

Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority for Harrisburg

Minutes of the Governing Board

Regular Meeting

May 25, 2022

Temple University Harrisburg, Strawberry Square, Harrisburg PA

hbgica.org

Members in Attendance	Ms. Audry Carter Mr. Douglas Hill Ms. Karla Hodge Ms. Kathy Speaker MacNett Mr. H. Ralph Vartan	A Quorum Was Recognized
Ex-Officio Members in Attendance	Ms. Marita Kelley, Director of Finance, City of Harrisburg Mr. Mark Ryan, Special Advisor to the Budget Secretary Governor’s Budget Office	
In Attendance	Ms. Anna Marie Sossong Independent Counsel Mr. Jeffrey Stonehill Authority Manager	
Meeting Begins		4:01 p.m.
Welcome by Audry Carter, Chair		
Approval of the minutes of April 27, 2022	Ms. Carter asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve by Ms. Speaker MacNett. A second by Mr. Vartan. The motion passes.	Approved 5-0.
Chair’s Report	Ms. Carter thanked all those attending the meeting. She noted that the Authority emphasizes three themes to advance the financial stability of the City of Harrisburg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound financial management and reporting; • Community and economic development; and • Operational excellence. She went on to introduce Ms. Denisse Hill who serves as both Director of Building & Housing Development &	

	<p>Director of Economic & Community Development for the City of Harrisburg; and added that the Board is excited to hear of her plans for financial vitality and growth for the City.</p>	
<p>COH Economic Development Update</p>	<p>Ms. Hill introduced herself as the Director of Housing & Economic Development.</p> <p>She explained the organization and the different functions of the two departments.</p> <p>Ms. Hill discussed business attraction and retention; including restaurants.</p> <p>Ms. Hill discussed rent, mortgage, and utility assistance; including assistance to homeowners. She also mentioned small business loans and the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) tax abatement program for developers. She mentioned older housing stock, safe, and affordable housing.</p> <p>Ms. Carter asked about partnerships including working with the Harrisburg Regional Chamber & Capital Region Economic Development Corporation (CREDC). She mentioned empty storefronts.</p> <p>Ms. Speaker MacNett asked about the tracking of previous grants for small businesses; and, whether they were successful or not.</p> <p>Mr. Vartan offered suggestions regarding housing supply and LERTA.</p> <p>C. Kim Bracey, Act 47 Coordinator from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, introduced herself to Ms. Hill; and she asked about the organization of economic development responsibilities.</p> <p>Shelia Dow-Ford, Executive Director of Impact Harrisburg, introduced herself to Ms. Hill; and, she asked about the</p>	

	<p>relationship between the administration and her organization.</p> <p>Ms. Speaker MacNett added that she and Anna Marie Sossong, General Counsel, had worked on comprehensive training materials to assist small businesses.</p> <p>Mr. Stonehill mentioned that U.S. Department of Labor has job training grants. He went on to mention the PA Downtown Center and the technical assistance that they will provide to any municipal economic development effort.</p> <p>Ms. Marita Kelley discussed the work of the PA Downtown Center. She went on to discuss the Main Street Grant program at the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.</p> <p>Ms. Carter added that there is a sense of urgency to create new jobs with livable wages.</p>	
<p>Update from Impact Harrisburg</p>	<p>Ms. Carter introduced Ms. Shelia Dow-Ford, Executive Director, Impact Harrisburg. Ms. Ford last attended an ICA Board meeting on January 22, 2020.</p> <p>The mission of Impact Harrisburg is to promote economic development and infrastructure improvements within the City of Harrisburg, which aligns with the priorities of the ICA.</p> <p>She distributed a presentation prepared for stakeholders.</p> <p>Ms. Dow-Ford reviewed the financial distributions approved by Impact Harrisburg. ICA Board member Doug Hill serves as Treasurer for Impact Harrisburg.</p> <p>She went on to discuss the partnership with Capital Region Water for successful infrastructure improvements.</p>	

