

CITY OF BETHLEHEM
City Council Memorandum

SUBJECT: Ahart's Market Closure - Protecting Access to Healthy and Affordable Food in South Bethlehem

TO: Robert J. Donchez, Mayor

FROM: J. William Reynolds, Member of Council

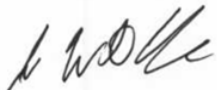
DATE: March 15, 2021

As reported in the media, Ahart's Market, located at 410 Montclair Avenue, is one of only two major grocery stores on the South Side of Bethlehem and is scheduled to close at the end of April. For approximately twenty years, Ahart's Market has been a vital source of high-quality and affordable food in South Bethlehem.

South Bethlehem is already considered a "food desert" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and features a large proportion of households with inadequate access to transportation and limited access to retailers providing fresh produce and healthy groceries for affordable prices.

The attached resolution urges the Mayor and the City Administration to investigate feasible options for incentivizing the continued operation of a high-quality grocery store at the Ahart's Market site in order to promote equity and to protect the health and well-being of individuals and families in South Bethlehem.

I would ask the Members of Council to consider the attached resolution at the March 16, 2021, City Council meeting.



J. William Reynolds, Member Council

CC: Members of Council