## COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA

**Date:** Wednesday, May 3rd 2023  
**Time:** 6:00 P.M.  
**Location:** City Hall, 108 E. Green Street 3rd Floor, Council Chambers  
**Watch Online:** [https://www.youtube.com/@CityofIthacaPublicMeetings](https://www.youtube.com/@CityofIthacaPublicMeetings)

**PLEASE NOTE:** The elevator in City Hall is out of service and the meeting room is accessible by stairs only. Remote participation is available and encouraged, however, if you require additional accommodations, please contact the City Clerk at 607-274-6570, option 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>Voting Item?</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
<th>Time Alotted</th>
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| 1. Call to Order  
1.1 Agenda Review  
1.2 Reports of Municipal Officials  
1.3 Proclamations and Awards  
1.4 Review and Approval of Minutes  
Common Council Minutes  
1/1/2022 - 10/31/2022, 4/5/2023 | No | Mayor Laura Lewis | 10 Min |
| 1.2 Yes |  
| 2. Petitions and Hearings of Persons Before Council  
2.1 Statements from the Public | No | Sign up for public comment here: [https://tinyurl.com/7ts9zmku](https://tinyurl.com/7ts9zmku) | 45 Min |
| The public can provide short statements during this portion of the meeting. 3 minutes is the maximum time allotted, but the chair reserves the right to modify the amount of time per individual at the start of the meeting. Only the first hour of the meeting is set aside for Public Comment.  
*Written comments submitted will be compiled and entered into the record.* |  
| 2.2 Privilege of the Floor – Mayor and Council | No | *Submit written comments here: [https://tinyurl.com/mr9kdhw8](https://tinyurl.com/mr9kdhw8) |  
| 3. Special Presentations Before Council  
3.1 Community Justice Center Update | No | Monalita Smiley, CJC Director | 30 Min |
| 4. Consent Agenda  
4.1 PIT - Approval of Outdoor Dining Alcohol Permits  
4.2 GIAC - Amendment to Personnel Roster  
4.3 Updated License Agreement Pertaining to Public Parking Lot  
4.4 DPW - Amendment to Personnel Roster | Yes | Common Council | 5 Min |
| 5. City Administration Committee  
5.1 Resolution to Adopt Workforce Diversity Advisory Committee ‘Commitment to Equity and Justice Statement’  
5.2 Approval of Police Chief Salary Adjustment | Yes | S. Michell-Nunn, HR Director | 15 Min |
<p>| Yes | S. Michell-Nunn, HR Director | 15 Min |</p>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. Planning and Economic Development Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.1 Resolution - Release of Funds from Restricted Contingency to Address Homelessness</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Lisa Nicholas, Director of Planning/Economic Development</td>
<td>10 Mins</td>
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<td>6.2 Endorsement of “Home, Together: Tompkins” Plan to Address Unsheltered Homelessness</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Nels Bohn, IURA Director</td>
<td>10 Mins</td>
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<td>6.3 Resolution- HOME-ARP Allocation Plan - HUD Entitlement Grant</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Anisa Mendizabal, IURA</td>
<td>10 Mins</td>
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<td>6.4 Resolution to Select Artwork for City-Owned Electrical Boxes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Caleb Thomas, Ithaca Murals</td>
<td>10 Mins</td>
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<td>7. Appointments of the Mayor</td>
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<td>7.1 Resolution- Appointment of Marriage Officer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Mayor Laura Lewis</td>
<td>5 Mins</td>
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<td>8. Reports from Council and Staff</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>10 Min</td>
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<td>8.1 Reports of Special Committee</td>
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<td>8.2 Reports of Common Council Liaisons</td>
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<td>8.3 Report of City Clerk</td>
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<td>8.4 Report of City Attorney</td>
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<td>9. Executive Session (If needed)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Mayor Laura Lewis</td>
<td>30 Min</td>
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<td>10. Meeting Wrap-Up</td>
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<td>10.1 Next Meeting Date: June 7th, 2023</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>5 Min</td>
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<td>10.2 Adjourn</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Meeting Length Estimate</td>
<td>Meeting Length Estimate</td>
<td>210 Min</td>
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**Hybrid Meetings**

Common Council has resumed meeting in person; however, due to limited seating capacity in Common Council Chambers, city staff and members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely if they would like to.

**How to Participate in Public Comment Virtually**

**Email Common Council Through the Agenda Link**

Written comments can be submitted to Common Council using this form:  
[https://tinyurl.com/mr9kdhw8](https://tinyurl.com/mr9kdhw8)
Community Justice Center Update
April 2023

CJC Staffing – Data Analyst - Matthew David Started 1/2023
Admin Assistant interviews were completed. No viable candidates, therefore, hiring on hold until after Civil Service Exam 4/29/2023.

CJC Advisory Board – Applications for community members are still being accepted. Most impacted stakeholders and non-voting members have accepted their role.

Open Recommendations

Develop a comprehensive community healing plan to address trauma in the relationship between residents and law enforcement.

- Current Work: Completed initial Community Healing Event for the public on March 21st. Currently identifying two community and two law enforcement members to participate in train-the-trainer sessions with Dr. Acosta.

Alternative Response & Wraparound Services (Co-Response)

- Current Work: Tompkins County planning to pilot C.A.R.E. team, CJC is identifying data points and creating forms to be used in the field by the team to collect data that can be used to assess of the program.

Develop a County-wide program to promote and support holistic officer wellness.

- Current Work: Law enforcement and first responders’ wellness survey completed. Results are being compiled and the working group is developing a press release to share the results. This information will also provide the opportunity for community members, law enforcement and first responders to provide suggestions on programming that addresses the needs and wants identified in the survey.
- Currently accepting ideas on RPS website.
Innovative Recruitment and Retention

- **Current Work:** An RFP to hire a consultant who will develop an inclusive and innovative recruitment and retention strategy for law enforcement officers was developed by a working group. The RFP is published with a deadline for bid submission of May 24, 2023. This information has been shared with the working group which will reconvene once bids have been submitted for review.

- **Currently accepting ideas on RPS website.**

Traffic Enforcement

- **Current Work:** RFP has been drafted by smaller scale planning-focused working group. Law Enforcement leadership was given the opportunity to add comments and questions. Final RFP submitted to county Purchasing Dept. to prepare for publication.
4.1 PIT - Approval of Outdoor Dining Alcohol Permits

WHEREAS, several downtown restaurants have requested permission to utilize certain areas along the Primary and Secondary Commons and sidewalks in the downtown core for outdoor dining, and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Ithaca Alliance has requested permission for wine, beer, and hard cider tasting and sales as part of their special events for 2023, and

WHEREAS, it is Common Council's responsibility to determine whether or not to allow the serving and consumption of alcohol on City property, and

WHEREAS, Common Council has determined that the use of public property for outdoor dining and special events including the responsible sale and consumption of alcohol, plays an important role in the vibrancy of the downtown business district, and

WHEREAS, Common Council has determined that any use of this or similar public property involving the sale and consumption of alcohol should be covered by a minimum of $1,000,000 insurance under the Dram Shop Act; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, For the year 2023, Common Council hereby approves the following revocable alcoholic beverage permits for the outdoor sale and consumption of alcohol in accord with the terms and conditions set forth in their applications, including minimum Dram Shop coverage in the amount of $1,000,000 and the approval of an outdoor dining permit:

