



October 13, 2021

Mr. Steven Fernstrom
Bethlehem Parking Authority
85 W. North Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Dear Mr. Fernstrom,

The EAC is currently working with a group of faculty at Lehigh University (Professors Ben Felzer, Breena Holland, Joan Ramage, and Hyunok Choi) to extend monitoring of fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5) in the City of Bethlehem. You may know that the Lehigh Valley has a history of non-compliance with Clean Air Act standards for PM2.5 and that it is a common trigger and cause of childhood asthma, and therefore, of student absenteeism. Part of the strategy to assess and address the extent of exposure to PM2.5 involves setting up small air monitors in specific locations that will help with understanding local variations in levels of PM2.5. Toward this end, we would like to install one of these small monitors on 3rd Street in South Bethlehem and we think the parking lot at New Street would be an ideal location.

The air monitor would be part of the [Purpleair.com](https://www.purpleair.com) air monitoring network. It is best if it is installed fairly close to the ground, at the level where people are generally breathing. The monitor is very small, able to be held in a single hand. Here is a link with some photos: <https://www2.purpleair.com/products/purpleair-pa-ii>

The only tricky part of the installation is that the monitor must be plugged into an electricity source and connected to a wi-fi network, which enables real-time updates to be posted to the air monitoring network. The Lehigh University team recently set up one of the monitors at a house in North Bethlehem, so the basic steps for installation are known. It should take less than an hour to set up once a location is determined.

The data will be made publicly available in real time and be an important step in meeting the goals of the City of Bethlehem's Climate Action Plan.

We will be happy to answer any questions and provide more information about the project. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Lynn Rothman

Lynn Rothman, Chair

On behalf of the Bethlehem EAC:

Mike Topping, Vice Chair Elisabeth Cichonski

Ben Guthrie, Secretary Ben Felzer

Beth Behrend Brian Nicas

cc: Bethlehem City Council

Mayor Donchez

Breana Holland