

**THE BOROUGH OF WILKINSBURG
RESOLUTION FOR PUBLIC CENSURE**

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WILKINSBURG, BY THIS RESOLUTION, EXPRESSES ITS DISAPPROVAL OF MAYOR MARITA GARRETT'S COMMENTS REGARDING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND HER FAILURE TO ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS TO ADDRESS PUBLIC CONCERNS REGARDING PUBLIC SAFETY AND FULFILL THE DUTIES OF HER OFFICE.

WHEREAS: The Borough of Wilkinsburg has an elected Council and an elected Mayor;

WHEREAS, the Mayor's duties include presiding at the reorganization meeting, as well as entitlement to attend and participate in all special and regular meetings and to be involved in all discussions relating to Borough affairs, as well as casting votes in the event of a tie, as well as veto powers over ordinances;

WHEREAS, the Mayor's emergency powers include emergency management services and preserving the public peace within the Borough;

WHEREAS, the Mayor is expected to report to residents and Council on the state of the Borough and make recommendations as to matters of Borough concern to residents and Council;

WHEREAS, the Mayor has full power and control over the Chief of Police and the Police Department, including directing the time, place, and manner in which the Chief of Police and police force perform the duties of their rank;

WHEREAS, the Mayor has attended only three public meetings since September 18, 2019, despite requests from Council that she attend and participate as an essential member of the elected representatives of the Borough of Wilkinsburg;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have respective duties and responsibilities, as set forth in the Borough Code, subject to civil service and other applicable law regarding the police, however, the Mayor has full power and control over the Chief and the Police Department;

WHEREAS, the Mayor has the ability to suspend police officers for cause and without pay pending review of Council, and limitations related to civil service and applicable collective bargaining agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this 6th day of January 2021, by the Council of the Borough of Wilkesburg that Mayor Marita Garrett be publicly censured for her failure to fulfill her duties as Mayor under the Borough Code, and for misleading the public as to her statutory duties and powers regarding the Wilkesburg Borough Police Department; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that elected officials of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, County of Allegheny, City of Pittsburgh and media outlets, including the web site of the Borough of Wilkesburg, be advised of this resolution.

ATTEST:

Secretary

President, Borough Council