Mia Tapas Bar & Restaurant
Kimchi
Greenhouse Café
Creola Southern Steak House
4.2 GIAC - Amendment to Personnel Roster

WHEREAS, the Greater Ithaca Activities Center (GIAC) needs a Program Coordinator position to manage some of its special initiatives including serving as the School Aged Child Care Program Director (SACC); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Common Council included this position in the authorized 2023 budget and at the March 1st Common Council meeting, the Mayor and Common Council approved increasing the hours for this position to 25 hours per week to be able to fulfill the demanding responsibilities of a SACC Director and other special events; and

WHEREAS, the distinct responsibilities of this position require minimum qualifications and experience for a SACC director in accordance with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS); and

WHEREAS, OCFS is the regulatory and licensing authority for GIAC’s youth afterschool program; and

WHEREAS, the regular GIAC Program Coordinator job description and minimum qualifications do not meet the requirements of OCFS, hence the need to create a new title; and

WHEREAS, GIAC’s 2023 operating budget as approved has funding to support this position and no additional funds are needed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Personnel Roster of the Greater Ithaca Activities Center be amended as follows:

Add: One (1) GIAC Program Coordinator – Special Initiatives (25 hours/week)

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the position of GIAC Program Coordinator – Special Initiatives shall be assigned to the CSEA Administrative Unit Compensation Plan at salary grade 15, and be it further

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of determining days worked reportable to the New York State and Local Employees Retirement System the standard workday for this position shall be established at seven (7) hours per day (thirty-five (35) hours per week), and be it further

RESOLVED, that funding for this position shall be derived from the approved 2023 departmental budget.
WHEREAS, Wink’s Leasing, LLC, owner of Wink’s Body Shop located at 720 West Court Street (“Wink’s”), and the City of Ithaca have previously been parties to license agreements dated February 26, 2016 and May 13, 2019 whereby Wink’s was granted a revocable license authorizing it to use a number of parking spaces in the public parking lot located at the corner of West Court Street and North Fulton Street, Tax Parcel 52.-3-20 (“Public Parking Lot”); and

WHEREAS, Wink’s desires to increase the number of spaces licensed in the Public Parking Lot from 21 to 29 spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Parking and Transportation has determined that the Public Parking Lot is underutilized and that licensing an additional 8 spaces to Wink’s will not negatively impact the availability of spaces available to the public for permit parking; and

WHEREAS, the City will continue to offer parking permits to the public for the remaining standard and ADA-accessible spaces in the Public Parking Lot; and

WHEREAS, Wink’s has agreed to pay a monthly fee of $35 per space per month for each of the 29 spaces to be licensed; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Public Works does not anticipate any conflicts in the near future with public works uses or needs; be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the Mayor, subject to the advice of the City Attorney, is hereby authorized to execute an updated license agreement with Wink’s in a form substantially similar to the draft attached hereto; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Public Works, subject to the advice of the City Attorney, is hereby authorized to approve future increases or reductions in the number of spaces licensed in the Public Parking Lot or to increase the fees therefor, and to execute any necessary documentation reflecting such changes, without further authorization of Common Council, provided that the City shall at all times retain an appropriate number of spaces available to offer to the public.
To: City Administration Committee Members

From: Eric Hathaway, Director of Transportation and Parking

Date: April 12, 2023

Re: Resolution Regarding Parking Agreement With Wink’s Body Shop

I was contacted by Wink’s Body Shop to request an increase in the number of parking spots that they lease from the City of Ithaca at the corner of West Court Street and Fulton Street, Tax Parcel 52.-3-20. They currently lease 21 spaces in the public lot and would like to increase it to 29 spaces. The City will still retain 4 spaces in the public lot, including two ADA accessible spaces.

Based on current usage of the lot, I believe this change to the lease is appropriate and will not compromise the ability for the public to access parking in this area.
REVOCABLE LICENSE AGREEMENT
FOR CITY PARKING LOT AT
WEST COURT STREET AND FULTON STREET

THIS AGREEMENT, made this ____ day of __________, 2023, by and between

THE CITY OF ITHACA (“City”)
108 East Green Street
Ithaca, NY  14850

and

WINK’S LEASING, LLC (“Licensee”)
Wink’s Body Shop
720 West Court Street
Ithaca, NY  14850

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, the City of Ithaca owns and maintains a public parking lot at the corner of West Court Street and Fulton Street, Tax Parcel 52.-3-20 (the “Public Parking Lot”); and

WHEREAS, the Public Parking Lot parcel was deeded to the City by the New York State Department of Transportation in 2004 after the reconstruction of the “Octopus” and NYS Route 13 contingent on the property remaining as a public parking lot; and

WHEREAS, Licensee, owner of Wink’s Body Shop, located at 722-28 West Court Street, adjacent to the Public Parking Lot, currently licenses 21 spaces within the Public Parking Lot pursuant to an agreement with the City dated May 13, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Licensee has expressed interest in licensing additional parking spaces for use by its customers and the public; and

WHEREAS, the City is amenable to licensing additional spaces to Licensee; now therefore

IT IS HEREBY AGREED, that in consideration of the mutual covenants, monetary consideration, and other valuable consideration described herein:

1. The City of Ithaca hereby licenses twenty-nine (29) spaces in the Public Parking Lot to Licensee. The licensed spaces shall include all spaces located along the eastern boundary of the Public Parking Lot as well as fourteen (14) of the spaces located along the western boundary of the Public Parking Lot (“Licensed Premises”). The spaces shall be marked with signage designating them as reserved spaces for the Licensee.
2. The City shall retain use of the two (2) parking spaces located in the northwest corner of the Public Parking Lot and the two (2) ADA-accessible spaces located in the southwest corner of the Public Parking Lot. These spaces shall be marked with signage designating them as reserved spaces for City permit parking.

3. Licensee agrees to maintain all portions of the Public Parking Lot, including, but not limited to, snow plowing and trash removal. Licensee agrees to keep the area clean and free of trash, debris, and refuse. Licensee further agrees to keep the Licensed Premises in a safe, sound, clean, and serviceable condition, in accordance with all applicable ordinances of the City and such that no hazard is posed to the public from the public’s use of or proximity to said premises, and to repair or remove any unsafe or improper structure or thing thereupon, as directed by the City. In the event of Licensee’s failure to effect such repair or removal, after notice from the City to do so, the City may carry out the same and charge Licensee and its benefited property for such cost (plus a 25% administrative charge).

4. The City agrees to provide any asphalt repair or related services reasonably needed to keep the Public Parking Lot in good condition and to maintain the signs marking the spaces of the Licensee and the City.

5. Licensee hereby agrees to defend, indemnify and save the City and its officers and employees harmless from any loss, injury or damage arising out of the occupancy or use of the Licensed Premises, by Licensee or its servant or agent, or by any member of the public, or from any negligence or fault of said Licensee or its servants or agents in connection with the maintenance of the Public Parking Lot, or the failure to maintain the same in good repair and safe condition, including attorneys fees and court costs. Licensee acknowledges that it will likewise hold the City harmless from any costs the City may incur, including legal fees, due to any claims which may arise out of Licensee’s obstructing, encumbering or occupying any portion of the public area of any adjacent street, including the sidewalk. Licensee also agrees to obtain and keep in force a liability insurance policy for the benefit of the City of Ithaca and naming the City as an additional insured in the amount of one million dollars ($1,000,000) and to deliver same to the City of Ithaca before use of said premises.

6. Monthly Payments

a. Licensee agrees to pay the City of Ithaca monthly rental fee for each parking space within the public parking lot of $1,015, which represents a fee of $35 per space for 29 spaces.

b. Licensee shall pay the City of Ithaca no later than ten (10) days after receiving an invoice each month.

c. Licensee further agrees to pay the City of Ithaca a late payment fee in the amount of 5% of that month’s rental fee for monthly payments that are ten (10) or more days late. Licensee’s failure to pay shall result in a lien against Licensee’s adjacent property (tax map parcel 52.-3-15) in accordance with City Charter Section C-54.
d. In the event that the Licensed Premises are reclassified by Tompkins County as taxable, the full amount of assessed taxes shall be incorporated into a corrected Use Fee, as of the date such taxes become due.

7. Notwithstanding any other provisions herein, the License contained herein may be revoked or modified by City (a) upon such notice as is practical, in the event of an emergency that threatens property or the public safety or welfare, or (b) upon at least one month’s notice that the Superintendent has determined that Licensee has failed to comply with any substantive term herein, and that Licensee has not cured such breach within the notice period, or (c) upon at least three months’ written notice to Licensee that the City’s Superintendent of Public Works has determined that the licensed premises is required for a public purpose. Licensee may terminate this agreement, for any reason, upon at least three month’s written notice to the City. In the event of such early termination (or modification that affects the amount of land that is licensed), Licensee shall be entitled to a pro-rated refund of the use fee, for the unused portion of the term (or in proportion to the reduced area), provided that Licensee is in compliance with the terms and conditions of this agreement.

8. Licensee shall not discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, contractor or subcontractor, supplier of materials or services, or program participant because of actual or perceived: age; creed; color; disability; domestic violence victim status; ethnicity; familial status; gender; gender identity or expression; height; immigration or citizenship status; marital status; military status; national origin; predisposing genetic characteristics; race; religion; sex; sexual orientation; socioeconomic status; or weight.

9. Workers Compensation and Disability Coverage: A condition for entry into this agreement is the presentation by the Licensee to the Superintendent of Public Works of proof that Licensee either provides the levels of workers compensation and disability coverage required by the State of New York, or that it is not required to provide such coverage.

10. This Agreement shall be effective as of the date first stated above and shall supersede all prior licenses or agreements regarding the licensing of spaces in the Public Parking Lot to Licensee or its affiliates.
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_________________________________________   ____________________________
Victor Kessler                                  Date
Assistant City Attorney

CITY OF ITHACA

By: ______________________________________  ____________________________
Laura Lewis                                     Date
Mayor

WINK’S LEASING, LLC

By: _______________________________  ____________________________
Name:                                           Date
Title:

STATE OF NEW YORK   )
)ss.:  
COUNTY OF TOMPKINS  )

On this _____ day of __________, 2023, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in
and for said State, personally appeared Laura Lewis, personally known to me or proved to me on
the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual whose name is subscribed to the within
instrument and acknowledged to me that she executed the same in her capacity, and that by her
signature on the instrument, the individual, or the person of which the individual acted, executed
the instrument.

______________________________
Notary Public

STATE OF NEW YORK   )
)ss.:  
COUNTY OF TOMPKINS  )

On this _____ day of __________, 2023, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public
in and for said State, personally appeared _________________________, personally known to me or
proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual whose name is subscribed
to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that she executed the same in her capacity, and
that by her signature on the instrument, the individual, or the person of which the individual
acted, executed the instrument.

______________________________
Notary Public

Attachments:
Certificate of Liability Insurance naming City as Co-insured
Proof of Workers’ Compensation
WHEREAS, the Streets & Facilities division of the DPW has a vacant Working Supervisor position, and

WHEREAS, this position has routinely been assigned work within the Highway section of maintaining stormwater infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the DPW has added a stormwater engineer position to the roster to assist with maintaining compliance with state and federal regulations, and

WHEREAS, this position would align with the organization structure at Streets & Facilities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Personnel Roster of the Streets and Facilities Division of the Department of Public Works be amended as follows:

Add: One (1) Working Supervisor – Stormwater
Delete: One (1) Working Supervisor

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the position of Working Supervisor - Stormwater shall be assigned to the CSEA DPW Unit Compensation Plan at salary grade 8, and be it further

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of determining days worked reportable to the New York State and Local Employees Retirement System the standard workday for this position shall be established at eight (8) hours per day (forty (40) hours per week), and be it further

RESOLVED, that funding for this position shall be derived from the approved 2023 departmental budget.
5.1 Resolution to Adopt Workforce Diversity Advisory Committee ‘Commitment to Equity and Justice Statement’

WHEREAS, the Workforce Diversity Advisory Committee’s (WDAC) overall objective is to improve existing City policies or to propose new policies which will help improve workforce diversity as an integral part of the operations of the City of Ithaca government; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council adopted the current Diversity Statement on December 2, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the WDAC has determined that the City’s workforce would be better served by an updated statement more reflective of current diversity practices and initiatives; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Common Council adopt the Commitment to Equity and Justice Statement to replace the city’s Diversity Statement.
Commitment to Equity and Justice Statement

The City of Ithaca is committed to creating an inclusive environment free from barriers that prevent each employee and community member from thriving. This includes changing and adopting systems, policies, procedures, legislation, and processes that have historically and continue to negatively impact members of marginalized groups.

We want the City staff and Ithaca community to achieve its highest potential. To do this, we commit to:

- Educating ourselves on the historic systems that produced the disproportionate outcomes we see today
- Using an equity lens to evaluate all decision-making processes
- Engaging in courageous conversations that may be difficult and bring discomfort
- Acknowledging power differentials and the reality that some folks benefit from the oppression of others
Diversity Statement

The City of Ithaca is committed to a work environment and community governance that values and supports diversity and inclusion. Collectively we will strive to learn about diversity; educate city employees, members of boards and committees and other volunteers; and promote acceptance of the differences of others within our workforce and our community.

Our goal is to strengthen the city’s work environment, our government, and our ability to serve our constituents.

In order to accomplish these goals, we will:

- Actively seek employees and volunteers with diverse backgrounds.
- Develop and maintain a work environment that supports and nurtures every individual throughout his or her tenure with the city.
- Continue to develop laws, policies, and procedures governing our workforce and the City of Ithaca that are mindful and inclusive of our diverse community

5.2 Resolution – Approval for Police Chief Salary Adjustment

WHEREAS, it has become increasingly clear that we are in a very competitive market for recruiting high quality individuals, and

WHEREAS, the City has committed itself to a major transformational journey in Reimagining Public Safety which will improve the safety and wellbeing of all individuals in our community, and

WHEREAS, based on input from Common Council and members of the community through surveys and focus groups, the city will seek an individual who has a proven track record in crime reduction strategies, being community-minded, also able to engage all stakeholders, reform oriented, and committed to social justice, and

WHEREAS, the President of the Executive Search Firm, Public Sector Search and Consulting has advised that due to the challenges facing law enforcement everywhere but particularly in our local climate, a salary increase is necessary to attract the desired candidate, and

WHEREAS, the Police Chief position is currently at a salary grade twelve (12) with a salary range of $110,460 to $132,552, the City has been advised that a higher salary may attract the right person, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Common Council hereby acknowledges the unique and extenuating circumstances that exist at this time given the City’s difficulty with recruiting law enforcement at all levels and its desire to move forward with implementing the recommendations of Reimagining Public Safety, which is synonymous with reducing crime and improving safety for all, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Common Council authorizes a starting salary of up to $150,000 and a $50,000 sign on bonus to be paid evenly over three (3) years for this Police Chief search.
6.1 Resolution - Release of Funds from Restricted Contingency to Address Homelessness

WHEREAS, as part of the 2023 Authorized City Budget, Common Council included $100,000 in restricted contingency funding to address homelessness, and

WHEREAS, staff is requesting that up to $73,700 be released for the following purposes:

- $60,000 to lease or rent one two-station portable toilet and shower. The units will be transported to the City-owned southwest property on a yet-to-be-determined regular weekly schedule for the purpose of providing basic hygiene facilities to those experiencing homelessness. (Rental = approx. $6,000/month for 10 months = $60,000).
- $5,000 to place and maintain a dumpster on the City-owned southwest property for the purpose of providing basic sanitation facilities. ($500/month for 10 months)
- $8,700 to purchase fencing materials to be erected on the city-owned Brindley St property. The purpose of the fencing is to limit access to the property and prevent reestablishment of campsites on this sensitive site during 2023. Staff will strive to develop a design and program for site restoration and public use; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Common Council hereby releases up to $73,700 from Account A1990 Restricted Contingency and transfers the funds to the appropriate account for the purpose of funding these activities in for 2023.
WHEREAS, the City of Ithaca is a member of the Ithaca/Tompkins County Continuum of Care (CoC), the local planning organization charged with coordinating the local homeless response system, and

WHEREAS, the CoC commissioned the *Homeless and Housing Needs Assessment for Tompkins County*, completed in March 2022, that concluded a shortage of permanent supportive housing units and affordable rental housing units creates a bottleneck to move unhoused persons to housing in a timely manner, and

WHEREAS, in December 2022, the CoC adopted a community-wide action plan to reduce unsheltered homelessness titled *Home, Together: Tompkins* (HTT Plan), and

WHEREAS, the HTT plan recommends the following strategies to reduce unsheltered homelessness:
- Build 100 units of permanent supportive housing units
- Expand emergency shelter capacity
- Organize and implement a “housing surge” to move unhoused persons to housing
- Enhance and coordinate housing navigation services, and

WHEREAS, the CoC recognizes the HTT Plan will only be effective if municipalities, non-profits, housing developers, and other stakeholders work collaboratively to implement the plan, and

WHEREAS, unsheltered homelessness is a persistent and growing challenge in the community, and

WHEREAS, endorsement of the HTT Plan will strengthen the competitiveness of funding applications seeking to implement strategies contained in the plan, and

WHEREAS, under its Rules of Procedure, the Common Council is authorized to “accept,” “endorse,” or “adopt” a plan, where “acceptance” acknowledges receipt and thanks its author, “endorsement” is defined to mean it concurs in the plan’s findings and/or recommendations, and “adoption” is defined to mean it commits itself to implementing the plan’s recommendations, and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2023, the Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency (IURA) endorsed the HTT Plan and recommended Common Council endorse the HTT plan; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the IURA, that the City of Ithaca Common Council hereby endorses the Ithaca/Tompkins Continuum of Care’s *Home, Together: Tompkins* plan to reduce unsheltered homelessness, and be it further

RESOLVED, this endorsement shall not constitute an obligation of the Common Council to fund any specific initiative or project contained in the plan.
In December 2022, the 40+ members of the Ithaca/Tompkins County Continuum of Care (CoC) adopted a community-wide action plan to reduce unsheltered homelessness titled *Home, Together: Tompkins*. The Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency (IURA) voted to endorse *Home, Together: Tompkins* at their March meeting. The IURA recommends the Common Council also endorse this action plan.

Staff from the CoC will provide a brief presentation on their plan and answer questions at the PEDC meeting. The plan recommends the following four major strategies:

1. Build 100 units of permanent supportive housing units
2. Expand emergency shelter capacity
3. Organize and implement a “housing surge” to move unsheltered persons to housing
4. Enhance and coordinate housing navigation services

Due to the complex nature of homelessness, reducing unsheltered homelessness requires collaboration between municipalities, non-profits, housing developers, and other stakeholders to be successful. Therefore, the City is requested to endorse this strategy.

City endorsement can also strengthen applications for funding to implement the plan.

The full *Home, Together: Tompkins* plan can be found [HERE](#). Please contact me at [nbohn@cityofithaca.org](mailto:nbohn@cityofithaca.org) with any questions.
Home, Together: Tompkins

The CoC's homeless response plan for ending unsheltered homelessness and enhancing service delivery for people with severe service needs.
Background

**Home, Together: USICH**

Home, Together is the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). This plan incorporates evidence-based strategies to end homelessness nationally with the guiding principles of home: safe and stable places to call home, and together: strengthening our community by providing opportunities for people to collaborate on this issue together.

**Housing and Public Health**

NY-510 asserts that access to stable housing is a requirement to achieving and maintaining the health of our county. The CoC considers the growth in the population of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to be a public health crisis. The solution is not to relocate people from one unsheltered location to another, but to move people into suitable permanent housing where they can meet their basic needs with dignity.

**Tompkins County Homeless and Housing Needs Assessment**

Written by Horn Research and published in 2021, this report commissioned by our CoC, the City of Ithaca, and Tompkins County revealed current areas in our homeless response system that are in need of support, as well as recommendations for providing those supports.
Housing First is an evidence-based approach to providing housing assistance that prioritizes placing individuals in permanent housing to end their homelessness as a basic need to working on any larger personal goals. This is guided by the belief that people need to have their basic needs such as food and housing met before being able to work on other less critical objectives such as employment or addressing substance use issues.

**Definitions**

**How does HUD define Severe Service Needs?**

any combination of the following factors:

- facing significant challenges or functional impairments which require a significant level of support in order to maintain permanent housing (this factor focuses on the level of support needed and is not based on disability type)
- high utilization of crisis or emergency services to meet basic needs, including but not limited to emergency rooms, jails, and psychiatric facilities
- experiencing a vulnerability to illness or death
- having a risk of continued or repeated homelessness
- having a vulnerability to victimization, including physical assault, trafficking or sex work, and
- currently living in an unsheltered situation or having a history of living in an unsheltered situation.

**What is housing first?**

Housing First is an evidence-based approach to providing housing assistance that prioritizes placing individuals in permanent housing to end their homelessness as a basic need to working on any larger personal goals. This is guided by the belief that people need to have their basic needs such as food and housing met before being able to work on other less critical objectives such as employment or addressing substance use issues.
What is Home, Together: Tompkins?

A Community Wide Plan to Reduce Homelessness

Strategies:
- increase our stock of PSH
- expand emergency shelter capacity
- organize and implement a "housing surge"
- address staff shortages
- improve access to resources
What do we hope to achieve?

01 LESS UNSHELTERED AND CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS
Implement low-barrier shelter, increase housing stock, and create additional resources for housing stability to reduce unsheltered and chronic homelessness in our community.

02 IMPROVED HEALTH OUTCOMES
Increase access to safe housing and preventative physical and mental health care, leading to less interactions with police, EMTs, and first-responders.

03 BETTER RELATIONSHIPS
Engage business owners, landlords and neighbors, leverage partnerships and strengthen relationships.
# The Home, Together: Tompkins Plan

## Access to housing

| 01 | A commitment to building 100 studio and 1-bedroom units of Permanent Supportive Housing. |
| 02 | Low-barrier shelter that removes pre-conditions and uses a trauma-informed approach to safety. |
| 03 | Using a "housing surge" strategy to quickly move people into housing/shelter. |

## Incentive Programs

| 04 | Mitigation funds for business owners and landlords serving people with severe service needs. |
| 05 | Other incentives for community members such as shopping cart exchanges and cash for trash |
| 06 | Easy access move-in packages and assistance for people moving from homeless to housed |

## Expanding Sector Capacity

| 07 | Three enhanced, centralized housing navigator positions to supplement existing outreach. |
| 08 | Paid board positions for people with lived experience to monitor and approve projects. |
| 09 | Professional development opportunities for people with lived experience. |

---

**Short-term Intervention** = S  
**Medium-term Intervention** = M  
**Long-term Intervention** = L
What does the data say?

Households leaving to temporary destinations were much (78%) more likely to return to homelessness than those exiting to permanent destinations.

While this trend held true across every group, it was most pronounced for Black and African-American Households.
The Housing Surge Process

01 Convening Partners
02 Identifying Resources
03 Creating a pool of housing units, landlord relationships, and participants
04 Expediting the Rehousing Process
05 Implementing the surge and tracking outcomes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Q1 2023</th>
<th>Q2 2023</th>
<th>Q3 2023</th>
<th>Q4 2023</th>
<th>Q1 2024</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Supportive Housing</td>
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<td>Low-BARRIER Shelter</td>
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<td>Housing Surges</td>
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<td>Happy Neighborhood Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shopping Cart Exchange</td>
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<td>Cash for Trash</td>
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<td>Move-In Assistance</td>
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<td>Expanding Capacity</td>
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<td>Housing Specialists</td>
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<td>Lived Experience Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
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Needs Assessment: Data Findings

Tompkins County has the third highest rate of homelessness per 10,000 population of comparable and surrounding CoCs.

Chronic Homelessness is increasing in our county. Almost half (45.1%) of our current homeless population are experiencing chronic homelessness.

Average length of stay in shelter is increasing and was at an average of 91 days in FY2020.

Compared with other CoCs, Tompkins County had the highest ratio of unsheltered homelessness to total homeless (34.3%).

In FY2020, there was an observable bottleneck of 102 beds (including vouchers) between people experiencing homelessness and the beds available through the homeless response system.

In FY2020, Tompkins County had the highest rate of returns to homelessness of all comparable CoCs at 32% of households returning to homelessness within 24 months.

Home, Together: Tompkins Outcomes

Reduce unsheltered homelessness by 70%:
- Recurring Housing Surges with rapid exits to permanent housing destinations
- Prioritization of people currently sleeping in unsheltered locations or otherwise banned from the OTDA-funded shelter in the low-barrier shelter
- 80 light-touch contacts from a HT housing specialist to serve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Reduce returns to homelessness by 50%:
- 200 light-touch contacts assisting with new moves
- 40 contacts assisting with landlord/tenant conflict within 6 months of move-in
- Rolling intensive case management for a caseload of 10-12 clients with severe service needs throughout the year with no returns to homelessness
- At least 200 clients served with move-in supplies and assistance
- Professional development for people with lived experience

Increased Community Engagement:
- Opportunities for engagement through initiatives such as cash for trash
- Paid lived experience board to enhance communication and understanding of the needs of people living outside
- Opportunities for professional development for people who lack other higher education requirements for employment in this field

Increased Accountability to Business Owners, Landlords, and Neighbors:
- $50,000 per year going directly to business owner and landlord partners
- A neighborhood liaison to foster increased communication
- Returning stolen shopping carts through the cart exchange program

Racial Equity Lens: Serve 50% BIPOC
- Proportional to current BIPOC representation in our homeless response system
- Commitment to equity through targeted outreach
Thank you!

Questions? Email us at sgatson@hsctc.org or lbargar@hsctc.org
A commitment to building 100 units of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).

PSH is housing set-aside for people experiencing literal homelessness that is affordable (residents contribute 30% of their income at most), permanent, and offers supportive services.

20 of these units will be set in rural areas of the county, and include additional supports such as free preventative healthcare and transportation.

HSC will work with TCAction on expanding staff capacity to serve additional units, starting with the 40 ESSHI units at Asteri.
Low-barrier shelter option

The Continuum of Care found that people who are currently living outside in Tompkins County are primarily people who are sanctioned from, or unwilling to navigate our current emergency shelter system.

Implementation of a site based low-barrier shelter with minimal pre-conditions to entering and maintaining shelter with an emphasis on safety through clear and simple expectations for residents.
A "housing surge" strategy to quickly move people indoors

A concentrated, time-limited community effort that houses a significant number of people in a short time-frame. Use the Coordinated Entry System to connect targeted households to a pre-identified pool of housing subsidies, available rental units and other resources and services. Housing Surges are a practice used for quick rehousing after natural disasters.
Mitigation funds for business owners and landlords.

Happy Neighborhood Program, provides eligible members with access to up to $5000 support annually for damages or theft, and support from HSC's landlord liaison.

The program will help build positive relationships, rebuild trust, and enhance communication in neighborhoods across the community.
Other incentives

Shopping cart return: reliable, collapsible, easy-to-repair carts to exchange for carts borrowed from businesses.

Cash for Trash: a redemption program like bottle return, but for trash (Ex. $10 per bag of collected litter)
Easy access move-in packages and assistance for moving from homeless to housed.

Expand current programs to help support housing stability by providing: trash tags, cleaning supplies, kitchen utensils, linens and more.

Also, moving assistance, moving trucks, storage units and additional household basic needs.
Three enhanced, centralized housing navigator positions.

Direct service generalists to help people access resources at all stages of the continuum: people who are currently experiencing homelessness, people who have just entered new housing, and people who are at risk of homelessness.

All three housing navigators would be trained by providers across our continuum to understand the available resources and eligibility criteria for programs. Each housing navigator would have a small caseload of 10-12 individuals with severe service needs for situations needing long-term assistance. They also act as a mobile, coordinated, community referral for individuals falling through the gaps of the existing safety net.
### Proposed Responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Navigator 1: Serving literally homeless</th>
<th>Housing Navigator 2: Serving recently housed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• help people fill in THA applications</td>
<td>• assisting in navigating local resources</td>
<td>• regularly attend eviction court at all sites in Tompkins County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• apply for other DSS services</td>
<td>• staying in compliance with section 8</td>
<td>• assist with finding last-resort resources to divert from homelessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• stay in compliance with the shelter</td>
<td>• navigating relationships with the landlord and other tenants</td>
<td>• follow up on high priority calls from our 2-1-1 line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• help people in unsheltered situations</td>
<td>• providing other appropriate referrals</td>
<td>• have a close relationship with local legal services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• get into shelter</td>
<td>• acting as a housing search resource</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• assist with housing search</td>
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</table>
Paid board positions for people with lived experience

People who are currently living in the encampments, have lived there or have other experiences of homelessness. Participants will offer leadership and guidance to the plan.
Professional development opportunities for people with lived experience

Partner with human services employers to offer a route to employment in the sector for people with lived experience who lack education or experience requirements.
6.3 Resolution - HOME-ARP Allocation Plan: City of Ithaca HUD Entitlement Program

WHEREAS, the City of Ithaca (City) is eligible to receive an annual formula allocation of funds to address community development needs through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Entitlement program from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program funding sources, and

WHEREAS, the City has contracted with the Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency (IURA) to plan, administer, implement and monitor the City’s HUD Entitlement program in compliance with all applicable regulations, and

WHEREAS, The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 provides a special $5 billion appropriation of HUD’s HOME funds to alleviate homelessness and housing instability in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic through a special program known as HOME-ARP, and

WHEREAS, the City, as a HUD Entitlement Community, is eligible to receive a one-time allocation of $1,211,000 in HOME-ARP funds upon submission of a satisfactory HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the IURA staff developed a draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan in compliance with mandated consultation and public participation procedures and all applicable regulations, and

WHEREAS, at their March 23, 2023 meeting, the IURA adopted the draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and submitted it to HUD for review prior to the March 31, 2023 deadline, and

WHEREAS, as a final step to access grant funds, the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan must be approved by the Common Council as a substantial amendment to the 2021 HUD Action Plan; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the City of Ithaca Common Council hereby approves the “City of Ithaca HOME-ARP Allocation Plan,” dated March 23, 2023, as a substantial amendment to the 2021 HUD Entitlement Action Plan, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor, in consultation with the IURA Chair, is authorized to make minor modifications and clarifications to the allocation plan to address any issues raised by HUD.
MEMORANDUM

To: Planning & Economic Development Committee members
Subject: HOME-ARP Allocation Plan
From: Nels Bohn, Director of Community Development
Date: April 12, 2023

The City was awarded a one-time allocation of $1,211,000 in HOME-ARP funds from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability. To access these funds, a community must submit a HOME-ARP Allocation Plan describing how funding will be distributed among eligible activities.

On March 23, 2023, the Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency adopted a HOME-ARP Allocation Plan for the City of Ithaca. HUD treats this one-time funding as an amendment to the 2021 HUD Entitlement Program. Common Council approval is required for all substantial amendments to the HUD Entitlement Program. Accordingly, Common Council approval of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan is requested.

Please find included:
  1. a proposed resolution, and
  2. an executive summary of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.
The full HOME-ARP Allocation Plan is available [HERE](61 pages).

Community Development Planner Anisa Mendizabal is the primary author of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. She plans to attend the PEDC meeting remotely for this agenda item. If you have questions, please contact Anisa at amendizabal@cityofithaca.org.
HOME-ARP

ALLOCATION PLAN

City of Ithaca, NY
March 23, 2023
# HOME-ARP Allocation Plan
Ithaca, NY

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The HOME-ARP Allocation Plan for Ithaca, NY

Executive Summary

Introduction
The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 provides a special $5 billion appropriation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds to create a special program (“HOME-ARP”) to alleviate homelessness and housing instability in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Ithaca has been allocated $1,211,000 in HOME-ARP funds. This is one-time funding determined by formula.

Though it draws on the HOME program, HOME-ARP is a new program whose rules and guidelines differ from traditional HOME. In order to access and deploy its HOME-ARP funds, the City must develop a framework for use of funds, called an Allocation Plan, to be submitted to HUD by March 31, 2023. The City will have until September 20, 2030 to expend HOME-ARP funds.

Consultation
The City consulted with over thirty organizations serving people experiencing homelessness or housing instability, including the seven specific types of service entities required by HOME-ARP. To broaden input and public participation from service providers, stakeholders, and community members, the City launched an online survey called “Ithaca Considers HOME-ARP,” which received 142 responses. The Allocation Plan summarizes consultations and survey responses.

Needs and Gaps Analysis
Understanding the needs and gaps in local systems serving people who are experiencing homelessness or unstably housed, as well as existing resources, is central to developing a local strategy for deploying HOME-ARP funds. The City partnered with the Tompkins County Continuum of Care to commission an analysis of needs and gaps by Horn Research. The resulting report, “Homelessness & Housing Needs Assessment for Tompkins County” was released on March 9, 2022. Additionally, the City reviewed recent data from the Tompkins County Continuum of Care, the Ithaca Eviction/Displacement Defense (IEDD) Project, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Services (OTDA), and others in development of this Allocation Plan.
HOME-ARP Activities: Ithaca’s Strategy & Rationale for Use of Funds

Data and stakeholder input point to two overwhelming needs in the homeless response system to address with HOME-ARP funds. One is the lack of current resources to respond to persistent unsheltered homelessness. An estimated 20-25 households remain in outdoor encampments year-round. Second, 32% of households exiting homelessness return to homelessness within 24 months. Supportive services have been identified as a gap for navigating housing systems, identifying units, and providing needed assistance in sustaining housing post-placement. Therefore, the City proposes to deploy HOME-ARP funds in two primary ways:

1. To support a housing surge for people who are literally homeless, and
2. To prevent returns to homelessness for people who are currently housed and in situations of vulnerability that threaten their housing stability.

The City has determined that the special rules of HOME-ARP make its supportive services the most flexible and cost-effective means to achieving these goals. Under HOME-ARP program rules, supportive services may provide short- and medium-term rental assistance, along with other financial assistance. Supportive services have the potential to provide low-barrier navigation services on the front-end to help unsheltered people reach housing and post-placement services to households who have experienced homelessness in order to increase stability and prevent eviction. Service plans can be customized to provide rental assistance where necessary. Therefore, the City proposes to allocate the majority of its HOME-ARP funds to the Supportive Services category. The City will allocate 5% of its total HOME-ARP award—the maximum allowed—to Nonprofit Capacity-Building to put necessary infrastructure in place to carry out HOME-ARP activities. The remainder of the funds will be used for administration of the funds over the remaining seven years.

HOME-ARP Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
<th>Percent of Grant</th>
<th>Statutory Limit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supportive Services</td>
<td>$ 969,350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development of Affordable Rental Housing</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Profit Operating</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
<td>0 %</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Profit Capacity Building</td>
<td>$ 60,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration and Planning</td>
<td>$ 181,650</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total HOME ARP Allocation</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,211,000</strong></td>
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</table>
Preferences
HOME-ARP has a complex system that communities may utilize in targeting funds to households with the highest needs. In order to lower barriers to households who are literally homeless and disconnected from the homeless response system, the City will implement a preference for Qualifying Population 1, “Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5” with a prioritization method of Subgroup 1 “An individual for family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” In order to prevent returns to homelessness, the City will implement a preference for Qualifying Population 4, “Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability, as defined by HUD in the Notice,” with a prioritization method of Subgroup 1, “Households who have previously been qualified as ‘homeless’ as defined in 24 CFR 91.5, are currently housed due to temporary or emergency assistance, including financial assistance, services, temporary rental assistance or some type of other assistance to allow the household to be housed, and who need additional housing assistance or supportive services to avoid a return to homelessness.” HOME-ARP Supportive Services will be available to people in other Qualifying Populations and their subgroups after these two target populations are served.
6.4 Resolution to Select Artwork for City-Owned Electrical Boxes

WHEREAS, in 2012 the City’s Public Art Commission launched a project to beautify 21 municipal electrical boxes through the creation of mini-murals, and subsequent rounds of the project were completed in 2014, 2016, and 2017 and

WHEREAS, Ithaca Murals and Get Your GreenBack (GYGB) Tompkins have proposed a new project to install murals on 15 electrical boxes throughout the City, and

WHEREAS, the project, titled Thriving Futures, focuses on the theme of building a future where all people and living environments thrives, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Works approved several locations for future murals and street art, including municipal electrical boxes throughout the city, by resolution on May 19, 2010, and all of the proposed locations are included in this approval, and

WHEREAS, Ithaca Murals and GYGB Tompkins issued a call for proposals, and their review committee selected 15 proposals for the project,

WHEREAS, the project will be privately funded and will be budget-neutral to the City; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Ithaca Common Council selects the submissions of the following artists for Thriving Futures: Bethany Parisi; Cruz Newman; Joshua Swartwood; Karolina Piorko, Maya Kamaeva, and Ami Mehta; Muhamed Kafedzic Muha; Kel Swensen; Rachel Feirman; Stacia Humby; Vivinne Williams; Susan Eschbach; Emily Hoyt; Isaac Sharp; Samarra Khaja; Dorothy Lovelace; 2023 Be Mitzvah class at Tikvun v’Or Reform Temple; (as shown in “Thriving Futures Mural Proposals (2023)”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the selected artists may proceed with the installation of their murals on their appointed electrical box upon the execution of an agreement with the City (as reviewed by the City Attorney).
Bethany Parisi

I have a fascination with lifecycles and how interconnected and interdependent the natural world is. I convey these through images of food sources, pollinators, plants, framed by an animal. Understanding the life cycles of crops and animals is important for addressing issues such as land and food justice.

Artist Statement:
Bethany Parisi is a modern folk artist residing in the visually breathtaking Finger Lakes Region. Her art is heavily influenced by her observations and experiences in nature. Bethany is fascinated by both the cutting-edge technologies of digital media and the timeless traditions of folk art. She seeks to bridge the gap between these seemingly contradictory worlds.

Box Location: MLK and Floral (self standing box near the foot of West Hill)

Cruz Newman

The Soulful Raccoon is just saying "Love." Love has the power to transform anything, and love is all there is. If we slow down (our crazy minds) and reconnect with that force which is in the universe and within us, we will definitely have a better future and be more united.

My illustrations are usually inspired by nature. My common theme is animals with flowers growing on their heads which symbolizes to me, the interconnectedness of all things. My favorite media is watercolor and my style is whimsical.

Artist Bio: Cruz was born and raised in Mérida, a beautiful valley surrounded by gigantic mountains in the Venezuelan Andes. She got a degree in Industrial design and moved to London to learn English and experience the world from a different perspective. Love and life brought Cruz to the US in 2015.

Box Location: Elmira Rd and Spencer Rd (self standing box on rt 13 by Salvation Army)
Joshua Swartwood

I seek to learn from the beauty of the natural world, and as an artist, I use my craft as a way to contemplate life and the human experience. Rooted in an appreciation for illustration, printmaking, as well as graphic and street art, my pieces often include bold imagery and symmetry. I also enjoy the influence that word play can have on an image, and how text can attach multiple meanings or ideas to visual art. My intention is that my creations would provoke thought and communicate hope, peace, justice, and life to each person who sees them.

Project Description:
The theme for my mural proposal is “light”. Playing with the ideas of light as a source of illumination, as well as a measurement of weight, these images are an invitation for the viewer to show up in the world and “arise & shine”. The design explores the essential function that light performs in the process of growing and thriving, while also addressing the struggle that can be involved in shining in the face of darkness or remaining buoyant within heaviness. Also included, is the consideration that lightness is most effective when it's made in community rather than in isolation.

Box Location: Dryden Rd and College Ave (self standing box in Collegetown)

Karolina Piorko, Maya Kamaeva, Ami Mehta

We are a group of artists and architects that see art in urban environments as a window into worlds of fantasy that lift people beyond the endless roads, pavements and walls. Our work intends to create fictional universes that inspire moments of joy and tickle the brain into imagining alternate futures.

Project Description: Our mural shows a future where human and creature live in harmony and symbiosis, a precious bond that once changed during the industrial age, but now can return to one of mutual care and appreciation. This future looks very similar to our present, except nature has been allowed to make a home in ours, becoming our family and our friends. Inspired by scenic locations in Ithaca, the mural depicts fantasy creatures with their own personalities taking over the landscape in soft ways, creating bonds with the community that lives with them. We hope that this mural inspires us to think of nature as our companion rather than a force to contend with.

Box Location: Cayuga St and Lincoln St (self standing box near IHS)
Muhamed Kafedzic Muha

Box description:
I would like to paint a pole box and turn it into infinite sakura blossoms. Bring blossoms to a dead wooden pole, make it alive again.

Artist statement:
My artistic identity is based on the Japanese Ukiyo-e and American Pop Art traditions, interwoven together and interpreted in a more hybrid and global key. By refusing traditional local artistic traditions and themes, my goal is to challenge the stereotypical ethnic or national image of an artist from the post-war Bosnia & Herzegovina, by trying to create an identity that can open transnational and pop cultural connections. I have exhibited and held workshops on street art and comics in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Germany, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Belgium & Japan.

Box Location: Dryden Rd and Maple Ave (pole box at 6 corners on East Hill)

Kel Swensen

At its foundation, I see art as a way to interact with and shape the world. My art often grapples with themes of oppression, pain, and trauma, but also identity, connection, and care. I enjoy finding overlaps between political engagement and art making, especially in spaces where it forges opportunities to create collectively.

Proposal: How can we hold each other? It is such a simple question, yet there is room for great complexity in every answer. Immediately, I think of hands. Several of my previous works have explored the use of hands as a symbol for connection, community, and care. I also wanted to reflect the tension of the question visually with a simple, open composition paired with the intricacy of the color palette that reflects what I imagine a world where we thoughtfully show up for each other would look like: bold and vibrant. This design highlights a strong connection with nature that comes with a society designed to lift others up rather than keep them down. A society where you share fruit with your neighbor freely when you are not worried about whether you can afford to buy more or not. On our path to that world, there are so many ways we can hold our people, our communities and ourselves in the meantime. I want this mural to inspire people to reflect on ways they may do that in their own community to help us build that world together.

Box Location: MLK and Mitchell (self standing box on East Hill)
Rachel Feirman

Artist Statement: Rachel Feirman is a digital and traditional freelance artist located in Upstate NY. She finds inspiration most often from the beauty and vibrancy found in her natural surroundings. Rachel hopes that her twists on the many aspects of our environment help to bring a newfound appreciation to your life. Her various outlets of creativity include making digitally illustrated artworks, as well as traditional art using acrylic paints, gouache, watercolor, and linocut printing. Currently, she enjoys digital art the most because of how easy it is to try new things. Rachel draws on her wide range of experience for her work in logo design, book illustration, public art, surface design, and more.

