# AGENDA REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL June 30, 2020 6:30 PM

- 1. ROLL CALL
- 2. READING OF MINUTES
- 3. REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR & HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND INTERESTED PARTIES AND CITY CLERK'S NOTES
- 3.A CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DATED JUNE 11, 2020 REGARDING MEADOW BROOK FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT, PHASE 3.
  - Correspondence received from PA DEP dated June 11, 2020.pdf
- 3.B CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR DATED JUNE 22, 2020 REGARDING LICENSING, INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS SERVICES ASSESSMENT PROJECT.
  - Correspondence received from Business Administrator dated June 22, 2020.pdf
- 3.C CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) DATED JUNE 19, 2020 REGARDING ANNUAL COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT.
  - Correspondence received from HUD dated June 19, 2020.pdf
- 3.D CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM MAYOR PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED JUNE 16, 2020 REGARDING A RESPONSE TO COUNCILMAN DONAHUE'S QUESTIONS FROM JUNE 9.

Correspondence received from Mayor Paige G. Cognetti dated 6-16-2020.pdf

3.E CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM MAYOR PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED JUNE 25, 2020 REGARDING CITY FACILITIES REOPENING TO THE PUBLIC ON JUNE 29.

Correspondence received from Mayor Paige G. Cognetti dated 6-25-2020.pdf

3.F MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD MAY 20, 2020.

Composite Pension Board Minutes 05-20-2020.pdf

3.G TAX ASSESSOR'S REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES TO BE HELD JULY 16, 22, 23, 29 AND 30, 2020

Tax Assessor's Reports for 7-16, 22, 23, 29, 30, 2020.pdf

3.H CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO UNITED STATES SENATORS DATED JUNE 25, 2020 IN SUPPORT OF THE HEALTH AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY OMNIBUS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS ACT.

Correspondence sent to Senators dated 6-25-2020.pdf

- 4. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION
- 5. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS,

  APPOINTMENT AND/OR RE-APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS &

  COMMISSIONS MOTIONS & REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
- 5.A MOTIONS.
- 5.B FOR INTRODUCTION AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A

RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE OWNED BY OAK STREET EXPRESS, LLC, 610 NORTH MAIN STREET, TAYLOR, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, 18517 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE NO. R-3114 TO ARADHY BEV BEER, LLC, (THE "MINI MART"), 401 WYOMING AVENUE, SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, 18503, AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

#### Ordinance-2020 Transfer Liquor License to Aradhy Bev Beer.pdf

5.C FOR INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ACTING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, IN AN AMOUNT OF UP TO \$20,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS "ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN", AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AND TO UTILIZE THE GRANT FOR SUCH PROJECT.

# Resolution-2020 Grant Application Active Transportation Plan.pdf

5.D FOR INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE SUBMISSION AND EXECUTION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE MAYOR'S INNOVATION PROJECT - HEALTHY BABIES, BRIGHT FUTURES, BRIGHT CITIES FOR A GRANT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS "SCRANTON PLAYGROUND PALS:KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE & HEALTHY", AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00 AWARDED BY THE MAYOR'S INNOVATION PROJECT.

#### Resolution-2020 Grant Application Scranton Playground Pals.pdf

5.E FOR INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM (RACP) THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO MILLION (\$2,000,000.00) DOLLARS; ACCEPTING

AND DISBURSING THE GRANT IF THE APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL; AND COORDINATE THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH "LACE BUILDING AFFILIATES, LP", FOR THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED THE "SCRANTON LACE ADAPTIVE USE PROJECT".

Resolution-2020 RACP Grant for Lace Building Affiliates.pdf

5.F FOR INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT A GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM (RACP) THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND (\$250,000.00) DOLLARS; AND COORDINATE THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH "SCRANTON-CHERRY, L.P. OR THEIR DESIGNEE", FOR THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED THE "SCRANTON COUNSELING CENTER PROJECT".

Resolution-2020 RACP Grant Scranton-Cherry LP.pdf

5.G FOR INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE AWARD OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE WILLARY FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY TO EVALUATE TAX POLICY, BILLING, AND COLLECTIONS WITH THE GOAL OF INCREASING COLLECTION RATES, STRENGTHENING INTERNAL CONTROLS, ELIMINATING WASTE AND PROVIDING TAX RELIEF FOR SCRANTON RESIDENTS.

Resolution-2020 Grant Willary Foundation.pdf

5.H FOR INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO PASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL ASSISTANCE AND CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO ADOPT THE FUNDING ENHANCEMENTS TO THE FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGES (FMAP) AS PROVIDED IN THE HEROES ACT HR 6800.

Resolution-2020 US Senate Pass Local Government Fiscal Assistance.pdf

- 6. CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES READING BY TITLE
- 6.A NO BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

- 7. FINAL READING OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES
- 7.A NO BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.
- 8. ADJOURNMENT





OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

June 11, 2020

William Gaughan, City Council President 340 North Washington Avenue Scranton, PA 18503

RE:

Meadow Brook Flood Protection Project, Phase 3

City of Scranton, Lackawanna County

(DEP File No. C35:10 - DGS File No. 184-22 Phase 3)

Dear Mr. Gaughan:

The Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands (DEP) and Department of General Services (DGS) have selected Reilly Associates, Inc. to design Phase 3 Meadow Brook Flood Protection Project. Reilly Associates, Inc. (Reilly) has completed preliminary design of the project and Rights-of-Way (ROW) Plans have been developed. Attached are draft ROW Plans as well as the draft Sponsorship Agreement that the City will be required to sign for the project to move forward. The Sponsorship Agreement is only a draft meant to give the City and idea of what they would be signing on to. The final version will be sent with the final ROW Plans. DEP and Reilly would like the City to review the selected alignment and required ROW to construct the project. After the plans have been reviewed by the City, DEP and Reilly would like schedule a work meeting with City officials to discuss the proposed features of the project and any concerns with the alignment prior to finalizing the ROW Plans and Sponsorship Agreement. DEP would also like to discuss the required obligations associated with DEP Flood Protection Projects to familiarize City Officials with the design and construction process. Once these plans are acceptable to the City, DEP will send the final draft of the documents to the City to be reviewed, signed and sent back to DEP to be fully executed so final design of the project can continue.

Please review the attached documents and schedule a meeting with DEP and Reilly to discuss the project in more detail. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at apaul@pa.gov or by telephone at 717.783.7930 or contact my supervisor Doug Hill by e-mail at dohill@pa.gov or by telephone at 717.783.7723.

Sincerely,

Adam N. Paul, P.E.

ada N. Parl

Acting Project Coordinator

Division of Project Development

Enclosure:

DRAFT Rights-of-Way Plans

DRAFT Sponsorship Agreement

cc:

Lori Reed, City Clerk (e-copy)
Bryan Anthony, DGS Bureau of Pre-Construction, w/ ROW Dwgs. (e-copy)
Martin Musso, Reilly Associates, w/ ROW Dwgs. (e-copy)

#### SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

For
The Meadow Brook Flood Protection Project
Project No. DGS 184-22, Phase 3
DRAFT

THIS SPONSORSHIP AGREEMED day of	NT ("AGREEMENT") is made the,, by and between the Department of
Environmental Protection of the Commonwea	lth of Pennsylvania ("DEPARTMENT") and the
City of Scranton located in Lackawanna Cour "SPONSOR."	
WHEREAS, by virtue of Act No. 195	of the General Assembly, approved the 5th day of
	EPARTMENT is authorized, with the approval of
the Governor, to enter into contracts and/or ag	greements with any political subdivision for

WHEREAS, Section 1905-A (a) of the Administrative Code of 1929 (71 P.S. 51 et seq.) authorizes the DEPARTMENT to cooperate with the SPONSOR for flood control purposes;

cooperation and assistance in planning, constructing, financing, maintaining, and operating State

Flood Control Works or Improvements and Recreational Facilities;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Storm Water Management Act of October 4, 1978, as amended, the SPONSOR has adopted, and is implementing and enforcing, a watershed storm water management plan if one has been developed by the county and approved by the DEPARTMENT;

WHEREAS, the SPONSOR has petitioned the DEPARTMENT to provide flood protection along Meadow Brook;

WHEREAS, the DEPARTMENT has completed the preliminary design of the Meadow Brook Flood Protection Project ("PROJECT," as further defined below at Article 1), known as Project No. DGS 184-22, and developed Rights-of-Way Acquisition Drawings numbered GP-1 and RW-1 through RW-8 showing project features and work limits;

WHEREAS, by virtue of Act No. 62 of the General Assembly, approved the 18th day of June, A.D. 1984, P.L. 391, Act No. 223 of the General Assembly, approved the 20th day of December, A.D. 1990, P.L. 1472, Act No. 8 of the General Assembly, approved the 11th day of July, A.D. 1996, P.L. 1791, Act No. 27 of the General Assembly, approved the 22nd day of June, A.D. 2000, P.L. 136, funds are currently available for the PROJECT;

**WHEREAS**, the Deputy Secretary for Water Programs of the DEPARTMENT approved the PROJECT;

WHEREAS, the SPONSOR, by Resolution of City Council adopted \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ and attached hereto, approved the Rights-of-Way Acquisition Drawings for PROJECT.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

#### ARTICLE 1 - Project Defined

"PROJECT," as used in this AGREEMENT, shall mean the work shown on the Rights-of-Way Acquisition Drawings numbered GP-1 and RW-1 through RW-8 and titled "RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACQUISITION" approved by the DEPARTMENT and the SPONSOR, as supplemented or amended from time to time in accordance with the terms of this AGREEMENT, which drawings ("PROJECT PLANS") and all conditions and specifications, both general and specific related thereto, are hereby made a part of this AGREEMENT by reference, although not attached hereto.

#### ARTICLE 2 - Engineering Studies

The DEPARTMENT will undertake the engineering studies necessary for the design of the PROJECT and the preparation of contract plans and specifications for the PROJECT. The DEPARTMENT will, upon completion of the necessary studies, present to the SPONSOR plans for its review and comments.

#### ARTICLE 3 - Revisions

The DEPARTMENT reserves the right to add to and/or amend the PROJECT PLANS. On minor changes when the revisions will not adversely affect the SPONSOR, the DEPARTMENT will make the changes without approval of the SPONSOR. On other revisions when the SPONSOR will be affected, the DEPARTMENT will keep the SPONSOR fully informed of the proposed changes and, where determined necessary by the DEPARTMENT, obtain approval for the revisions from the SPONSOR.

# ARTICLE 4 – Adopt a Watershed Stormwater Management Plan or Adopt a Stormwater Management Ordinance

Under Act 167, Stormwater Management Act (32 P.S. 680.1 et seq.); if a watershed stormwater management plan applicable to the City of Scranton has been developed by Lackawanna County and approved by the DEPARTMENT, the SPONSOR shall implement the plan by enacting and enforcing appropriate stormwater management ordinances, if it has not already done so. The ordinances must regulate development and activities in a manner consistent with approved and applicable stormwater management plans and the provisions of Act 167, and in a manner to minimize, or eliminate, accelerated runoff that could potentially contribute to erosion, sedimentation, and overtaxing the capacities of existing streams, storm sewers, and the proposed flood protection PROJECT. The ordinances also must address human activities that have the potential to aggravate or create stormwater drainage problems in downstream communities.

If a plan has not yet been developed and approved, the SPONSOR must adopt it when it is approved. In the interim the SPONSOR must adopt its own stormwater management ordinance and encourage upstream municipalities to do the same. This will help control development and related activities within the watershed until a more detailed stormwater management plan is developed by the County. For more information on adopting local

stormwater management ordinances, the SPONSOR may contact the DEPARTMENT's Bureau of Clean Water at 717-787-5017.

#### ARTICLE 5 - Easements and Rights-of-Way

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of General Services ("DGS") will construct the PROJECT. DGS will not schedule the PROJECT for construction until all land interests required for the PROJECT have been obtained by the SPONSOR and conveyed to DGS.

The SPONSOR shall obtain permanent easements from all lands to be occupied by a permanent PROJECT structure or required for operation and/or maintenance of the PROJECT (shown on the PROJECT PLANS as permanent easement). The SPONSOR shall obtain temporary licenses and rights-of-way from additional lands, to be used only during PROJECT construction as contractor working area (shown on the PROJECT PLANS as temporary easement). The PROJECT PLANS, have been color coded to highlight the required property acquisitions. Permanent easements have been colored RED. Temporary licenses and rights-of-way have been colored GREEN.

The DEPARTMENT or DGS (collectively, the "COMMONWEALTH"), at no cost to the SPONSOR, will arrange for a surveying firm to (1) review courthouse property records to determine current ownership of all land parcels from which permanent easement or temporary licenses and rights-of-way will be required for PROJECT purposes, and (2) prepare plats and descriptions for such permanent easements, and plats for such temporary licenses and rights-of-way. The COMMONWEALTH will provide these plats and descriptions to the SPONSOR. In the event the surveying firm is unable to determine ownership of an affected parcel based upon its review of courthouse property records, the SPONSOR shall, at its own expense, perform title searches and take any further actions it deems necessary to resolve ownership.

The COMMONWEALTH will not obtain or provide title searches for the properties from which land interests must be obtained for PROJECT purposes. The SPONSOR shall be responsible for resolving, at the SPONSOR's expense, any title issues that may arise at any time with respect to the PROJECT.

The COMMONWEALTH will not obtain or assign title for unopened streets within the properties from which land interests must be obtained for PROJECT purposes. The SPONSOR shall be responsible for resolving, at the SPONSOR's expense, assignment of ownership of any unopened streets that may arise at any time with respect to the PROJECT.

The SPONSOR shall secure from all railroads or other transportation facilities, written consent for the use of any portion of the railroads' or other transportation facilities' rights-of-way when the same are to be used in the construction of the PROJECT or when the rights-of-way are to form a permanent portion of the proposed PROJECT.

The SPONSOR shall undertake and complete all negotiations, transactions, and proceedings required to obtain the land interests needed for the PROJECT, either by amicable

agreement, eminent domain or other necessary actions, and shall determine the method by which said negotiations, necessary transactions and proceedings are to be carried out. The SPONSOR shall acquire all land interests required for the PROJECT in the name of the SPONSOR. The SPONSOR shall convey such land interests to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting by and through the Department of General Services." The SPONSOR shall pay all costs, expenses, and damages associated with acquiring the land interests needed for the PROJECT and conveying those interests to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The DEPARTMENT will obtain written consent for the use of any portion of PennDOT rights-of-way when PennDOT rights-of-way are to be used in the construction of the PROJECT or when the PennDOT rights-of-way are to form a permanent portion of the proposed PROJECT.

#### ARTICLE 6 - Private Structure Modifications

Prior to DGS's award of the PROJECT contract, the SPONSOR shall obtain written permission from property owners for DGS or its PROJECT contractor ("CONTRACTOR") to do work on or in the vicinity of walls, structures, bridges, pipes, or other items of any nature or kind within the PROJECT area shown on the PROJECT PLANS, which are specifically labeled as being removed or altered by the CONTRACTOR.

# ARTICLE 7 – Alteration and Removal of Utilities and Other Structures

The SPONSOR shall undertake and complete all negotiations, transactions, and proceedings for, and ensure the completion of, the alteration, removal, relocation and adjustment of buildings and structures; storm and sanitary sewer lines; water lines, gas lines; power lines; telephone lines and other utilities; or any other items of any type or nature which are located within the PROJECT area as shown on the PROJECT PLANS. The PROJECT PLANS include Sponsor Adjustment tables (colored YELLOW) that outline the required alterations, removals, relocations, and adjustments. The SPONSOR's engineer should make a preliminary estimate of the costs of these alterations, removals, relocations and adjustments. The SPONSOR shall pay all costs and damages involved in such alterations, removals, relocations or adjustments. The SPONSOR shall cause all alterations, removals, relocations and adjustments to be completed at least thirty (30) days prior to the time during which the CONTRACTOR has work scheduled in any affected areas.

In the event the SPONSOR fails to complete such alterations, removals, relocations and adjustments within the aforesaid time limit, then DGS, at its sole discretion, will either suspend or terminate the PROJECT (in which event the SPONSOR shall hold the COMMONWEALTH harmless from any liability of any nature arising as a result of such suspension or termination), or complete, by contract or otherwise as DGS may determine, all necessary alterations, removals, relocations and adjustments or such part thereof as it may deem necessary. The SPONSOR shall pay for all expenses for said alterations, removals, relocations and adjustments including labor, materials, tools, and equipment, and expenses incidental thereto, together with delay damages incurred as a result of the SPONSOR's failure to perform. The SPONSOR shall pay such expenses and delay damages within thirty (30) days after the date of DGS's invoice for such amounts.

Any alterations, removals, relocations and adjustments to be accomplished by the CONTRACTOR will be clearly labeled on the PROJECT PLANS as work to be performed by the CONTRACTOR. It will be the responsibility of the SPONSOR to alter, remove, relocate or adjust (as appropriate) any features not so labeled, whether or not they are shown on PROJECT PLANS, at the SPONSOR's sole cost and expense.

#### ARTICLE 8 - Use of Municipal Roadways and Lands

The SPONSOR shall grant to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting by and through its Department of General Services, at no cost to the COMMONWEALTH, by Grant of License, the right to enter and work upon municipal roadways and lands within the PROJECT area as shown on the PROJECT PLANS. The SPONSOR, at no cost to the COMMONWEALTH, shall secure all permits, other than those for private contractors, for use of municipal roadways in the completion of the PROJECT and all assurances that may be necessary in order to permit the SPONSOR, the COMMONWEALTH and their agents and employees to construct, maintain and operate the PROJECT.

# ARTICLE 9 - Municipal Roadway and Bridge Modifications

The DEPARTMENT will design and construct all work associated with culvert street crossings at Electric Street, North Washington Avenue, Wyoming Avenue, Sunset Street, Ryerson Avenue, Delaware Street and Penn Avenue, as part of the PROJECT. The SPONSOR shall be responsible for and bear the costs of all new roadway pavements, sidewalks, curbs, and parapets associated with this culvert installations. The SPONSOR shall enter into a funding agreement with DGS for these costs, which will, unless waived by DGS in the exercise of its sole discretion, require that the SPONSOR deposit the estimated cost of the work into a DGS account prior to DGS releasing the PROJECT contract for bids.

# ARTICLE 10 - PennDOT Roadway and Bridge Modifications

The DEPARTMENT will be responsible for and will bear the costs of repairs, maintenance, relocation, and reconstruction of existing bridges, roadways, sidewalks, and curbs under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation which are made necessary by interference with permanent and essential features of the PROJECT.

#### ARTICLE 11 - Release and Hold Harmless

The SPONSOR shall, without cost to the COMMONWEALTH:

a) Release, remise, and forever quitclaim the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (including but not limited to the COMMONWEALTH), its departments, agencies, and employees of and from any and all damages, actions, or causes of action whatsoever, inuring or which could inure to its benefit by reason of the design, construction, operation, or maintenance of the PROJECT.

b) Hold and save harmless and indemnify the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (including but not limited to the COMMONWEALTH), its departments, agencies, and employees from all damages, claims or claims of liability arising from the design, construction, operation, or maintenance of the PROJECT, or any failure of the SPONSOR to fulfill its obligations under this AGREEMENT.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (including but not limited to the COMMONWEALTH) and its departments, agencies, and employees assume no responsibility for any damage of any nature whatsoever arising from the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the PROJECT.

#### ARTICLE 12 - Federal and State Permits

The DEPARTMENT will obtain all state and federal permits, approvals, and assurances necessary for the COMMONWEALTH, the SPONSOR, their agents, and their employees to construct, operate, and maintain the PROJECT.

