WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bethlehem believes Pennsylvania must position its communities for success in the 21st century by investing more in long-neglected critical infrastructure;

WHEREAS, The cost of deteriorating infrastructure takes a toll on families’ disposable household income and impacts the quality and quantity of jobs in the U.S. economy, including in the City of Bethlehem, and, according to a recent report by the American Society of Civil Engineers, each U.S. household loses approximately $3,400 annually in disposable income due to infrastructure deficiencies;

WHEREAS, Governor Tom Wolf recently announced a major new infrastructure initiative, Restore Pennsylvania, which will invest $4.5 billion over the next four-years in significant, high-impact projects throughout the commonwealth to help move Pennsylvania forward in terms of technology, development, and infrastructure;

WHEREAS, Restore Pennsylvania will enable new environmental projects and new recreational opportunities across the commonwealth, including infrastructure and maintenance in state parks, local water quality improvements on farms, and funding for new hiking, biking and trail projects;

WHEREAS, Restore Pennsylvania will address blight by providing financial resources to local communities to establish land banks and acquire and demolish blighted buildings in order to create new development or green space and will also fund expanded environmental contamination remediation efforts;

WHEREAS, Restore Pennsylvania will provide funding to bridge the digital divide, supporting the installation of infrastructure to bring high-speed internet to communities across the commonwealth;

WHEREAS, Restore Pennsylvania will provide funding for local road and bridge upgrades, create new flexible funding options for businesses that need local infrastructure upgrades to enable development projects, and multimodal and large-scale capital projects for transit;

WHEREAS, Restore Pennsylvania will help to build manufacturing facilities and other downstream businesses while helping businesses and individuals use more of Pennsylvania’s natural gas in their homes, creating jobs, lowering costs, and improving energy efficiency;

WHEREAS, Restore Pennsylvania will provide funding to assist individuals who suffer severe weather-related losses and funding to help communities prepare for flooding and severe weather, upgrade flood walls and levees, replace high-hazard dams, and conduct stream restoration and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, Restore Pennsylvania projects will be driven by local input about local needs, and projects will be evaluated through a competitive process to ensure that high-priority, high-impact projects are funded and needs across Pennsylvania are met.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, hereby urges the Pennsylvania General Assembly to support Restore Pennsylvania; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the Resolution shall be sent to elected state officials in the Lehigh Valley urging them to support Governor Tom Wolf’s Restore Pennsylvania initiative.

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