

Shane Fillman  
416 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Allentown, PA 18102  
610-774-0460

May 13<sup>th</sup> 2012

RECEIVED  
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SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Public Utility Commission  
Attention: Rosemary Chiavetta – Secretary  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**RE: Docket No. M-2012-2293611 (Pipeline fees)**

Dear Rosemary Chiavetta:

**I find it unacceptable that UGI wants to pass the infrastructure costs to the consumers since from 1988-2010 they have paid dividends increasing every year (see attached dividend information) for those 22 years to shareholders knowing full well that the majority of their infrastructure was 80+ years old and chose to ignore it in order to keep the stock prices up.....Now they want the consumer to foot the bill???**

I live in Allentown, PA in the Old Allentown Historic District and would greatly appreciate if the PUC Commissioners would allow gas meters and regulators to remain in the basements of properties located at least in the Historic Districts for the following reasons that I will outline in this letter and packet of information included. Many residents are still not happy with the idea of having a gas regulator in the front of their property even though the gas meters would remain in the basements. While speaking with Paul Metro from the PUC at a public meeting on 9/14/2011, his main concern with a gas vent in front of a property instead of a gas regulator being placed outside being able to discharge directly into the atmosphere was a concern of bees or something blocking the gas vent or even someone tampering with the vent.....which makes no sense because the gas vent has a protective screen preventing bees or other foreign objects from entering and potentially blocking the vent plus if the property service line is high pressure (60psi) that alone would blow out any insects / nest in a hurry. Also, what is to prevent the same type of things from happening to the discharge outlet on the gas regulator vs. a gas vent?

Our community residents would ideally like to see all equipment remain in the basement and have a gas vent installed to allow any discharge from the regulator when high pressure gas is being supplied to a property to be vented to the outside atmosphere safely, or would like to have a buried vault on the outside of the property concealing all of the equipment in a safe and corrosion free manner.

The residents of my community are opposed to having the gas meters and regulators in front of their properties for the following reasons:

- **Vehicular damage to units**- More than 12 vehicles hitting and even driving through properties within our City over the past 2 years, and 8 photos of properties that were damaged within a few blocks of my home that did not receive media attention. And just the other day a car struck a house knocking the gas meter off the building.
- **Snow Issues**- Living in an urban area always presents a problem with where to put your snow during inclement weather. When you live on a home that is only 15'-20' wide and you have a front door or steps in the front of your home taking some of the overall available width away from the front of your home...residents have no choice but to pile the snow in front of their homes which will block and potentially damage or freeze-up the meter set as these issues are cautioned of in §59.18 (a) (4) (iv) "falling objects, such as packed snow or ice from a roof" and (c) (1) (ii) "Protection from ambient temperatures is necessary to avoid meter freeze-ups". I would also like to mention residents are prohibited from just shoveling all of the snow into the street, so they have no choice but to pile it up in front of their homes.
- **Trip Hazards**- This equipment in many cases can be tripped on or have someone pushing a stroller or something hit these units.
- **Corrosion Issues**- Many gas meter sets that were just installed by UGI within the last year and are already rusting, showing signs of corrosion. Unfortunately over 60% of Allentown's properties are currently non-owner occupied building (rentals) many of which will not bother to paint the hardware to keep it in sound shape. The City has been working feverishly to de-convert and promote single family owner occupied ownership...but this process doesn't happen overnight.
- **Vandalism**- Living in an urban community where people constantly walk on the sidewalks....this will always pose a risk of having someone "monkey" with the equipment or at least always make the resident fearful that someone will tamper with the equipment.
- **Misuses of the equipment**- People are chaining trash receptacles and commercial display racks to the gas hardware. I have also seen people securing their bicycles and motorcycles and other items to the equipment as well.
- **Shut off valves on pipe with regulator attached to it**- Almost all of the units I have seen UGI install have no locking mechanism on the valve leaving the property owner extremely vulnerable that anyone could walk by their property with a wrench and shut their gas service off, potentially causing a pipe freezing issue in their home if nobody was home to identify a problem with the heating system. Also most of the properties already have curb shut off valves in the sidewalk that are protected from unauthorized people from tampering with them, and if a property doesn't have a curb valve, UGI should be installing one. Also, what if someone turns an unlocked gas valve off/on...if pilot lights are not relighted, the house can begin to fill up with gas and could cause an explosion itself.
- **Aesthetics**- Not only do the residents feel vulnerable for the other reasons I just mentioned... but many people take great pride in maintaining and restoring properties within our Historic Districts and this equipment is just downright ugly directly in the front of people's homes. Keep in mind most of the properties that this will impact range between 15' -20' in total width and have no garden area in front of their property to be able to camouflage this equipment.

After reading the proposed changes Docket# L-2009-2107155 Annex A Title 52. Public Utilities Part I Public Utilities Commission Subpart C. Fixed Service Utilities Chapter 59. Gas Service §59.18 {Location of Meters.} Meter and Regulator location I would like to point out a few things that I think need to be clarified to avoid confusion:

( C) Inside meter locations shall be considered only when:

- (1) ( I ) An acceptable outside location is not available due to the restrictions in federally approved Historic Districts or in high risk vandalism districts.

First I would hope that this language could be changed to read just "Historic Districts" because many Historic Districts throughout Pennsylvania are not federally recognized, but state recognized. Allentown currently has (3) historic districts (Old Allentown, Old Fairgrounds and West Park) which are all recognized by the state of Pennsylvania as a CLG (Certified Local Government) and follow the Secretary of Interior's Standards. Allentown is the third largest city in the Commonwealth.

The (PHMC) Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission under the Municipalities Planning Code: which emphatically states in §603. (g) (2) {that} "zoning ordinances shall provide the protection of natural and historic features and resources" and the Historic District Act which authorizes municipalities to create historic districts....to protect the distinctive historical character of these districts and to regulate the erection, reconstruction, alteration, restoration, demolition or razing of buildings within the historic district.

In regards to "high risk vandalism districts" – what constitutes "high risk"? In my opinion any property located within an urban area is high risk based on the information I provided in this packet i.e. chained items to gas pipes, vehicular damage risk, trip hazards, potential vandalism, snow being piled against building facades, corrosion issues, unsecured gas valves being tampered with etc...

( C) (1) (ii) Protection from ambient temperatures is necessary to avoid meter freeze-ups.

I have yet to see UGI "protect" any outside meter set they have installed, and would think that if there is any chance of a meter freezing up, this supports the idea of keeping meters in the basements of properties regardless if they're located within a historic district or not.

- (a) (9) Meters and service regulators may not be installed in the following locations:  
(i) Directly beneath or in front of windows or other building openings which may be used as an emergency fire exit.

This alone would rule out any meter or regulator in front of 99% of the properties located in downtown Allentown, PA because most building range from 15' to 20' wide and obviously have a front door and anywhere from at least 1-2 window (on average) on the first floor elevation and

typically have 1-2 basement windows and most have a grocer's alley door that leads between the town homes.... That being said we're not talking about a lot of real estate here, and a gas meter or regulator is virtually impossible to place under these conditions considering the size and layout of these properties. If someone needed to crawl out of their first floor window to escape a fire...they would be exposed to this equipment while exiting the burning building.

In closing I would thank you for your time and consideration and hope that you find this information helpful and ultimately rule that the gas meters and regulators can remain either in the basements with a gas vent which would allow the gas to vent in the atmosphere in the case of an emergency or in a buried vault outside.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Fillman', with a stylized, cursive script.