## ARTICLE 13 - Bidding and Award of Contract

After all necessary state and federal permits have been obtained, all necessary land interests have been obtained by the SPONSOR and conveyed to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting by and through its Department of General Services, and all necessary funding agreements have been executed, the DEPARTMENT will recommend that the PROJECT be advertised for construction. DGS will request the Office of the Budget to release construction funding for the PROJECT. Upon release of construction funds, DGS will establish the contract bid schedule and advertise the construction contract for bids. If a bid is received that is mutually acceptable to the DEPARTMENT and DGS, a contract will be awarded by DGS for PROJECT construction. In the event the total bid price exceeds the available funds, the DEPARTMENT reserves the right to exercise one of the following options: (1) revise and/or modify the PROJECT PLANS, with the approval of the SPONSOR, in such a way as to limit the nature and/or scope of the PROJECT, thereby reducing the anticipated total construction cost to an amount which does not exceed the available funds, (2) obtain additional funds, if possible, or (3) cancel and terminate this AGREEMENT.

All matters pertaining to the construction contract will be under the jurisdiction of DGS.

## **ARTICLE 14 – Construction Inspection**

The DEPARTMENT will provide full-time construction inspection and any quality assurance agents it deems necessary for the duration of the construction of the PROJECT.

# ARTICLE 15 - Superintendent for Operation and Maintenance

The SPONSOR shall designate a position within its organization as PROJECT Operations & Maintenance Superintendent. The duties of that position shall include

responsibility for insuring that all PROJECT operation and maintenance is completed properly and in a timely manner.

#### ARTICLE 16 - Operation, Maintenance and Escrow Fund

Upon completion of PROJECT construction, it shall be the responsibility of the SPONSOR to operate and maintain the PROJECT at the SPONSOR's own expense in accordance with instructions issued by the DEPARTMENT. The SPONSOR shall do no act, nor permit any act to be done, that would destroy, damage, or change the PROJECT without written permission from the DEPARTMENT.

The SPONSOR shall allocate an amount in its annual budget as required to operate and maintain the completed PROJECT in a manner satisfactory to the DEPARTMENT. After each periodic maintenance inspection, the DEPARTMENT will review the SPONSOR's annual allocation to determine if the amount is sufficient to maintain the PROJECT. The SPONSOR shall adjust future allocations in accordance with the DEPARTMENT'S recommendations.

The SPONSOR shall begin the annual allocation in the SPONSOR's budget within one year after the award of the PROJECT's construction contract and shall place \$14,000.00 in a special escrow account established as the "Phase 3 Meadow Brook Flood Protection Project Operation and Maintenance Fund". Immediately upon establishment of the fund, the SPONSOR shall furnish the DEPARTMENT with proof of such a fund and a statement from the escrow agent that money so deposited shall be withdrawn only for PROJECT operation and maintenance purposes, unless the DEPARTMENT has authorized, in writing, withdrawals for other purposes. The SPONSOR shall furnish the DEPARTMENT with an annual statement of the fund's status. The required statement must be received by the DEPARTMENT no later than the 15th day of February of each year and shall include all deposits, withdrawals, purpose of withdrawal and the account balance.

#### ARTICLE 17 - Performance Security

The SPONSOR shall provide to the DEPARTMENT Operation and Maintenance performance security in a form satisfactory to the DEPARTMENT, in the amount of \$42,000.00, conditioned on the SPONSOR's satisfactory performance of its obligations as to operation and maintenance of the PROJECT upon completion of construction, in accordance with the terms and conditions of this AGREEMENT. Three acceptable options for the performance security are as follows:

- a) BANK CHECK
- b) LETTER OF CREDIT
- c) PERFORMANCE BOND

The SPONSOR further agrees that should the performance security become reduced or depleted, the SPONSOR shall immediately provide new performance security in a form satisfactory to the DEPARTMENT so that the amount of performance security referenced above is restored to its full amount, conditioned as stipulated above.

#### ARTICLE 18 – Revise the Flood Insurance Maps

The SPONSOR will request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) revise the National Flood Insurance Program map for the area affected by the project as this will likely reduce the flood insurance premiums for those business and homeowners affected. The SPONSOR will also obtain a FEMA Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) as necessary to meet the requirements of the local floodplain management program adopted under the National Flood Insurance Program and FEMA Flood Insurance Study. DEP will provide all available data developed during the design and construction of the project to assist in this request.

#### **ARTICLE 19 - Periodic Inspections**

The DEPARTMENT will conduct periodic (annual or biennial) inspections of the PROJECT with the SPONSOR to assess the PROJECT's operating condition and maintenance requirements and provide technical assistance to the SPONSOR in completing the required maintenance activities.

# ARTICLE 20 - Major Repairs, Modifications or Replacements

The DEPARTMENT will investigate features of the completed PROJECT, which may at times require major repair, modification or replacement to ensure the service life of the PROJECT, provided the repair, modification or replacement is not made necessary as a result of inadequate or improper maintenance by the SPONSOR. The DEPARTMENT will design such major repair, modification, or replacement and pursue funding for construction.

#### ARTICLE 21 - Compliance with Laws

- a) This AGREEMENT shall be governed by and interpreted and enforced in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (without regard to any conflict of laws provisions) and the decisions of the Pennsylvania courts. The SPONSOR consents to the jurisdiction of any court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and any federal courts in Pennsylvania, waiving any claim or defense that such forum is not convenient or proper. The SPONSOR agrees that any such court shall have in personam jurisdiction over it, and consents to service of process in any manner authorized by Pennsylvania law.
- b) Pursuant to federal regulations promulgated under the authority of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 28 C.F.R. §35.101 et seq., the SPONSOR understands and agrees that no individual with a disability shall, on the basis of the disability, be excluded from participation in this contract or from activities provided for under this contract. As a condition of accepting and executing this contract, the SPONSOR agrees to comply with the "General Prohibitions Against Discrimination," 28 C.F.R. §35.130, and all other regulations promulgated under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act which are applicable to the benefits, services, programs, and activities

- provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through contracts with outside contractors.
- c) The SPONSOR shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies relating to nondiscrimination and sexual harassment.
- d) The SPONSOR shall comply with all provisions of the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law, 65 P.S. §67.101-3104.
- e) The SPONSOR shall be responsible for and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from all losses, damages, expenses, claims, demands, suits, and actions brought by any party against the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a result of the SPONSOR's failure to comply with the provisions of Paragraph (a), (b), (c), and (d) above.

### ARTICLE 22 - Sponsor Funding Obligation

In consideration of the commitments from the DEPARTMENT to the SPONSOR, and in further consideration of the promises herein, the SPONSOR shall appropriate and authorize the expenditure of sufficient monies to cover all obligations assumed by the SPONSOR under this AGREEMENT.

#### ARTICLE 23 - Effective and Binding

This AGREEMENT becomes effective and binding upon the parties hereto upon proper execution of the same and its approval by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

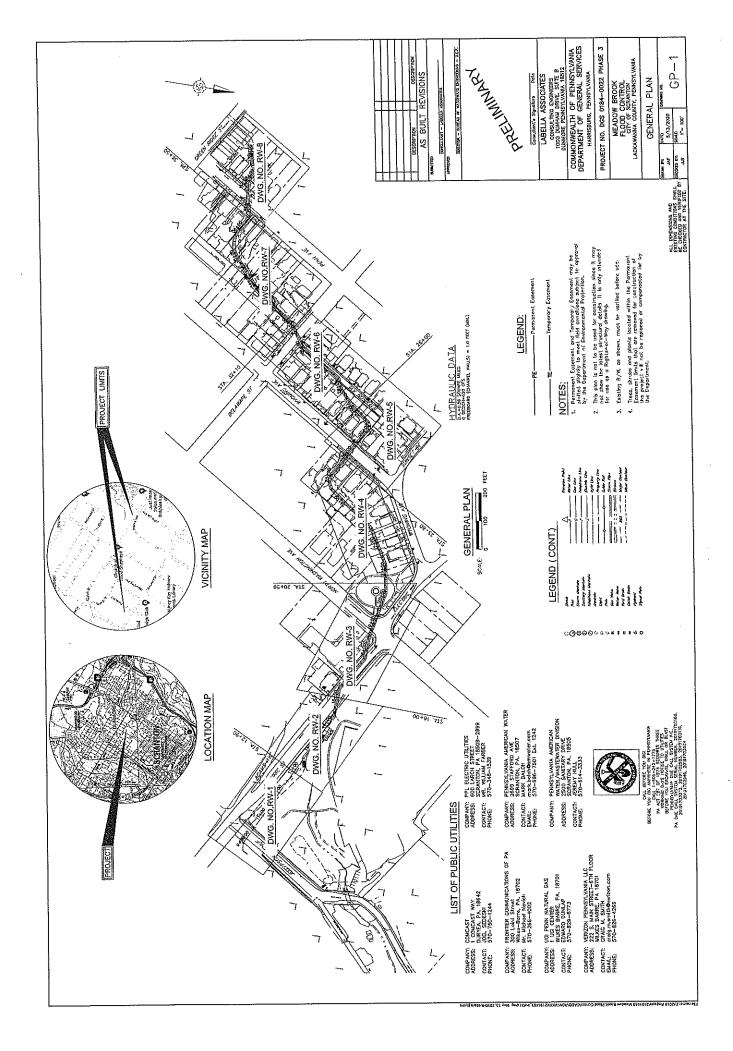
#### **ARTICLE 24 – Headings**

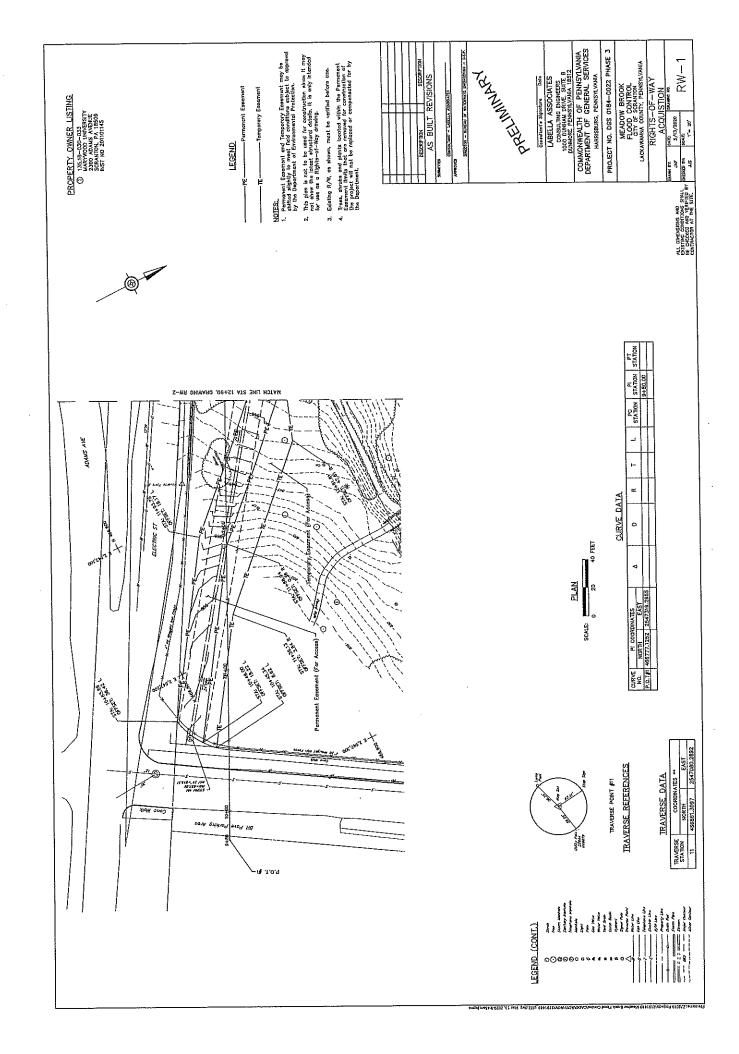
The article headings are provided for ease of locating topics in this AGREEMENT and are not to be used for interpretation of this AGREEMENT.

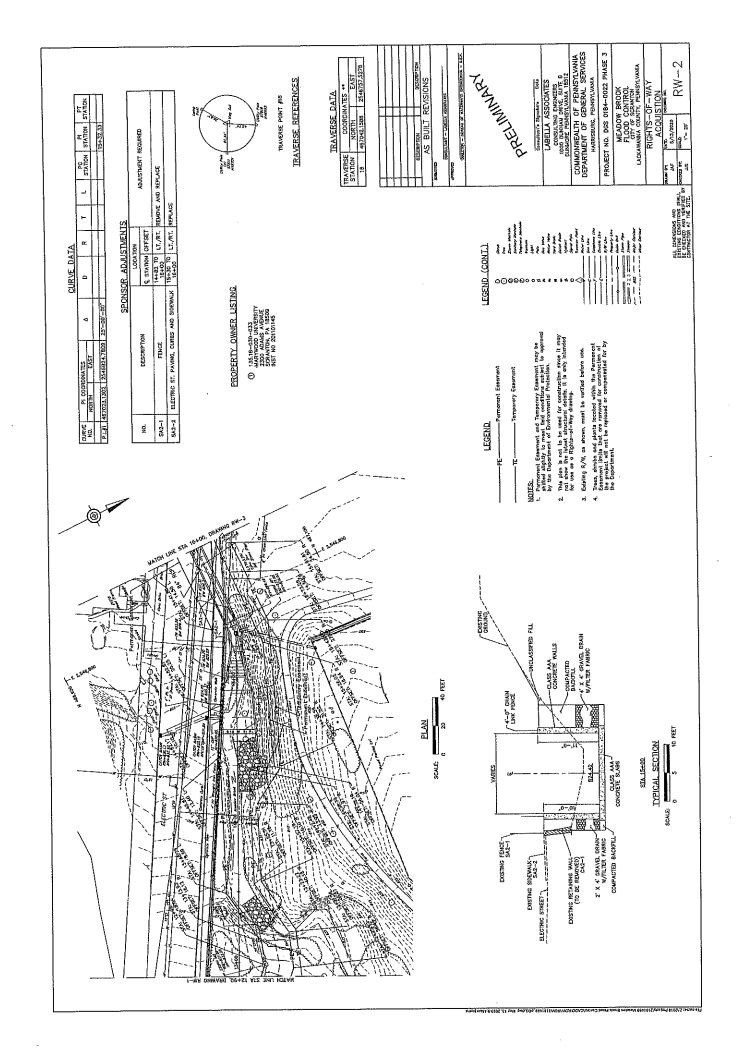
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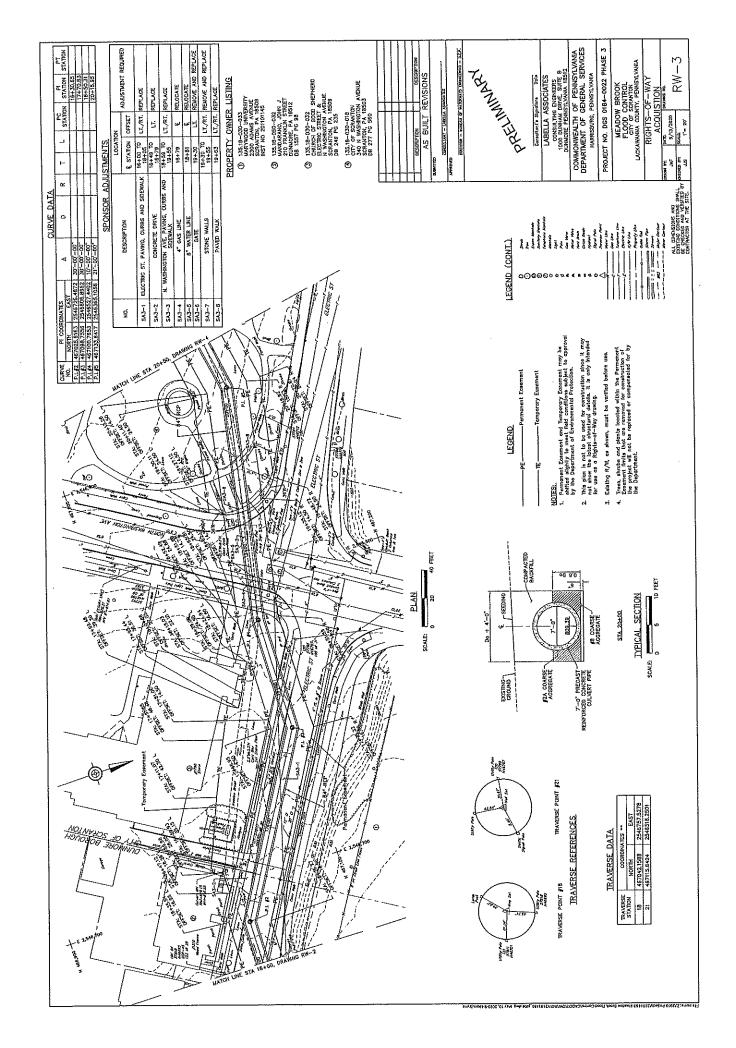
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto, having signed this agreement below.

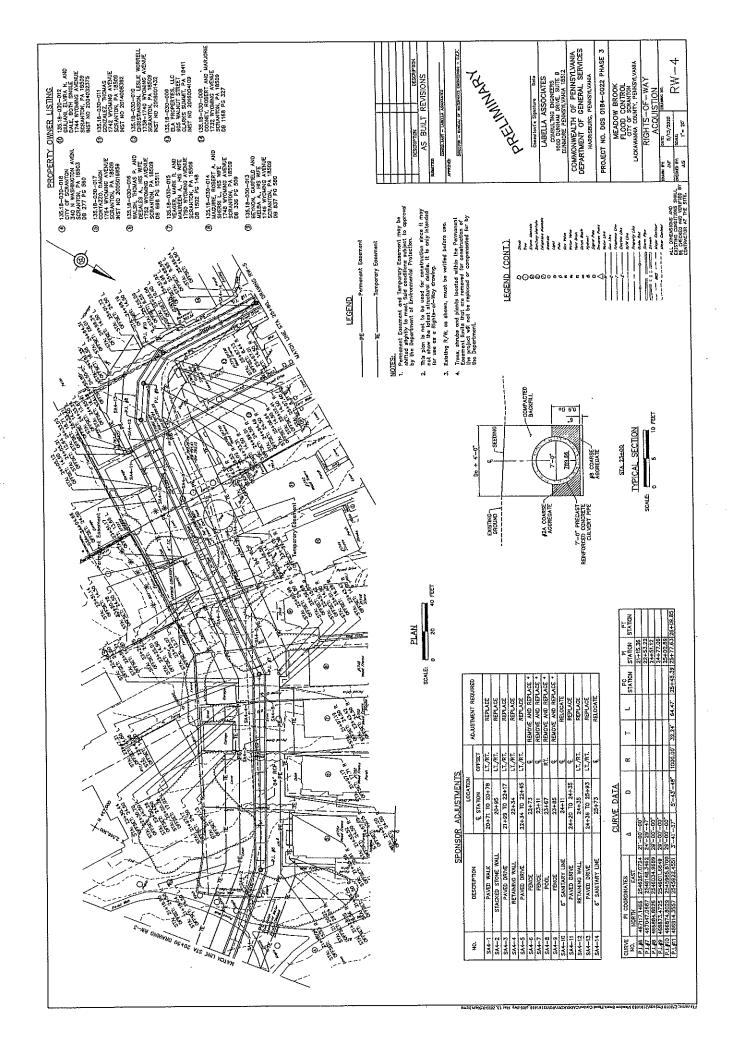
WITNESS:	COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
	(Typed name of Deputy Secretary) Deputy Secretary for Water Programs
ATTEST/WITNESS:	CITY OF SCRANTON
APPROVED AS SURGALITY AND FORM	WIGHING PALECIAL TO THE CONTROL OF T
Chief/Assistant Counsel, DEP	Secretary, Office of the Budget
Office of General Counsel	Governor
Office of Attorney General	

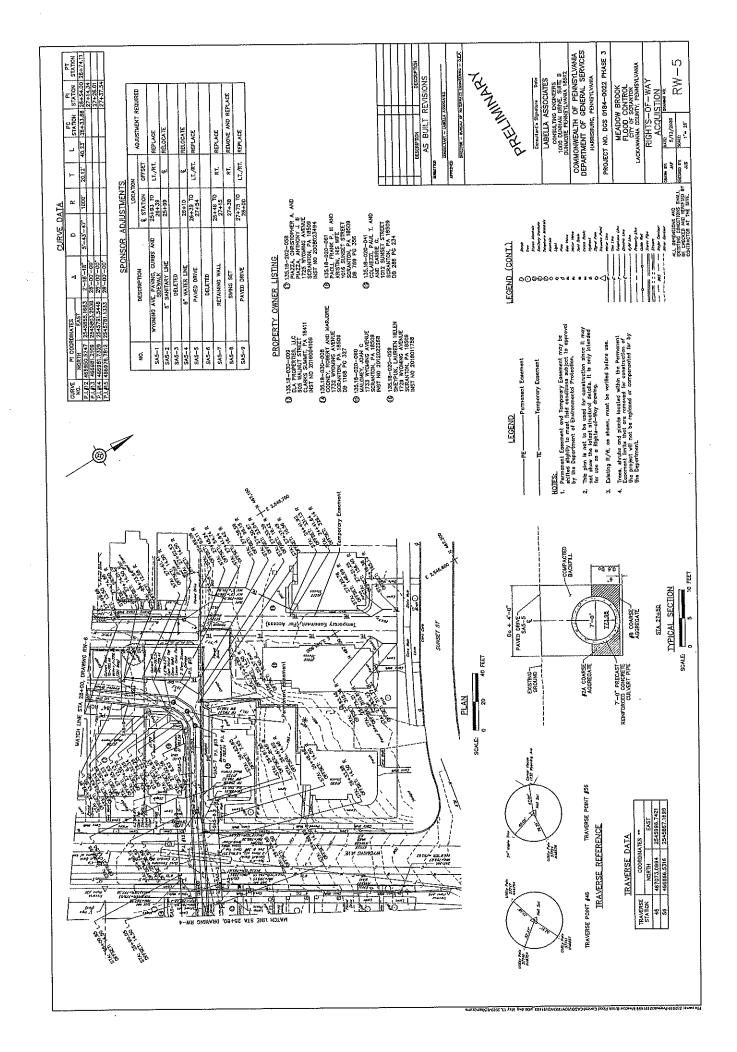


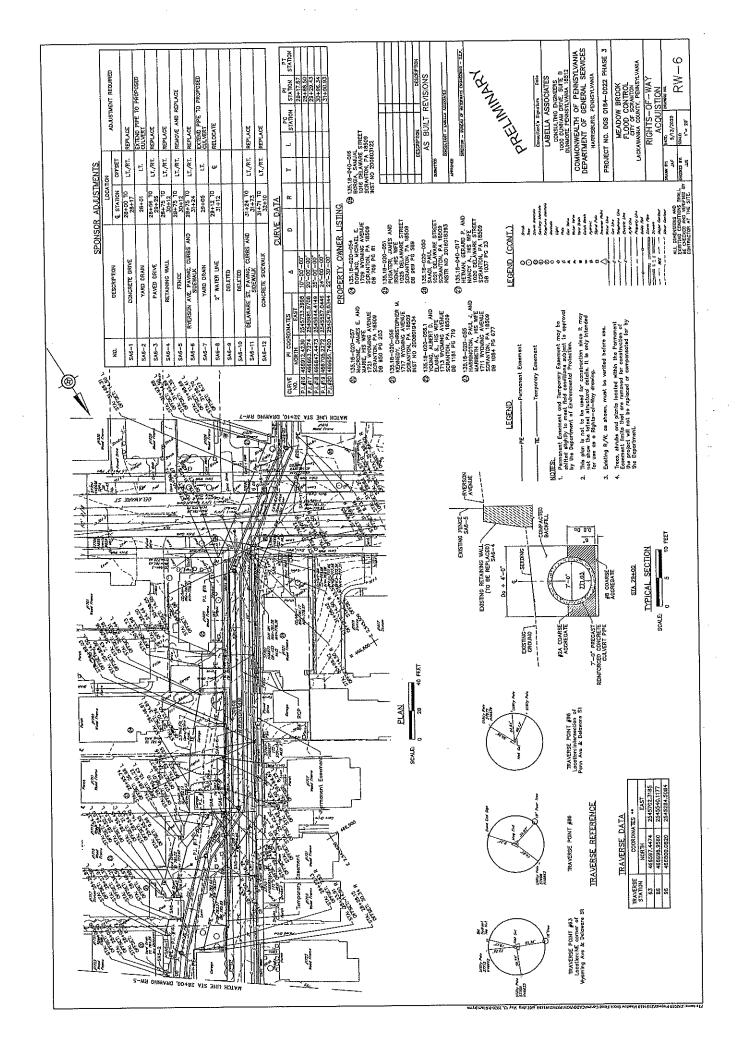


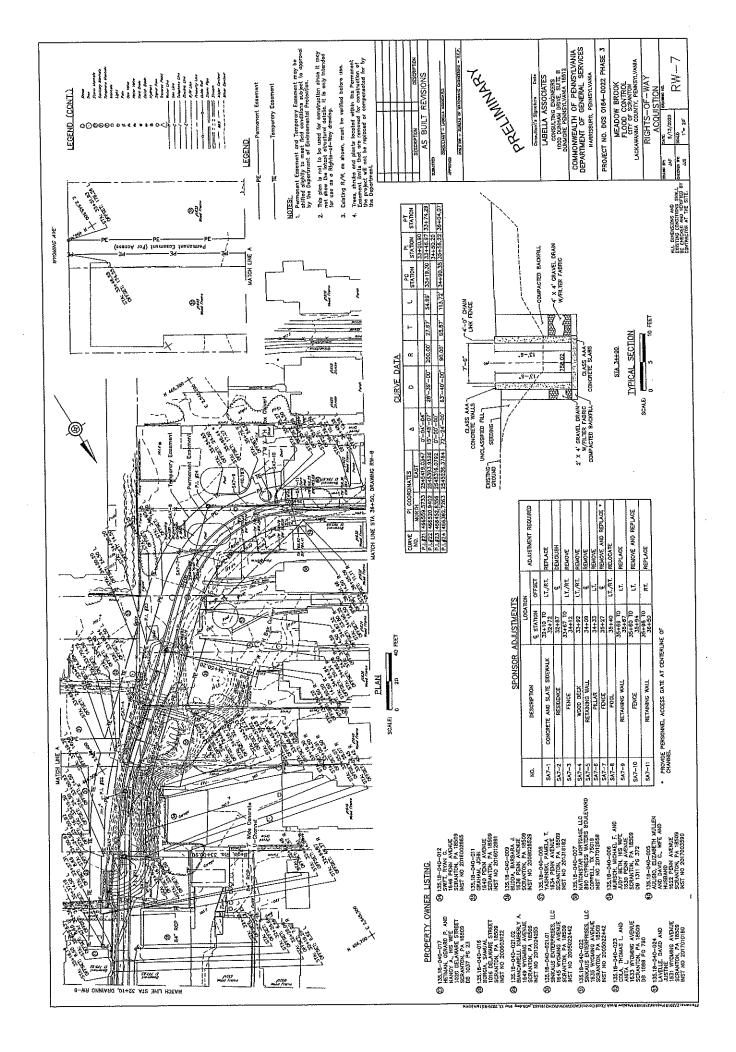


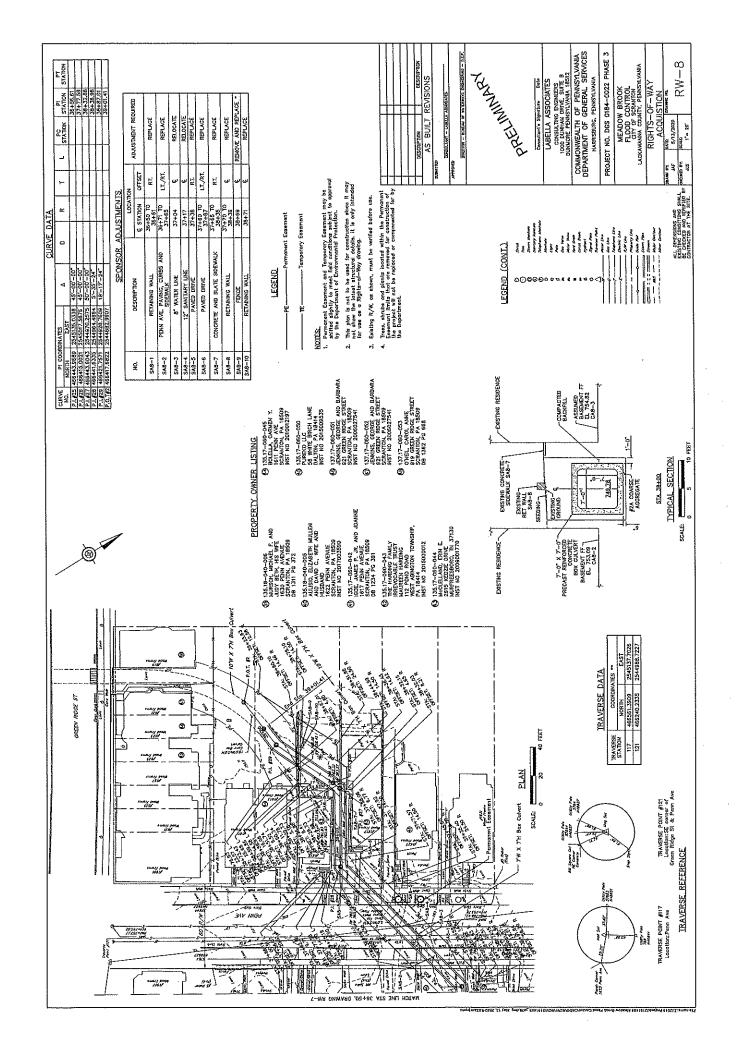
















OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

#### **DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

CITY HALL • 340 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE • SCRANTON. PENNSYLVANIA 18503 • PHONE: 570-348-4118 • FAX: 570-348-4225

June 22, 2020

Scranton City Council 340 N. Washington Ave. Scranton, PA 1803

Dear Council,

The City of Scranton has decided to put the Licenses & Permits Department Services Assessment project, which was awarded to Barry Isett & Associates, on hold for the current year. I have discussed the City's position with Matthew Walter MCP, CFM of Barry Isett & Associates, and he understands the City's decision.

They are willing to be flexible based on the actual needs of the City.

We will continue to work on improvements in house & revisit this project as part of the 2021 budget.

Sincerely,

Carl Deeley

Business Administrator

#### Report Cover Sheet - Scranton City Council

The Department of Housing and Urban Development annually evaluate and reports to the public on a community's overall progress in the management of its program funds, compliance with the Consolidated Plan, the accuracy of performance reports, and the extent to which progress has been achieved toward the statutory goals. The attached letter serves to apprise you of the assessment of the City of Scranton's overall progress.

#### Summary and Facts of the Report

HUD acknowledges the city's programmatic accomplishments during the program year. Based on the review HUD concluded that the city has the capacity to carry out its CPD programs and has met its reporting requirements.

- The city received a CDBG grant of \$2,684,818 for program year 2019 and expended \$1,984,958.99 in CDBG funds during the 2019 Program Year. Resources were devoted to activities in geographic areas consisting primarily of low- and moderate-income residents in the city. The types of activities undertaken with these funds included housing programs, social services, economic development, job training, and facilities improvements to provide safe decent, and affordable housing, pubic services, increase economic opportunities, and enhance the general quality of life for its residents.
- During the 2019 program year, based on the summary of expended funds, the city expended \$1,984,958.99, or 96.75 percent, of its CDBG funds for activities benefiting low- and moderate-income persons. This percentage exceeds the primary objective of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.
- The city expended \$277,775.68, or 8.60 percent, of funds on public service activities, which is within the 15 percent regulatory cap.
- It obligated approximately 14.19 percent, or \$430,696.16, of its funds for planning and administrative costs, which is within the 20 percent regulatory cap and is in compliance with the program year obligation test.
- Scranton has met the HOME requirements for expenditures by committing all funds to
  projects within two years and expending funds within five years as applicable. The
  requirement to provide at least 15 percent of HOME funding to Community Housing
  Development Organizations has also been achieved.
- The city's ESG program expended \$77,694.64 for Shelters, and \$13,901.45 for Rapid Rehousing and \$2,026.93 of ESG funds were expended for Administration.
- The HUD timeliness requirement is that a community may have no more than 1.5 times its most recent annual CDBG grant remaining in the line of credit 60 days prior to the end of its program year. When the 60-day timeliness test was conducted on November 2, 2019, it was calculated that the city had a balance in its line of credit of 1.96 times its annual grant. The city was not in compliance with the timeliness standards at 24 CFR 570.902. However, to meet the timeliness requirements, the city submitted a workout plan dated November 18, 2019, that identified the late receipt of the FY-2019 CDBG grant as a contributing factor and indicated timeliness would be achieved through the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2020 and will meet compliance for the next timeliness test date which is November 2, 2020.





#### U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Philadelphia Office The Wanamaker Building 100 Penn Square East Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3380

June 19, 2020

Ms. Eileen Cipriani
Executive Director
Office of Economic and Community
Development
340 N. Washington Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF CITY COUNCILICITY CLERK

Dear Ms. Cipriani:

RE: Annual Community Assessment

City of Scranton, PA

January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019

The provisions of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, require the annual submission of performance reports by grant recipients receiving federal assistance through programs covered under these Acts. Additionally, these Acts require that a determination be made by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that the grant recipient is in compliance with the statutes and has the continuing capacity to implement and administer the programs for which assistance is received.

The Consolidated Plan regulations at 24 CFR 91.525 require the Department to evaluate and report to the public on a community's overall progress in the management of its program funds, compliance with the Consolidated Plan, the accuracy of performance reports, and the extent to which progress has been achieved toward the statutory goals identified in Section 91.1. This letter serves to apprise you of our assessment of the City of Scranton's overall progress.

In making our evaluation, we relied primarily on the city's submission of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for Fiscal Year 2019. This report summarized accomplishments made with funds provided from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships (HOME), and the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Programs. In addition, we took into account technical assistance, follow up conversations with Scranton's staff, and the handling of citizen's comments and complaints. This letter is a summary of our review of Scranton's overall performance.

As you know, under the update to the Part 91 Consolidated Planning regulations that came into effect March 13, 2006, all Annual Action Plans and CAPERs are required to include performance measures as part of their annual reporting. The Office of Management and Budget has deemed this information necessary to validate the continued funding of HUD programs. The City of Scranton provided performance measures as required by this guidance.

The HUD timeliness requirement is that a community may have no more than 1.5 times its most recent annual CDBG grant remaining in the line of credit 60 days prior to the end of its program year. When the 60-day timeliness test was conducted on November 2, 2019, it was calculated that the city had a balance in its line of credit of 1.96 times its annual grant. The city was not in compliance with the timeliness standards at 24 CFR 570.902. However, to meet the timeliness requirements, the city submitted a workout plan dated November 18, 2019, that identified the late receipt of the FY-2019 CDBG grant as a contributing factor and indicated timeliness would be achieved through the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2020 and will meet compliance for the next timeliness test date which is November 2, 2020.

Please note that beginning in 2017, HUD began measuring grantee compliance with the CDBG timeliness standard using the adjusted for program income ratio.

During the 2019 program year, based on the summary of expended funds, the city expended \$1,984,958.99, or 96.75 percent, of its CDBG funds for activities benefiting low- and moderate-income persons. This percentage exceeds the primary objective of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The city expended \$277,775.68, or 8.60 percent, of funds on public service activities, which is within the 15 percent regulatory cap. It obligated approximately 14.19 percent, or \$430,696.16, of its funds for planning and administrative costs, which is within the 20 percent regulatory cap and is in compliance with the program year obligation test at 24 CFR 570.200(g)(2).

The grant-based accounting interim rule at 24 CFR 570.200(g)(1) requires that, for 2015 and subsequent CDBG grants, a grantee may not expend more than 20 percent of any year grant for planning and program administrative costs. As a result, beginning with 2015 CDBG grants, grantees must ensure compliance with this new origin year grant expenditure test. In review of the city's origin year expenditure, HUD has determined that, though not fully expended, currently the city has expended 20 percent of its 2015 grant, 18.67 percent of its 2016 grant, 19.01 percent of its 2017 grant, 19.26 percent of its 2018 grant, and 0.91 percent of its 2019 grant for planning and administrative costs. The city's final compliance with the 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 origin year expenditure test will be assessed once the grants are fully expended.

The city received a CDBG grant of \$2,684,818 for program year 2019 and expended \$1,984,958.99 in CDBG funds during the 2019 Program Year. Resources were devoted to activities in geographic areas consisting primarily of low- and moderate-income residents in the city. The types of activities undertaken with these funds included housing programs, social services, economic development, job training, and facilities improvements to provide safe

decent, and affordable housing, pubic services, increase economic opportunities, and enhance the general quality of life for its residents.

Scranton has met the HOME requirements for expenditures by committing all funds to projects within two years and expending funds within five years as applicable. The requirement to provide at least 15 percent of HOME funding to Community Housing Development Organizations has also been achieved. We remind grantees that all HOME projects should be completed in HUD's Integrated Disbursement and Information System within 120 days of the final draw.

The city's ESG program expended \$77,694.64 for Shelters, and \$13,901.45 for Rapid Rehousing and \$2,026.93 of ESG funds were expended for Administration. The ESG program serves homeless women and children, providing them with emergency shelter, food assistance, personal supplies, and intensive case management for a period of 30-45 days.

HUD acknowledges the city's programmatic accomplishments during the program year. Based on our review we have concluded that the city has the capacity to carry out its CPD programs and has met its reporting requirements.

The city also included in its CAPER its efforts to affirmatively furthering fair housing and identify impediments to fair housing. The city continues to support and encourage plans from both private developers and non-profit housing providers to develop and construct new and affordable housing. In addition, the city will continue to support and encourage the acquisition, rehabilitation, and resale of existing housing units to become decent, safe, and dignified housing that are affordable to lower income households. The city will partner with non-profits, private developers, the public housing authority, and local banks to provide financial assistance in the form of down-payment assistance to low-income households to become homebuyers. The city will continue to support homebuyer education and training programs to improve homebuyer awareness and increase the opportunity for lower-income households to become sustainable homeowners. We commend you for these efforts.

As a reminder, program participants that have not updated or completed an Analysis of Impediments upon the submission of their new Consolidated Plan, have not identified meaningful actions taken to address identified impediments in their CAPERs, or maintained adequate records of actions to overcome the effects of the impediments, may be subject to a compliance review. Please note that the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity is available to provide technical assistance regarding affirmatively furthering fair housing upon your request. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to reach out to Melody Taylor, FHEO Regional Director, at (215) 861-7643, or by email at Melody.C.Taylor@hud.gov.

We ask that you review our assessment of your performance and provide any comments that you may have within 35 days of the date of this letter. Upon receipt, we will evaluate your comments and make any revisions that are deemed appropriate. If you do not have any comments, we request that you formally notify us of that fact within the 35-day timeframe.

Re: Annual Community Assessment Program Year 2019 Page 4

Where no comments are received within the designated timeframe, our initial letter will serve as our final assessment of Scranton's performance for this program year. To facilitate and expedite citizen access to our performance letter, we request that you inform the general public, interested citizens' organizations, and non-profit entities of its availability. If, for any reason, Scranton chooses not to do so, please be advised that our office is obligated to make this letter available to the public. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and members of your staff to accomplish Departmental goals and mutual objectives to develop viable urban communities. We would also be pleased to provide you with any information on resources that may be available to your community. If you need assistance, or if you have any questions concerning the content of this letter, please contact Ms. Fatina Ming, Senior Community Planning and Development Representative, at (215) 861-7662 or by email, at <a href="mailto:fatina.ming@hud.gov">fatina.ming@hud.gov</a>. Our telephone text (TTY) number for the hearing impaired is (800) 877-8339.

Sincerely,

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Object proposed, Olice of Admishation

Nadab O. Bynum
Director
Office of Community Planning
and Development



#### OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City Hall | 340 North Washington Avenue | Scranton, PA 18503 | 570.348.4101

June 16, 2020

TO: City Council

FROM: Paige G. Cognetti, Mayor

RE: Councilman Kyle Donahue's Questions from June 9



JUN 2 3 2020

OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

#### Background

Dear Mayor Cognetti:

At the June 9, 2020 meeting of Scranton City Council, Councilman Kyle Donahue asked that correspondence be sent to your attention requesting the following information:

- 1. What is the Administration's plan for the reopening of City Hall?
- When will furloughed employees be called back to work?
- 3. How many furloughed employees will not be called back? Please provide justification for each position wherein the employee will not be called back; also, which position(s) will assume those duties? And, if there is even the slightest possibility that any worker won't be called back, I strongly urge the Administration to be completely upfront and honest with those employees right now, so they are not kept completely in the dark on their employment status during this unprecedented time of uncertainty.
- 4. Who is/has been performing the duties of furloughed employees? Specifically...
  - a. Who is processing refuse bills?
  - b. Who is conducting health inspections?
  - c. Who is conducting housing inspections?
  - d. Who is responding to quality of life complaints?
  - e. Who is overseeing the bidding/purchasing process?

As always, thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

#### Responses

1. "Reopening City Hall" is not a single, solitary consideration, and will likely not be a single, solitary action. That phrase includes multiple issues - which, as it has been since March 17, first and foremost involves considerations of health and safety for both the public and our employees.

Please keep in mind that we have continued to offer City administrative services remotely and all of our offices are actually "open", although many employees are working from home all or part

of the time and public access to City Hall is restricted, per the Governor's stay-at-home order. Services such as police, fire, public works, and code enforcement have continued throughout these past three months.

Once we resume any tasks not now being performed or bring back into City Hall any employee who is not there now, all those who work in or go into those offices – employees, taxpayers, contractors, vendors, etc. - are exposed to each other. That also exposes the family members and other personal contacts of each person who is part of such a contact – whether the person is a member of the public or one of our employees. By now we all surely know the health and safety implications of such exposures. Several states are reporting record increases in new COVID-19 cases as they reopen.

We speak regularly with public health advisors who have consistently advised us to resume inperson business gradually, and only after the City is put in "green" status from the State Dept. of Health which, as you know, is largely statistically-driven.

- 2. The answer to this question is a combination of answers to #1 above and #3, below.
- 3. I am not sure with whom Council corresponds, but no employee has reached out to me with questions of the nature in your letter. I am constantly assessing our needs and am very aware of the difficulty that uncertainty brings to an employee and their household. As you say in your letter, these are unprecedented times, and most of us are making great sacrifices to get our households and our organizations, businesses, and governments through.

My Administration continues to be out front and upfront on issues where doing so is both lawful and practicable. I have addressed Council multiple times during these past months and answer questions from the public on my live weekly town halls.

In this case, layoff and recall-related issues, such as those referenced in his Question #2, are labor issues which are not, while in formation, part of the public dialogue. In addition to our ongoing discussions with the Union about those issues we have also begun the process of negotiations for our labor contracts that expire at the end of this year. One of those is our "Clerical Unit" Contract, the one covering most non-uniformed City Hall employees - the unit in which most layoffs occurred. We are not going to get ahead of our discussions and negotiations with the Machinists Union about these issues by discussing them explicitly in this forum, but when the time is appropriate we will certainly provide relevant information to you.

I can, however, tell you is that an enormous amount of time, energy and thought has already gone, and will continue to go, into determining best possible and most efficient delivery of City services by our workforce going forward, scrutiny which, frankly, is sorely needed, but has been lacking, in the City for years.

It is also important that we all keep in mind that our country is in a recession and our already difficult fiscal challenges in the City have worsened and will worsen dramatically due to the economic impact of COVID-19, which will continue to have a significant negative impact to

City revenues through 2021. This administration is developing strategies to maintain core services while minimizing additional burden to taxpayers.

As Mayor, I must be responsible with taxpayer funds, pay our obligations, and deliver City services efficiently and effectively. As I have said since the beginning of this pandemic, the City of Scranton is not separate from the broader economy. Unemployment is at record highs nationwide, and unfortunately we have had to make, and will continue to need to make, very difficult decisions.

4. As these questions relate to individual bargaining unit employees, which seems to be the case, answering them would not be appropriate for reasons already stated. I can assure you while most of our departments are not currently at full staff, all critical functions continue to be completed in order to keep the City's operations moving and provide essential services to residents.

June 25, 2020

The City of Scranton will resume in-person services June 29; residents encouraged to continue utilizing remote services

SCRANTON, PA – City facilities will reopen to the public Monday, June 29, 2020 as Lackawanna County enters the "green" phase.

"It is critical that we all understand that we are living with COVID-19. Green phase does not mean the virus is gone. Green phase does not mean that we resume our former way of life completely. Cases are up in states across the country and we must remain vigilant. Please wear masks, keep distance from others, avoid large gatherings, and wash and sanitize your hands frequently," said Cognetti.

The City will continue to follow the orders and guidelines from the Governor and PA Department of Health through the coming phases of COVID-19 virus mitigation. Please stay home if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Residents are encouraged to continue to use remote methods of accessing City services as much as possible.

Please contact us by calling (570) 348-4101 or emailing scranton311@scrantonpa.gov with questions.

The following City facilities will reopen to the public on Monday June 29, 2020:

#### CITY HALL 340 N Washington Ave

Residents visiting City Hall will use the Treasury Office on the first floor for all Treasury **and** Licensing, Inspections, and Permits business.

All other business will be by appointment only. The City is taking the following steps to ensure the health and safety of all employees and visitors at City Hall:

- Masks must be worn by visitors and staff at all times
- One-way entrance and exit to the Treasury Department Office
- Video camera and doorbell at the accessible entrance on Dix Court
- Plastic barriers are installed at the service counter
- Hand sanitizer stations are available at the entrances and exits
- Frequently touched surfaces, including the service counter, door handles, and elevator buttons will be cleaned frequently throughout the day

Residents can make an appointment by calling the City Directory at 570-348-4100 or emailing <a href="mailto:scrantonga.gov">scrantonga.gov</a>.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS 101 W Poplar Street** 



OFFICE OF CITY
COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

Residents visiting DPW can use the visitor entrance. There are plastic barriers in the reception area and hand sanitizer stations will be available. Visitors are asked to wear masks and to remain 6 feet apart while in the lobby.

#### **FIRE STATIONS**

Residents visiting City Fire Stations are asked to keep 6 feet apart and must wear masks.

#### **PARKS**

Weston Field House will reopen at 50% occupancy. Visitors must wear masks while entering and exiting the building. Hand sanitizer stations will be available. Guidelines will be posted throughout the facility.

City pools remain closed at this time. Playground equipment will be available for use and team sports may resume.

Please wear masks, limit crowds, keep distance from others as much as possible at City Parks, and wash and sanitize your hands frequently.

###



## COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MINUTES May 20, 2020

OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

The regular meeting of the Composite Pension Board was held on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM on the ZOOM application.

The following were in attendance:

DAVID MITCHELL – Pres. – Police Employee Representative

JOHN HAZZOURI – Vice Pres – Municipal Board Representative

ROBERT SENCHAK – Sect. - Fire Employee Representative

PAUL HELRING – Police Board Representative

MAGGIE PERRY – Municipal Employee Representative

PATRICK SHERIDAN – (Proxy) Mayor

LORI REED – (Proxy) City Council

JOHN MURRAY - City Controller

LARRY DURKIN – Durkin MacDonald (Legal Counsel)

JAMES KENNEDY – Thomas Anderson & Assoc. (Administrator) by phone

ALEXANDER GOLDSMITH – PFM Group (Trustee) by phone

Dave Mitchell... Called the meeting to order. He asked for a Motion to accept the Minutes of the April 15, 2020 meeting. Motion to accept made by John Hazzouri, seconded by Paul Helring, all were in favor. The Minutes are approved

## Bills:

The first one is for \$13,904.06 from PFM Asset Management. Motion made to pay made by John Hazzouri, seconded by Patrick Sheridan, all were in favor.

The next bill is for \$1,290.50 for Durkin and MacDonald for legal services from 4/14 – 5/18. **Motion made by John Hazzouri, seconded by Lori Reed,** on the question Paul Helring asked what prompted someone about getting their money out? Dave said we would get into that after the bills, all were in favor.

In the amount of \$3,000.00 for Thomas J. Anderson & Associates for Actuarial Services GASP 67 & 68 for the three pension plans. Motion to pay this bill made by John Hazzouri, seconded by Paul Helring, all were in favor.

The next bill is in the amount of \$10,137.52 for the Bank of New York Mellon cycle date 4/1/2020. Motion made by Paul Helring, second by John Hazzouri, all were in favor.

### Correspondence:

The newspaper article about changing to the ZOOM meeting. Notice from Scott Rhoades that Steve Lingle will be leaving Mellon Bank and Greg Lafferty will be taking over his accounts. The Financial Report, Jim will be going over that in a minute.

Dave asked Larry to bring the Board up to speed. What prompted that and does it affect the Composite or the other underlying Boards. Larry said somewhere after the last meeting there were a couple of questions that got forwarded to him from a woman, he couldn't remember her last name, and also from Rebecca McMullen. Basically they had been contacted by a couple of different employees who were trying to take out money from, initially it was generally retirement plans. The questions that he got asked was how much does this apply to the pension fund. So he went and looked at the actual language of the CARES ACT. This is the relief bill that congress passed to the virus which did change provisions for a lot of retirement plans but it doesn't, the short answer is it doesn't affect municipal pension plans.

So the short answer was there is no option under the CARES ACT for an employee to withdraw funds. It was from a couple different places, he thinks there was maybe one police and maybe one non-uniform and it came administratively. They all kind of overlapped in terms of what he was doing so he simply billed it to the Composite Fund because that covers all the plans. That was the issue. The gut reaction to it was that this wasn't something that was going to apply. To actually answer the questions he had to go find the specific language that applied to retirement plans in the CARES ACT.

Dave said he was reading an e-mail from the police side of it and the City was confused in what she said, she wasn't asking about the pension, she was actually asking about the 457B and making early withdrawals. Larry said he thinks it was muddled on a couple of different levels. Dave said so we're covered from here on out unless they change the law it doesn't have any negative or positive impact on the composite pensions. Larry said there is nothing in the current stuff, the current law that affects the municipal plan. There are things that have changed on individual retirement accounts and those take a number of different forms but in terms of municipal retirement plans there is nothing that he sees.

Similarly just like ERISA doesn't apply to this plan, this plan is purely a creation of State law but periodically we get questions on that also. Dave asked if anyone had any questions. Rob Senchack said there was an informational presentation that was done yesterday on line by Nationwide the 457 Plan and it went into a lot about what Larry was speaking of: IRA's, 401K's and 457 Plans. It didn't say anything about municipal pensions being included in the option. There were different withdrawing funds from a 401K or an IRA or taking loans against it

or taking money out of your 457 with the potential of some penalties or whatever that may apply but of everything that they said from the CARES ACT and taking money from their pensions there was nothing mentions about takin it from your actual pension fund of a municipality. Jim Kennedy said correct you're not allowed to do that under Pennsylvania law. Dave asked if anyone had anything else on that topic, no response. He asked Jim what he had to report.

Jim Kennedy... They were waiting on the final actuarial schedule so he delivered it to the Board and the City. The Aggregate Financials for 12/31/19 and basically that's the standard financial package that's there which includes the reporting schedule the City needs to compile with its' aggregate financials to include the pensions. A positive note the assets were up to over \$107 million which we all know because of the run up in 2019 but the bulk of this required notes (audio problems) and actuarial schedules that the City needs for its' financial purposes.

Another thing just to note is they just received because they were approved by the State and they completed the report quite a while ago but the City had to certify and the State had to complete them he sent up the ACT 205 Reports as well for 1/1/19 the other day just so everybody has copies of those. Dave asked if anyone had any questions on those topics or others, Kathy asked Jim to send her hard copies he said yes. No other questions.

Alex Goldsmith... Made his presentation to the Board, he covered the performance, mostly on April. The month of April was a reversal of what we saw in March we'll call it a little of an April rally. Markets rallied +13% you can see International Equity up not as strong as the U.S. and Fixed Income continuing to move ahead slightly while high yield bonds are once again back on track, high yield bonds were up +4.5% in April alone.

Year to date stocks are down -9.3% or down about -10% (he was breaking up couldn't make out what he said) What happened there's a couple of things, firstly the Fed, when he says the Fed he's talking about the entire government. The Federal Reserve certainly cutting rates to near 0 allowing borrowers to refinance, any credit facilities to lower rates, save some cash, extend other credit facilities. Think about it say you're a property owner you have the ability to refinance, extend some grace to your tenants that might be in business or something that is closed or struggling, so the easy capital from the Fed certainly being a big influencer.

A giant plus from the Federal government in the fiscal stimulus, that has started being distributed it is expected to be coming. Markets have reacted to that. Positive news on vaccines as well and treatments and potentially a slowing growth of the virus, data is very mixed, obviously testing comes into play. But certainly there has been more positive news on that front and that's allowed the markets to rally in April. May has been a little more volatile.

We remain defensively positioned in this portfolio. It's PFM's view that we focus mostly on the economic date and economic data continues to weaken. You can see the GDP annual growth rate we're currently at -5 annual growth rate, some estimates that came out this week we can see the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter GDP could by as much as 30%. That's squarely in recession territory and that's based on the idea that there has been some reopening that's bolstered markets. In their view the market is pricing in a day shape recovery, everyone gets back to work and the economic data, unemployment, manufacturing data, retail sales, consumer confidence snaps back to the level that is was as in February. Their view is that that's not going to be the case.

Once the virus is a little more contained and even if there's a proven treatment we expect there to be a slower recovery back to the pre-virus levels for a lot of these economic data points. You know home starts, home sales, decrease in the unemployment rate, a drop in inventories, we would like to see a lot of these economic points start to recover before we feel comfortable with adding a little bit more back in stocks. We'll see if this is a bit of a blip. Again that's PFM's view if that there could be no additional stress ahead.

One thing he mentioned on the Fixed Income Market, he talked about high yield recovering, corporate bonds and high yield really lagged. The government bonds in March, that faced sell off that trend has reversed itself and now there's a lot of opportunities for active fixed income managers. We'll see that when we get to the managers performance. Are there any questions on the markets or their views, no response.

He reviewed the performance of the plan. As of the end of April a bit of a recovery the market value of the plan is now back up to \$98,098,026. The return for the month was nearly 7% right on top of the benchmark, that being in spite of being underweight in stocks. Stocks are up 13%, the plan is underweight in stocks but you're still keeping pace with the benchmark. That is good to us because it indicates that active management is able to offset that defensive position, we're benefiting on both sides from the allocation as well as the active management.

In the YTD column, you can see the plan is now down only -5%, again matching its' benchmark. There was a little bit of a lag with the benchmark in January and February when stocks were shooting up, he thinks that there was a little bit of excess cash in the portfolio that ended up being a little bit of a downside protector in the early part but given the extreme volatility we were down -5% it was pretty good news. The defensive positioning largely is the reason with some contributions from active management.

JO Hombro you can see their YTD they're down -6.8% the benchmark is down -17.5%. He thinks the little bit in 2018 and 2019 they had some struggles they recovered in the second half of 2019. We continue to have a lot of confidence in this fund and it goes to show why we don't terminate a fund for one or two bad quarters especially if we have confidence in their team.

Moving down to Fixed Income on the YTD basis a lot of the managers lag their benchmarks. You can see DoubleLine and Prudential in negative territory while the Barclays Aggregate is up. Voya is in positive territory but still lagging its' benchmark and the Bond ETF sort of right on top. Again the corporate bond ETF is a small allocation just 2.75% of the plan it is pretty significantly lagging government bonds. YTD Barclays Aggregate is up 4.98% the corporate bond is less than a half percent it has not been the long term trend pretty consistently. Your active managers have outperformed by adding corporate and then we at PFM have added some corporates and occasionally high yield. High yield is no longer dedicated to this portfolio we took it out earlier this year for the risk but we've already seen that trend again to start to reverse here in April.

If you look through the funds again the core managers Baird, DoubleLine and Prudential all outperformed the Barclays Aggregate. Voya outperformed by even more, and then you have the corporate bond ETF these are investment great corporates high yield investment grade high rated bonds returning 5.4% in just this month alone. So you can see what I'm talking about that's sort of reversing of the corporate government bond trend it was sort of a month long shock in March. We expect the rest of the year to move beyond that. There should be much of a significant risk within Fixed Income.

He thinks they sent out an alert just last week he believes about the addition of a municipal bond fund into this portfolio. Not for tax purposes because you're a non-taxable fund in general but we see municipal bond spreads widened pretty significantly in March. The yield offering on municipal bonds shot up it's basically the market you were expecting more risk, higher default rate and frankly that's just not going to be the case. Our researchers have shown that the default rate of a muni bond is quite low, it's not expected to increase marketable in this environment and we're able to capture a lot of current yield now from this municipal bond allocation but also hopefully price increases as the rates for muni bonds as the risk on those yield bonds fall the price of the bonds increases. So you're getting a current yield now and you'll get price appreciation hopefully down the road. That was taking advantage of one of those opportunities in Fixed Income.

Before he moves on he wanted to know if there were any questions on the managers with performance of the plan. John Hazzouri said he thinks they're doing an excellent job. Patrick Sheridan asked where do you see the muni rate settling. Alex responded that is a good question, it's probably best asked to one of our FA colleagues at PFM who would advise us on muni bonds. He asked if we worked with Scott Sheeria or Melissa, they probably advised you already. Alex's wife is the Deputy Treasurer in Philadelphia and they've been seeing attractive rates. Rates are low but again relative to the rest of the investment bond universe. From PFM's perspective muni rates, everything is low rates, muni rates again are much like the corporate space. You're getting higher rates in investment rate corporates then you are in government

bond, in treasuries he would say, same thing with muni's it's a marginal yield play there. Dave asked if anybody else had question on that topic, no response.

Moving on, we're dealing with last year's return obviously 2019, volatility at the end of the year, this year a lot of volatility. Some wide swings over this for the 18 month period we've been through. The cash flow page you can see we started the month with \$92 million, the April rally it was good for the plan. You're still paying out that billion dollars per month for benefits generating \$6.3 investment gains, that's how you got back up to the \$98 million. So in good news, last year May 1<sup>st</sup> we were \$97.6 million we're back up to \$98. So we are better than where we were at this point last year. He does have an update now we're back up to \$98,735,778 continuing to move forward and there's another month of benefits coming out too, another million dollars over that period.

Owing to a defensive positioning we're not trying to invest ourselves out of a situation we know we've been in, you all have proper financial stewardship, you put money into the plan. It would have been great if you put it in this year in March but we put it in in the beginning of last year benefited a lot from that. You've done the right things. It's not ideal that you're down 5% but the health of this plan is still better, it's certainly better than it was. We've made it through thus far which is good, there's no alarming red flags coming out of this negative performance. You can see in the asset allocation again we remain defensively positioned on the markets. We are -2.6 underweight to Domestic Equity, -2.1 to International. We're not at full cash levels, he thinks that's appropriate for now given the opportunities they see in Fixed Income. The volatility they see in Fixed Income should be behind us. We continue to raise cash as needed but we have a bit of a buffer the balance of that invested in the Fixed Income opportunities we talked about. That is the end of his comments. Dave asked if anyone had any other questions for Alex, no response. Dave asked if anyone had anything that they wanted to bring up.

