

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-  
OPPOSING CLOSURE OF THE POTTSTOWN YMCA  
BY THE POTTSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Pottstown YMCA has served the borough of Pottstown since 1880; and

WHEREAS, the Pottstown YMCA, through two mergers, is now a branch of the Philadelphia Freedom valley YMCA; and

WHEREAS, the avowed mission of the Philadelphia Freedom YMCA, a non-profit organization, is to strengthen communities, making sure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Freedom YMCA seeks to nurture the potential of every child and teen by supporting their unique youth development journey through holistic programming; and

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Freedom YMCA provides child care and early learning programs to nurture child development by providing safe and healthy places to learn foundational skills, develop healthy, trusting relationships, and build self-reliance through the Y values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Freedom YMCA specifically seeks to close the achievement gap for low-income youth to ensure every child has an opportunity to envision and pursue the best possible future; and

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Freedom YMCA encourages healthy lifestyles through fitness activities, including sports and recreation, and does so in its Pottstown facility which houses two swimming pools, a gymnasium, running track, fitness room, and other amenities; and

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Freedom YMCA is committed to a spirit of service by uniting individuals from all walks of life to participate in, and work for, positive social change; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds or more of Pottstown students come from low-income families and minority families; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Pottstown has one of the lowest median incomes in southeastern Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Pottstown has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest real estate tax effort in the Commonwealth, which its citizens have endured to provide a comparable educational experience to other public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Pottstown YMCA provides such services to Pottstown students as free swimming lessons for all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and free memberships to all 7<sup>th</sup> graders; and

WHEREAS, the Pottstown YMCA is centrally located in a walkable and bikeable community, immediately adjacent to the Pottstown High School — Middle School complex, allowing students to access the facility without the use of a car; and

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Freedom Valley YMCA has grown exponentially since its creation in a 2013 merger, and since then has completed new facilities in Haverford and Upper Perkiomen, with a \$30 million YMCA building under construction in Upper Moreland; and

WHEREAS, YMCA officials have stated that profits from their highly successful facilities in suburban areas allow the YMCA to fulfill its mission of offering programs to all residents, regardless of their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, YMCA officials acknowledge that some YMCAs will cost more money to operate than they bring in as revenue, and recognize the YMCA's obligation to subsidize those branches that are financially challenged; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA parent organization announced on Nov. 21, 2017 that it was closing its Pottstown facility as of June 29, 2018, without any input from or prior warning to the Pottstown community; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pottstown Borough Council adamantly opposes the closure of the Pottstown Branch of the Philadelphia Freedom Valley YMCA, and further opposes alternatives that result in services and programs being taken out of the Borough of Pottstown.

ENACTED AND RESOLVED this 9th day of April, A.D., 2018.

THE BURGESS AND TOWN COUNCIL  
OF THE BOROUGH OF POTTSTOWN

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Dan Weand, President

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Virginia L. Takach, Secretary

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie A. Henrick, Mayor