	<p>She reviewed the Neighborhood Business Stabilization program developed to address the pandemic. They are a trusted advisor to businesses in every neighborhood of the City; including businesses mentorship.</p> <p>The question framed by Ms. Dow-Ford is where does Impact Harrisburg go from here? They are seeking additional funding.</p> <p>Impact Harrisburg is seeking multiple sources of additional funding to continue their mission.</p> <p>Ms. Carter expressed support for Impact Harrisburg.</p> <p>Mr. Hill thanked Ms. Dow-Ford for her presentation and went on to emphasize the diversity of approaches taken by Impact Harrisburg to help the community.</p>	
<p>Comments from Marita Kelley, Director of Finance, City of Harrisburg</p>	<p>Ms. Carter introduced Marita Kelley.</p> <p>Ms. Kelley introduced Timothy Brooks, Budget Manager, Bureau of Financial Manager, City of Harrisburg.</p> <p>Mr. Brooks reviewed his experience.</p> <p>Ms. Carter said that providing support for Marita is a priority for the ICA Board.</p> <p>Ms. Kelley noted that the Mayor would be making a presentation to City Council on June 7 regarding her recommended uses for the American Rescue Plan Act federal funding.</p> <p>Ms. Kelley reviewed some of the broad categories that the Mayor had outlined in correspondence that she transmitted to the City Council. She also reminded the ICA Board of the public meetings that were held in advance of development of the proposed.</p>	

	<p>Ms. Kelley mentioned that they would also introduce a Budget Reallocation on June 7 as well.</p>	
<p>Discussion of the Mayor’s American Rescue Plan Act Recommendations</p>	<p>Ms. Carter reviewed the funding categories from the Mayor’s correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of lost revenue, about 19% • Public safety, about 19% • Parks and recreation, about 21%; and • Helping those in need, about 31%. <p>The Board has had a chance to review the summary document.</p> <p>Ms. Speaker MacNett supports the payment of utilities for those in need. There was not much information. She noted that none of the money was allocated for infrastructure.</p> <p>Ms. Kelley said the second allocation from the Federal government has not yet arrived.</p> <p>Ms. Kelley said public safety money included money for the police HVAC project.</p> <p>Ms. Hodge asked about which houses will be targeted with the funding, and will money be recouped from the sale of blighted properties. Ms. Kelley said they were dilapidated and worthless houses likely owned by the redevelopment authority. Ms. Hodge asked if homeowners would be vetted. Ms. Hill responded.</p> <p>Mr. Hill asked about the approval process. Ms. Kelley said Council could drill down into the details. He added that the responsibilities to run sewer and water laterals is an issue for Impact Harrisburg and Capital Region Water.</p>	<p>Motion to permit the drafting and execution of a letter of support for the Mayor’s American Rescue Plan Act Recommendations; Approved 5-0.</p>