John Hazzouri... He had nothing to bring up just a few things to say. Everybody knows he's retiring in July and he'd like to say the last seven years have been a tough road for this Board but we finally have an excellent Board in place and he'd like to see it stay together, united and everybody working together and let's keep the job going strong. It's been an honor. God rest her soul, Mrs. Novembrino, she helped us out many times on important decisions, with the sewer money and everything and he's got to say, Dave and Paul, you've been a big help with the change getting on this Board and plus everybody work together on how to get the money, going through the grind with Mellon and everything.

That was a tough road but we made it through. We have an excellent company in place PFM which he feels has done a tremendous jub the last couple of yers, keep it going for us. Jim you have been a big help to me with information when I ran for office the last time on my last election. Larry keep up the great job that you've done for the Board, for Council, the firemen

#### COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD

- Page 7 -

May 20, 2020

and everything. Maggie you'll be fine. Thank you everybody. Kathy keep all these people in line. Jim asked John to make a recording about investments so they can play it monthly going forward.

Dave thanked John for his service to the Board and to the City, we still have another month or two till we get rid of you. We have two more months of listening to you. Dave asked if there was anything else, anything from the public, no response.

Motion to adjourn made by Paul Helring, seconded by Maggie Perry, all were in favor.

# June 17<sup>th</sup> is our next Meeting

Minutes approved June 17, 2020:

Kathleen McGinn

David Mitchell

President

**Recording Secretary** 

43	P* - 1
Hearing	i jate.
i icai ii ig	Daw.

07/16/20

Time	Name	Boro/Twp.	Pin Number	Attorney	Proposed/Curren t Assesed Value	After Appeal Value
10:00 AM	LISOWSKI PETER & MARLENE	ARCHBALD	09402020007		20000	
10:15 AM	PODRASKY THOMAS M & BEVERLY	JESSUP	11503030025		1000	
10:30 AM	DOMBROWSKI FRED L & LAUREEN	DICKSON CITY	1131901000909		24500	
10:45 AM	WASSEL WILLIAM M & SHELLEY L	DICKSON CITY	11202020008		18500	
11:00 AM	ALLIED HEALTH CARE SERVICES	DICKSON CITY	11303020004	EUGENE KELLEY	98000	
11:15 AM	J BAR REALTY INC	OLYPHANT	1250203000138	SEAN GALLAGHER	45500	
11:30 AM	PRICE LYMAN J	MOOSIC	1760402002101		49500	
11:45 AM	PATEL JAYANTIKUMAR & M & N & A	MOOSIC	1850102001127		41500	
12:00 PM	KEATING NEIL	JEFFERSON TWP	16002020013		22500	
12:15 PM	CAPOOCI VICTOR J JR & EVELYN M	JEFFERSON TWP	14003030004		16000	
12:30 PM	SMACCHI FERDINAND B & LORI	SPRINGBROOK TWP	20304010030		24000	
12:45 PM	BARLETTA ROBERTA JR	NEWTON TWP	1220102000722		46300	
1:00 PM	FRANKOWSKI JAMES M & COREY A	WAVERLY	0690201000115	MARK RUDALAVAGE	61200	
1:15 PM	HOLLAND JOSEPH G & LINDSEY A	RANSOM	1330102000610	MARK RUDALAVAGE	60200	
1:30 PM	RUTTY ROBERT W & ANGELA F	SOUTH ABINGTON TWP	0910201004611		66000	
1:45 PM	MCDERMOTT PAUL F & TERESA	SOUTH ABINGTON TWP	0910301003714	JAMES TRESSLER	52500	
2:00 PM	GRASSELLI USA INC	SOUTH ABINGTON TWP	1000404000101	MARK CONWAY	210200	
2:15 PM	ALSPAUGH ROBERT & MARILYN	SOUTH ABINGTON	0990202000278		42000	
2:30 PM	BOOT HILL VENTURES LLC	SOUTH ABINGTON TWP	11204040006		23250	
2:45 PM	HEINS RYAN & KAITLIN SUMMA	SOUTH ABINGTON TWP	0910101000764		58000	

TOTAL RECORDS

20



OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

Hearing Date: 07/22/20

Time	Name	Boro/Twp.	Pin Number	Attorney	Proposed/Curren t Assesed Value	After Appeal Value
	1	l or municipal		ŀ	50700	1
10:00 AM	TUNIS JUSTIN G & CASSANDRA LYN	GLENBURN	0890201001908			
10:15 AM	CHANG CHRISTOPHER &MICHELLE	SCOTT	08203020019		26000	
10:30 AM	MASLAR WILLIAM J & ANNETTE M	SCOTT TWP	0830301000101		23750	<del>-  </del> -
10:45 AM	MOLFETAS ALEX & KELLY	SCOTT TWP	0820302004103		16500	
11;00 AM	WNUK ANDREW R & MARISA R	SCOTT TWP	0710202000601	PATRICK LAVELLE	43750	
11:15 AM	BONK KENNETH R & ELLEN M S	SOUTH ABINGTON TWP	0910301003712	PATRICK LAVELLE	68400	
11:30 AM	MARPED INC	DUNMORE	13502020015	MATTHEW BARRETT	18300	
11:45 AM	PANE MARTIN J & MARGARET	ELMHURST	1800203000701	JOSEPH HAGGERTY	51000	
12:00 PM	CAVANAUGH RYAN & BRITTANY	MOOSIC	1850102001126	JAMES TRESSLER	37000	
12:15 PM	MANSURI FAIZ M& TARANNUM	MOOSIC	18504030060	MARK CONWAY	44500	
12:30 PM	PRIDE REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT	OLD FORGE	18415030015	WILL F BURKE	553000	
12:45 PM	FAUVER BIANCA M & JOHN	OLD FORGE	1750302000408	MICHAEL GALLACHER	6000	
12:45 PM	DUNBAR NICOLE M	OLD FORGE	1750302000407	MICHAEL GALLACHER	6000	
1:00 PM	HOMICK SHARON	SPRINGBROOK	20401010051		34750	
1:15 PM	WALSH JAMES J & ELIZABETH A	SPRINGBROOK	2180202000201		12000	
1:30 PM	WILLOW TREE HOME INC	ARCHBALD	0940402000121	STEPHEN BRESSET	9000	
1:30 PM	WILLOW TREE HOMES INC	ARCHBALD	0940402000122	STEPHEN BRESSET	9000	
1:45 PM	NEW VENTURE REALTY INC	ARCHBALD	0730301000209	RAYMOND C. RINALDI	32500	
1:45 PM	NEW VENTURE REALTY INC	ARCHBALD	0730301000210	RAYMOND C. RINALDI	27000	
2:00 PM	TOTSKY ERIKA & MAURO RAYMOND	FELL	0060303001105		31900	
2:15 PM	FARBER WILLIAM III & LAUREN L.	GREENFIELD TWP	0230405000114		54550	
2:30 PM	WATRAL JOSEPH & PEIL EMILY	THROOP	1250302000152	MICHAEL FISCUS	42750	
2:45 PM	DEGILIO FAMILY LIMITED PART.	OLYPHANT	1250203000114		46330	

TOTAL RECORDS

23



OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

Hearing Da	ite: 07/23/20				D-cused (Cump)	Affor Appeal
Time	Name	Boro/Twp.	Pin Number	Attorney	Proposed/Curren t Assesed Value	After Appeal Value
10:00 AM	DAVIS WILLIAM JR & KIMBERLY	JEFFERSON	1500101000199		5000	
10:00 AM	DAVIS WILLIAM JR & KIMBERLY	JEFFERSON TWP	1500101001200		5000	
10:15 AM	CHORBA STEPHEN J & KAREN ANN	JEFFERSON TWP	1400101000223		40000	
10:30 AM	PYPIAK GRANTOR TRUST ZEOLI KY	JEFFERSON	1500101001201		5000	
10:30 AM	PYPIAK GRANTOR TRUST ZEILI K	JEFFERSON	1500101001202		5000	
10:45 AM	HUBBARD FRANK W & JEAN B	MOSCOW	1900401012000	JOHN MERCURI	48750	
11:00 AM	ROARING BROOK LOG HOMES LLC	ROARING BROOK TWP	1700101000119	JOHN MERCURI	61000	
11:15 AM	MINKOFF STEPHANIE S	SPRINGBROOK	2180101000304		23550	
11:30 AM	WATSON WILLIAM&COONS DANIELL	ROARING BROOK	1700101000135		53500	
11:45 AM	SEDIAK STACEY	BLAKELY	10315050047		12500	
12:00 PM	MARSHALL GLENN S JR&JENNIFER	ARCHBALD	09418020005		8000	
12:15 PM	SABATELLE LA & CONFLITTI AE	ARCHBALD	09518050009		18000	
12:30 PM	SABATELLE WILLIAM A & LINDA A	ARCHBALD	09518050010		18000	
12:45 PM	BOHENEK THOMAS	OLYPHANT	11408010011		17500	
1:00 PM	HAMPTON JOSEPH A & MIX TRICIA	OLYPHANT	1141905000113		40300	
1:15 PM	BIANCARELLI SUSAN	GREENFIELD TWP	01402020008		23000	
1:30 PM	VUOSO ANTHONY & PEGGY	GREENFIELD TWP	01415030023		34000	
1:45 PM	ZLOTUCHA JOHN JR & KATHY	BENTON TWP	02804040001		19500	
2:00 PM	CERMINARO JOSEPH & MARY JANE	SCRANTON	15710060017	SEAN GALLAGHER	27500	
2:15 PM	BARRESE SAMUEL & DOREEN	SCRANTON	16807020023		16000	
2:30 PM	ABDALLA MAURICE & LOUISE	SCRANTON	15719010035		32000	
2:45 PM	BARILLO GLEN & JENNIFER	SCRANTON	13510080017	JAMES TRESSLER	20000	
3:00 PM	EXTRAORDINARY PROPERTIES LLC	SCRANTON	13518020009		30000	

TOTAL RECORDS

23



OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

Hearing Date		Boro/Twp.	Pin Number	Attorney	Proposed/Curren	After Appeal
Time	Name	DOIO/XWD.	A	-	t Assesed Value	Value
			1	ı	10000	1
10:00 AM	MAZZATTA SAMUEL P & ERMINIA	THROOP	12517020026		16500	
10:15 AM	ZABROWSKI RONALD & ANN MARIE	GREENFIELD TWP	0210102000103			
10:30 AM	JERMYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY	JERMYN	0731202002800		5000	
10:45 AM	ANDREWS WILLIAM P & TRACEY	CARBONDALE CITY	0541202003401		1000	
11:00 AM	WOLFE INDUSTRIES I LLC	SCRANTON CITY	15615010008		18000	
11:15 AM	CAMPBELL ROBERT & ELAINE TRUS	SCRANTON CITY	14507030054		17157	
11:30 AM	DORAN MICHAEL J & AYANA N	DALTON	0690304000301	MARK CONWAY	35000	
11:45 AM	KOPA GREGORY & DENISE	SCOTT TWP	0420403001003	DAVID TOMAINE	41400	
12:00 PM	KONOSKY PAUL & KAREN	SCOTT	05204020018		5500	
12:15 PM	BATOVKINA OKSANA	CLIFTON	2310201000703		7040D	
12:30 PM	LELII RALPH & LINDA	CLIFTON	23303010039		45250	
12:45 PM	WHETSTONE WADE	JEFFERSON	11702020005		10850	
12:45 PM	WHETSTONE WADE	JEFFERSON	11702020004		9625	
	PELLIGRINO GERRY & MELISSA AN	JEFFERSON TWP	1510101001031		37400	
1:00 PM	ARCURIE GRAIG	ROARING BROOK TWP	1700101001185	JOSEPH MARIOTTI	52830	
1:15 PM	YOUNG JACOB S & LARAYNE	COVINGTON TWP	1980302000114		43500	
1:30 PM	MCCARTHY KEVIN & ROBIN	COVINGTON TWP	22701020422		5000	
1:45 PM	RINDICH STEPHEN & DONNA L.	TAYLOR	16615020009		2000	
2:00 PM		TAYLOR	16615020036		6000	
2:15 PM	LIR GROUP LLC	SCRANTON	17705010020		2000	
2:30 PM	JOYCE MARICAY L ETAL		17615040012		18000	
2:45 PM	GRILL MARLA	MOOSIC	17013040012	TOTAL DECORDS	21	

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TOTAL RECORDS

21

OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

Heannu Daie. VIISUZU	Hearing	Date:	07/30/20
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Time	Name	Boro/Twp.	Pin Number	Attorney	Proposed/Curren t Assesed Value	After Appeal Value
					***************************************	
10:00 AM	KEYSTONE SERVICE SYSTEMS INC	SCRANTON	1340101000476	BRETT WOODBURN	19500	
10:15 AM	929 S WEBSTER AVE LLC	SCRANTON	16708010048		13950	
10:30 AM	NGUYEN NGOC	SCRANTON	15609010038		17000	
10:45 AM	DONCSES NOAH	SCRANTON CITY	15719040010		19000	
11:00 AM	GREGORY DEREK & AMY M	SCOTT TWP	0910404001405		31500	
11:00 AM	GREGORY DEREK & AMY M	SCOTT TWP	0910404001406		2500	
11:15 AM	WHITE CASSANDRA R	SOUTH ABINGTON	09103010023	ROCCO VALVANO JR	21500	
11:30 AM	PARLOPANO SALVATORE P III-GOR	SOUTH ABINGTON	10115010010		25000	
11:45 AM	SNYDER WM J JR & MELISSA L	SPRINGBROOK TWP	2030201002504		43000	
12:00 PM	DUBOV LEONID	COVINGTON TWP	22701020555		5650	
12:15 PM	LOIACONO D & MACKIEWICZ L	COVINGTON TWP	22002090572		5900	
12:30 PM	BISHER BARBARA	COVINGTON	22004040002		10000	
12:45 PM	SHVARTSMAN OLEG &NATAL	COVINGTON	22004070076		7200	
1:00 PM	CANNON TROY D	JEFFERSON TWP	1490205000157		45000	
1:15 PM	BELOUSVA YULIYA-PIMOUTKINE R	CLIFTON	23401030022		24000	
1:30 PM	BRUINOOGE CHAD & SAMANTHA	ROARING BROOK	18802010012		32000	
1:45 PM	WEISSMAN BRAD & MELISSA	ROARING BROOK	1890104002301		24000	
2:00 PM	LITTS BRIAN J & JAIME M	ROARING BROOK	1700101001139	JAMES J POWELL III	58697	
2:15 PM	PAUKOVITS MATTHEW JOSEPH	SPRINGBROOK	21003010007	JOSEPH O HAGGERTY	35114	
2:30 PM	WEILAND MARK	DUNMORE	14608040026		11000	
2:45 PM	ELMHURST SUPPLY LLC	OLD FORGE	17519060033	JOEL WOLFF	13500	
				TOTAL RECORDS	21	



OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

## Council of the City of Scranton

340 No. Washington Avenue · Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503 · Telephone 570-348-4113 · Fax 570-348-4207

Lori Reed City Clerk

Kevin C. Hayes, Esq. Counsel



William Gaughan, President Kyle Donahue, Vice President Jessica Rothchild, PT, DPT Mark McAndrew Thomas S. Schuster

June 25, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Majority Leader, United States Senate U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr. United States Senate 393 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 The Honorable Charles Schumer Minority Leader, United States Senate U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-224 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Toomey United States Senate 248 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Senator Casey and Senator Toomey:

We are the five (5) members of the Council of the City of Scranton ("City Council"). As you may know, the City of Scranton ("Scranton") is the sixth largest city in Pennsylvania and serves as the regional hub of Northeastern Pennsylvania. We write to you in our united and strong support of the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (the "Heroes Act") which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on May 15, 2020. Like municipalities across our country, Scranton is experiencing a historic budget shortfall as we continue to respond to the pandemic.

Earlier this month, Scranton's Business Administrator reported to City Council that he is anticipating that Scranton's City Government will experience a budget shortfall in the range of \$6.0 million to \$10.0 million because of the novel coronavirus (known as "COVID-19") and its negative economic impact. Specifically, this projected shortfall is due to a loss in tax revenues and fees which were anticipated as part of Scranton's 2020 operating budget, including a:

- 7% to 10% reduction in wage tax revenues;
- 30% reduction in business privilege and mercantile tax revenues;
- 21% reduction in real estate tax revenues; and
- 15% reduction in licensing and permit fee collections.

If the Senate fails to act immediately to support state and local governments, Scranton will be without the necessary funds to support the essential services that it provides to its residents and businesses, including police and fire protection. Previous federal bills responding to COVID-19 provided important support, many through well-established grant programs, yet none allow for the replacement of local governments' lost revenues due to COVID-19. More robust and direct stimulus is needed for state and local governments to both rebuild the economy and maintain essential services in emergency operations, public safety and waste removal.

Scranton has been forced to furlough employees with staff reductions being considered. These jobs losses not only affect the provision of government services, but also add to our region's unemployment rate. Local governments, like Scranton, also purchases goods and services which adds to our nation's output. In fact, in 2019, state and local governments' purchases accounted for 11% of the nation's gross domestic product. When these activities slow down, there is an effect on our nation's economy.

Further, nearly 15 million Americans are employed by state and local governments. Teachers, first responders and emergency medical service workers are on the front lines of this crisis doing the essential work of the country. Government employment continues to suffer substantial losses with over 1.6 million state and local government jobs lost since March.

Our elected leaders in Washington have expressed support for flexible fiscal aid to state and local governments. Yet months have gone by and our communities continue to suffer. Americans have a history of standing together in times of crisis and must do so now. We appreciate the leadership of our U.S. Representative, Congressman Matt Cartwright who has supported the Heroes Act and the assistance to local governments provided therein.

We urge the Senate to pass the Heroes Act, including the provisions of that legislation which support local governments who are struggling to remain solvent during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Page 3 of 3 June 25, 2020

Sincerely,

/s/ BILL GAUGHAN

William Gaughan Council President

/s/ MARK McANDREW

Mark McAndrew Council Member

/s/ THOMAS SCHUSTER

Thomas S. Schuster Council Member

KCH/gb

CC:

The Honorable Matt Cartwright

/s/ KYLE DONAHUE

Kyle Donahue Council Vice President

/s/DR. JESSICA ROTHCHILD

Jessica Rothchild, PT, DPT Council Member

#### FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.

#### 2020

#### AN ORDINANCE

APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE OWNED BY OAK STREET EXPRESS, LLC, 610 NORTH MAIN STREET, TAYLOR, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, 18517 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE NO. R-3114 TO ARADHY BEV BEER, LLC, (THE "MINI MART"), 401 WYOMING AVENUE, SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, 18503, AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board ("PLCB") requires that the governing body of a municipality pass legislation approving an inter-municipal transfer of a liquor license when a municipality has met its quota of liquor licenses; and

WHEREAS, Aradhy Bev Beer, LLC (the "Mini Mart") wishes to transfer Restaurant Liquor License No. R-3114 owned by Oak Street Express, LLC to the City of Scranton to be used by the Aradhy Bev Beer, LLC (The "Mini Mart") located at 401 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. The Mini Mart is scheduled for remodel which will add a sit down restaurant area and would like to sell beer and wine for on premises consumption and to go as permitted under PLCB regulations; and

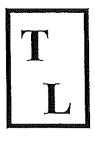
WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Scranton approves the transfer of this license subject to its authority regarding inter-municipal transfers and subject to public comment on the same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON that the inter-municipal transfer request of Aradhy Bev Beer, LLC (The "Mini Mart") wishes to transfer Restaurant Liquor License No. R-3114 owned by Oak Street Express, LLC, 610 North Main Street, Taylor, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania to the City of Scranton for use at 401 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania is hereby approved.

