

RESOLUTION No. 2022-

***RELATIVE TO SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
CENTENNIAL PARK EVENTS CENTER PROJECT***

BY:

Council Member Kenny Tompkins

WHEREAS, on October 14, 2021, Mayor Robert Restaino proposed the development of “Centennial Park”, a multifaceted year-round event campus capable of hosting a multitude of events including, but not limited to, sporting events, concerts, indoor/outdoor gatherings, multiple youth centered activities for visitors and, especially, our local residents; and

WHEREAS, the Centennial Park proposal includes plans for an indoor arena, outdoor amphitheater, water feature ice-skating rink, multilevel surface parking deck and wall climbing adventure course; and

WHEREAS, as a year-round complex, Centennial Park will also take advantage of the winter season and all the amenities and activities for families that the winter season has to offer; and

WHEREAS, for our tourism industry, the Centennial Park complex will bring more visitors to the area with longer stays in a balance between the seasons, encouraging visitors to come in the fall/winter season while giving people more to do during their visit and encouraging longer stays and attracting new and non-traditional visitors to the area; and

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WHEREAS, the Events Campus will also engage and integrate with local businesses, creating high quality, year-round local jobs that will align with our local workforce supply; and

WHEREAS, most importantly, Centennial Park will provide our own local residents with a myriad of activities, by delivering top-level facilities, attractions and entertainment for their families to enjoy year-round; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that Centennial Park is critical to the future of this City and has consistently supported the proposal; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2020, the City Council approved a consulting agreement with CJS Architects in connection with the Centennial Park Project and on December 20, 2021, this Council authorized reallocation of Community Development funds to in order to compensate CJS Architects for their services; and

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2021, this Council voted to show its unanimous support of the Centennial Park project as proposed by the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2022 City Council provided authorization for the City to enter into a professional services agreement with Wendel Architecture P.C., to provide a full environmental assessment and traffic impact study for the property identified for the Centennial Park Project; and

WHEREAS, on June 13, 2022, the City Council, pursuant to Eminent Domain Procedure Law Article 2, scheduled a Public Hearing in order to inform the public of the proposed acquisition of property on Falls Street and along John Daly Boulevard for the

Centennial Park Project and to review the public use to be served by the acquisition, and to receive comments from the public on the proposed acquisition; and

WHEREAS, on June 29, 2022, this Council conducted said Public Hearing, gathering additional information of the project. At the conclusion of the hearing, the City Council determined that the public hearing on the proposed acquisition and the Centennial Park proposal should remain open to allow for further public consideration and comment on the same; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2022, the City Council scheduled a second public hearing on the proposed acquisition and the Centennial Park proposal which it held on September 7, 2022; and

WHEREAS, on November 22, 2022, the City Council unanimously indicated that it had reviewed the Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) part 1 and other information, including the Traffic Impact Study, prepared by Wendel. The Council then declared itself to be lead agency for the Centennial Park Project and made a SEQR Determination of Non-significance, concluding that there would not be any substantial adverse environmental impact from the Project; and

WHEREAS, also on November 22, 2022, this Council, based upon the information in the EAF, the Negative Declaration, the information and materials from the Public Hearing, its knowledge of the Project site and the Parcels, input from the community, and pursuant to the requirements of the Eminent Domain Procedure Law,

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unanimously issued Determinations and Findings supporting continuation of the Centennial Park Project; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has supported the Centennial Park Project since its inception and will continue to do all that it can to bring the Project to a successful conclusion. Furthermore, this Council encourages the leadership of state and local county government, the local business community, and the community at large to join us in support of this worthwhile project, ensuring that it not just a proposal, but a reality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council for the City of Niagara Falls hereby supports and encourages the promotion and development of the proposed event campus known as Centennial Park as proposed by Mayor Robert M. Restaino; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to provide a certified copy of this Resolution to the Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State Senator Robert Ort, New York State Assemblyman Angelo Morinello, and the Chairman of the Niagara County Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED that the City Council hereby encourages all residents of this community to likewise communicate their support of this project to their elected leaders.