Shane Fillman

Enclosures included

# UGI Dividends

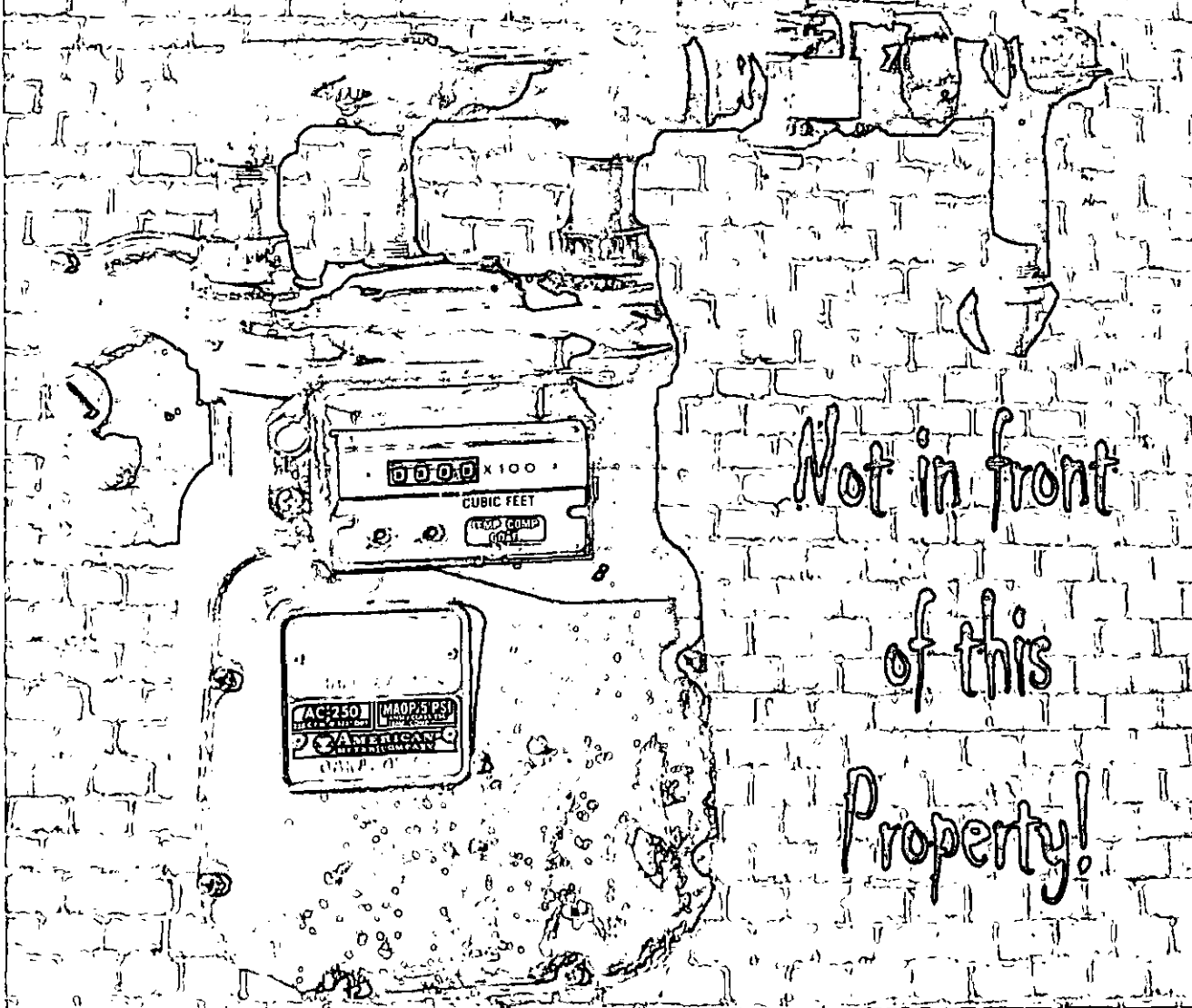
2/23/1988 - 12/13/2010

Date	Dividends
12/13/2010	0.25
9/13/2010	0.25
6/11/2010	0.25
3/11/2010	0.2
12/11/2009	0.2
9/11/2009	0.2
6/11/2009	0.2
3/12/2009	0.193
12/11/2008	0.193
9/11/2008	0.193
6/12/2008	0.193
3/12/2008	0.185
12/12/2007	0.185
9/12/2007	0.185
6/13/2007	0.185
3/13/2007	0.176
12/13/2006	0.176
9/13/2006	0.176
6/13/2006	0.176
3/13/2006	0.169
12/13/2005	0.169
9/13/2005	0.169
6/13/2005	0.169
2/24/2005	0.1565
11/26/2004	0.1565
8/27/2004	0.1565
5/26/2004	0.1565
2/25/2004	0.1425
11/25/2003	0.1425
8/27/2003	0.1425
5/28/2003	0.1425
2/26/2003	0.14266
11/26/2002	0.13767
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5/29/2002	0.13767
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2/26/2001	0.12934
11/28/2000	0.12934
8/29/2000	0.12934
5/26/2000	0.12934
2/25/2000	0.125
11/26/1999	0.125
9/15/1999	0.125
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5/27/1998	0.12166

