

CITY OF BETHLEHEM

Department of Community and Economic Development

Interoffice Memo

TO: Adam Waldron, City Council President

FROM: Darlene L. Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning

RE: Certified Local Government Agreement Renewal

DATE: November 26, 2019

Attached is a resolution to support the signing of a Certification Agreement related to the PA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Certified Local Government Program.

Bethlehem has participated in the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program since 1987. The CLG program is a partnership between Bethlehem, the SHPO and the National Park Service (NPS) that promotes and supports holistic historic preservation programs in local communities. Inclusion as a CLG community documents that Bethlehem follows best practices and views preservation as an integral part of its community and economic development programs.

The program guidelines were recently updated by the NPS so the SHPO is asking each municipality to renew its prior agreement at this time.

There are a few requirements to remain in the CLG program in an ongoing basis. For instance, an annual report of our preservation activities must be completed. HARB and HCC members are required to attend annual and ongoing training sessions on historic preservation issues and understanding their role as commission members. In addition, the SHPO's Community Preservation Coordinator will conduct a community assessment every several years to review our preservation policies.

There are also several benefits to being a part of the CLG program. Designation is a mark of distinction that provides participating communities with credibility, as well as access to technical assistance and grant programs. CLG communities receive priority consideration for DCED Keystone Community funding and PHMC Keystone Community grants. In addition, Certified Local Government grants are only available to CLG communities. As a CLG participant Bethlehem is also provided the ability to maintain local review of federal rehab requirements related to most CDBG projects and spending. Local review allows greater flexibility and efficiency for much of the city's CDBG spending.

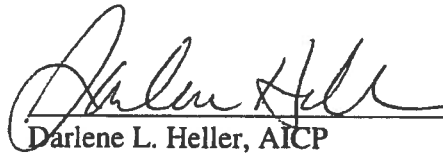
In prior years Bethlehem has used CLG grants to fund the Historic Officer position and to pay for design guidelines for both the HARB and the HCC. The preparation of Bethlehem's Historic Preservation Plan was also funded with historic preservation funds through the SHPO.

We hope that city council is able to support the city's ongoing participation in this program by approving the attached resolution.

Please place this item on the upcoming city council agenda.

CC: Mayor Donchez
City Council members
A. Karner
W. Leeson

DATE: 11-20-19



Darlene L. Heller, AICP
Director of Planning and Zoning

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the history and heritage of the City of Bethlehem are important to our community's identity, culture and uniqueness; and

WHEREAS, historic buildings, sites, landscapes and neighborhoods contribute to economic vitality, sense of place, and quality of life in the City of Bethlehem; and

WHEREAS, Bethlehem has adopted ordinances, policies and programs designed to preserve and enhance these important historic assets; and

WHEREAS, to serve our residents and visitors the City of Bethlehem strives to implement these programs according to best practices and wishes to take advantage of the technical and financial resources to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Local Government program administered by the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office in partnership with the National Park Service will provide the City of Bethlehem with these tools and resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bethlehem that hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute all necessary agreements between the City of Bethlehem and the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office as may be required for participation in the Certified Local Government Program.

Sponsored by _____

ADOPTED by Council this _____ day of _____, 2019.

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk