

## RESOLUTION #2019-22

### A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE “TRANSFORMING ALBION” PROJECT, UNDER A HUD ‘CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS’ GRANT APPLICATION; AUTHORIZING TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY’S SCHOOL OF PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION FOR THE GRANT ACTIVITIES; AND AUTHORIZING A FIRM COMMITMENT OF LOCAL CASH CONTRIBUTION TO THE PLANNING PHASE OF “TRANSFORMING ALBION.”

- **Background:** The three pillars of the ‘Choice Neighborhoods’ planning grant program, made available by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development are based on 1) People 2) Housing and 3) Neighborhoods. The mission of the “Transforming Albion” Project is to develop strategies that will enhance access to health, education, transportation, employment, crime-free communities, recreational activities and designs that promote the well-being of its residents. In coordination with the City of Albion and the Albion Housing Commission, Michigan State University’s School of Planning, Design and Construction will co-lead the planning and activities of the “Transformation Plan” alongside Albion residents and leaders. The “Transformation Plan” is a participatory planning process that will culminate in the development of a plan for three Albion neighborhoods (Precincts 1, 2 & 3) with goals pertaining to housing, people and neighborhoods. Residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds will be the driving force behind this project mainly through unique engagement activities such as ‘strategic doing,’ charrette design and engagement meetings, learning opportunities and other civic engagement activities over a multi-year span. Early conversations with neighborhood residents indicate interest in potential grant ‘Action Activities’ revolving around youth activities, transportation options, and neighborhood design that improves personal safety. In addition to this *Resolution*, a *Memorandum of Understanding* between the City of Albion and Michigan State University’s School of Planning, Design and Construction sets out the principles that will guide the activities of the grant, if funded: A 3 ½ year project for \$1.3 million that encompasses both planning and action items within Albion’s Precincts 1, 2 & 3. Since the work proposed within this grant application aligns with Albion’s adopted Comprehensive Plan, support for this process is being requested in the form of local contribution. Approval for this grant submission is provided within this resolution and local contribution cash match is provided in the amount of seventeen thousand five hundred dollars (\$17,500) from the City of Albion over three years. Administrative staff recommends city approval of the *Memorandum of Understanding*, a local three-year contribution amount totaling \$17,500.00 in its support of the “Transformation Plan” planning process.

The above financial contribution will be *explicitly committed* by the City of Albion to MSU (Lead Applicant) for a multi-day National Charrette Institute (NCI) design charrette to develop a vision for the three target neighborhoods that will focus on Housing, People, and Neighborhoods. This phase of the planning effort is described more fully in the HUD grant application’s *Exhibit E. Soundness of Approach*: During the charrette, input from residents, youth, seniors, businesses, veterans, LGBTQ organizations, faith-based and civic organizations will drive the resulting vision document that will be the foundation for the *Transformation Plan*. The Transforming Albion team will utilize MSU faculty and students for data collection, summaries, meeting facilitation and designs. Albion College and other interested academic institutions will provide various assistance with the charrette process as well. The major final output will include 1) a sub-area master plan for the three target neighborhoods with proposed land use plans and detailed design alternatives for the existing and/or vacant lots in the study area for future development; 2) a connectivity plan considering multi-modal transportation modes (e.g. walking and

biking, transit network); 3) a low impact development plan to enhance community and environmental resiliency; and 4) walkable/bikeable streetscapes design with wayfinding systems and public safety components within the rights-of-way.

**WHEREAS** the Albion City Council hereby supports the “Transforming Albion” project under a HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning and Action grant application and supports entering into a partnership between the City of Albion, the Albion Housing Commission, Michigan State University’s School of Planning, Design and Construction; and

**WHEREAS** the Albion City Council shall not seek through this grant process, to reduce the overall number of public housing units presently available in the City; and

**WHEREAS** any members of the Committees formed for the implementation of the activities funded under this grant shall be appointed to said committees by the City Council in the same manner as other board appointments;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Albion hereby authorizes a local cash contribution to be explicitly committed to the lead applicant (MSU) for a multi-day neighborhood charrette planning process which will serve as the basis for the “Transforming Albion” plan, in the amount of Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred (\$17,500) Dollars over the next three years, if funded by HUD, in addition to the provision of staff time and resources; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Albion Mayor and City Manager are authorized to sign documents related to the HUD Choice Neighborhoods grant application.

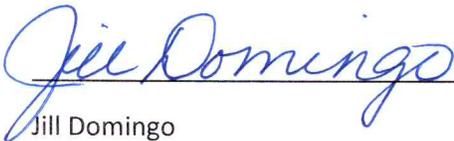
Date: June 3, 2019

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Spicer)

I certify that this resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Albion on June 3, 2019.

  
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Jill Domingo

City Clerk