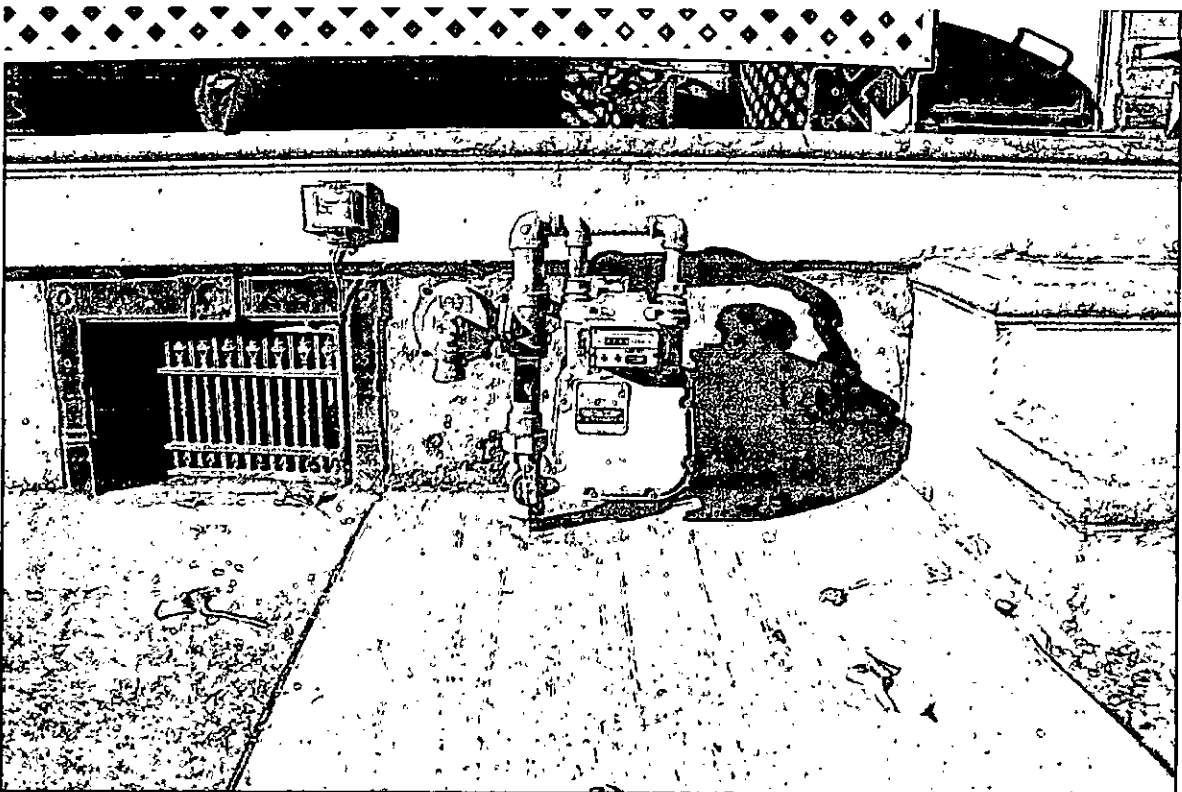
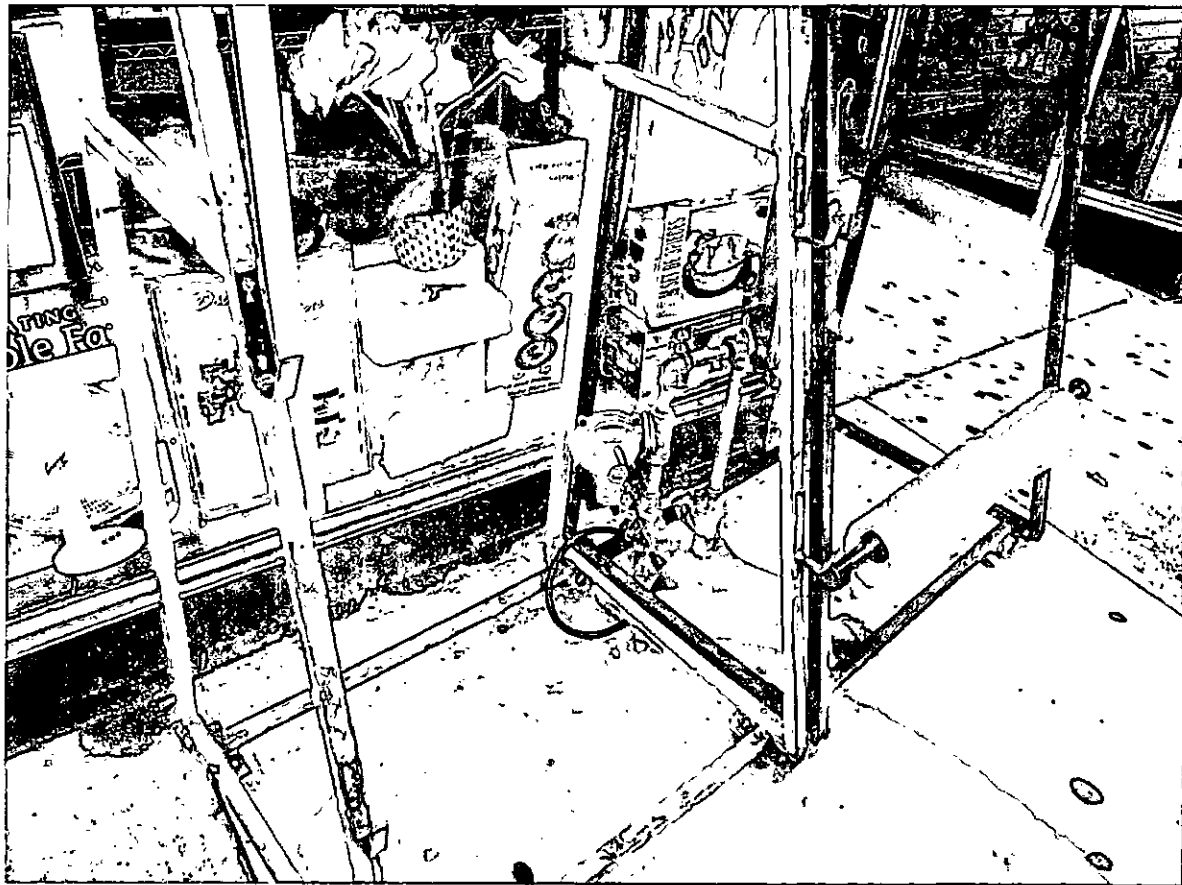
# UG-I Dividends

