


**CITY OF BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE**

	INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM	
	TO:	Mr. Robert Vidoni
	FROM:	Captain Ben Hackett
	DATE:	01 Nov 2021
	RE:	2021 Local Share Account Northampton & Lehigh Counties

The Police Department is applying to receive up to \$152,438.41 in funding through the 2021 Local Share Account Northampton & Lehigh Counties grant. The grant will fund a project to install license plate reading cameras throughout the City. These devices will increase the rate and speed at which serious and violent crimes are solved.

The license plate readers, or LPR's, consist of high definition cameras designed to take a photograph of all vehicles passing through the focal point. The photographs are then processed via a proprietary computer software. The software compares the license plates captured against a master list of vehicles identified as being sought for a number of predetermined offences. In addition, when it is suspected that an unknown perpetrator of a crime left the scene in a vehicle, a search can be done of all the LPR's in the area and often times the vehicle can be located and the owner identified.

Although crime prevention through apprehension is the primary goal of any LPR system, there are other benefits as well. The ability to locate a particular vehicle in real time has proven to be instrumental in locating lost, missing or abducted persons. The Wind Creek casino (formerly Sands Casino) is frequented by a significant population of senior citizens. Often times when a senior with cognitive degeneration issues becomes confused or lost, their movements in and around the casino can be tracked. When they leave the casino property, however, there is currently no system in place in the City of Bethlehem to aid the police in bringing this beloved senior home safe.

The locations for this project include the area of Daly Ave that encompasses all roads in or out of the Wind Creek casino, the intersection of 3rd St and S New St and the intersection of Union Blvd and Club Ave on the City's border with Allentown. These areas were selected considering a combination of traffic density, ingress/egress from Allentown as well as frequency of use by those involved in casino related incidents.

Bethlehem has found itself significantly behind in the use of advanced technology to augment Police patrol and investigation. This project will begin to put us on par with surrounding jurisdictions and other cities of similar size and crime rates.

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In order to receive and use these funds, the grantor requires a resolution by the controlling entity that formally requests the grant, designates an official to execute all of the documents, a description of the project and the grant amount.

I am requesting that a resolution such as or similar to the proposed resolution included with this correspondence be presented to Council as soon as possible. I am available to answer any questions or attend a Council session if needed to further explain this opportunity.

Thank you for your assistance, and please contact me if you need any further information.

Capt. Ben Hackett

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bethlehem that the Mayor and Controller are hereby authorized to execute the grant award documents for funds to be received under the 2021 Local Share Account Northampton & Lehigh Counties Grant in the amount of up to \$152,438.41. The grant will be used by the City of Bethlehem, under the direction of Chief Michelle Kott and/or her designee, to purchase a stationary license plate reading system consisting of 3 key locations as well as the needed licenses and associated equipment.

Sponsored by: /s/ _____

/s/ _____

ADOPTED by Council this day of , 2021.

/s/ _____

President of Council

ATTEST:

/s/ _____

City Clerk