

CITY OF BETHLEHEM

Department of Community and Economic Development Interoffice Memo

To: J. William Reynolds, City Council President
From: Allyson Lysaght, J.D., Housing and Community Development Planner
Re: Request for Resolution of Support

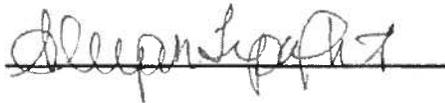
President Reynolds,

Attached to this memo, please find a draft resolution in support of a Keystone Communities grant application through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. We are requesting \$25,000 in planning funds to engage experts in the field of blight remediation to assist us in developing a comprehensive blight mitigation plan for the City.

Quotes provided from contractors so far put costs for these services between \$50,000-\$75,000 and would include conditions assessment, plan implementation and program monitoring phases. We have applied for \$25,000 in CIPP funds through Northampton County for this purpose and we will utilize 2017 CDBG funds to pay for any remaining costs.

As we continue to aggressively blight properties, we realize we need a sustainable plan to try to prevent blight in the first place, but also to examine the ways we can streamline our process in certifying properties as blighted, having a list of qualified entities interested in redeveloping properties and funding this program in the long term. The end result of this planning process should provide our department with all of these tools to keep properties contributing to our neighborhoods.

DATE: October 12, 2016



RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem is desirous of obtaining funds from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development in the amount of \$25,000 to develop a comprehensive blight remediation plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem has prepared a grant application for such funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem will assume the provision of the full local share of project costs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem will reimburse the Commonwealth for the State's share of any expenditures found by DCED to be ineligible;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM:

1. That the grant application for the Keystone Communities Program from the City of Bethlehem to develop a blight remediation plan is hereby approved.
2. That the Mayor and the Controller of the City of Bethlehem is authorized to provide the necessary assurances and certifications to the P.A. Department of Community and Economic Development for the grant execution and implementation.

Sponsored by _____

ADOPTED by Council this day of , 2016.

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk