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## Streetcar plan would have to pass PennDOT

Because both North Queen and North Prince Streets are state roads, any formal plans for a streetcar system would require a Highway Occupancy Permit from PennDOT, according to Mike Keiser, Acting Assistant District Engineer for Design.

The permit review process, Keiser said, would be “*pretty significant*,” including an in-depth Traffic Impact Study—“*If you displace half of your capacity because of a trolley, what does that do?*” Keiser said, explaining the scope of such a study.

Keiser noted that, if PennDOT rejected plans for a streetcar system, there would remain one alternative course for the City to move ahead on the project: **Occasionally, a State route can be turned back to the local municipality.** “*Not likely*,” Keiser said, “*But anything’s possible.*”

According to Mike Crochunis, a PennDOT spokesman, “*our team knows little about the specifics*” and has not yet been approached by the City regarding this particular project. Most of what they know, Crochunis said, has come from the newspapers.

## High group stonewalling over metering debacle

After three weeks and as many e-mail messages, **NewsLanc** has yet to hear back from Thomas Smithgall, Senior V.P. of Development for High Real Estate Group, regarding the decision to jointly meter the Marriott Hotel and the Lancaster County Convention Center.

High was the master developer for the Hotel and Convention Center and is also the general partner

in the Penn Square Partners, which owns the aforementioned Marriott franchise.

The architects told **NewsLanc** that Smithgall instructed them to use a single meter. Smithgall acted as though he was a stranger to the matter and said he would inquire of the owners and respond later.

## EDITORIAL: Thinking BIG about police protection

Lancaster Township’s efforts to secure economical police protection for its separate regions suggests an opportunity which officials from other suburban municipalities refuse to recognize.

**The second best approach:** Suburban municipalities could take for economy and

enhanced protection for their constituents would be to merge their departments into a suburban police force.

**The best approach:** Suburban municipalities and the City would merge their departments into a regional police force. **[Continued on back]**

Several decades ago, Lancaster Township supervisors wisely chose economy and security for their population. They merged their police

force with the City's. Would that other municipal officials would show the same good sense.

## **Good news for McCaskey football fans?**

A letter from a player reports that eighty students turned out for first practice this year, as contrasted with sixty a year earlier.

*We won our first scrimmage against Central Dauphin and did pleasantly well against Cumberland Valley, which is ranked ninth in the state."*

The student continues: "*Coach [David] Given is doing a fine job at head coach.*

## **LETTER: Fathers "sperm donors and ATM machines"**

*"I would like to express my gratitude for your efforts in covering this 3 part series presented by Mr. Vonderheide. For many years, this issue received absolutely no coverage by the press and consequently countless children lost their fathers because of the powers that be.*

*unraveling at the seams. More and more families are relying on the court system to settle life's disputes. It is with great contention that the Lancaster, PA Family Court System systematically targets men and unethically orders them to be 'sperm donors and ATM machines,' rather than FATHERS to their children..."*

*"We live in a society where the fabrics of the 'traditional' American households are*

## **LETTER: Hospitals charge individuals far more than insurance companies**

*"I've worked in healthcare for over 20 years behind the scenes from Medicare chart review to transcription. It's not because they can. Actually, it's so they can get what they need from the insurance company.*

*"It's a negotiation game of appeals. You charge \$90 because you know the insurance company is going to try to get away with paying \$50, when your overhead is say, \$65. You go back and forth and prove your point until you get the money to cover the cost..."*

**INTELLIGENCER NEW ERA: "City flushes sewage into river"** describes how century old collector lines combine both sanitary sewer and storm water, thus overwhelming the sewage treatment plant during rainfalls. This results in highly diluted raw sewage discharging into the Conestoga River and, from there, on to the Chesapeake Bay.

**WATCHDOG:** While attention is now focused on how to reduce storm water runoff, the ultimate solution may be the treatment of sanitary sewer at homes and public facilities. On-site water treatment technology is further advanced in Europe than in the USA.

In the long run, it may prove easier to dispose of sewage than storm water!

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