SECTION 1. If any section, clause, provision or portion of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction such decision shall not affect any other section, clause, provision or portion of this Ordinance so long as it remains legally enforceable minus the invalid portion. The City reserves the right to amend this Ordinance or any portion thereof from time to time as it shall deem advisable in the best interest of the promotion of the purposes and intent of this Ordinance, and the effective administration thereof.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon approval.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance is enacted by the Council of the City of Scranton under the authority of the Act of Legislature, April 13, 1972, Act No. 62, known as the "Home Rule Charter and Option Plans Law" and any other applicable law arising under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania.



Tressler Law, LLC 220 Penn Avenue Scranton, PA 18503 Telephone 570.346.1900 Fax 570.346.1909

James M. Tressler, Esquire

jtressler@tresslerlawllc.com

March 26, 2020

Kevin C. Hayes, Esquire Scanlon, Howley & Doherty 217 Wyoming Avenue Scranton, PA 18503

RE: Request by Aradhy Bev Beer, LLC for Approval of Inter-Municipal

Transfer of Restaurant Liquor License

Dear Kevin:

We represent Aradhy Bev Beer, LLC (the "Mini Mart"). The Mini Mart operates a convenient store at the corner of Wyoming Avenue and Mulberry Street, Scranton, PA. This store is scheduled for remodel which will add a sit down restaurant area for at least 30 customers. As such, the store will qualify for a Restaurant Liquor License pursuant to the Pennsylvania Liquor Code. The Mini Mart would like to sell beer and wine for on premises consumption and to go, as permitted under the PLCB regulations. I believe the mini mart is in a general commercial zone.

In order to open and operate its restaurant in Scranton, the Mini Mart must secure a restaurant liquor license. The Mini Mart entered into an Agreement of Sale with a Liquor License presently located in Taylor. The Mini Mart would like to move the License into the City of Scranton with the approval of the City of Scranton, pursuant to the Inter-Municipal Transfer Provisions of the Liquor Code (47 P.S. §461).

The Mini Mart hereby requests that, pursuant to 47 P.S. §461, the City schedule a hearing as required by the Liquor Code on the issuance of a Resolution approving the

transfer by the Mini Mart of a Restaurant Liquor License from outside the City within the City limits.

Kevin C. Hayes, Esquire March 16, 2020 Page 2

Pursuant to the Liquor Code, the purpose of the hearing is to allow the Mini Mart to described its proposed business and to allow the residents of the City to voice their opinions on the proposed inter-municipal transfer by the Mini Mart. Pursuant to 47 P.S. §461, the City must approve or deny the request to transfer by way of a Resolution or Ordinance within 45 days of this request.

For your convenience and reference, enclosed is a form Resolution which I am aware other municipalities have used responding to requests for inter-municipal transfers. The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board requires a Resolution approving inter-municipal transfer include the name of the applicant (Aradhy Bev Beer, LLC), the address to which the License is being transferred (401 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503), the Liquor License No. (R-3114), the name and address of the Seller (Oak Street Express, LLC) and must state that the public hearing is held.

The Liquor Code requires that notice of public hearing must be published once each week for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the municipality. Further, such notices must state the time and place of the hearing and the matter to be considered at the hearing. Amended Section 102 also provides that the first publication shall not be more than 30 days and the second publication shall not be less than seven days from the date of the hearing.

At the time of the hearing, we will present complete information on the operation of the Mini Mart and its proposed restaurant and answer any questions the residents our counsel may have. Initially, by way of background, the Mini Mart is owned and operated by a husband and wife and will be expanding their Mini Mart to become a restaurant in a convenience type store setting.

The City's approval of an inter-municipal transfer of the Liquor License, the Mini Mart will permit the operation of the restaurant within the City and will be a positive attribute to the City, its residents and surrounding areas. The Mini Mart endeavors to offer as many product lines as possible to continue servicing residents and visitors while in the City.

The Mini Mart asks for a public hearing on its request for an inter-municipal transfer to be held as soon as possible. Please advise when this hearing is scheduled.

Kevin C. Hayes, Esquire March 26, 2020 Page 3

In the event you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely yours,

TRESSLER LAW, LLC

James M. Tressler, Esquire

JMT/mag Enclosure



JLE/sl

#### **DEPARTMENT OF LAW**

CITY HALL • 340 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE • SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503 • PHONE: 570-348-4105 • FAX; 570-348-4263

June 23, 2020

To the Honorable Council Of the City of Scranton MuniciOpal Building Scranton, PA 18503

Dear Honorable Council Members:

ATTACHED IS AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE OWNED BY OAK STREET EXPRESS, LLC, 610 NORTH MAIN STREET, TAYLOR, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, 18517 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE NO. R-3114 TO ARADHY BEV BEER, LLC, (THE "MINI MART"), 401 WYOMING AVENUE, SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, 18503 AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

RECEIVED

JUN 2 4 2020

OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL/CITY CLERK Respectfully,

Jessica Eskra (8) Jessica L. Eskra, Esquire

City Solicitor

RESOLUTION	NO.	<del></del>	

2020

RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ACTING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, IN AN AMOUNT OF UP TO \$20,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS "ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN," AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AND TO UTILIZE THE GRANT FOR SUCH PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the City of Scranton, through the Office of Economic and Community Development, will submit a grant application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ("the Commonwealth"), acting through the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity (the "Grantor"), for a Development of Plans and Policies to Establish Activity-Friendly Routes that Connect to Everyday Destinations Grant, and for an Active Transportation Plan that identifies and prioritizes infrastructure improvements to encourage walking and biking within the City of Scranton. A copy of said Grant Application and Project detail is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein as if set forth at length; and

WHEREAS, the City of Scranton recognizes that strategic improvements in the City's walking and biking infrastructure will strengthen residents' physically, socially, and provide overall better health; better connect residents to schools, stores, parks, public transportation, and other everyday destinations; improve the environment; and make the City more "livable" in the tradition of prominent urbanist Jane Jacobs, who was born and raised in Scranton; and

WHEREAS, the City of Scranton intends herein to ratify and approve the execution and submission of the Grant Application; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will review the Grant Application for funding for the Development of Plans and Policies to Establish Activity-Friendly Routes that Connect to Everyday Destinations Grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 ("Grant") for the "Project"; and

WHEREAS, if the Grant Application is approved, the City of Scranton intends herein to authorize the execution of the Development of Plans and Policies to Establish Activity-Friendly Routes that Connect to Everyday Destinations Grant Contract and Commitment Letter, and the acceptance, disbursement, and utilization of the Grant for the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON that the execution and submission of the "Grant" Application is hereby ratified and if approved, the Mayor and other appropriate City Officials are hereby authorized to enter into and execute and submit any additional related paperwork for this "Grant", and if successful, to accept the grant funds to be used for the "Project" as attached hereto. This approval anticipates and authorizes the execution of any and all related documentation necessary for the "Grant" or to accept, disburse, and utilize the "Grant" for the "Project."

SECTION 1. If any section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decisions shall not affect any other section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution so long as it remains legally enforceable minus the invalid portion. The City reserves the right to amend this Resolution or any portion thereof from time to time as it shall deed advisable in the best interest of the promotion of the purposes and intent of this Resolution, and the effective administration thereof.

**SECTION 2.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon approval.

SECTION 3. This Resolution is enacted by the Council of the City of Scranton under the authority of the Act of the Legislature, April 13, 1972, Act No. 62, known as the "Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law", and any other applicable law arising under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania.

#### **Legislative Cover Sheet - Scranton City Council**

LEGISLATION RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS "ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN," AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

## What Department is this legislation originating from? Where did the initiative for this legislation originate?

OECD originated the legislation. The City of Scranton through OECD will submit a grant application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity for a Development of Plans and Policies to Establish Activity-Friendly Routes that Connect to Everyday Destinations for an Active Transportation Plan that identifies and prioritizes infrastructure improvements to encourage walking and biking within the City of Scranton.

#### Summary and Facts of the legislation

The City of Scranton recognizes that strategic improvements in the City's walking and biking infrastructure will strengthen residents' physically, socially, and provide overall better health and wellness. Additionally, this Transportation plan will better connect residents to schools, stores, parks, public transportation, and other everyday destinations; improve the environment; and make the City more livable.

#### Purpose – please include the following in the explanation:

#### What does the legislation do-what are the specific goals/tasks the legislation seek to accomplish?

The Legislation would allow the City to Apply for a Grant of \$20,000.00 and if successful, authorize the Mayor and other City Officials to execute and enter into a Grant Contract with the Commonwealth for an Active Transportation Plan which will better the City Environment and connect City residents to schools, parks, public transportation etc.

#### What are the benefits of doing this/Down-side of doing this?

Benefit – Helps improve walking and biking infrastructure in the City.

Downside - The downside of this project is that City will miss out on the opportunity to better our community by making our walking and biking infrastructure more accessible to our residents

#### How does this legislation relate to the City's Vision/Mission/Priorities?

Helps City overall provide a better environment and will allow City to better our walking and biking infrastructure to help residents easily access schools, stores, parks, etc.

#### Financial Impact - please include the following in the explanation:

Cost (initial and ongoing) - \$20,000.00 grant if awarded

Benefits – Will not cost City anything.

Funding Sources - Commonwealth of PA through the Dept of Health.

Priority Status/Deadlines - High City Would like this Legislation passed as soon as possible.

Why should the Council unanimously support this legislation?

This Grant will improve the City Walking and Biking infrastructure, while providing a better environment and make the City more accessible for transportation purposes.

Include any other pertinent details and/or relevant information that the Council should be aware of:



Via Email Only (pawalkworks@pitt.edu)

May 21, 2020

Carol Reichbaum University of Pittsburgh Center for Public Health Practice 130 DeSoto Street, A726 Pittsburgh, PA 15261

Dear Carol:

Please be advised that the City of Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania anticipates submitting an

An Active Transportation Plan (e.g., transportation component of comprehensive plan, standalone pedestrian/bicycle plan);

☐ A Complete Streets Policy;

☐ A Vision Zero Policy, or

A combination of the above (please explain \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with the Funding Opportunity Announcement, it is our intent to submit an application to <a href="mailto:pawalkworks@pitt.edu">pawalkworks@pitt.edu</a> no later than 5:00pm on July 2, 2020.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Mary-Pat Ward Deputy Director

City of Scranton
Office of Economic and Community Development
Municipal Building
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503
mpward@scrantonpa.gov

Will your plan and/or policy be a standalone document or a component of a larger plan? Please describe how your proposal addresses or aims to advance relevant plans (e.g., a comprehensive plan, regional transportation plan); the title, year and specific references – if any – should be provided.

The City of Scranton's Active Transportation Plan will be a standalone document that would be incorporated into a Comprehensive Plan that the city is working on in parallel. The city currently uses a regional Scranton-Abingtons Planning Association (SAPA) Comprehensive Plan from 2010. City Planner Donald King confirmed that the Active Transportation Plan would advance and be consistent with the SAPA (see attached).

Please describe the extent to which you anticipate relying on in-house staff and/or consulting services to accomplish your proposed project. If you are confident that you will engage a consultant and are aware of the name of the firm, please provide.

Scranton's Office of Economic and Community Development (OECD) will administer the grant, including overseeing the consulting services of two organizations. Speck & Associates, run by urban planner and noted walkability author Jeff Speck, is currently conducting Walkability Study of downtown Scranton, and would be expected to be a leading candidate in an RFP process the city would use to select a consultant upon grant award.

The OECD office would also oversee the consulting services of Valley In Motion, a non-profit that would facilitate community meetings to collect stakeholder input.

The OECD office worked with both Speck & Associates and Valley In Motion to develop the attached budget. [Confirm]

If requesting funds for the development of a Transportation Plan, please justify your proposal, below. At a minimum, the response should address the following:

- The need for and anticipated benefits of the plan, including though not limited to demographic characteristics of the community to be served;
- How the plan will enhance the built environment to increase opportunities for physical activity through connectivity;
- Examples of data to be collected;
- The means by which community input will be obtained;
- Broad description of major tasks and estimated duration of each task leading to the accomplishment of the proposed plan within the grant period ending September 2021; and
- Support for the proposal.

See Section 9 of the Funding Opportunity Announcement for elements against which applications will be evaluated and Appendix A for additional guidance.



Pennsylvania's six-largest city, Scranton is bustling with new energy and initiatives to improve the quality of life of its residents. The population of its downtown center is growing rapidly as new residential units fill up quickly with millennials and retirees both attracted to nearby work, recreation, and dining opportunities. Three neighborhoods adjacent to the downtown are undertaking serious revitalization efforts, led by non-profits and supported by national foundations.

The Lackawanna River flows through the center of Scranton, with hills rising up on either side, containing 15 distinct neighborhoods. A paved trail maintained by Lackawanna Heritage Valley runs along the length of the river, is a popular venue for recreation and exercise, and with better neighborhood connections, could serve as a vital avenue for bike commuting to work and school. Scranton's neighborhoods, mostly developed before the age of the automobile, have Walk Scores that range from 13 to 88 (on a 0 - 100 scale), and are ripe for walking and biking improvements that improve access to their business districts and the downtown core.

An Active Transportation Plan would help city planners in Scranton take advantage of the city's strengths, identify and prioritize improvements based on public input, and integrate data from several important efforts intended to make Scranton healthier, more connected, and environmentally friendly.

The timing for an Active Transportation Plan is ripe, as these various efforts by government, private, and non-profit players are currently underway. For instance, the city and county are sponsoring two key studies of Scranton's downtown core, one for walkability and one for biking. Scranton's 70-acre Nay Aug Park is starting a master planning process. The city is pursuing a streetscapes grant to improve bike and pedestrian access to the downtown from the historic Iron Furnaces. Nonprofits are leading two neighborhoods, West Scranton and Pinebrook, through a planning process for a 10-year revitalization effort. Another non-profit is organizing and a regional Community Well-Being initiative so that healthcare organizations and employers can invest in programs and infrastructure that reduce hospitalizations and increase productivity. The Center for the Living City, co-founded by legendary urban planner Jane Jacobs, recently moved to Scranton with the intent of using Scranton as a model of how mid-sized cities reinvent themselves to address new urban realities.

#### The Need

An Active Transportation Plan will benefit a population greatly in need of health and economic assistance. According to the American Community Survey, 24% of Scranton's residents live in poverty. A 2019 Living Wage Report found that a family of three needed an income of \$51,542 to live a humble but dignified existence in Lackawanna County. That's 32% higher than the median household income in Scranton.

The Living Wage Report also documents the high cost of transportation needed to sustain a humble but dignified existence: \$8,341 per year for a working family of three. For a Scranton family to reduce its transportation costs, it needs better walking and biking infrastructure to viably reduce car dependence, so people can better connect work, shopping, public transportation and public services.

According to the 2018-2021 Community Health Needs Survey completed by Allied Services, Scranton is a designated Medically Underserved Area. The survey's Social Determinants of Health Indicators show Scranton zip codes as having the highest Community Need Index scores in the county, with high levels of

households in poverty, without high school diplomas, and lacking health insurance. In a separate "State of American Well-Being" report from 2017, the Scranton area ranked in the bottom third of metro areas in physical well-being, with most residents saying they did not have good health or enough energy to get things done daily.

Seventeen percent of Scranton population is 65 and older. Time and tree roots have upended the many century-old slate sidewalks, so that many elderly, as well as wheelchair and stroller users, traverse on the streets instead of sidewalks, trading one hazard for another. There are virtually no bike lanes within city limits.

The Scranton School District needs better walking and biking infrastructure to reduce its busing contracts. With the district deeply in debt and under a state-organized recovery plan, new social distancing requirements will limit 72-passenger buses to only 12 riders. Every dollar going into busing is one not going into the classroom. Considering that largest high school connects directly to the Lackawanna River trail, safe bike routes to the trail could potentially grow student bike use significantly.

#### The Benefits

Within this picture of need there is great potential for benefits an Active Transportation Plan could provide. These include:

- Reduced risk prevalence due to heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, depression, and social isolation.
   Several studies of neighborhood walkability associate it with better population health, both mental and physical. Starting community lifestyle changes can begin a virtuous cycle of healthy attitudes and behaviors.
- Improved health savings and productivity. Even small declines in population risk prevalence can results in millions of dollars of health savings and productivity gains in a community.
- Greater environmental benefits. Increased neighborhood walkability and bike-ability decreases
  greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle-related air pollution. As Scranton was once a national
  center of coal production, moving to active transportation changes the narrative about local
  government stewardship in today's world.
- Coordinated pursuit of grants for programs and infrastructure to improve the quality of life for the greatest number of people. An Active Transportation Plan could also identify modifications in existing programs, such as Beautiful Blocks, to incentivize private sidewalk repair.
- Stronger grant applications for walking, biking, and public transportation infrastructure. State funders like the Department for Community and Economic Development prioritize applications that fit within a community's defined plan.
- Identifying organizations that, with assistance, could potentially expand the number of bikers, walkers, and public transportation riders. For instance, Lackawanna Heritage Valley that runs a free bike share program that could potentially offer power-assisted bikes for those navigating Scranton's hilly neighborhoods.
- Improved public budgets, as travelers move to transportation options that require less
  maintenance and repair than roads. Greater support of students biking to school would allow
  the Scranton School District to spend less on busing contracts. Greater walkability can mean
  high property assessments. One popular study showed that each Walk Score point was worth up
  to \$3,000 in home values after controlling for other factors.

A diverse range of people would benefit from improving active transportation options in Scranton. Of its 76,653 residents, 73% are White Non-Hispanic, 14% are Hispanic, 6% are Black, and 5% are Asian. Over 10% of Scranton's residents are foreign-born, a three-fold increase since 2000. Studies have shown that foreign-born residents eat healthier than their American-born counterparts, and in Scranton, anecdotally, they also seem more inclined to walk and shop in local neighborhood stores.

#### Expected infrastructure changes

Scranton's Active Transportation Plan will enhance the built environment to increase opportunities for physical activity through various ways:

- Developed bike lanes. Expand upon an existing draft downtown biking plan by Barry Isett &
  Associates to include primary bike routes from neighborhoods to the downtown, particularly the
  bus transit center, Lackawanna River trail, business district, and schools. Identify appropriate
  bike lane options, including striped, buffered, and protected bike lanes, as well as sharrows,
  where bikes and cars share a marked road.
- Repaired sidewalks. Encouraging large non-profit entities, like Scranton's five colleges and universities, and hospital systems, to invest in sidewalk repair for adjacent blocks and properties. Incentivize private repair of sidewalks.
- Prioritized public investment in active transportation options for key routes to school, parks, employment centers, and business districts. Bundle sidewalk repair, bike lane construction, and improved bus shelters for multi-modal grants available from the state.
- Developed key connection nodes. Key destinations for walkers, bikers, and public transportation include:
  - Bus transit center
  - o Lackawanna River trail
  - o Nay Aug Park
  - o Historic Iron Furnaces
  - o Business parks and neighborhood business districts
  - o Schools
  - o Three neighborhoods adjacent to the downtown:
    - South Scranton, where neighborhood revitalization efforts are ongoing
    - West Scranton, where planners have drafted a 10-year revitalization plan that includes biking, walking, housing and place-making improvements.
    - Pine Brook, where planning efforts for revitalization are just underway.
  - Scranton Lace Factory, a massive former industrial complex being converted into mixeduse residential complex.

#### Community Input

Community input for the active transportation will be obtained in the following ways:

1. Convene two city-wide community forums. The first forum featuring city leaders will lay out the plan vision and gather public input. The second forum will gather feedback on the draft Active Transportation Plan.

- 2. Collect input at five neighborhood level meetings. Conduct presentations at three neighborhood associations. Facilitate discussions in two neighborhoods currently undergoing revitalization planning efforts (West Scranton and Pine Brook).
- 3. Conduct 15 stakeholder interviews from government, non-profit, private, and community leaders, including those involved with biking, trails, public transportation, senior centers, neighborhood groups, parks, employment, and public services.

