



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

RESOLUTION

R87 – 2023

Introduced by City Council on May 3, 2023

Recommends 22.5M in ARPA funding: 11M for city capital and physical infrastructure to avoid tax increases and 10M in Housing for affordable housing, enhancing the city's housing stock, home ownership and rental legal assistance – funds to taken from unallocated fund and 10M the Mayor plans to use for operational expenses in 2023 and 2024.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, the Mayor Tuerk committed to following Council's direction on ARPA funding; and

WHEREAS, Allentown lacks affordable housing and contains an aging housing infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City has not adequately funded its capital and physical infrastructure needs; and

WEREAS, the City has approximately 11m in unrestricted ARPA funds; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has placed 5M of ARPA funds in the 2023 budget and 5M of ARPA funds in the 2024 budget as a type of cost recovery for operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, Council finds it inappropriate to use ARPA funds for cost recovery and operational expenses, using such funds as a stop gap measure will place a burden on taxpayers in the outyears and squander resources to deal with important needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City that they recommend the Mayor to introduced an the allocation of ARPA funds in the following manner within the next 30 days:

1. 10M from 23 and 24 revenue replacement and operational funds to be placed in a Housing Fund where monies will be set aside to include but not limited to the development and incentivizing of affordable housing, programs that invest in the city's aging housing stock especially in the center city area, home ownership and blight removal programs and legal counseling for renters.

2. 11M of unallocated funds and 1.5M unspent set aside for a Credible Messinger program to be placed in a Capital and Physical Infrastructure Account to be used for such projects as a new central fire station, operations facility for Park Maintenance, etc. to help offset future tax increases that would save each net taxpayer at least 2 mills in taxes in the future as the projects will need to be completed with or without such funding.