

Push goes on for human rights panel

City council voted it down

By Ed Biller
Eagle Staff Writer

Groups pushing for the formation of a human rights council in Butler, an initiative voted down by the city council in December, say they are not going anywhere.

"We will be back at every council meeting until we win this struggle for citizens who may be discriminated against," said Joe Tomlinson, president of the Butler chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

At the council meeting Thursday, Tomlinson requested that council re-

evaluate its position on the proposal, which would form a volunteer-run commission to investigate allegations of discrimination based on race, handicap, religion, sexuality or gender identity, among other factors.

The matter was brought before council several times last year and a vote in October was tabled until more information on the feasibility of such a group could be gathered. In December, a vote to form the commission failed.

Council members at that time said the city, which is already hurting for money, could not provide the legal expenses that would be bound to arise from alleged discrimination cases brought before the com-

mission.

Tomlinson said 11 such commissions were created in Pennsylvania last year, bringing the total number of municipalities with a human rights commission in Pennsylvania to 29.

Mary Lee Martin of Butler, a member of the Interfaith Council, a faith-based organization supportive of PFLAG's initiative, told the city council her son moved to Florida because he feared the discrimination he would face in Butler.

"You can do a great thing," she said in support of this commission.

"I pray, before I die, that I will see more respect, not just tolerance, for my son (and other individuals who are discriminated against)."

Empty plaza to fill up with distribution site

Business sells automation tools

By Bob Schultz
Eagle Staff Writer

CRANBERRY TWP — A vacant retail strip plaza along Route 19 will get a new tenant while an existing cellular tower will be relocated to a space behind Monroe Muffler on Dutilh Road to make room for Interstate 79 ramp improvements.

Township supervisors Thursday night heard plans for the two projects. They are expected to vote next week on their final

plans.

Ron Henshaw, Cranberry's director of community development, told the supervisors that Advanced Controls & Distribution will take up the entire 13,950-square-foot plaza that had been home to Simpatico and Sterling Lighting. The plaza is south of the North Park Deckhouse.

Lou Delmonica, company president, said his business sells factory automation products.

It will relocate its distribution operation in Western Pennsylvania from Monroeville to Cranberry.

It will have 17 workers.

The company also has offices in Ohio and West Virginia.

The SBA Cellular Tower is being relocated because of the state Department of Transportation ramps project, which is to begin this year. The project will add ramps to Route 228 to eliminate crossover traffic to access I-79.

The tower will be higher than the previous tower at 220 feet compared to 180 feet. The increase is needed because the new property is at a lower elevation.

The tower's main tenant is T-Mobile.

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