

Change to Home Rule Charter Benefits Glenside

To the editor:

I won't repeat the many fine points made by Mr. Mullian in his letter ("Residents will have chance to change charter on Election Day, Glenside News, Oct. 14). But as a Glenside resident of 27 years, I respectfully ask my neighbors to consider the following as well:

- * although SEPTA's heavy-handed tactics with respect to the proposed Wyncote parking garage may have triggered the movement to amend the home rule charter, the proposed Glenside parking garage is far from a dead issue. So in voting to regulate how corporations act inside Cheltenham's borders, we're also voting for self-determination with respect to the Glenside train station and other proposals across the length and breadth of our township.

- * experience teaches that township residents cannot rely on their commissioners when it involves SEPTA's designs on our neighborhoods. Their response to this issue has been by turns evasive, dismissive, and condescending. Clearly such momentous decisions regarding our quality of life are safer in the hands of the township's voters.

- * opposition to the parking garages has been systematically portrayed as a NIMBY response. Well, if community's neighbors don't protect their own backyards, who will? And while the adverse effects of parking garages in neighborhoods similar to Glenside and Wyncote are widely understood, their benefit to the wider region are far less certain. Millions of dollars spent enabling commuters from distant suburbs to park here will make it easier to decommission train service to communities up the line from us--this in an era when light rail should be spearheading the transition to less carbon-intensive modes of transportation.

So Glenside residents, for our own sake, for the sake of our neighbors in Wyncote, and for the sake of our neighbors "up the line," please, on November 3rd, vote "yes" to amend our township's home rule charter. Let's take the future into our own hands.

Rick Topper
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