

**Bethlehem Area
Public Library**

Memo

To: Bethlehem City Council

From: Josh Berk, Executive Director, BAPL

Date: August 10, 2021

Re: Keystone Grant, Bethlehem Area Public Library - 2021

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 October 29, 2021. BAPL seeks \$500,000 in grant funds from this state grant for public library facilities in order to renovate the first floor of the Main Library at 11 W. Church St.

This renovation will include new shelving, carpeting, furniture, and equipment. In addition to making cosmetic improvements, this renovation will allow for a significant functional upgrade of library service. The new lower shelves will help eliminate blind spots and make the library safer. Updated and attractive display shelving will encourage browsing and increase the circulation of library materials. New study areas and seating arrangements will meet 21st century work-from-anywhere needs. The new service desk will be centrally located, allowing for better customer service. A new computer lab will benefit library patrons greatly. It will be a major upgrade to our library.

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

Resolution No. 2021-

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Area Public Library desires to undertake a renovation of the first floor of the Main Library, including new shelving, furniture, and carpet; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem and Bethlehem Area Public Library desire to receive a 2021 Keystone Grant of \$500,000 in grant funds from this state grant for Public Library Facilities from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education for the purpose of carrying out this project; and

WHEREAS, one of the requirements of the grant application package is that if the municipality owns the property, the municipality must ensure the undisturbed use of the facility as a public library for 50 years or the useful life of the project to be funded by the grant, whichever is shorter; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem owns the property in question.

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

1. The facility located at 11 West Church Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and known as the Bethlehem Area Public Library shall be used undisturbed as a public library for 50 years or the useful life of the project to be funded by the grant, whichever is shorter.
2. 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.
3. 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 /s/ _____

 /s/ _____

ADOPTED by Council this day of , 2021

 /s/ _____

President of Council

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
City Clerk