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## **LVPC's Halper Named Woman of Influence**

Carol Halper spent 14 years helping to bring a calming influence to the busy Allentown office of former Congressman Charlie Dent, so when she arrived at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission in 2018 to find a surprisingly bustling operation, she felt right at home.

For her second act, as Senior Advisor at the LVPC, Halper has been named a 2020 Woman of Influence by the Lehigh Valley Business journal. She's scheduled to be among 26 women from across the region to be honored during a ceremony June 15 at the ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks.

The award honors women who show leadership and community involvement while contributing to their companies, industries or communities.

Halper came to the LVPC after serving as a senior member of Dent's Lehigh Valley district office during his seven terms in Washington and as a legislative aide during his 10 years in the Pennsylvania State Legislature. She retired from the job after Dent decided against running for an eighth term in Congress.

"When I heard Carol was retiring from the Congressional office, I knew I wanted to get her to come with us," said LVPC Executive Director Becky Bradley. "You just don't find that kind of talent and experience very often. She's very quickly become an important part of our mission."

As Senior Advisor, Halper helps manage the perpetually busy schedules of the administrative team, serves as a liaison between the public and senior management team and helps craft regional policy. She started at LVPC in December of 2018.

Unofficially, Halper has taken on the role of office mom, often arriving early to let colleagues in before office hours and gently counseling those testing the bounds of acceptable office etiquette.

"I am very grateful to Becky for nominating me for this award," Halper said. "To share this honor with such accomplished women, both current and past recipients, is an inspiration for me."

Halper was a longtime board member or volunteer for Valley Youth House, Civic Theatre of Allentown and the Jewish Community Center of the Lehigh Valley

She's currently a member of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Policy and Transportation committees and helps raise funding for the Lehigh Valley Health Network Hospice Care unit.