



The Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority
for Harrisburg
922 N. 3rd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

June 3, 2022

Mayor Wanda R.D. Williams
City of Harrisburg
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. City Government Center
10 N. Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mayor Williams:

On Wednesday, May 25, 2022, the Board of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority for Harrisburg discussed your 2022 American Recovery Act Plan (ARPA) Request memo to City Council at its monthly meeting.

As you know, in 2019, the Board adopted a Mission and Priorities Statement, which guides our work in assisting the City of Harrisburg in achieving financial stability:

- Sound financial management and reporting,
- Community and economic development, and
- Operational excellence.

In keeping with these themes, we believe that the \$42.46 million dollars in 2022 American Recovery Act Plan (ARPA) appropriation requests currently recommended by you address needs of city residents and businesses:

- \$14.5 million dollars to Help Those in Need,
- \$10 million dollars for Beautification, Parks and Recreation,
- \$9.16 million dollars for Public Safety, and
- \$8.8 million dollars for Lost Revenue (currently in the 2022 budget).

There is universal agreement supporting these 4 areas of funding. Board members shared observations and suggestions regarding the specific allocations and both Ms. Denisse Hill and Ms. Marita Kelley were there to take note of these. We acknowledge that the specifics in your outline might also change depending on the reactions of City Council.

Correspondence to Mayor Williams re: Mayor's 2022 American Recovery Act Plan (ARPA) Request

Pursuant to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Authorities Act for Cities of the Third Class (Act 124 of 2018), the Authority is tasked to review and make recommendations concerning the budgetary and fiscal affairs of the City of Harrisburg. The following are broad comments made regarding the proposed ARPA request:

- With respect to the *Water Park* concept, we recognize the importance such projects, but there may be concern that so much of the allocation was for one component of spending, although we recognize this is in lieu of repair of several City pools;
- With regard to the *Demolition of Dilapidated and Abandoned Houses* program, we ask that the City explore cooperation with the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA) so that the tipping fees could be reduced for disposal of the waste from the demolition of vacant structures;
- For the *Home Repairs* program, there should be an emphasis on codes related to health, safety, and welfare, and as you develop guidelines, especially the proposal to address aging furnaces and other housing equipment;
- We support the *Affordable Housing* program as it is a wise move and an important initiative for your administration;
- Finally, *Payment of Delinquent Trash Utility Bills* is a good initiative in that it replenishes needed revenue in the Neighborhood Services Fund, but the City should take care that the funding goes to those who need it the most, and does not encourage delinquent ratepayers who could otherwise afford to pay their trash bills.

Finally, we want to commend the administration for engaging professional services from NW Financial Group, LLC, and for hosting four town hall meetings around the city to discuss the wants and needs of our community. We also believe that reserving the remaining \$4.61 million dollars for future programming use and any expenses as it relates to the administration of these funds is a prudent exercise.

We look forward to our future cooperation and communication. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Audry Carter
Chair

c.c. City Council
Authority Members