



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Scranton Awarded Grant to Fund Sanitation; Encourages Residents to Visit City Parks

SCRANTON - Healthy Babies Bright Futures (HBBF) and the Mayors Innovation Project announced the winners of their joint grant program and have named Scranton as a \$5,000 winner. The program aims to empower city leaders to improve children's health and reduce health disparities in communities, in particular by supporting efforts that decrease neurotoxic exposures. Cities submitted proposals to respond specifically to needs heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic. From a strong pool of cities ranging from 7,000 to 1.7 million in population, 10 winners were selected to receive not only grants, but also technical assistance and an opportunity to present at a future Mayors Innovation Project meeting. Scranton submitted a proposal to support systematic change, responding specifically to needs heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic

"Response to COVID-19 required significant behavioral changes and adaptations and many will continue to have an influence in the future," said Kyra Naumoff Shields, HBBF's Bright Cities Program Director. "It helps us see that — particularly in a time of crisis — people can change their behavior for a positive community impact. Scranton's planned work will dramatically improve the health of the babies in their city."

The City of Scranton will use the funds to purchase new equipment and non-toxic 175 Athea VANQUISH cleaning solution to clean playgrounds used by childcare centers and families. The City currently uses similar non-toxic cleaning solutions at the parks.

"City parks are so important to our community and our kids. This funding provides us an opportunity to make playgrounds as safe as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Mayor Paige Gebhardt Cognetti.

The City of Scranton also announced the "2020 Parks Passport" to encourage families to visit parks across the City. The book features pictures and fun facts about City Parks and includes stamps to cut and paste after visiting.

The passport is available to pick up at Weston Field and the Dix Court entrance at Scranton City Hall.

The City is encouraging residents to take photos while they visit the parks and tag them on social media with the hashtag #ScrantonParks2020. The Mayor will share resident photos on the Mayor of Scranton social media pages.

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