

CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

TO: City Council
FROM: Mayor Robert M. Restaino
DATE: April 17, 2023
RE: **City Council Agenda Item:**
Reprogramming 2022 ESG Funds
Niagara Gospel Mission to YWCA

Council Members:

The City approved a grant of up to \$50,000.00 of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds to Niagara Gospel Mission. Unfortunately, Niagara Gospel Mission states that it cannot abide by the faith-based activities restrictions of the grant. If a Grantee engages in explicitly religious activities (including activities that involve overt religious content such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization), the explicitly religious activities must be offered separately, in time or location, from the programs or activities supported by the ESG grant, and participation must be voluntary for the beneficiaries of the programs or activities that receive direct Federal financial assistance.

We propose to reprogram the \$50,000.00 grant to the YWCA of Niagara Frontier for its Carolyn's House facility. Carolyn's House, 542 Sixth St, Niagara Falls, NY, provides nineteen (19) units of supportive housing in program for homeless women and children. Its mission is to assist women in achieving self-sufficiency – the ability to live independently – by providing on-site education, counseling, advocacy, supportive services, and housing. Acceptance into the program is based on financial eligibility requirements and the ability to achieve self-sufficiency.

ESG funds will be applied to support the operations and maintenance of Carolyn's House and to support a Case Worker/Counselor for Homeless Prevention, to provide housing relocation and stabilization service and to provide other essential services to 30-40 women to allow them to transition to permanent housing, all at Carolyn's House.

Will the Council vote to approve reprogramming of \$50,000.00 of 2022 ESG funds as presented herein, and to authorize the Mayor to execute any documents necessary to effectuate the same?

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Restaino, Mayor

Bax____ Cauley____ Myles____ Tompkins____ Chairman Zajac____