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News From Around PA
Allegheny County Council voted 8-6, with one member absent, to consider the creation of a County citizens’ police review board. The approved proposal had no details concerning term of office, accountability, etc.

For the third year Philadelphia will hold a “Bi Visibility Day,” a day to bring attention to those who identify as “bisexual.” The September 23rd event is extended to the ‘bi umbrella’ -- under it are people who might identify as “queer or pansexual or homoflexible or heteroflexible.”

The PA Department of Aging will hold its first ever LGBTQ Aging Summit in Harrisburg on October 9th thru 10th.

U.S. District Judge Sylvia Rambo, in a 31-page opinion, has ruled unconstitutional a PA law that prohibits casino owners and others with a stake in the gambling industry from donating to political campaigns in the state.

Former President Obama made several campaign stops in PA hoping to boost the chances of Democrat wins in November. On Friday he attended a fund-raiser for Senator Bob Casey, Jr.

The PA Department of Labor and Industry this week announced that as part of the 2017 building code law, it is required to enact regulations incorporating the newly adopted 2015 International Code Council codes from the United Nations.

News From National Scene
The American Academy of Pediatrics released a statement urging parents to accept their child’s “gender identity.” The Academy called for “comprehensive” and “gender-affirming health care” (including “surgical intervention” and puberty blockers) for gender confused minors.

The truth is finally out: Bert and Ernie are NOT gay! A heated online debate took place this week over the issue. Former Sesame Street writer, Mark Saltzman, says he patterned Bert and Ernie after his gay relationship. Co-creator of many Muppet characters, Frank Oz, swiftly countered, “I created Bert, I know what and who he is.” LGBT activists responded that “characters can evolve beyond their creators’ intentions.” Oz’ response: “Oh come on . . . .” Not satisfied, LGBTQ newspaper The Advocate concludes “The truth is that Bert and Ernie are gay, because that is how they have been embraced by LGBTQ culture. And no amount of press releases or denials will change that.”

A federal court in Wisconsin found that denying health insurance for “gender-affirming” medical care was “sex discrimination.”

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