

CITY OF SCRANTON PUBLIC HEARING

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IN RE: FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 74, 2019 -
AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 44, 2014 AND FILE OF
THE COUNCIL NO. 118, 2015, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS
OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS
TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER
THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM,
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND
EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD
BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2015 AND FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING
JANUARY 1, 2016" BY AMENDING THE 2015 ACTION PLAN AND
THE 2016 ACTION PLAN BY UTILIZING SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND
EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY ONE DOLLARS AND SIXTY NINE CENTS
(\$63,831.69) FROM THE 2015 ACTION PLAN AND SIXTY-THREE
THOUSAND SEVENTY ONE DOLLARS AND TWENTY-ONE CENTS
(\$63,071.21) FROM THE 2016 ACTION PLAN IN ORDER TO
PROVIDE A TOTAL OF ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND TWO DOLLARS AND NINETY CENTS
(\$126,902.90) UNDER THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM (HOME) TO BUILD A TWO (2) UNIT RENTAL HOUSE FOR
LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON OR TO
ACQUIRE AND REHAB TWO (2) VACANT HOUSES IN

1 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES BY AND
2 THROUGH THE SCRANTON LACKAWANNA RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
3 CORPORATION, A SUBSIDIARY OF THE SCRANTON LACKAWANNA
4 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

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6 HELD:

7
8 Monday, October 7th, 2019

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10 LOCATION:

11 Council Chambers
12 Scranton City Hall
13 340 North Washington Avenue
14 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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24 MARIA McCOOL, RPR
25 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 MR. PERRY: I call this public
2 hearing to order. Roll call, please.

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4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Attorney Dempsey.

9 ATTY. DEMPSEY: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MS. REED: The purpose of said
14 public hearing is to hear testimony and discuss
15 the following:

16 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 74, 2019 -
17 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 44, 2014 AND
18 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 118, 2015, ENTITLED "AN
19 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
20 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON
21 TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
22 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING
23 AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
24 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
25 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)

1 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)
2 PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1,
3 2015 AND FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1,
4 2016” BY AMENDING THE 2015 ACTION PLAN AND THE
5 2016 ACTION PLAN BY UTILIZING SIXTY-THREE
6 THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY ONE DOLLARS AND
7 SIXTY NINE CENTS (\$63,831.69) FROM THE
8 2015 ACTION PLAN AND SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND
9 SEVENTY ONE DOLLARS AND TWENTY-ONE CENTS
10 (\$63,071.21) FROM THE 2016 ACTION PLAN IN
11 ORDER TO PROVIDE A TOTAL OF ONE HUNDRED AND
12 TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND TWO
13 DOLLARS AND NINETY CENTS (\$126,902.90)
14 UNDER THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
15 (HOME) TO BUILD A TWO (2) UNIT RENTAL HOUSE FOR
16 LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON OR
17 TO ACQUIRE AND REHAB TWO (2) VACANT HOUSES IN
18 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES BY
19 AND THROUGH THE SCRANTON LACKAWANNA RESOURCES
20 DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, A SUBSIDIARY OF THE
21 SCRANTON LACKAWANNA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

22 MR. PERRY: Okay. We have two names
23 on the sign-in sheet for this public hearing.
24 And again, this is just for Item 6-A, which was
25 just read.

1 Our first speaker on this list is
2 Regina Mansour. Am I saying that right? You
3 can go to the podium, please and just state
4 your name and your address for the record,
5 please.

6 MS. MANSOUR: Hi. I'm Regina
7 Mansour, 103 (inaudible) Drive, Scranton, PA.
8 My husband and I own a duplex on 1714 South
9 Webster Avenue. And it's on the market. It's
10 listed at \$109,000. I would like you to
11 consider that property as a possibility to
12 buying it with the funds that are available.

13 It's in excellent condition, brand
14 new furnace, year old. It's in a nice
15 neighborhood, schools, convenient, bus route
16 right at the corner. And it could be a
17 two-bedroom downstairs, single upstairs.

18 But we have single people, couples,
19 low, moderate incomes that are in need of
20 housing, decent housing in our area. I have
21 the listing information. Can I present this to
22 someone?

23 MR. PERRY: Sure. You can leave it
24 with Kathy right there.

25 MS. MANSOUR: It's listed with a

1 realtor. So if you could kindly consider that
2 I would appreciate it, not only for myself but
3 for the benefit of the people who are in need.
4 Thank you.

5 MR. PERRY: And is there a contact
6 number on that information as well if we need
7 to get --

8 MS. MANSOUR: For the realtor, yes.

9 MR. PERRY: Okay.

10 MS. MANSOUR: Deal directly with the
11 realtor. Thank you.

12 MR. PERRY: Okay. Thank you. And
13 the next name on the sheet is Ron Ellman.

14 MR. ELLMAN: Yes, gentlemen, I just
15 got a quick question. Maybe two weeks ago I've
16 been fighting with my insurance company
17 Hartford. They don't come no worse than these
18 people, let me tell you.

19 I was complaining about something
20 and they sent me a letter back saying -- I'm
21 not exactly -- I think they said it cost \$117 a
22 square foot if my house burned down to rebuild
23 it. And you're talking about --

24 MR. PERRY: Mr. Ellman, does this
25 have to do with the public hearing?

1 MR. ELLMAN: You're talking about a
2 \$127,000 you want to build a duplex and
3 refurnish two other houses. That's impossible.
4 And I'm not against the idea. But that's no
5 money. You know, how are you going to do it?
6 I wish you could tell Hartford how to do it.
7 Am I wrong? Why don't you just talk about one
8 little single house or something and I don't
9 think you can do it.

10 My roof cost \$7,000 a couple years
11 ago. And now they said that's a bargain. I
12 don't know. All you people, you just think of
13 things in the wrong way to me. Thank you.

14 MR. PERRY: Thank you. That's all
15 the names on the sign-in sheet. Is there
16 anybody else that would like to talk during
17 this public hearing?

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher, I
19 have no opposition to the switching of the
20 funding. But I would definitely not want new
21 housing built. We have enough empty structures
22 in this City that we could -- that they should
23 be used.

24 And a lot of elderly people are
25 going out looking for jobs just based on what

1 the school board is doing this year -- this
2 coming year and the succeeding several years.

3 And I think that would sort of be a
4 slap in the face that you're going to give
5 probably somebody that comes into the -- in
6 here and give them a brand new house. And plus
7 as I say, the main reason though is all the
8 vacancies we have. So I think that should be
9 primary. Thank you.

10 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Anybody else
11 like to speak?

12 (Audience member speaking from the
13 gallery (inaudible.)

14 MR. PERRY: Thank you. Anyone else
15 like to address? Public hearing is adjourned.
16 Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
5 notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy
6 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my
7 ability.

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10 _____
11 Maria McCool, RPR
12 Official Court Reporter
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25 the certifying reporter.)