Broad description of major tasks and estimated duration of each task leading to the accomplishment of the proposed plan within the grant period ending September 2021;

Presumably need assistance from Jeff Speck

Examples of data to be collected;

Presumably need assistance from Jeff Speck

Proposal support

See attached letters of support from:

- Scranton City Council: Draft resolution expected to be adopted on July 8.
- Center for the Living City
- Scranton School District (to be obtained)



#### **DEPARTMENT OF LAW**

CITY HALL • 340 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE • SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503 • PHONE: 570-348-4105 • FAX: 570-348-4263

June 23, 2020

To the Honorable Council Of the City of Scranton Municipal Building Scranton, PA 18503

Dear Honorable Council Members:

ATTACHED IS A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ACTING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, IN AN AMOUNT OF UP TO \$20,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS "ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN," AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AND TO UTILIZE THE GRANT FOR SUCH PROJECT.

Respectfully,

Lessica L. Eskra, Esquire

City Solicitor

JLE/sl

RECEIVED
JUN 2 4 2020

OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO	
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2020

RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE SUBMISSION AND EXECUTION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE MAYOR'S INNOVATION PROJECT - HEALTHY BABIES, BRIGHT FUTURES, BRIGHT CITIES FOR A GRANT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS "SCRANTON PLAYGROUND PALS: KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE & HEALTHY", AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00 AWARDED BY THE MAYOR'S INNOVATION PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the City of Scranton, through the Office of Economic and Community

Development and Department of Parks and Recreation, submitted a grant application

through the Mayor's Innovation Project – Healthy Babies, Bright Futures, Bright Cities for a

Grant, for sanitization equipment for City playground equipment entitled, "Scranton

Playground Pals: Keeping Our Kids Safe & Healthy. A copy of such "Grant Application"

details are attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein as if set forth at length;

and

WHEREAS, the City of Scranton intends herein to ratify and approve the submission and execution of the Grant Application; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Innovation Project awarded a Grant to the City of Scranton in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the "Project", details are attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and incorporated herein as if set forth at length; and

WHEREAS, the City of Scranton authorizes the execution of the Grant and the acceptance, disbursement, and utilization of the Grant for the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON that the submission and execution of the "Grant" Application is hereby ratified, the Mayor and other appropriate City Officials are hereby authorized to enter into and execute and submit any additional related paperwork for this "Grant", and to accept the grant funds to be used for the "Project" as attached hereto. This approval anticipates and authorizes the execution of any and all related documentation necessary for the "Grant" or to accept, disburse, and utilize the "Grant" for the "Project."

SECTION 1. If any section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decisions shall not affect any other section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution so long as it remains legally enforceable minus the invalid portion. The City reserves the right to amend this Resolution or any portion thereof from time to time as it shall deed advisable in the best interest of the promotion of the purposes and intent of this Resolution, and the effective administration thereof.

**SECTION 2.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon approval.

SECTION 3. This Resolution is enacted by the Council of the City of Scranton under the authority of the Act of the Legislature, April 13, 1972, Act No. 62, known as the "Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law", and any other applicable law arising under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania.

#### **Legislative Cover Sheet - Scranton City Council**

LEGISLATION RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE SUBMISSION AND EXECUTION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE MAYOR'S INNOVATION PROJECT - HEALTHY BABIES, BRIGHT FUTURES, BRIGHT CITIES FOR A GRANT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS " SCRANTON PLAYGROUND PALS: KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE & HEALTHY", AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00 AWARDED BY THE MAYOR'S INNOVATION PROJECT.

## What Department is this legislation originating from? Where did the initiative for this legislation originate?

OECD originated the legislation as part of the City of Scranton's process of administering grants. Mayor Cognetti was made aware of this grant opportunity through her connection with the Mayor's Innovation Project.

#### Summary and Facts of the legislation

The Mayor's Innovation Project grant supports city efforts to improve children's health and reduce health disparities through small innovations. Examples include ensuring public play spaces use non-toxic cleaners; improving equitable access to active transportation; and public education campaigns around healthy housing. The City submitted a grant proposal that requests funding for playground sanitization equipment.

City Council's Resolution will ratify and authorize execution of documents relevant to the application and acceptance of the \$5,000.00 award.

#### Purpose – please include the following in the explanation:

### What does the legislation do-what are the specific goals/tasks the legislation seek to accomplish

The legislation authorizes city officials to execute necessary documents to secure the funds for the project which will add value to the community especially in the time of Covid-19.

#### What are the benefits of doing this/Down-side of doing this?

Benefit - Facilitating the use of this grant money enables Parks and Recreation to purchase specialty sanitization equipment for the City's playground equipment.

Downside - None. No City match was needed for this grant.

## How does this legislation relate to the City's Vision/Mission/Priorities?

The public health and well-being of our residents, especially our children, is paramount.

#### Financial Impact - please include the following in the explanation:

**Cost (initial and ongoing)** - \$5,000.00 will allow for the purchase of the equipment and sanitization solution needed.

**Benefits** – It will allow the City to collect data regarding usage so that it can be included in next year's budget.

Funding Sources – Mayor's Innovation Project Grant

**Priority Status/Deadlines** – Medium – Upon approval of this grant, the City will be able to execute the appropriate grant agreements to be funded so the project can move forward.

#### Why should the Council unanimously support this legislation?

This grant provides an opportunity to fund much needed sanitization equipment, especially in the time of Covid-19, without having to use local taxpayer funds at this time.

Include any other pertinent details and/or relevant information that the Council should be aware of:

Continued collaboration within City government on all levels to seek grants that benefit our residents should be a prioritization.



Via Email Only (knspear@mayorsinnovation.org)

June 1, 2020

Katya Spear Co-Managing Director Mayor's Innovation Project

RE:

Mayor's Innovation Project

Healthy Babies, Bright Futures, Bright Cities

Scranton Playground Pals: Keeping Our Kids Safe & Healthy

Dear Ms. Spear,

The City of Scranton is pleased to present this proposal for your review. We look forward to partnering with the Mayor's Innovation Project, Healthy Babies-Bright Futures-Bright Cities to create and implement a safe and healthy playground initiative called Scranton Playground PalsI for the City of Scranton. Scranton has a population of 77,182 residents, 21% of this population being children under the age of 18. We believe that all children in Scranton should have access to safe places to play and programming that highlights positive physical well-being.

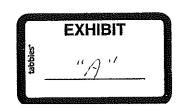
The City of Scranton is in the process of assessing and revitalizing City parks. We believe that a program that provides attention to public health and physical well-being of the City's children will not only provide the necessary tools to make playgrounds safe during the Covid-19 pandemic, but provide a mechanism to "create a less toxic future that is safer for children's health" on multiple fronts and for long term success. Additionally, we believe that this program will be the catalyst for larger parks revitalization by showing residents that investing in our parks is important for ALL ages. Our proposal requests \$7,785.90, in funding to purchase and develop this initiative for Scranton's children.

Data shows that families and children living in poverty often rely on local parks for entertainment and recreation as many impoverished children do not have their own yards, playground equipment, and often do not go on family vacations due to limited income. Scranton believes that ALL children should have access to play areas that are safe, promote positive, physical well-being, and are fun and attractive to families, daycares, and children.

We appreciate the Mayor's Innovation Project for providing an opportunity to help our City develop an initiative that will benefit all Scranton children, especially our most vulnerable and marginalized, and perhaps provide a template for other Cities to implement similar initiatives. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (570) 348-4101, if you require any further information or have any questions concerning this proposal.

Thank you,

Paige Gebhardt-Cognetti Mayor City of Scranton, Pennsylvania



# Scranton Playground Pals! Keeping our Kids Safe & Healthy

Submitted to: The Mayor's Innovation Project

Date: June 1, 2020

Mary-Pat Ward
Deputy Director
City of Scranton Office of Economic and Community Development
mpward@scrantonpa.gov

Brian Fallon
Director
Parks & Recreation
bfallon@scrantonpa.gov

Municipal Building 340 North Washington Avenue Scranton, PA 18503

#### Scranton Playground Pals! Keeping Our Kids Safe & Healthy

#### **Project Abstract**

The City of Scranton, Pennsylvania, is seeking a grant to create and implement our Scranton Playground Pals! Initiative, with the objective of providing safe and healthy access and programming to our City's playgrounds. By having a simple focus to this initiative with room to grow, we are poised to implement this program upon receipt of this grant. Based on census track data, it is clear that many of the children in Scranton live in poverty and thus need access to areas where they can play while being safe and healthy, without creating an additional financial burden on families during this Covid-19 pandemic and beyond. We are ready to deploy our Parks & Reaction Department as well as our Department of Public Works upon approval of this grant with the Office of Economic and Community Development providing administrative assistance for the success of this program. The City will see this as a success when we can deploy staff to regularly clean the playground equipment and oversee the healthy programming initiative by sharing the program with our local families and daycare centers. Funding in the amount of \$7,785.90 is requested to purchase the necessary tools and equipment.

#### Statement of Need

The City of Scranton has a population of 77,182 residents, with 21% of the population being children under the age of 18. Further, data shows that 34.6% of Scranton children under the age of six and 37.3% of Scranton children age's six to eleven live in poverty. The City of Scranton's School District is eligible for a free breakfast and lunch program for ALL students due to the high percentage of students living in in impoverished households.

Recently, additional risks due to COVID-19 regarding children have been reported. On May 26, 2020, Governor Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Health provided information regarding occurrences of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome developing as a new complication of Covid-19. As new developments regarding this pandemic are reported, it is imperative that local governments create programming regarding additional safeguards for children as it pertains to parks and play areas.

#### **Program Description**

The Scranton Playground Pals! Initiative will enable City staff to regularly clean the playground equipment utilizing mobile equipment and a non-toxic sanitization cleaning formula during this Covid-19 pandemic and in the future, so that the City can continuously mitigate any future risks to the public health of children. By purchasing one mobile heavy duty touch free system for deep weekly cleaning and five mobile backpack sanitization units, along with the non-toxic sanitization cleaning formula,

each Parks & Recreation Staff member will be able to clean and sanitize play areas on a daily basis. Additionally, by creating some simple positive physical health initiatives through signage that allows children to be physically active while playing, we hope to create opportunities for families and daycare centers to improve the physical wellbeing of our City's children in local play areas that are safe. The signage will help guide children through a series of physical activities during play that will be fun for all ages and easily adaptable for children that may have disabilities. Through a park "treasure hunt", using easily identifiable animals, shapes, and numbers, children of all ages can take part. Although the signage will be simple enough to participate in without further instruction, the Parks & Recreation Department will also provide a digital guide with printables to the signage program on the City's website for additional activities that promote positive, physical well-being and keep children engaged for many return visits. Data shows that families and children living in poverty often rely on local parks for entertainment and recreation as many impoverished children do not have their own yards, playground equipment, and often do not go on family vacations due to limited income. Scranton believes that ALL children should have access to play areas that are safe, promote positive, physical well-being, and are fun and attractive to families, daycares, and children.

#### **Goals & Objectives**

The goal of the Scranton Playground Pals! Initiative is to enable all City children, and those most marginalized and vulnerable due to poverty, to have access to safe and healthy play areas and programming.

The main objectives include:

- 1. Mitigating additional health risks due to Covid-19 and neuro toxic dangers by regularly cleaning playground equipment.
- 2. Enabling all children, especially those most vulnerable and marginalized due to poverty, access to safe and healthy play areas.
- 3. Providing families and daycare centers access to free local play areas that are safe and create an environment that encourages positive physical well-being.
- 4. Provide a catalyst for larger park revitalization with areas that are safe and create an environment that encourages positive physical well-being for all residents.

# Timeline

Activities	Proposed				
Submit Grant Proposal	June 1, 2020				
Expected Grant Notification	June 15, 2020				
Obtain Tools/Equipment	July – August 2020				
Technical Assistance	Through May 2021				
Complete Funding Spend-down	July 2021				
Final Report	August 2021				

# Budget

The budget

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Sanitization Equipment Touch Free Cleaning System	\$4,050.00	1	\$4,050	
(Hi-Yield Cleaning) Sanitization Backpacks	\$79.95	5	\$399.95	
Non-Toxic Sanitization Formula Disinfectant, Sanitizer,				
and Cleaner (5 gallon)	\$113.78	5	\$568.90	
Signage Large Program Signs (30x36) Medium Activity Signs (18x24) Small Activity Signs (12x18)	\$109.95 \$43.95 \$29.95	9 20 30	\$989.55 \$879.00 \$898.50	
Digital/Paper Guide				
			Total \$7,785.90	

\*Note: Sample pricing

From:

Katya Spear

To:

Mary-Pat Ward

Cc:

Brian Fallon; Kyra Naumoff

Subject:

RE: Mayor"s Innovation Project, Scranton Playground Pals! - Keeping Our Kids Healthy and Safe

Date: Attachments: Monday, June 15, 2020 7:59:05 PM sfe th factsheet disinfectant covid everyone 1.pdf

Good afternoon Mary-Pat,

Thank you for submitting your proposal for the Mayors Innovation Project/Healthy Babies Bright Futures (HBBF) small grant program. We received a number of innovative and exciting proposals, and we are pleased to fund your initiative for \$5,000.

Your proposal was strong and responsive to our RFP. We appreciate that this project aims to meet a critically important need to provide infrastructure for children's physical activity, particularly in communities without access to these resources during the pandemic. We hope that you will utilize the connections and resources through HBBF regarding best practices around non-toxic cleaners, which I've attached to this email.

We will announce grant recipients in a press release next Monday, June 22, via our two networks and national partners. We will share the release with you by June 19 so you can tailor it for your local media. If you require press assistance (traditional and/or social), please let us know.

You can expect funds to be disbursed by August 15. Kyra Naumoff Shields will reach out to you shortly with additional information about grant paperwork, including short reporting and communication requirements.

We are here to support your work. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for technical expertise and/or program material development. We expect to lift up your work and connect you with our resources - including other cities working on similar projects - as your work continues.

Thank you for leading the way to create a healthier future for pregnant women and babies!

Best,

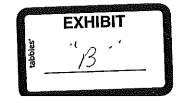
Katya Spear & Ceri Jenkins Co-Managing Directors, Mayors Innovation Project

Kyra Naumoff Shields
Bright Cities Program Director at Healthy Babies Bright Futures

From: Mary-Pat Ward <mpward@scrantonpa.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2020 4:48 PM **To:** Katya Spear <knspear@cows.org>

Cc: bfallon@scrantonpa.gov



Subject: Mayor's Innovation Project, Scranton Playground Pals! - Keeping Our Kids Healthy and Safe

Good evening,

Attached please find the City of Scranton's Proposal for the Mayor's Innovation Project: Scranton Playground Pals! – Keeping Our Kids Safe & Healthy.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Mary-Pat Ward
City of Scranton Office of Economic and Community Development
Municipal Building
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503
(570) 348-4216
www.scrantonpa.gov

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#### **DEPARTMENT OF LAW**

CITY HALL • 340 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE • SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503 • PHONE: 570-348-4105 • FAX: 570-348-4263

June 23, 2020

To the Honorable Council Of the City of Scranton Municipal Building Scranton, PA 18503

Dear Honorable Council Members:

ATTACHED IS A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE SUBMISSION AND EXECUTION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE MAYOR'S INNOVATION PROJECT - HEALTHY BABIES, BRIGHT FUTURES, BRIGHT CITIES FOR A GRANT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS " SCRANTON PLAYGROUND PALS: KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE & HEALTHY", AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00 AWARDED BY THE MAYOR'S INNOVATION PROJECT.

Respectfully,

Cessica Eskra (8)
Jessica L. Eskra, Esquire

City Solicitor

ILE/sl

JUN 2 4 2020

RECEIVE

OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

#### RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2020

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM (RACP) THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO MILLION (\$2,000,000.000) DOLLARS; ACCEPTING AND DISBURSING THE GRANT IF THE APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL; AND COORDINATE THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH "LACE BUILDING AFFILIATES, LP", FOR THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED THE "SCRANTON LACE ADAPTIVE USE PROJECT".

WHEREAS, the City of Scranton, in coordination with "LACE BUILDING AFFILIATES", of 1380 Mt. Cobb Road, Lake Ariel, PA 18436, is desirous of obtaining funds from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Office of the Budget in the amount of Two Million \$2,000,000.00 Dollars for the prevention and elimination of blight through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). These funds are in addition to the \$4,500,000.00 that was approved by Scranton City Council under Resolution No. 3, 2011 to Lace Building Affiliates, LP for the Scranton Lace Complex Redevelopment Project; and

WHEREAS, a blighting influence continues to exist at the area of the project which is located at 1315 Meylert Avenue Scranton, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be used in conjunction with the \$4,500,000.00 from the Scranton Lace Complex Redevelopment project in order to expand said project and for the redevelopment of multiple properties located at the Scranton Lace Complex at 1315 Meylert Avenue Scranton, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the City will partner with "LACE BUILDING AFFILIATES LP", as the applicant for the grant funds from Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Office of the Budget and disburse the funds to the City to fund the Project; and

WHEREAS, the City will reimburse the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Office of the Budget for any expenditures found by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Office of the Budget to be ineligible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON that the Mayor and other appropriate City Officials are hereby authorized to apply for, execute and submit a grant application to the Pennsylvania Office of the Budget for the

Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP); substantially in the form attached hereto, and if successful, to accept the grant funds to be used for the Project as detailed in the grant application. This approval anticipates the execution of any and all related documentation which may be necessary to complete the grant application, including but not limited to the grant application.

SECTION 1. If any section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect any other section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution so long as it remains legally enforceable minus the invalid portion. The City reserves the right to amend this Resolution or any portion thereof from time to time as it shall deem advisable in the best interests of the promotion of the purposes and intent of this Resolution and the effective administration thereof.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon approval.

SECTION 3. This Resolution is enacted by the Council of the City of Scranton under the authority of the Act of Legislature, April 13, 1972, Act No. 62, known as the "Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law", and any other applicable law arising under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania.

#### Legislative Cover Sheet - Scranton City Council

Legislation authorizing the City of Scranton's acceptance of a grant from Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) for the Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program (RACP) in the amount of \$2,000,000 for the Scranton Lace Adaptive Re-use Project to include administrative execution of all related documents.

What Department is this legislation originating from? Where did the initiative for this legislation originate?

OECD originated the legislation as part of the City of Scranton's process of administering grants awarded by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program (RACP) through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of the Budget's (OB) and Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED). RACP provides funds for or the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational, and historical improvement projects.

# Summary and Facts of the legislation

Lace Building Affiliates pre-applied and was awarded an additional \$2,000,000 RACP grant for the Laceworks Project located at 1315 Meylert Avenue (Scranton Lace Complex) to redevelop multiple properties and eliminate blight. These funds are in additional to the \$4,500,000 that was approved by Scranton City Council in 2011. Matching private funds will be provided by the sub-grantee as required. With the support of DCED, Lace Building Affiliates plans to combine the two RACP awards to complete a major portion of the project while streamlining grant administration.

City Council's Resolution authorizing the execution of documents relevant to the application and acceptance of the \$2,000,000 award which includes a Grantee Agreement or an Amendment to a previously executed agreement with (CFA), a Cooperation Agreement or an Amendment to a previously executed agreement with the named Sub-Grantee (s), and other grant-related documentation as required by CFA and City Administration.

A Local Share Account (LSA) Grant for \$140,000 for abatement of a portion hazardous material was previously awarded through the City. That work was successfully completed and the grant was closed during the course of this project.

### Purpose – please include the following in the explanation:

# What does the legislation do-what are the specific goals/tasks the legislation seek to accomplish

The legislation authorizes city officials to execute necessary documents to secure the RACP funds for a project that, upon completion, adds significant value to the community. Lace Building Affiliates has completed a challenging demolition of blighted structures, and the project is now in a rebuilding stage.

