

# **CITY OF BETHLEHEM**

## **Inter-Office Memorandum**

**SUBJECT:** Elected Officials' Salaries: City Council, Controller, Mayor

**TO:** Michael G. Colón, Council President

**FROM:** Kiera Wilhelm, Council Member

**DATE:** February 13, 2025

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In response to your January 28, 2025 memorandum, I respectfully propose salary increases for City Council, Controller, and Mayor, based on the following:

### **CITY COUNCIL**

From 2006-2009, Council saw a salary increase of \$200/year, but there has been no increase in Council salaries since 2009 (16 years). Additionally, the current salary of \$7,100 is a barrier to qualified candidates who, for example, may need to cover the cost of child care, etc. The salaries of Council members in both Allentown and Easton exceed those in Bethlehem.

### **CONTROLLER**

This role is critical to the transparency, efficiency, and financial accountability of the City. From 2006-2009, Bethlehem's Controller saw a salary increase of \$1500/year; there has been no increase since 2009 (16 years).

### **MAYOR**

Bethlehem's Mayor received an annual salary increase from 2006-2013 (average of \$2200/year), but there has been no increase since 2013 (12 years). The budget book provides a list of high-level supervisors who receive a larger salary than the Mayor, including the 6 Department Heads he directly supervises. While City employees are fairly compensated with annual cost of living adjustments, elected positions are not included. The salaries of Mayors in both Allentown and Easton exceed that of Bethlehem.

Please forward this memo and attached amendments to our Finance Committee for consideration. The responsibilities of public officials require specialized skills, long hours and complex tasks. Increasing salaries would help to ensure that our elected officials are being paid a fair wage for their service. Thank you for your consideration.

Kiera Wilhelm

Council Member

cc: Bethlehem City Council