



CITY OF BETHLEHEM

10 East Church Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018-6025

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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J. William Reynolds
Mayor

March 9, 2023

RE: Proposed Zoning map amendment
119 Technology Drive

Dear Planning Commission members,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed zoning map revision that you will consider this evening for 119 Technology Drive in South Bethlehem. The proposal would change the property's zoning from Industrial Redevelopment (IR) to Central Business (CB), which we believe will allow for valuable residential development on a promising parcel that would otherwise remain dormant.

As you know, Bethlehem, and the region, is experiencing a housing crisis. Addressing this crisis is a top priority of this administration, and we have said many times that increasing housing supply in a responsible way is a necessary part of the solution.

119 Technology Drive is an appropriate location for new residential development to help address the city's housing shortage. It is adjacent to, but not on, the 3rd and 4th Street corridors in South Bethlehem. Building housing at this location helps relieve development pressure on 3rd and 4th Streets and on South Bethlehem's residential neighborhoods. Simultaneously, it provides residential options in the city's urban core, near amenities, and walkable to both the north and south side where local restaurants and retail establishments benefit.

In addition, the new development will enhance the 2nd Street/Columbia Street corridor, complementing developments like Riverport and The Factory and providing another link along the corridor between SteelStacks and the Banana Factory and to Route 378.

I actively support the proposed zoning map amendment as a first step in achieving the most beneficial redevelopment of the site for the City of Bethlehem. We will then have many opportunities to review and engage in discussions with the owner of the property about the details of a residential development project in the future land development process.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment and service to the City of Bethlehem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. William Reynolds".

J. William Reynolds,
Mayor