	<p>Mr. Vartan offered some advice about the demolition of derelict properties. He talked about a concept to delegate authority to remediate code issues to a third party such as a church; followed by a lien to repay for the cost of remediation. He also talked about paying outstanding trash charged. Mr. Vartan said that the City should only help outstanding bills for accounts that qualify for assistance. Ms. Kelley discussed qualifications for assistance. Ms. Hodge commented on identifying those in need. Ms. Hill commented on qualifications. Mr. Vartan discussed the concept of a match to reward partial payment of outstanding arrears. In addition, he discussed using ARP funding as matching funds. He discussed using funding for necessary code and safety renovations such as replacing a furnace. Ms. Hill gave some examples.</p> <p>Ms. Carter mentioned that under Parks & Recreation, 80% of that allocation is addressing one project, a swimming pool replaced with a spray park.</p> <p>Mr. Stonehill made a note that there are other grant funds available for water lateral replacement, including lead gooseneck replacements through PennVEST. Ms. Speaker MacNett commented.</p> <p>Ms. Carter said there was a consensus that the Board supported the pots, the general allocation. She said the Mayor was seeking correspondence to transmit to the Mayor in support of her recommendations.</p> <p>A motion to approve by Ms. Hodge. A second by Mr. Hill. The motion passes.</p> <p>Mr. Stonehill will circulate a draft for comments.</p>	
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Authority Manager's Report	Mr. Stonehill presented the bills paid report through May 25, 2022.	
General Counsel Report	<p>Ms. Carter introduced Anna Marie Sossong, who had an announcement to make.</p> <p>Mr. Sossong announced that she was leaving the law firm of Johnson Duffie effective immediately, having accepted an exciting new position in insurance law.</p> <p>She introduced Michael J. Cassidy, who is a partner at Johnson Duffie, a specialist in state, school district, and municipal law, and was an attorney associated with the original proposal to provide General Counsel services to the ICA Board from Johnson Duffie.</p> <p>Mr. Cassidy explained his background.</p> <p>Ms. Carter said Anna Marie was a wonderful representative and appreciated her assistance. The professional services agreement is between the ICA Board and Johnson Duffie, so no additional action is required to make this change.</p>	
Other Business	<p>Mr. Hill noted that he and Mr. Stonehill completed a review of the Directors and Officers Insurance policy. There was no changes in coverage or increase in rates, so the policy is recommended to the Board.</p> <p>A motion to approve by Ms. Speaker MacNett. A second by Mr. Vartan. The motion passes.</p> <p>Mr. Stonehill will execute the check to renew the policy immediately.</p> <p>Mr. Vartan asked about progress on the Mayor's Five-Year Financial Plan. Ms. Kelley responded that they were on schedule. Ms. Carter said that the Board should transmit changes in format to Mr. Stonehill.</p>	<p>Motion to permit the execution of the Directors & Officers Insurance; Approved 5-0.</p>

	Mr. Vartan asked about quarterly reports. He also asked for a collections report for the Neighborhood Collections Fund. There was a discussion about available reports.	
Public Comments	There was none.	
Adjourn meeting at 5:49 p.m.	Motion by Ms. Speaker MacNett. A Second was not required.	Approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeffrey Stonehill

Jeffrey M. Stonehill, Authority Manager

Summary of Bills Paid – Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority for Harrisburg

Report – May 25, 2022

- PA Media Group
Legal Advertisements \$130.09 April 30 2022
- Digital Ocean
Website software licenses \$10.60 May 1, 2022
- Digital Ocean
Web Host \$5.72 May 1, 2022
- Startup Harrisburg
Virtual Office Monthly Subscription \$95.00 May 1, 2022
- Johnson & Duffie
Independent General Counsel \$480.85 May 25, 2022
- MESH PA LLC
Authority Manager \$5,250.00 May 25, 2022

Starting balance: \$134,985.42

Ending balance: \$129,013.16

- Interest earnings Y-T-D \$9.95
- Fees Y-T-D \$0

IMPACT HARRISBURG EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- I. Impact Harrisburg, created by Order of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania in 2014, is charged with addressing the city's economic development and infrastructure needs through the distribution of \$12.3 million in funding set-aside as part of the Harrisburg Strong Plan.
- II. By any measure, the organization has succeeded in its mission, distributing these funds in an impactful fashion over three funding rounds. By providing important funding and through constructive engagement, the organization has facilitated major economic development projects throughout the city.
- III. Provided over \$10 Million to 14 large economic development and infrastructure projects.
- IV. Established a "first in the Commonwealth" program providing grants to 314 small businesses at the start of the pandemic. Program set template for other PA communities.
- V. Developed the Round Three Funding Program, providing grants to 40 small businesses ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000, to be used for capital improvements.
- VI. Staff and Board possess extraordinary depth and breadth of expertise and leadership in government, law, policy, grant development and administration.
- VII. Impact Harrisburg has established an important relationship of trust with the small business community and has become a reliable facilitator of information, advice and resources.
- VIII. Without new funding, Impact Harrisburg will cease operations in June 2022.
- IX. The value of Impact Harrisburg to the City and region is a force multiplier of the dollars invested.
- X. This invaluable resource must be funded, supported, and sustained.