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8/27/1997	0.12
5/28/1997	0.12
2/26/1997	0.11833
11/26/1996	0.11833
8/28/1996	0.11833
5/29/1996	0.11833
2/27/1996	0.11667
11/28/1995	0.11667
8/29/1995	0.11667
5/24/1995	0.11667
2/22/1995	0.115
11/23/1994	0.115
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5/24/1994	0.115
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8/25/1992	0.10834
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2/24/1992	0.10333
11/22/1991	0.10333
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11/23/1988	0.08916
8/25/1988	0.08916
5/24/1988	0.08916
2/23/1988	0.085

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 C. A. M. P.  
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### Pictures - car crashes into house

As a result of an accident a car crashes into house at 8th and Walnut, Allentown

Image 1 of 7

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**Pictures - car crashes into house**  
( Donna Fisher / The Morning Call / August 6, 2011 )

A car hit the west side of a house in the 700 block of Walnut Street in the northeast corner of 8th and Walnut Streets Saturday afternoon. Two damaged cars were in the lot at 8th and Walnut as Allentown police officers and firefighters worked at the scene. Five people were injured in the accident.

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# Dodging another car, car crashes into Allentown house

August 26, 2011 | By Frank Warner, Of The Morning Call

A car crashed into an Allentown rowhouse Friday afternoon as the driver apparently tried to steer away from another car that went through a stop sign, according to police radio reports and witnesses.

Soon after the 5 p.m. crash at Fifth and Liberty streets, police were looking for a silver car that drove off. Police said the driver of that car later turned himself in at the city police station.



A car is lodged in the front wall of a rowhouse at 447 N. Fifth St., Allentown, ... (Frank Warner, THE MORNING CALL)

"I heard a car skidding and then the car made a quick turn, right between two cars, and hit the house," said Antonio Montanez, 14, of Fifth Street who was outside with his brother Dominic Rosario, 12, when the car jumped the sidewalk and slammed into the 447 N. Fifth St. home.

The car's front end lodged in the house near a first-floor window, just left of the front door. Bricks from above and the left of the window fell on the car's hood and windshield.

The driver, a young man, climbed out the driver's side window and did not look badly injured, Montanez said. He was taken by Allentown EMS to the hospital.

"He's just lucky there was no one standing outside the house," Montanez said.

No one was home at the time of the crash. Firefighters sealed off the accident scene and prepared to have the car extracted from the damaged house.

City police Capt. George Medero said the city Fire Department and building inspectors will have to determine whether the house still is structurally sound. If not, its residents will not be permitted to return until major repairs are done.

An eastbound car on Liberty Street drove through the Fifth Street stop sign and headed for the rear of the southbound car on Fifth that suddenly swerved and ran into the house, Montanez said.

Rosario said he didn't think the cars collided; the driver who crashed probably was trying to get out of the other car's way.

As it hurtled toward the house, the car shot between two sport utility vehicles parked on the east side of Fifth Street. Neither of the SUVs appeared to have significant damage.

Medero said the driver who left the scene will be charged with various traffic offenses.

— Frank Warner

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## Head-on crash sends car into house

Author: 69 News, [news@wfmz.com](mailto:news@wfmz.com)

Posted: Nov 09 2011 11:26 AM



**ALLENTOWN, Pa. -**

Someone got an unexpected wakeup call early Wednesday morning.

A head-on accident between two cars sent one of them into a house at Tilghman and New streets in Allentown.

It happened around 7 a.m.

Officials have not said whether anyone was injured.

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# Allentown woman hurt when car hits apartment

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11:19 P.M. EDT, OCTOBER 16, 2011

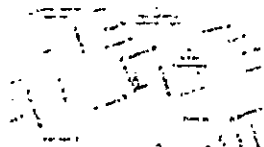
A woman was injured when her car crashed into her neighbor's apartment early Sunday, Allentown fire officials said.

Takia Young, of 246 Lehigh St., told authorities she tried to jump in her car when it began rolling in the parking lot of her apartment complex. Instead, the vehicle hit the apartment at 244 Lehigh St., badly damaging the structure and pinning Young's foot beneath a rear tire.

The accident happened around 1:30 a.m. Firefighters used air bags to lift the vehicle and free Young, who was taken to a hospital for treatment of her leg injury. Her condition was unavailable.

The damaged apartment was uninhabitable. The American Red Cross of the Greater Lehigh Valley provided lodging, meals and toiletry items to its three tenants.

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The accident remains under investigation.

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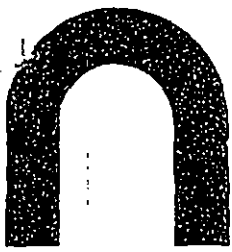
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Allentown  
City without limits.