# What are the benefits of doing this/Down-side of doing this?

Benefit - Facilitating the use of this additional grant money enables Lace Building Affiliates to stabilize, reconstruct, and modernize the remaining structures while maintaining their overall form and industrial character. Upon completion the Complex will provide additional diverse housing options and neighborhood commercial retail opportunity. The project creates both temporary construction and permanent jobs, and energizes the community. It also creates new tax revenue opportunity for the City.

Downside - The downside of this project is limited. It will require future City attention to streetscape, road maintenance, and public safety. All are for good purposes.

How does this legislation relate to the City's Vision/Mission/Priorities?

Blight removal, neighborhood revitalization, and job creation are all prioritized within current City plans.

Financial Impact - please include the following in the explanation:

Cost (initial and ongoing) - \$2,000,000 utilizing awarded PA RACP funds in addition to the \$4,500,000, 2011 award, equally matched by private funding.

Benefits - Facilitates business and creates a taxable job and potentially taxable business income

Funding Sources - Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) Grant

*Priority Status/Deadlines* – High - OECD must provide an Authorizing Municipal Resolution supporting the project together with a final application for funding the current \$2 million grant and combing it with the existing \$4.5 million grant.

Why should the Council unanimously support this legislation?

The project remediates blight, addresses environmental concerns, and brings new opportunity for business and housing options to the North Scranton neighborhood. Over \$5,000,000 in private and public funds have already been invested in this project that addresses a 10.3 acre site

Include any other pertinent details and/or relevant information that the Council should be aware of:

Lace Building Affiliates, LP is the sub-grantee and the Partner/Lead Developer is Donald J. Rinaldi who has successfully served in this capacity for completed RACP projects in the City.

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#### **DEPARTMENT OF LAW**

CITY HALL • 340 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE • SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503 • PHONE: 570-348-4105 • FAX: 570-348-4263

June 23, 2020

To the Honorable Council Of the City of Scranton Municipal Building Scranton, PA 18503 RECEIVED

Dear Honorable Council Members:

OFFICE OF CITY COUNCILICITY CLERK

ATTACHED IS A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM (RACP) THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO MILLION (\$2,000,000.00) DOLLARS; ACCEPTING AND DISBURSING THE GRANT IF THE APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL; AND COORDINATE THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH "LACE BUILDING AFFILIATES, LP", FOR THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED THE "SCRANTON LACE ADAPTIVE USE PROJECT".

Respectfully,

Jessica L. Eskra, Esquire

City Solicitor

JLE/sl

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_

2020

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT A GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM (RACP) THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND (\$250,000,00) DOLLARS; AND COORDINATE THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH "SCRANTON-CHERRY, L.P. OR THEIR DESIGNEE", FOR THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED THE "SCRANTON COUNSELING CENTER PROJECT".

WHEREAS, the City of Scranton, in coordination with "SCRANTON-CHERRY, L.P. OR THEIR DESIGNEE", 2030 Tilghman Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 18104, is desirous of obtaining funds from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Office of the Budget in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand \$250,000.00 Dollars for the prevention and elimination of blight through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). These funds are in addition to \$2,000,000.00 that was approved by Scranton City Council under Resolution #189-2017; \$1,000,000.00 that was approved by Scranton City Council under Resolution #5-2018 and \$1,000,000.00 that was approved by Scranton City Council under Resolution #57-2018 to SCRANTON-CHERRY, L.P., OR THEIR DESIGNEE, for the Scranton Counseling Center Project;

WHEREAS, a blighting influence continues to exist at the area of the project which is located at 329 Cherry Street Scranton, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be used in conjunction with the funds previously awarded set forth above for the redevelopment of the property located at 329 Cherry Street Scranton,

Pennsylvania for the Scranton Counseling Center Project; and

WHEREAS, the City will partner with SCRANTON-CHERRY, L.P., OR THEIR

DESIGNEE, AS RECEIPENT for the grant funds from Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's

Office of the Budget and disburse the funds to the City to fund the Project; and

WHEREAS, the City will reimburse the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Office of the Budget for any expenditures found by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Office of the Budget to be ineligible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON that the Mayor and other appropriate City Officials are hereby authorized to

accept the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP); substantially in the form attached hereto. This approval anticipates the execution of any and all related documentation which may be necessary to complete the grant application, including but not limited to the grant application.

SECTION 1. If any section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect any other section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution so long as it remains legally enforceable minus the invalid portion. The City reserves the right to amend this Resolution or any portion thereof from time to time as it shall deem advisable in the best interests of the promotion of the purposes and intent of this Resolution and the effective administration thereof.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon approval.

SECTION 3. This Resolution is enacted by the Council of the City of Scranton under the authority of the Act of Legislature, April 13, 1972, Act No. 62, known as the "Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law", and any other applicable law arising under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania.

#### Legislative Cover Sheet - Scranton City Council

Legislation authorizing the City of Scranton's acceptance of a grant for the Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program (RACP) through Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of Budget in the amount of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$250,000) dollars for the "Scranton Counseling Center Project" including administrative execution of all related documents.

What Department is this legislation originating from? Where did the initiative for this legislation originate?

OECD originated the legislation as part of the City of Scranton's process of administering grants awarded by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program (RACP) through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of the Budget's (OB) and Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED). RACP provides funds for or the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational, and historical improvement projects.

#### Summary and Facts of the legislation

Scranton-Cherry, LP, or their designee, requested and was awarded an additional \$250,000 RACP grant from the CFA for The Scranton Counseling Center Project located at 329 Cherry Street to redevelop the existing property and eliminate blight. The \$250,000.00 award is in addition to previously approved funding by Scranton City Council including a \$2,000,000 award (Resolution 57 - 2018); \$1,000,000 award (Resolution 57 - 2018); and \$1,000,000 award (Resolution 189 - 2017). Matching private funds will be provided by the subgrantee as required.

City Council's Resolution authorizing the execution of documents relevant to the application and acceptance of the \$250,000 award which includes a Grantee Agreement or an Amendment to a previously executed agreement with (CFA), a Cooperation Agreement or an Amendment to a previously executed agreement with the named Sub-Grantee (s), and other grant-related documentation as required by CFA and City Administration.

# Purpose – please include the following in the explanation:

# What does the legislation do-what are the specific goals/tasks the legislation seek to accomplish

This legislation authorizes city officials to execute necessary documents to secure the RACP funds for a project that, upon completion, adds significant value to the community. The project will serve to refurbish the Cherry Street building and relocate the Scranton Counseling Center from its current Adams Avenue location to the Cherry Street location which will be better suited to assist clients. The Scranton Counseling Center has served the needs of area children, adolescents, adults, and elderly for integrated community behavioral health care since 1947.

#### What are the benefits of doing this/Down-side of doing this?

Benefit - Facilitating the use of this additional grant money enables Scranton-Cherry, LP or their designee to rehabilitate for re-use an existing structure(s) while maintaining the general character of the surrounding community. City/area residents served by the Center will find easier facility access, complete handicap access, on-site parking, onsite passenger loading and unloading, and the availability of off—street bus service.

A separate future project is planned to transform the current Scranton Counseling Center building on Adams Avenue into, at minimum, commercial retail space to continue the downtown

revitalization effort.

Downside – From an economic perspective, failure to pass this resolution and accept RACP funding would cause the developer to seek replacement funding for the project and could potentially impact the viability of the project.

#### How does this legislation relate to the City's Vision/Mission/Priorities?

Blight removal, downtown revitalization, and proliferation of delivering human services to residents are all prioritized within current City plans.

Financial Impact - please include the following in the explanation:

**Cost (initial and ongoing)** - \$250,000 utilizing awarded PA RACP grant funds in addition to the \$4,000,000, previously awarded RACP grants, equally matched by private funding.

Benefits – Project restores blighted property on Cherry Street, provides an outlet for improved human behavioral health service, and an opportunity to restore and repurpose/harmonize downtown real estate.

Funding Sources - Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) Grant

*Priority Status/Deadlines* – High - OECD must provide an Authorizing Municipal Resolution supporting the project.

Why should the Council unanimously support this legislation?

The project continues the positive trend of reclaiming abandoned/underutilized real estate in the City, remediates a bighted circumstance in South Scranton, and allows for the development of downtown property to advance revitalization efforts.

Include any other pertinent details and/or relevant information that the Council should be aware of:

Scranton-Cherry, LP is the sub-grantee and the Partner/Lead Developer is Charles Jefferson of Jefferson-Werner LLC, Allentown, PA, who, through various entities, has successfully served in this capacity for completed RACP projects in the City.

This project has been approved to receive an additional \$250,000. The Office of the Budget (OB) will not be requiring the submission of a formal application and business plan for these additional funds.



#### **DEPARTMENT OF LAW**

CITY HALL • 340 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE • SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503 • PHONE: 570-348-4105 • FAX: 570-348-4263

June 23, 2020

To the Honorable Council Of the City of Scranton Municipal Building Scranton, PA 18503

Dear Honorable Council Members:

ATTACHED IS A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT A GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM (RACP) THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND (\$250,000.00) DOLLARS; AND COORDINATE THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH "SCRANTON-CHERRY, L.P. OR THEIR DESIGNEE", FOR THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED THE "SCRANTON COUNSELING CENTER PROJECT".

Respectfully,

Kussica Enskra (1) Jessica L. Eskra, Esquire

City Solicitor

JLE/sl

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

#### RESOLUTION NO.

2020

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE AWARD OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE WILLARY FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY TO EVALUATE TAX POLICY, BILLING, AND COLLECTIONS WITH THE GOAL OF INCREASING COLLECTION RATES, STRENGTHENING INTERNAL CONTROLS, ELIMINATING WASTE AND PROVIDING TAX RELIEF FOR SCRANTON RESIDENTS.

WHEREAS, the City of Scranton made application for funds from the Willary

Foundation to be used to enlist the services of a firm to provide an evaluation of the tax policy,

billing, and collection structure of the City; and

WHEREAS, it is important that this evaluation is undertaken by an independent, qualified firm with experience working with a range of municipalities and government entities; and

WHEREAS, it is intended that this review would allow the City to be more efficient and effective in the processing and collection of taxes, and ultimately improve economic growth and increase fairness for City taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Willary Foundation has chosen to award the City of Scranton \$50,000 for the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON that the Mayor and other appropriate City officials are authorized to accept the grant funds from the Willary Foundation in the amount of \$50,000.00 to increase collection rates, strengthen internal controls, eliminate waste and provide tax relief for Scranton residents and enhance the City's economic growth/development prospects and to execute any and all documents necessary to receive said grant funding into the City.

SECTION 1. If any section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect any other section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution so long as it remains legally enforceable minus the invalid portion. The City reserves the right to amend this Resolution or any portion thereof from time to time as it shall deem advisable in the best interests of the promotion of the purposes and intend of this Resolution and the effective administration thereof.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon approval

SECTION 3. This Resolution is enacted by the Council of the City of Scranton under the authority of the Act of Legislature, April 13, 1972, Act No. 62, known as the "Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law", and any other applicable law arising under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania.



June 11, 2020

Ms. Rebecca McMullen City of Scranton 340 North Washington Avenue Scranton, PA 18503

Dear Rebecca:

We congratulate you on the acceptance of your grant application.

The Board of Directors of The Willary Foundation (the "Foundation") met, and are pleased to award your organization a grant of \$50,000.00. This grant is to be used to increase collection rates, strengthen internal controls, eliminate waste and provide tax relief for Scranton residents and enhance the City's economic growth/development prospects. If this is no longer possible, however, the proceeds of the grant should be returned to the Foundation. The funds were transferred to your account via ACH on June 10th. Please contact me if you have not yet received the funds,

Please recognize that this is a one-time award, and not a pledge of continued support in the future.

To assist us in the monitoring of this award, we do ask that you complete an Impact Report through CyberGrants containing a narrative account of what was accomplished by the expenditure of the grant funds and detailed financial accounting of the use of grant funds. This report is due from you one (1) year from the date that you received the grant and prior to submitting subsequent applications to The Willary Foundation. This Impact Report will be made available to you (3) three weeks from the grant award date and a notification will arrive via e-mail to the address associated with your account.

On behalf of the Directors of The Willary Foundation, please know of their best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Spruill

For The Willary Foundation

# City of Scranton City Hall 340 North Washington Avenue Scranton, PA 18503

#### Revenue Cycle Project

#### Purpose of the Project:

The City of Scranton derives revenue from a variety of sources. It collects taxes in the form of Real Estate Tax, Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax, and Wage Tax. The City also charges fees for services provided such as Trash Removal Fees, Inspection Fees, License and Permit Fees. The City, as most municipalities, also receives some revenue from fines and assessments.

The various revenues the City receives are administered from a variety of departmental functions within and outside of the City Administration. This Project endeavors to evaluate the Taxing Policy, Tax Billing Process, and Tax Collection Process for the City of Scranton and provide recommendations for improvements.

#### Background:

The City of Scranton is a City of roughly 77,000 citizens. It is located in Northeastern Pennsylvania and was a very thriving city in and around the late nineteenth and up through the mid twentieth century. It is, and has always been, a great city with outstanding citizens. With the decline of the Anthracite Coal and Garment industries, the City of Scranton fell into difficult economic times. For the past two decades, the City of Scranton has been formally listed as a "Distressed City." Like many cities of the Northeastern part of the United States, Scranton struggles to match its revenues with the cost of producing the services required by the citizens. Towards that end, the City of Scranton has adopted a number of funding sources over decades but has also been at times challenged in litigation and publicly as to the legality of the level and type of taxes, fees and other funding sources. Collection rates are lower than optimal and taxes are onerously high for Scranton's residents and property owners. It is vital for the City of Scranton to evaluate the Taxing Structure and Billing and Collection Processes.

Part of the plan for change is an objective review of the various Revenue Cycle Processes for improvement. The plan is to use an organization that has extensive experience in the review of the Municipal Revenue Processes in other communities both big and small. Going beyond the process, it will be part of the project to review the components of Municipal Revenue to determine if there are effective alternatives.

#### Goal of the Project:

The first goal of the Project is to have an independent, experienced review of the various components of the City's Revenue to recommend potential changes of the type, rate and amount of the Revenue Types. Another goal is to document the current process and provide recommendations for the improvement of the various processes.

#### Proposal:

To evaluate the above-referenced tax structure, City Administration would like to enlist the services of a qualifying firm to provide an evaluation of the tax structure, tax billing, and collection structure of the City.

It is important this evaluation is undertaken by an independent, qualified firm with experience working with a range of municipalities and government entities, as a comprehensive and high-quality review is needed. It is intended that this review would allow the City to be more efficient and effective in the processing of taxes and lead to better collections, more efficient operations, better controls, and more overall fairness to the citizens.



#### DEPARTMENT OF LAW

CITY HALL • 340 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE • SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503 • PHONE: 570-348-4105 • FAX: 570-348-4263

June 23, 2020

To the Honorable Council Of the City of Scranton Municipal Building Scranton, PA 18503

Dear Honorable Council Members:

ATTACHED IS A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE AWARD OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE WILLARY FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY TO EVALUATE TAX POLICY, BILLING, AND COLLECTIONS WITH THE GOAL OF INCREASING COLLECTION RATES, STRENGTHENING INTERNAL CONTROLS, ELIMINATING WASTE AND PROVIDING TAX RELIEF FOR SCRANTON RESIDENTS.

Respectfully,

Jessica L. Eskra, Esquire

City Solicitor

JLE/sl

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

#### RESOLUTION NO.

2020

ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO PASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL ASSISTANCE AND CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO ADOPT THE FUNDING ENHANCEMENTS TO THE FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGES (FMAP) AS PROVIDED IN THE HEROES ACT HR 6800.

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has presented our nation with both an unprecedented public health crisis and an economic crisis; and

WHEREAS, State and local governments have been, and will continue to be, on the forefront of combatting the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, States and cities are left to meet this economic crisis unlike any since the Great Depression—while the COVID-19 pandemic continues, potentially into 2021 and beyond—and face steep revenue shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, The City of Scranton currently anticipates a 2020 Budget shortfall of 6-10 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, Millions of lives have been upended by this pandemic and the concurrent shutdown has devastated economic activity, causing a wave of job losses and ending the longest economic expansion since World War II. May data shows that the U.S. unemployment rate was at 13.3 percent and the Federal Reserve projects sustained high unemployment; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the unemployment rate will average 15 percent during the second and third quarters of 2020, up from less than 4 percent in the first quarter. CBO expects the unemployment rate to decline somewhat but remain at 9.5 percent by the end of 2021 (about 6 percentage points higher than the rate in CBO's economic projection produced in January 2020); and

WHEREAS, Individuals often lose job-based health insurance coverage when they experience job loss. A recent Kaiser Family Foundation analysis shows that by January 2021, when unemployment insurance benefits cease for most people who lost jobs between March 1 and May 2, 2020, nearly 17 million people could be newly eligible for Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, This crescendo of need coincides with a dramatic drop in state revenues. By way of example, Pennsylvania experienced a 49.7% reduction in revenues in April. Help is desperately needed for the Commonwealth to meet its obligations; and

WHEREAS, In times of economic crises, Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) is one of the most useful tools the federal government must provide fiscal relief to states to compensate for revenue losses — while providing much needed health care for the economically displaced. This certainly proved to be the case in 2009 when in response to the Great Recession, Congress passed, and the President signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which enhanced FMAP by 12% for over two years; and

WHEREAS, Earlier this year, a different Congress and President, both recognized the important role FMAP has to play in economic recovery when they passed and signed a 6.2% enhancement into law; and

WHEREAS, A 6.2% enhancement is an important first step toward economic recovery, but insufficient given the challenge confronting our nation; and

WHEREAS, Multiple state groups including the National Governors Association and the National Association of State Medicaid Directors have called for a further increase in the FMAP. The HEROES Act Bill passed by the House of Representatives on May 15, would increase the FMAP to 14 percentage points from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. This increase would mean 3.6 billion dollars to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, This flexible federal funding must be provided to fill immediate budgetary gaps caused by critical revenue losses, while providing much needed health care for millions as our nation waits for a COVID-19 vaccine; and

WHEREAS, Without this funding, state legislatures may be forced to cut funding for our essential utilities, highways, and other revenue-generating public authorities. The nation is entering into one of the most significant economic downturns of the last century at an unprecedented pace. Budget cuts that prevent any investment in infrastructure will jeopardize both near-term supply chain needs and long-term economic stimulus; and

WHEREAS, Budget shortfalls in cities such as Scranton could force city governments to have to make deep cuts and even curtail critical services to residents, and

WHEREAS, The United States has passed federal assistance packages in the form of the CARES ACT but local governments under 500 thousand residents have been left out to date, but are in most need as they provide direct support to citizens and are responsible for public safety in the form of police, fire, public works, code enforcement, and community development; now, therefore be it

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT JOINTLY RESOLVED, BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, that the Mayor and Council do hereby call on United States Senate to adopt the funding enhancements to the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) as provided in the HEROES Act HR 6800; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, To call on the United States Senate to pass a local government fiscal assistance bill of at least \$250 billion for the coming year and that these funds go directly to cities like Scranton so that we may have the funding we need to provide essential services for our residents as this crisis continues to impact our communities and our diminishing budgets; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Office of Senator Robert Casey and the Office of Senator Patrick Toomey to express the legislative sentiments of this elected body and add our voices to this call; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mayor and Council of the City of Scranton encourage residents to lend their voices to this effort by reaching out to these same United States Senators.

SECTION 1. If any section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect any other section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution so long as it remains legally enforceable minus the invalid portion. The City reserves the right to amend this Resolution or any portion thereof from time to time as it shall deem advisable in the best interests of the promotion of the purposes and intent of this Resolution and the effective administration thereof.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon approval.

SECTION 3. This Resolution is enacted by the Council of the City of Scranton under the authority of the Act of the Legislature, April 13, 1972, Act no. 62, known as the "Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law", and any other applicable law arising under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania.