

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

June 7, 2021

The City Council
Niagara Falls, New York

**RE: *Aquarium of Niagara – Whirlpool Commons Plaza Project
(Grant Administration)***

Council Members:

The Aquarium of Niagara submitted an application to the Niagara River Greenway Commission relative to its Whirlpool Commons Plaza Project (“PROJECT”). This Project is designed to connect residents and visitors to the region’s rich ecological assets and promote the critical mission of environmental conversation and offer more family-centric activities in the City.

At its meeting held earlier this year, the Niagara River Greenway Commission Host Community Standing Committee determined that the Project was consistent with the Greenway Plan and approved funding for it in the amount of \$250,000.00, which would come from the City’s Greenway Commission Fund Account.

As the City Council has previously indicated its support of the Whirlpool Commons Plaza Project at its December 9, 2020 meeting, the City and the Aquarium wish to agree on the terms and conditions relative to the grant funding to be provided by City from said Greenway Commission fund. To that end, please find attached the proposed grant funding agreement relative to the Project. Pursuant to its terms, the City will release \$125,000.00 of the Grant Funds to Aquarium upon execution of the Agreement, with the remaining \$125,000.00 of the Grant Funds released to the Aquarium upon presentment of written certification of completion of the Project. Again these funds are available from the City’s Greenway Commission Fund.

Will the Council vote to approve the grant to the Aquarium of Niagara as set forth herein, and authorize the Mayor to execute any documents necessary to effectuate the same?

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Restaino
Mayor

Funding Approval:

Daniel Morello, City Controller
City Council Meeting, June 9, 2021

Kennedy _____ Soda _____ Spanbauer _____ Voccio _____ Tompkins _____