

No. _____

ORDINANCE

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing an increase in the per meeting stipend for members of Allegheny County Council, as provided by Article III, Section 7(a) the Home Rule Charter of Allegheny County.

WHEREAS, the per meeting stipend for Members of Council are governed by the Home Rule Charter Article III, §7(a); and

WHEREAS, per the provisions of this Section, the per meeting stipend was limited to a maximum of \$9,000 annually per Council member; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of introduction of this Ordinance, Allegheny Council members are in the midst of their 17th year without a pay raise or an increase in their expense allowance;

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, a Council Member's per meeting stipend would have to be limited to \$12,577.37 in 2016 merely to adjust the \$9,000 that they were paid in 2000 for inflation;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of Article III, §7(a) of the Home Rule Charter of Allegheny County, the Council Members expense reimbursement may be increased by up to five percent every five years, a rate of increase which clearly falls short of the average rate of inflation over the time periods contemplated; and

WHEREAS, it is the judgment of Council that an increase in the per meeting stipend is equitable and desirable to the extent that continuing the trend of the Council members' pay lagging behind inflation will render the office of Member of Council less and less desirable as time passes, and will very likely reduce the pool of qualified candidates seeking the office; and

WHEREAS, while Council has never increased its per meeting stipend, following the schedule delineated by the Charter would have yielded an upper limit of \$9,450 in 2005, \$9,922.50 in 2010, \$10,418.62 in 2015, and \$10,939.55 in 2020;

The Council of the County of Allegheny hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1.

The preamble to this ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

Section 2.

Effective January 1, 2020 and in accordance with Article III, §7(e) of the Home Rule Charter of Allegheny County, §5-301.09 of the Administrative Code of Allegheny County is hereby amended as follows:

§5-301.09. Compensation and expenses.

- A. County Council Members shall not receive a salary.
- B. County Council shall establish by resolution, a per meeting stipend to be received by County Council members not to exceed the aggregate ~~\$9,000~~ \$10,939 annually per member. The limitation imposed under the terms of this Subsection shall automatically increase by five percent (5%) on January 1, 2025, and every fifth year thereafter.
- C. County Council members shall not be entitled to receive any indirect compensation for their services as County Council member. Such indirect compensation shall include funding for personal staff, local district offices or fringe benefits such as health and life insurance, pensions and personal motor vehicles.
- D. Members of County Council shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred; provided, however, that the expenditure:
 - (1) Is related to the performance of official duties including, but not limited to, business related meals, parking, mileage, and costs related to the distribution to constituents of information regarding County business;
 - (2) Is submitted prior to payment with such detail as may be required by established County fiscal management policies; and
 - (3) Shall not exceed \$3,000 per County Council member per year.

Section 3.

If any provision of this Ordinance shall be determined to be unlawful, invalid, void or unenforceable, then that provision shall be considered severable from the remaining provisions of this Ordinance which shall be in full force and effect.

Section 4.

Any Resolution or Ordinance or part thereof conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this Ordinance.

PRIMARY SPONSOR: COUNCIL MEMBER FINNERTY

CO-SPONSORS:

Enacted in Council, this _____ day of _____, 2016

Council Agenda No. _____

John DeFazio
President of Council

Attest: _____

Jared E. Barker
Chief Clerk

County Executive Office _____, 2016

Approved: _____

Rich Fitzgerald
County Executive

Attest: _____

Sonya Dietz
Executive Secretary