

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Telephone: (716) 286-4310

June 26, 2020

The City Council
Niagara Falls, New York

*RE: Implementation of Cities RISE Grant Program
(Agreement with Niagara University)*

Council Members:

As you know, the City of Niagara Falls was selected by the New York State Attorney General's office to be a recipient of a grant as part of Phase Three of the "Cities for Responsible Investment and Strategic Enforcement" ("Cities RISE") program. The program aims to innovatively address and transform blighted, vacant or poorly maintained problem properties through the use of housing and community data from various state agencies.

The City seeks to utilize the RISE program to develop and improve strategic housing and code enforcement programs through improved data analysis capabilities as well as input via community engagement. To implement the program, the Administration finds it necessary to enter into an agreement with an organization from our own community with the expertise and desire to bring about systemic change. Accordingly, we believe that Niagara University's Levesque Institute of Civil Engagement will assist the City in reaching our goal.

The Levesque Institute is committed to the rehabilitation of neighborhoods and encouraging new housing as a vital component to the revitalization of Niagara Falls. Based on our discussions, the Institute would assist the City with identifying and scheduling training for our Code Enforcement staff, project facilitation with designated City departments, providing project oversight for the City's designated lead and assistance in the establishment of the 311 system.

In order to facilitate this project, Niagara University would be compensated at a rate of \$100.00 per hour for primary engagement and \$25.00 per hour for support staff, along with an 8% Administrative fee. As it is anticipated that the project will take 200 hours to complete (approximately 4 hours per week), the total cost will be \$27,000.00. There will be no cost to the City's General Fund as all funding for the project is available from the proceeds of the Cities RISE grant.

Kennedy_____ Spanbauer_____ Tompkins_____ Touma_____ Voccio_____

Will the Council so approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement satisfactory to the Corporation Counsel in both form and content?

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT M. RESTAINO
Mayor

Funding Approval:

Daniel Morello, City Controller
City Council Meeting, July 1, 2020