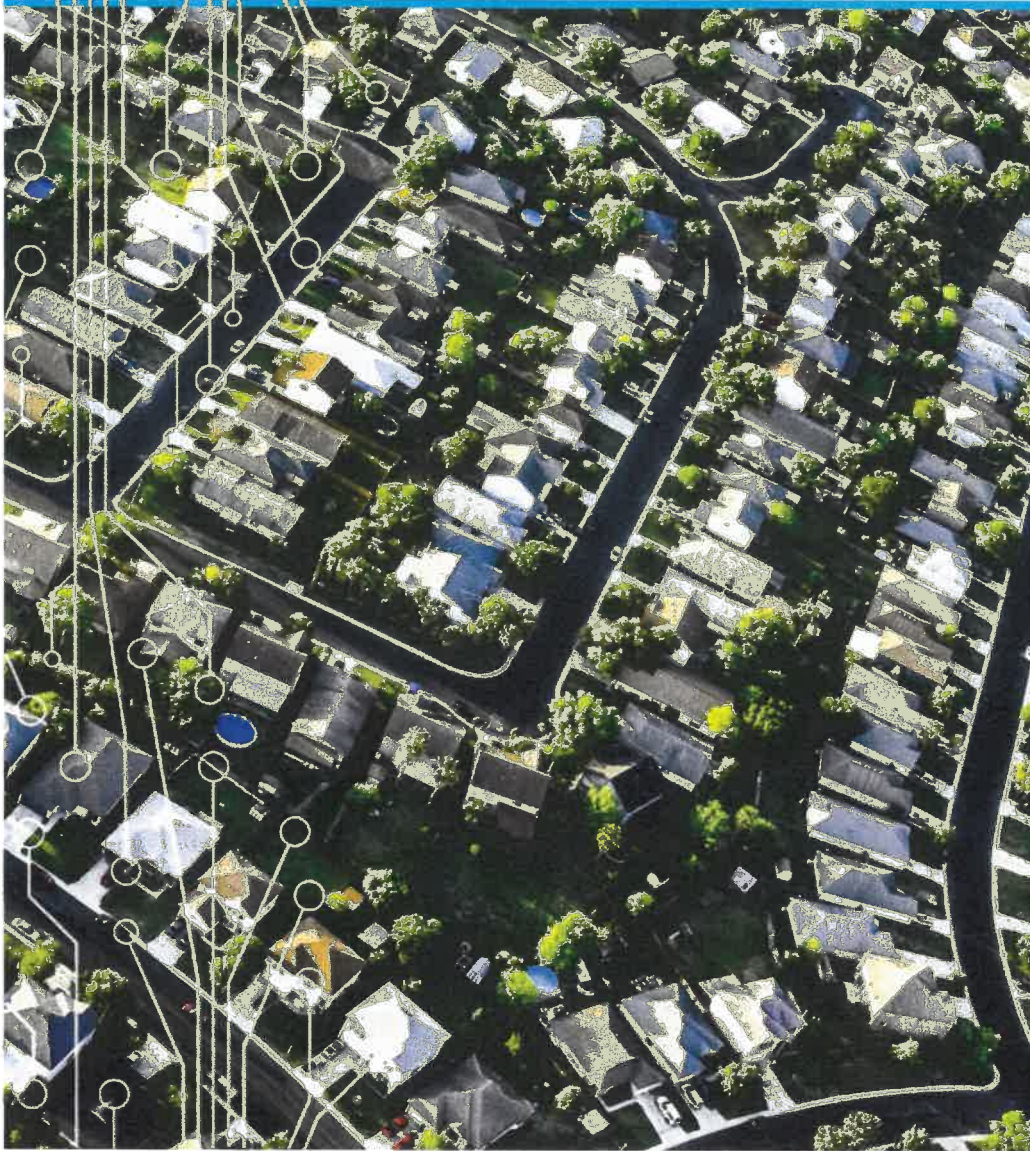
IMPACT HARRISBURG



• **SUMMATION REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS**

OVERVIEW

- **501 (c) 3 private non-profit, 2015**
- **Est'd by Hbg. Strong Plan**
- **\$12.3 M in funding**
- **MISSION: To address City economic development and Infrastructure challenges; to build more diverse community.**



FIVE MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORIES

- **Large Economic Development Project**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Neighborhood Business Stabilization Program**
- **Third-Round Grant Funding Initiative**
- **Disparity Study**

IMPACT HARRISBURG FINANCIALS : A BRIEF OVERVIEW

• FUNDING

- Hbg. Strong Plan**
- Supplemental Fund**
- Pending Litigation**

• ALLOCATIONS

- Projects and Programs**
- Administration**
- Overhead**

IMPACT HARRISBURG FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Administration

Controls

**Repositories,
Reporting and
Audits**

THE PROJECTS- A DEEPER DIVE

Large Eco. Dev't and Community Building



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graph TD; A[Large Eco. Dev't and Community Building] --> B[Infrastructure]; B --> C[NBSP]; C --> D[Third-Round Funding]; D --> E[Disparity Study]
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Infrastructure

NBSP

Third-Round Funding

Disparity Study

LARGE ECO. DEV'T & COMM'Y BLDG*

\$4,124,990

SALVATION ARMY \$500,000

WEBPAGE FX \$500,000

***TRI-COUNTY HDC \$350,000**

***TRI-COUNTY CAC \$204,759**

PAXTON MINISTRIES \$100,000

HBG. RED'T AUTH. \$500,000

TLC CONST. \$500,000

CAMP CURTIN Y \$500,000

***GAMUT THEATRE \$250,000**

*** ES YMCA \$138,592**

HBG. RIV. RESCUE \$81,639

PLAYGROUNDS \$500,000

*** DESIGNATES COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS**

ALL OTHERS –LARGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

\$5,487,290.50

- **City of Hbg/CRW Multimodal Project – each entity received \$2,743,645.25**
- **City of Harrisburg Software Purchase- a \$250,000 infrastructure contingency grant**

NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS STABILIZATION PROGRAM

\$1,570,000

Response to
COVID impact on
small businesses

Program provided
\$5,000 grants to
314 small
businesses

25% of all
licensed businesses
in City rec'd grant

Restaurants, Retail,
Personal Care,
Fitness, the Arts

7% of awardees
were
Minority/Women-
Owned

Great geographic
diversity-
throughout the
City



THIRD- ROUND GRANT FUNDING

Initiative to provide capital funds to small businesses

Established third quarter of 2021

41 grantees chosen from over 100 applicants

Grants range from \$5,000 to \$15,000

Total program allocation of \$359,635.

DISPARITY STUDY



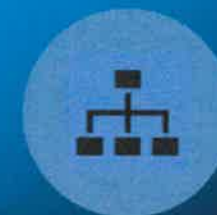
OUTGROWTH OF CONCERNS
AROUND EQUITY, DIVERSITY,
ACCESS, OPPORTUNITY IN
PROCUREMENT, CONTRACTING,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.



IH ASKED CITY TO SERVE AS
PARTNER.



COUNTY HAS JOINED AS
FINANCIAL PARTNER.



CONSULTANT SELECTED; PROJECT
SET TO BEGIN.



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

BOARD

GRANTEES

STAKEHOLDERS

**HOW DOES IMPACT HARRISBURG
REMAIN RELEVANT AS A FORCE OF
POSITIVE CHANGE IN HARRISBURG?**



impact Harrisburg

P.O. Box 61403 • Harrisburg, PA 17106-1403

www.impactharrisburg.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Honorable John DiSanto
Pennsylvania State Senate
May 24, 2022

Subject: Impact Harrisburg

We write to you as an important leader for the City of Harrisburg. The focus of our effort at Impact Harrisburg is to secure funding to enable our organization to continue its work in building a strong, robust, sustainable economic development infrastructure that benefits the City of Harrisburg.

Impact Harrisburg, created by Order of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania in 2014, is charged with addressing the city's economic development and infrastructure needs through the distribution of \$12.3 million in funding set-aside as part of the Harrisburg Strong Plan. By any measure, we have succeeded in our mission, distributing these funds in an impactful fashion over three funding rounds. By providing important funding and through constructive engagement, we have facilitated major economic development projects throughout the city.

We established a "first in the Commonwealth" program to help small businesses weather the effects of Covid-related business disruptions, and distributed hundreds of grants ranging from five thousand to five-hundred thousand dollars, allowing small businesses to thrive.

We worked with businesses and non-profits in all of Harrisburg's neighborhoods, from downtown to mid-town, from Uptown to South Allison Hill, while remaining attentive to ensuring that our efforts complemented the policies and initiatives of the City and other stakeholders. We have exercised our role responsibly and as a reliable partner.

By all measures, and as attested to by the many accolades we have received, we have succeeded in our initial mission. But for a few remaining dollars, we have distributed all - allocated funds. Having largely completed the work of our initial mission, we stand at the cusp of sun-setting.

The question now is whether Impact Harrisburg should continue to exist.

Is there continuing value in a strong public/private partnership between the City and Impact Harrisburg? Can an experienced non-profit, with an excellent track record for delivering results, serve as a value-added complement to the City's delivery-system for available resources? Does a private sector non-profit, freed of bureaucratic constraints, provide advantage in not only facilitating the effective use of existing resources, but also in pursuing additional state and federal resources for the city's benefit?

No doubt you know our answers to these questions.

Delivering “Impact”

Among the keys to Impact Harrisburg’s success has been its implementation of thoughtful grant administration processes and its constructive engagement with individual grantees and individual projects. “Making it Happen” has been IH’s mantra. In each of our funding rounds, we have thoughtfully solicited applications, constructively engaged in learning the details of the responding proposals (seeking information beyond what may have been contained in project narratives), provided technical assistance where necessary, and followed up to monitor progress and assure the completion of projects as intended. We did not measure our success by whether we got grant funds out the door. We measured our success by whether our carefully selected projects were actually completed. Our unwavering focus has been on realizing tangible results and not settling for the celebration of process.

Round 1- Large Economic Development and Infrastructure Projects

In Round 1, we provided over \$10 million in grant funding to 14 large economic development and infrastructure projects across the full spectrum of economic development categories. We granted WebFx funds to help their corporate expansion on Front Street. We funded Harrisburg River Rescue’s headquarters renovation. We provided funding for a black box theater at Gamut. We contributed to Salvation Army’s construction of its magnificent new facility. We helped Tri-County HDC rehab blighted homes in Allison Hill for resale and provided funds to the Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority to help it acquire, clear title and demolish vacant and blighted homes. We financed the Camp Curtin Y’s transformation of its abandoned swimming pool room into a sparkling, well-utilized multi-purpose room and helped the East Shore YMCA perform long over-due capital improvements. We helped Paxton Ministries get its senior housing project off the ground, and helped TLC redevelop the Hamilton Health site in Uptown. We worked with the City and CRW to beautify and weatherize three city playgrounds and participated in the City/CRW multi-modal street projects on 3rd Street, 2nd Street and 7th Streets. And we even helped the City administration purchase new system-wide software. We accomplished this, while assuring compliance with contracting, prevailing wage requirements and MBE/WBE participation.

All our projects were completed by the end of 2019. A summary of these projects is contained in our brochure, “A Work in Progress,” and they are also described on our website.

Round 2- Neighborhood Business Stabilization Program (NBSP)—Emergency Pandemic Relief

Our Round 2 program may have been even more impactful than Round 1. The “Neighborhood Business Stabilization Program” was our response to the pandemic, when in March of 2020, all businesses began to shut down. We immediately recognized that most of Harrisburg’s small businesses would suffer mightily, with their very survival in peril. We saw that a few other cities around the country had begun to set up relief programs—based on the premises that businesses needed grants to pay for fixed overhead expenses that continued whether or not the business itself was open (e.g., rent, utilities, payroll), that loans wouldn’t work, and that funding had to be flexible and provided immediately.

We immediately reached out to the City for support and participation in this program. Impact Harrisburg allocated one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to this initiative, which was paired with the city’s contribution of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). With this partnership formed and \$1.5 million in funding assembled, we quickly put together a flexible Request for Proposals, in both Spanish and English—designed to get money into the hands of businesses, fast. We then led a rapid and comprehensive promotional campaign, sending letters to all licensed businesses in the City, and publicizing this resource on our website, Penn Live, other media outlets, at City Council meetings, and on the mayor’s weekly podcast.

Our on-line application went live on April 17th. By the funding deadline of May 1st, 420 applications had been received. Applications came from a broad swath of the city’s small business community—coming from those businesses most likely to suffer from business disruption—barbers, bakeries, boutiques, bars, and restaurants. We spent the next two weeks performing basic eligibility review (making sure businesses were licensed, open, truly located within city limits, and owned by Harrisburg residents).

On May 12th and May 13th, we hand delivered 314 grants in the amount of \$5,000 each to City small business owners. The representative grantees came from across the City and all neighborhoods. Nearly 25% of the City's total licensed businesses applied for these grants—indicating the breadth and severity of the crisis. Notably, as well, 54 of the grant recipients were minority owned businesses.

Our NBSP is a testament to Impact Harrisburg's vision, nimbleness, and our now intimate connection with the City's small business community. Beyond the extensive data base which we compiled, and which was an indirect benefit of this initiative, we now have a unique perspective on the challenges confronted by the City's lifeblood—it's small and family-owned businesses. We are proud to know that we helped a good number of these businesses survive the early days of the pandemic.

Round 3- Small Business Economic Development Projects

Having successfully completed Rounds 1 and 2, and distributing over \$11 million in those funding rounds, our Board turned its attention to distributing the remainder of Impact Harrisburg's initial allocation. Our Round 3 was designed for small businesses with capital needs (including physical improvements or equipment). Criteria for the program focused on post-pandemic issues of businesses, and the opportunity to address deferred needs—focused on the growth, not mere maintenance, of businesses. The maximum amount of grants was set at \$25,000.

We received 110 applications for funding and were able to make awards to 40 grantees in amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Our grants funded a range of activities from purchases of new restaurant equipment to laptops for childhood education to new barber chairs. We also helped with construction expansions for shops in midtown, a shelter for women on 6th Street, and affordable rental housing. In this round, after awards were made based on submitted applications, our staff worked with grantees on real spending plans—issuing notices to proceed once satisfactory plans were put in place. As much or more than we experienced in Round 1, Impact Harrisburg not only distributed funding, but also provided value-added technical assistance which facilitated the completion of these 40 projects.

Impact Harrisburg Disparity Study—Partnering with the City and County

A distinguishing characteristic of Impact Harrisburg as an organization is the breadth of experience held by its Board of Directors and staff. Collectively, the Board and staff have over 150 years of governmental experience—including retired senior officials of several state and county agencies, former and current senior city officials, a former mayor, and a former president of Harrisburg City Council. Our team knows how to administer efficient programs—and all our team knows Harrisburg and its neighborhoods intimately.