Mural Description: My interpretation of a thriving future is a thriving natural environment! One where the soil is given plenty of nutrients to feed plants, that in turn feeds all living creatures. I hope that with more visibility to the incredible process that goes on under our feet we can have a greater understanding that there are peaceful and productive ways to coexist with all sentient beings.

Box Location: MLK and Stewart (self standing box on east Hill)

Stacia Humby

Proposal:
I would love to paint the life cycles of various local plants and pollinators, an example of which can be seen attached via a quick painting sketch of a cecropia moth and apple (starting as an egg and bud respectively.) The box would display the process of seed to spoon, nature to nurture, night to day, with food as a process rather than a product.

Artist statement:
My work reflects the fleeting and curious nature of my attention span, testing any medium and any depth of meaning. Creating in any form is the closest I come to meditation, and I find great comfort in the clarity of thought or silence of thoughtlessness that finds me as I work.

Box Location: Dewitt Park (box on concrete block inside the park)
**Vivinne Williams**

**Artist Statement:** I taught art for some years and have been an artist since age 12ish. I attended Music & Art High School, and eventually got my MFA. I left academia because of severe burnout from a toxic work environment. Since then I've struggled to really get back to making art. The only thing I enjoy painting, which I always have, is clouds. I find it incredibly calming, abstract yet realist which is quite unusual. They are also ever changing and require an extreme mindfulness to capture convincingly.

**Project Description:** Humanity contemplating / or dreaming the future and balance of nature. The gears and the patterning are to evoke a futuristic feeling.

**Box Location:** MLK and Cayuga (on the corner across from the commons)

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**Susan Eschbach**

I have painted and been a poet for many years but only as a recently retired educator (previously principal at Beverly J Martin) am I now able to find time in my life to do a project like this. I am not a great sketcher and so there are lots of "titles" explaining some of what you see.

My hope (as evidenced in the Audre Lorde quote) is that the energy and synergy of all of us creates something we cannot even see right now but must be our vision forward. We have tremendous opportunities as artists to touch the spirits of others to motivate ongoing community and change. My 7 year old granddaughter is studying change makers and insisted I put Greta Thunberg and Wangari Maathai in the image. She is also a budding artist and has a joint studio with me so I am hoping to paint the box together, and invite a friend if she wishes. Keeping the activism going.

**Location:** Albany and Buffalo
(self standing box near BJM)
Emily Hoyt

Emily Hoyt is a local artist and musician who lives in Ithaca with her spouse/bandmate and their two creative children. She is motivated and inspired by nature and nurturing. She likes to imagine the vastness of the universe by focusing on the tiniest things such as the minute yet magnificent details on the feathers of a bird. Her subject matter (though mostly abstract) is influenced by the natural world, faraway galaxies, and female empowerment. She strives to leave the world a little more cheerful with her art, music, and relationships (even though her propensity to joke about existential crises would have you believing otherwise) and she hopes you find some joy in her creations and interactions.

Mural proposal:
I am envisioning a box inspired by aquaponics. The trout in the classroom at my child’s school last year, Enfield Elementary, really excited me and our family. It demonstrated a just and sustainable future where children are empowered and knowledgeable about watershed systems, growing food, symbiotic relationships between animals and plants etc.

I would paint a mural showing fish swimming in water and the cycle of their waste being turned into nutrients to enrich a green garden of leaves and trees and foods. Perhaps an element of classroom/education would be shown in that some of the leaves would be book pages. Thank you for this opportunity! Painting an electrical box has been a dream of mine since moving here and seeing the vibrant art all around our beautiful little city.

Box Location: MLK St and Aurora St (self standing box 2 blocks from the Commons)

Isaac Sharp

Proposal: A surreal utopian-future landscape full of animals and humans flying around amidst trees and bizarre geometric architecture. The final version will have a lot more detail and color than the provided sketch.

My main goal as an artist is to bring humor and the unexpected into people’s everyday lives. With this project I hope to draw attention with something silly or surreal, but then cause people to pause, pondering the suggestion of deeper significance. I draw much of my influence and inspiration from my love of science fiction and the natural world; as well as illustrators/artists like Gary Larson (The Far Side), Lisa Hanawalt, Quentin Blake and M.C. Escher.

Box Location: Cornell St by Belle Sherman, W. MLK near Floral (2 small mid-block pole boxes)
**Samarra Khaja**

**Artist Statement:**
Samarra Khaja is an immigrant of South-Asian Indian and Australian heritage and a professional illustrator, graphic designer, and award-winning author. She is the creator of a prize-winning 24’ x 120’ mural, Heartbeat Brooklyn, which can be found at the corner of 12th Street and 2nd Avenue in Brooklyn, NY. Hallmarks of her work include brightly-colored, amusing, whimsical and clever depictions of the seemingly usual; revealing the unexpected out of the everyday. Samarra chooses projects that feel purposeful with a specific mindfulness toward fostering inclusivity and education. Much of her current work and practice also focuses on sustainability. She spends less time on her hair and more time on drawing and eating chocolate.

**Mural Project Description:**
A big sun shines in a bright blue sky with puffy clouds. There is a peapod canoe in front of the sun, with three smiling peas paddling their way along a jaunty body of water. Beneath their peapod canoe are curly waves and brightly-colored fish. Hand-lettering text is intermixed throughout the mural and reads “No Justice. No Peas. Or Fresh Water. Or Sustainable Planet.”

**Box Location:** Bank Alley on the Commons (self standing box next to History and Culture Center)

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**Dorothy Lovelace**

I've been drawing and producing art for over 30 years. My work often involves surreal landscapes and themes of escape, sometimes dark and sometimes outrageously joyous. My imagery regularly includes animals, nature, and people and bright vibrant colors.

**Project Description:**
I would like to paint local flora and fauna surrounding books and artistic/musical tools in a fantastic storybook landscape.

**Box Location:** Geneva St and Buffalo St (self standing box 1 block from BJM)
13 students
(ages 11-13)

Be Mitzvah class at Tikkun v’Or Reform Temple
Nora, Aviyah, Gefen, Lionel, Sam, Sammy, Sally, Zach, Adam, Josh, Eli Ash, Eli Warshoff with the support of adults
Michael Margolin, Elan Shapiro, Marsha Accera.

Whatever strategies and solutions are needed to steer us toward a thriving future, it will require working together for a more just world. It will take all of us to figure this out and make it happen. When we think of a thriving future we think of freedom, ease, and clean water. A thriving future for us would be one where we wouldn’t have to worry about our very existence. Judaism teaches us that all creation is precious and it is our job to help protect all beings on this planet. The future is electric. A thriving future would be where “the air is clear, we are not afraid, we can see the stars, and people are free.”

Box Location: Cayuga and Tompkins
(self standing box halfway between Commons and IHS)
7.1 Resolution - Appointment of Marriage Officer

WHEREAS, the Mayor’s Office received a request to appoint Joseph (Seph) Murtagh as a Marriage Officer in order to perform a wedding ceremony for a special couple, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murtagh meets the requirements of the New York State Domestic Relations Law for being appointed as a Marriage Officer for the City of Ithaca; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Joseph (Seph) Murtagh be designated as a Marriage Officer for the date June 3rd, 2023.