

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

May 16, 2022

The City Council
Niagara Falls, New York

***RE: Approval of Agreement with Vinny Bagwell
(Creation of Harriet Tubman Statue)***

Council Members:

In December of 2015, the City of Niagara Falls received notification that the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation was awarding a grant of \$201,725.00 for the Customhouse Harriet Tubman Plaza. The grant was amended in 2017, with funding to be used for the design and placement of a statue honoring Harriet Tubman, with a City match of \$67,242.00. With regard to the City matching funds, the City Council approved that the required amount be provided from previously approved Greenway grant funding.

In order to complete the project, this Administration is now proposing entering into an agreement with Vinny Bagwell, the artist that was selected through the RFP process to design, sculpt and place the Harriet Tubman statue. Ms. Bagwell is a renowned sculptor and representational-figurative artist that has won numerous public-art commissions and awards around the United States. The proposed agreement has a term of 13 months from the date of its execution by the City. The total cost of the overall project is \$268,000.00, with funding from the aforementioned grant and the \$67,242.00, City match.

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

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