers presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the virus presents potentially profound threats to the economic health of the City of Bethlehem and the financial security of our families and local businesses.

In the interest of protecting the financial security of our most vulnerable residents and allowing them to stay in their residences to protect public health, attached is a proposed resolution calling upon the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Northampton County, Lehigh County, the local judiciary, and area utility companies to explore temporary moratoriums on evictions, residential foreclosures, tax liens on residential properties, and utility shut-offs.

The attached resolution also encourages the Mayor's Administration to investigate options for protecting our local businesses in response to the COVID-19 health emergency, including working closely with the federal and state government, financial institutions, educational institutions, and non-profits to identify and publicize economic assistance options and other programs for our local businesses.

I ask that you consider adopting this resolution at the March 17, 2020 City Council meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.



J. William Reynolds, Member Council

CC: R. Donchez, Mayor