

No. _____

ORDINANCE

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

WHEREAS, the expense allowance for Members of Council are governed by the Home Rule Charter Article III, §7(e); and

WHEREAS, according to the Charter, elected officers may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties in accordance with procedures established in the Administrative Code; 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 expense reimbursement would have to be set at \$4,192.46 in 2016 merely to adjust the \$3,000 that they were permitted in 2000 for inflation;

WHEREAS, it is accordingly the judgment of Council that an increase in expenses is justified to adjust for inflation over the past 17 years for higher cost of gas, postage, and increased costs for services generally; and

WHEREAS, an increase in allowance is also warranted on equitable grounds, as Council members have often had to personally finance certain expenditures pursuant to their duties in office because the allotted expense account fails to cover them; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of Article III, §7(e) 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, while Council has never increased its expense reimbursement, following the schedule delineated by the Charter would have yielded an expense reimbursement of \$3,150 in 2005, \$3,307.50 in 2010, \$3,472.88 in 2015, and \$3,646.52 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 annually per member.
- 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~~ \$3,646 per County Council member per year. 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.

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