Ed Pawlowski, Mayor  
City of Allentown  
435 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, PA 18101-1699  
Office 610.437.7546  
fax 610.437.8730  
pawlowski@allentowncity.org

June 27, 2011

Robert F. Powelson, Chairman  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, N-304, 400 North St.  
Harrisburg, Pa 17120

**Subject: Gas Meter and Regulator Placement in Historic Districts Follow-up Meeting.**

Dear Chairman Powelson:

On October 18, 2010 the City of Allentown facilitated a public meeting for our residents with representatives from the PUC and UGI to review the placement of gas meters and regulators in our historic districts and surrounding neighborhoods. This meeting was organized in response to UGI performing upgrades to their existing gas mains and moving existing gas meters and regulators from the inside of properties to the exterior. UGI made these changes in anticipation of proposed PUC rule changes. Paul Metro, PUC Gas Safety Chief, confirmed this change at the public meeting and said the state was in the process of updating the state regulations to both eliminate ambiguity and also improve safety. He went on to explain that the proposed rule changes would be available for public comment in the "near future" and that he would recommend public hearings on the matter. He also agreed to a follow-up public meeting in Allentown to explain the proposed rule changes once officially introduced to the PUC. It was our understanding that this process would take place prior to the 2011 construction season; which has already begun.

Since February the City has been trying to schedule the agreed upon follow-up meeting regarding this issue with the PUC in order to keep our residents informed. It has been (8) months since the first public meeting and to date there has been no follow-up action with our residents. UGI is again preparing for construction and our citizens have been left out as to what the PUC's policies will be with regard to the placement of gas meters and regulators. I urge you to address this issue as soon as possible and open up the process so the public can comment on proposed rule changes. I also urge you to expeditiously schedule the agreed upon follow up public meeting in Allentown in order to inform our citizens.

Sincerely,

ED PAWLOWSKI

Mayor

June 27, 2011

Page Two

cc: Ken Bennington, Managing Director  
Paul Metro, Gas Safety Chief, PUC  
Mark Hartney, Planner II  
Mike Moore, Communications Coordinator  
Mike Hanlon, City Clerk  
The Honorable Michael D'Amore, President, City Council  
Mike Hefele, Director, Planning  
Mike Love, Vice President of Government Affairs, UGI  
Sara Hailstone, Director, DCED  
The Honorable Pat Browne, State Senator  
The Honorable Jennifer Mann, State Representative  
The Honorable Joe Brennan, State Representative  
The Honorable Steve Samuelson, State Representative  
The Honorable Justin Simmons, State Representative

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to make you aware of CAMP [www.campnow.org](http://www.campnow.org) (Citizens for Appropriate Meter Placement). CAMP is a grassroots community effort to address homeowner concerns regarding utility infrastructure projects that are having a negative impact in some neighborhoods and giving an impression of urban blight. Our keynote issue is the policy of moving gas meters and related equipment to the exterior of homes where there is insufficient setback or landscaping to hide the installation.

CAMP was founded in December of 2010 in Allentown Pennsylvania by a cooperative effort of various neighborhood associations. This effort was initiated in response to the apparent lack of concern shown to homeowners in the recent move to upgrade the gas delivery system infrastructure by the Public Utility Commission and UGI.

Our goal is to bring public awareness to the issue and pressure the PUC and local utility providers to adopt safe and appropriate installation guidelines that preserve the historic and aesthetic nature of our homes.

Please forward this e-mail message to your fellow neighborhood residents to make them aware of this situation and I encourage everyone to sign our online petition at [www.campnow.org](http://www.campnow.org)

Also, please let us know if your neighborhood organization would be willing to be listed as a CAMP "Supporter" on our website. If you're willing to be listed as a supporter, kindly send an e-mail with your Organization's name as you would like it to appear on the website and a statement if you so choose, to: [info@campnow.org](mailto:info@campnow.org)

We will let you know when our next meeting will be held (please feel free to pass the invite among your neighborhood groups). The meetings are typically held on a monthly basis at the Old Allentown Preservation Association office located at 147 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Allentown at 7pm and typically last about 45 minutes. Hope to see you at our next meeting! ☺

Regards,

CAMP Committee

S Fillman  
416 N 8th St  
Allentown, PA 18102



Public Utility Commission  
Attention: Rosemary Chiavetta - Secretary  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Docket No. M-2012-2293611

171053265 BOSS

