**RESOLUTION NO. 2019 -**

WHEREAS, by some measures, Pennsylvania’s per-pupil education funding inequity between wealthier and poorer school districts is one of the worst in the United States;

WHEREAS, in 2016, Pennsylvania enacted a Basic Education Funding Formula for the equitable distribution of state funding to local school districts that takes into account district-specific and community factors such as poverty rates, enrollment rates, and tax base (the “Fair Funding Formula”);

WHEREAS, in 2018, less than 10% of Pennsylvania’s total education budget was actually distributed to school districts based on application of the Fair Funding Formula;

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Area School District (BASD) receives approximately $23,000,000 less annually from the state than it would if all its funding was routed through the Fair Funding Formula; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Bethlehem believes that this annual shortfall harms BASD students relative to students from wealthier and less diverse districts and that all students deserve a quality education supported by adequate funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Bethlehem hereby requests the State House and Senate pass legislation in support of the full implementation of the Fair Funding Formula by rerouting all or substantially more state basic education dollars through the formula;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the disparate effects of the "hold harmless" provision of state funding to school districts should be addressed, because the practice perpetuates historic funding inequities between wealthier and poorer school districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the Resolution be sent to elected state officials in the Lehigh Valley asking for support of such measures.

Sponsored by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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ADOPTED by Council this day of , 2019.

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President of Council

ATTEST:

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City Clerk