

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-

RELATIVE TO SUPPORT FOR THE AQUARIUM OF NIAGARA'S APPLICATION TO THE NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY COMMISSION FOR FUNDING FOR ITS NIAGARA GORGE DISCOVERY CENTER PROJECT

BY:

Council Chairman John Spanbauer
Council Member Traci Bax
Council Member Donta Myles
Council Member Kenny Tompkins
Council Member David Zajac

WHEREAS, the Aquarium of Niagara (“Aquarium”) is leading a concentrated effort to implement smart-growth projects that drive annual visitation, revenue, and mission-based community impact; and

WHEREAS, over the past several years, the Aquarium has added improvements which include a new Humboldt penguin exhibit, an immersive jellyfish gallery, renovated programming space, an interactive mangrove habitat, and the soon-to-be completed Whirlpool Commons, a community destination that will serve as a vibrant entrance point to the facility; and

WHEREAS, as the Aquarium desires to build on this positive momentum, it has recently unveiled plans to manage and provide comprehensive programming at the Niagara Gorge Discovery Center, to reach beyond its present footprint and mature into an educational and cultural campus; and

WHEREAS, through a collaborative partnership with New York State Parks, the Aquarium will acquire the underutilized 5,000 square foot facility in order to create a space where visitors can form organic connections with regional wildlife through living exhibits, complemented by stimulating displays that will engage visitors with some of the lesser-known conservation stories of the Great Lakes; and

Bax _____ Myles _____ Tompkins _____ Zajac _____ Spanbauer _____

WHEREAS, to further this effort, the Aquarium requested consideration for funding by the Niagara River Greenway Commission, via the Niagara Host Community, for the Niagara Gorge Discovery Center Project; the Greenway Commission determined that the Project was consistent with the Greenway Plan and approved funding for it in the amount of \$300,000.00, which would come from the City's Greenway Commission Fund Account; and

WHEREAS, this funding request will support capital costs for the adaptive reuse of the Niagara Gorge Discovery Center which will transform the facility into an engaging and interactive hub, highlighting aquatic wildlife of the Great Lakes region; and

WHEREAS, the Greenway Commission requires a resolution of support from the host community (the City of Niagara Falls) prior to final approval; and

WHEREAS, the City Council enthusiastically supports of this very important endeavor in the City of Niagara Falls.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Niagara Falls City Council hereby indicates its support for the Aquarium of Niagara's application to the Niagara River Greenway for funding of its proposed Niagara Gorge Discovery Center Project.