Based on this experience as well as from lessons learned in our funding rounds, our Board saw the need to address the underutilization of minority businesses in the business and contracting realms—and felt strongly that the cause and degree of the problem needed to be isolated once and for all, so that meaningful participation from the M/W/DBE community can be realized.

In late 2021, our Board and staff conceived of the idea of conducting a Disparity Study—with the intention of building a data-driven approach to defining and addressing the true situation. We enlisted the City as a partner, and thereafter the County also joined us in this undertaking. We are pleased that following an RFP process, a highly respected consultant has been selected and the study is underway.

Should Impact Harrisburg Continue to Exist?

We are most proud of our accomplishments over these six years. As we have appropriately invested all of our initial allocation, we have reached the point where we either receive or raise new dollars, or quietly allow our organization to sunset and disappear.

We know the key to our success has come not just from our expertise, knowledge, and commitment—but from our recognition of the value of public/private partnerships. We have enjoyed partnering with the City and the County on our various endeavors. And, while our idea for maximizing the value of public/private partnerships was not new (and, in fact, was essentially “borrowed” from similar relationships in York, Reading, Lancaster, Erie, Allentown and Downingtown), we believe it offers continuing great promise in Harrisburg. Frankly, policymakers frequently express support for Impact Harrisburg’s focus on the synergy of partnerships. In the same manner, smart policies are essential—but without efficient delivery systems these policies and the resources committed too often languish. IH has proven itself an effective vehicle for economic program development and its efficient administration.

We maintain a good partnership with our local chamber and regional economic development corporation. Both have been strong advocates for Impact Harrisburg. They acknowledge our unique expertise, value, and important role as a dedicated resource in addressing the needs, opportunities and challenges present in the small business economic development realm, and the degree to which we have enhanced overall community vitality.

In this regard, we believe that the challenges facing the new City administration can be made less burdensome if we are enlisted as a collaborative partner.

Emerging from the cloud of Act 47 doesn't imply that operating "clockwork" has returned to the City. Indeed, within city bureaucracies, institutional history is everything, and new administrations face steep learning curves. We know that the City has allocated staff time of one day per week to economic development oversight. We also know the City is invested in resolving a number of federal challenges in the housing, CDBG and HOME programs. These emergent matters, requiring immediate due care, are resident in the same department as economic development.

Impact Harrisburg can and should be enlisted to help- by serving as a force multiplier in the City's economic development efforts, and by serving as a catalyst for ingenuity, creativity, efficiency, and effectiveness. This will save City staff considerable time and resources. It will help in the efficient deployment of existing dollars while also freeing up staff to engage in endeavors such as pursuing new funding opportunities (e.g., with the state over its multiple departmental funding offerings). Moreover, it is just wise practice to leverage the expertise at your doorstep.

What is our "Ask"?

We are poised and ready to continue our mission and to assume our next assignment. Our desire is to assist the City with distributing the financial resources currently in its "quiver," whether ARPA, RACP, local, or other dollars, and to identify new funding opportunities.

From the Commonwealth, we seek funding sufficient to maintain our existence and standing as the premier grants' facilitator and administrator within Harrisburg. Every great city has an economic development arm that serves as the backbone of strength, pride, and well-being. Impact Harrisburg has emerged as that entity.

Senator DiSanto
Impact Harrisburg
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Let us all remember that Harrisburg City is not just another third-class city. We are the Capitol of Pennsylvania.

Impact Harrisburg requires grant funds to sustain our continuing existence. We have demonstrated our worth by the well-documented “impact” on our community. As the saying goes, “Why fix it if it isn’t broken?”

We ask that you advocate through funding our continuation as a viable entity that will enhance economic success in our Capitol City, County, and Commonwealth.

On behalf of the Impact Harrisburg Board of Directors, thank you.

Sincerely,

Gloria Martin Roberts, Board Chair



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