



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. 59

RESOLUTION

R - 2019

Introduced by the Administration on July 17, 2019

**Authorizes the Execution of the Certification Agreement Between the City of Allentown and
Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office**

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, the history and heritage of the City of Allentown are important to our community's identity, culture and uniqueness; and

WHEREAS, historic buildings, sites, landscapes and neighborhoods contribute to economic vitality, sense of place and quality of life in the City of Allentown; and

WHEREAS, the City of Allentown has adopted ordinances, policies and programs designed to preserve and enhance these important historic assets; and

WHEREAS, to serve our residents, property owners and visitors to our community the City of Allentown strives to implement these programs according to best practices and wishes to take advantage of the technical and financial resources available to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Local Government Program administered by the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office in partnership with the National Park Service, will provide the City of Allentown with these tools and resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Allentown hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute all necessary agreements between the City of Allentown and the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office as may be required for participation in the Certified Local Government Program.

LEGISLATIVE TEMPLATE

- **What Department or bureau is Bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?**

Planning and Zoning

- **Summary and Facts of the Bill**

Since 2010 the City has held the designation of Certified Local Government (CLG). CLGs are authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act and are administered by the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs). CLG status recognizes the City's commitment to historic preservation. In 2010, the City applied to the PA SHPO and became a CLG. This year (2019) the PA SHPO is asking all existing CLGs in Pennsylvania to renew their CLG status. This resolution by City Council would authorize the Mayor to execute the CLG renewal contract. A copy of the contract and a letter from the PA SHPO is attached.

- **Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **What does the Bill do – what are the specific goals/tasks the bill seek to accomplish**
 - **What are the Benefits of doing this/Down-side of doing this**
 - **How does this Bill related to the City's Vision/Mission/Priorities**

This resolution will authorize the Mayor to sign and execute the CLG renewal contract. (See the attached letter, contract and additional information.) The most substantial benefit is access to historic preservation grants. There is a specific CLG grant program consisting of funds from the National Park Service and administered by the PA SHPO. Funds from the CLG grant can be used for historic preservation planning, historic resource surveys, studies of historic structures, assistance with HARB application review, and nominating resources to the National Register of Historic Places. The City will have to show a commitment to historic preservation by enforcing its historic preservation ordinance, conducting historic resource surveys, protecting the historic resources the city owns, and incorporating historic preservation into its policies and plans. There are also annual reporting requirements and the need for qualified staff. The City's previous comprehensive plan and the draft comprehensive and economic development plan contain direct and indirect policies that support historic preservation initiatives in Allentown.

- **Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **Cost (Initial and ongoing)**
 - **Benefits (initial and ongoing)**

There are no direct costs involved in this bill. There are indirect costs such as applying qualified staff time to ensuring a commitment to historic preservation and managing grant funded projects. The direct benefit is access to CLG historic preservation grants. Indirect benefits are preservation of the City's important historic resources, economic redevelopment, improve neighborhood preservation and identity, increased sustainability and resilience, improved building quality, honorary recognition, job creation, potential use of historic preservation tax credits, environmental protection and health benefits.

- **Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **If transferring funds, please make sure bill gives specific accounts; if appropriating funds from a grant list the agency awarding the grant.**

There are no current grant funds related to this resolution.

- **Priority status/Deadlines, if any**

The PA SHPO would like the contract executed no later than September 20, 2019, but there is some flexibility on the deadline.

- **Why should Council unanimously support this bill?**

The City has benefited from the CLG designation in the past. Grant funds were used to hire a consultant to assist HARB in the review of historic district applications. This is not a new commitment to historic preservation by the City, it is a renewal of the commitment.