

RESOLUTION 2023 - _____

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM AND
THE BETHLEHEM HOUSING AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, Bethlehem Housing Authority (“BHA”) is a public body corporate and politic organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and operates as a public housing authority within the City’s corporate limits; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2023, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) issued a Notice of Funding Availability for the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Program (the “Program”) for Fiscal Year 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Program oversees the Planning Grant, which awards funds in an amount up to Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) for the purpose of (i) replacing distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood, (ii) improving outcomes of households living in the target housing related to employment and income, health, and children’s education, and (iii) creating the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good school, and commercial activity, that are important to families’ choices about their communities; and

WHEREAS, BHA’s HUD-approved 5-year Public Housing Authority Plan, Annual Public Housing Plan and Strategic Plan, affirm BHA’s commitment to evaluate all BHA-owned properties for modernization, development, demolition and/or disposition and prioritize as to highest and best use; and

WHEREAS, BHA commits to ongoing public input into any redevelopment plans by soliciting input from residents, advocates, neighborhood groups and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, BHA is an innovative public housing authority, managing or supporting affordable housing for approximately 1,500 households in the City (including housing choice vouchers, public housing, and Tax Credit units); and

WHEREAS, BHA has significant experience in managing resident programs for the development and management of federally assisted housing; and

WHEREAS, the City has significant experience in neighborhood planning and plan implementation with a long history of working with HUD programs such as the CDBG Program, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, and the HOME Program, all of which have helped improve the quality of life for the City; and

WHEREAS, BHA has the experience and the responsibility for planning and implementing the demolition and rehabilitation of public housing units, the renovation of and new construction of public housing units, leveraging funds by collaborating with the City, and utilizing public and private funding sources; and

WHEREAS, the Parties have agreed to establish each of their intentions, roles and responsibilities, and commitment to the development of the Transformation Plan and have agreed to set forth their agreement in this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this ___ day of _____, 2023, that the City Council of the City of Bethlehem approves and ratifies the Memorandum of Understanding attached hereto and that the Mayor and the Controller and/or such other City officials as deemed appropriate by the City Solicitor, are hereby authorized to execute the same on behalf of the City of Bethlehem.

Sponsored by _____

ADOPTED by Council this ___ day of _____, _____

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk