

CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. ____

RESOLUTION

R66 - 2024

Introduced by the Administration on April 17, 2024

Approves the submission of the formal application for the Economic Development and Community Development Initiatives Grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development on behalf of the Allentown Police Department to support the renovation of the Police Academy Building.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, the City of Allentown is desirous of submitting a formal application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development for a grant of One Hundred Eighty Two Thousand (\$182,000).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Allentown, Lehigh County hereby requests an Economic Development and Community Development Initiatives grant on behalf of the Allentown Police Department to fund renovations which will provide necessary upgrades to the Police Academy Building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the City of Allentown hereby designates Matthew Tuerk Mayor, and Bina Patel, Finance Director, as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between the City of Allentown and the Commonwealth.

Legislative Template

- What department or bureau is this bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?

This bill is originating from the Police Department.

- Summary and facts of the bill.

The City is submitting a formal application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for \$182,000 awarded from the Economic Development and Community Development Initiatives Grant (EDCDI) that will support the renovation and revitalization of the Police Academy building.

- Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:
 - a. What does the bill do? What are the specific goals or tasks the bill seeks to accomplish?

The Resolution is a requirement of the formal application to demonstrate the City's support of the project and identifying the grant amount as \$182,000.

- b. What are the benefits of doing this?

Renovating and revitalizing the police academy, particularly focusing on expanding and remodeling locker rooms and shower areas, alongside an exterior revitalization, offers a multitude of benefits:

1. Enhancing locker rooms and shower areas improves user experience and satisfaction, catering to the evolving needs and expectations of occupants, whether they are employees, police recruits, or law enforcement students. By modernizing these facilities, the building can attract and retain more users, fostering a positive reputation and potentially increasing revenue streams.

2. A renovated exterior breathes new life into the building's aesthetic appeal, making it more inviting and visually pleasing to visitors and passersby. This facelift can contribute to a sense of pride among stakeholders and the community and stimulating economic activity in the surrounding area.

3. Investing in building renovation and revitalization demonstrates a commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency, incorporating features such as improved insulation, energy-efficient lighting, and water-saving fixtures, which can lead to long-term cost savings and environmental benefits.

4. Such projects can create job opportunities and stimulate local economies through construction, materials sourcing, and related services. Overall, the combined efforts of expanding and remodeling the locker rooms and shower areas, along with an exterior revitalization, not only enhance functionality and aesthetics but also contribute to the overall

well-being of the building, its occupants, and the broader community.

c. How does this bill relate to the City's vision/mission/priorities?

Remodeling the city's Police Academy locker room and shower areas and revitalizing the exterior of the building can be aligned with the city's vision and priorities in several ways, contributing to a safer, more inclusive, and community-oriented law enforcement environment.

Firstly, the city's vision revolves around creating a safe and secure environment for all residents. By upgrading the facilities at the Police Academy, the city demonstrates its commitment to providing law enforcement officers and students with the necessary resources and support to perform their duties effectively. A modernized locker room and shower areas can improve officer morale, comfort, and overall well-being, which in turn can enhance their performance on the job and contribute to a safer community.

Moreover, revitalizing the exterior of the Police Academy building can have aesthetic and symbolic significance. A well-maintained and visually appealing facility reflects positively on the city's image and can instill a sense of pride among residents and law enforcement personnel alike. It can also serve as a physical representation of the city's commitment to public safety and professionalism within the police force.

Investing in the Police Academy's infrastructure sends a message that the city values its police force and is willing to invest in their development and working conditions. In terms of priorities, ensuring the well-being and effectiveness of law enforcement officers is paramount. Remodeling the locker room and shower areas addresses a basic need for adequate facilities, while also acknowledging the importance of officer health and comfort. Additionally, revitalizing the exterior of the building demonstrates a commitment to maintaining public infrastructure and creating an environment conducive to learning and professional development.

Overall, remodeling the Police Academy locker room and shower areas and revitalizing the building's exterior aligns with the city's vision of safety, its mission of community collaboration, and its priorities of supporting law enforcement personnel and maintaining public infrastructure. These improvements not only benefit the police force but also contribute to the overall well-being and security of the community.

- Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:
 - a. Cost (initial and ongoing)

There is no financial impact on the City.

- Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:
 - a. If transferring funds, please make sure to give specific account names and numbers. If appropriating funds from a grant, please list the agency awarding the grant.

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development

- Priority status – Are there any deadlines to be aware of?

This resolution is an application requirement.

- Why should Council unanimously support this bill?

This resolution will allow the City to make a formal application for these funds to support this capital project.