

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

April 4, 2022

The City Council
Niagara Falls, New York

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

Council Members:

In 2021, the Aquarium of Niagara submitted an application to the Niagara River Greenway Commission relative to its Whirlpool Commons Plaza Project (“PROJECT”). The 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.

At its meeting held on June 9, 2021, the City Council authorized release of the grant funding to the Aquarium from the City’s Greenway Commission fund. The terms of the grant funding agreement between the City and the Aquarium directed the City to release \$125,000.00 of the Grant Funds to Aquarium upon execution of the Agreement, with the remaining \$125,000.00 released to the Aquarium upon presentment of written certification of completion of the Project. While the initial installment of the grant was disbursed, the remaining \$125,000.00 was not, as Covid-19 pandemic related issues prevented the Aquarium from completing the project prior to the expiration of the grant agreement on September 30, 2021, which was the expected completion date.

The Aquarium has indicated that the Project is again moving forward and that it will be completed on or before June 30, 2022. It is proposed that the City Council authorize the release of the remaining \$125,000.00 to the Aquarium from the City’s Greenway Commission Fund Account upon presentment of written certification of completion of the Project, which must occur on or before June 30, 2022.

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, April 6, 2022

Bax _____ **Myles** _____ **Tompkins** _____ **Zajac** _____ **Spanbauer** _____