



10 East Church Street
Bethlehem, Pa. 18018
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April 7, 2017

City of Bethlehem
10 E. Church Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Honorable Members of City Council:

It has come to our attention from citizen comments that the City of Bethlehem does not have recycling containers located on its Main Streets on both the North Side and the South Side of the City.

Recycling is an important part of a waste-reduction strategy. Recycling efforts can significantly reduce the amount of wastes in a landfill, reducing the potential of chemicals leaching into our groundwater. It also reduces the necessity of using ever more precious resources to create more disposable products, and instead turns products back into a raw material. Recycling is also beneficial in that it can serve as an income stream for municipalities.

The City of Bethlehem has embraced its recycling program and has an exemplary recycling center and curbside recycling program. The City requires businesses and institutions to recycle under Pennsylvania Act 101. Residents are also required to recycle at their homes under [City Ordinance #3821, Article 933.04](#).

However, the downtowns do not have any receptacles for recyclables located in the main street areas. The Hoover-Mason Trestle area does have recycling receptacles near its trash containers. When the Environmental Advisory Council representatives inquired about this omission, we were informed that there is inadequate budget to purchase the historically appropriate containers. Publicly visible recycling containers are a strong indication of this City's values and commitment. They would also serve as an additional income stream for our existing recycling program. Thus, we strongly recommend that funds be allocated to covering the cost of recycling containers and that alternative styles, quantity or placement be investigated.

The EAC believes that recycling containers on the North Side and South Side Main Streets

are important to the continued success and sustainability of our city. We are proud that the Administration is committed to recycling and are willing to assist as needed.

Respectfully yours,

Lynn Rothman

Lynn Rothman, Chair

on behalf of the Bethlehem EAC:

John Brunner

Jack Gambino

Brian Hillard

Kalyna Procyk

Mike Topping

cc: Mayor Donchez

Michael B. Conway, Director of Recycling