

**BOROUGH OF MIDDLETOWN  
STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS  
MARCH 8, 2019**

The Borough has received several requests for comment following statements made during the public comment period at the Borough Council meeting held on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. At that meeting, an individual, who identified himself as a student attending Penn State University's Harrisburg Campus, made broad and unsubstantiated claims against the Borough's Codes Department in relation to its interactions with Penn State students residing in the Borough. The student present at the meeting, who identified as himself as not residing in the Borough, had no personal experience with the Codes Department. Rather, he claimed to be reporting issues he had heard from other students, whom he would not identify. The student speaker did not provide any specific facts about the alleged incidents with the Codes Department, such as the date on or location at which the supposed incidents occurred. No other students spoke on March 5, 2019.

Given the complete absence of any meaningful factual information about the alleged incidents, and the lack of any statements made by individuals involved or with firsthand knowledge of the alleged incidents, the Borough is not in a position to respond in any detail to the claims made during public comment on March 5th. The Borough can confirm the following facts:

- Prior to Tuesday's meeting, the Borough had not received any formal complaints from Penn State students about the alleged incidents;
- Prior to Tuesday's meeting, the Borough had not received any formal complaints about any allegedly unlawful activities by the Codes Department.
- The Borough had not, prior to Tuesday's meeting, been informed of any alleged deviations from legally compliant code administration and enforcement procedures by its Codes Department.
- Borough policy is that the Codes Department will not enter any dwelling unit or other constitutionally protected private area to perform an inspection without proper legal consent or an administrative warrant, and that policy is followed by the Department.

- The Borough's current Zoning Ordinance fully provides for student housing and is consistent with federal and state laws. See <https://www.ecode360.com/5140216>.

Borough Council made clear during its March 5, 2019, public meeting that the claims made regarding its Codes Department would be reviewed and investigated. The Borough considers Penn State Harrisburg to be a valued community partner, and welcomes Penn State students in the Borough.

If there are additional questions on this matter, please contact Ken Klinepeter, Borough Manager at 717-902-0706.

Thank you.