

# CITY OF BETHLEHEM

## Department of Community and Economic Development

### Interoffice Memo

**TO:** Adam Waldron, President of Council

**FROM:** Alicia Miller Karner, Director of Community & Economic Development

**SUBJECT:** Keystone Grant – Bethlehem Public Library

**DATE:** February 15, 2019

---

Please see the attached resolution regarding the Bethlehem Area Public Library's Keystone Grant request to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The grant application is due April 26, 2019.

The BAPL seeks to install an elevator for library patrons at its South Side Branch, located 400 Webster Street in South Bethlehem. The building was originally built in 1930 and does not include an elevator. A large-scale renovation in 2013 included technology updates, structural upgrades, an improved floor plan with new children's area, computers, and furniture. Today, the library is busier than ever, with a 33% increase in foot traffic since 2014. The program area is located in the basement, accessible only by a narrow staircase. As library programming becomes more popular, the number of people with mobility issue who are turned away increases, prompting the pressing need for an elevator to provide access to all.

Contractors estimate a cost of approximately \$115,000 overall due to the need for excavation, expanded electrical capacity (a new transformer), as well as the cost of the elevator itself and related costs.

The application requires the funds to be awarded to a sponsoring municipality and passed through to the library.

**cc:** Mayor Robert J. Donchez  
City Clerks

Resolution No. 2019 -

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Area Public Library provides library services to the residents of the City of Bethlehem; and

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Area Public Library operates a South Side Branch, located at 400 Webster Street, which has seen a significant increase in foot traffic over the past five years; and

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Area Public Library desires to undertake the installation of an elevator at the South Side Branch to access the program area in the basement of the building; and

WHEREAS, the cost for the elevator installation is estimated at \$115,000; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem and Bethlehem Area Public Library desire to receive a 2019 Keystone Grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education for the purpose of carrying out this project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Bethlehem that:

1. The Mayor and Controller are authorized and directed to execute all application forms necessary to apply for the Keystone Grant that will be passed through the City of Bethlehem to the Bethlehem Area Public Library.
2. The Mayor and Controller are authorized to execute such other agreements and documents as are deemed to be necessary and/or related thereto.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTED by Council this      day of      , 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

ATTEST: