

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

September 30, 2022

The City Council
Niagara Falls, New York

RE: Transfer of City-owned Properties (Property Purchase Program)

On April 20, 2022, this Administration announced the creation of the “Property Purchase Program.” This program has been designed to put long vacant City-owned lots into the hands of adjacent residential property owners. Not only will this program enhance the appearance and stability of neighborhoods, but it will also lessen the City’s financial burden related to upkeep of vacant lots throughout the municipality.

It is proposed that the fifty-two (52) vacant residential lots listed on the attached file be offered to adjacent residential property owners for purchase. These properties were acquired by the City through In Rem proceedings over a number of years and have previously been offered for public auction. Offers will only be made to adjacent property owners that are current with all property taxes and whose properties are free of any existing code violations.

The minimum purchase price for each property will be \$500.00 and may also include additional closing related costs. This minimum price is fair and adequate based upon condition of the properties in question. The successful purchaser will also be required to amalgamate the vacant parcel with their adjacent property, creating one combined property under one S/B/L number. Once purchased, the properties can be used for a myriad of personal residential purposes including, but not limited to, gardens, pools, home additions, storage and parking.

The proposed transfer of the City-owned lots in question, in furtherance of the Property Purchase Program, is clearly in the best interests of the City and in conformity with the requirements of the City Charter related to the disposition of City-owned property.

Will the Council so approve and authorize the Mayor to execute any required documentation in the form acceptable to the Corporation Counsel?

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Restaino
Mayor

Bax_____ **Myles**_____ **Tompkins**_____ **Zajac**_____ **Spanbauer**_____