

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
City of Butler, Pennsylvania
July 20, 2022

Mayor Dandoy called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Mayor Dandoy and Council members Reese, Shearer, and Herr were present. The pledge of allegiance to the flag followed an invocation given by Deacon Mitch Natali, All Saints Parish.

The following actions took place at the Forum Meeting held on July 7, 2022:

Mayor Dandoy made a motion to approve an agreement between the Butler Area Sewer Authority (BASA), Butler County Community College and the City of Butler to document the terms and conditions under which BC3 can use land owned by the Butler Area Sewer Authority as a range for gun training, subject to the removal of Paragraph No. 6. Second by CM Reese. All voted aye.

- **COMMERCIAL NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE AWARD**

Gary Vanasdale & Jennifer Gilliland-Vanasdale
Gilliland Vanasdale Sinatra Law Office, LLC
257 S. Main Street

- **PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Dandoy presented a proclamation and a key to the City to Ed Bloom, Bortmas, The Butler Florist, Inc., proclaiming July 21, 2022 to be “**Ed Bloom Day**”.

Sara Reed, CPA Manager at Maher Duessel presented the 2021 Single Audit.

Motion by CM Reese with a second from CM Shearer to approve the agenda for the regular meeting of July 20, 2022. All voted aye.

Motion by Mayor Dandoy with a second from CM Shearer to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 23, 2022. All voted aye.

Motion by Mayor Dandoy with a second from CM Reese to acknowledge receipt of the monthly minutes from RACB, including the CDBG/HOME Program activities. All voted aye.

MONTHLY & ANNUAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

(Note: Department Reports Distributed to Council electronically)

Motion to accept the monthly reports from the Office of the City Clerk, the Police Department, Fire Department, Office of Business & Community Development/Code Enforcement, Department of Public Works and Parking Department for the month of June. Motion by Mayor Dandoy. Second by CM Reese. All voted aye.

COUNCIL REPORTS/ACTIONS

Councilman Herr

- 1.Motion to direct the City Clerk to advertise for bids for a 4WD pick-up truck to be used by the Bureau of Fire for replacement of the Rescue vehicle. Funding is part of the FY2021 Community Development Block Grant. Complete bid specifications will be available through the Bureau of Fire and the Office of the City Clerk. Second by CM Reese. All voted aye.
- 2.Motion to approve the conditional hiring of two (2) part-time firefighters from the 2022 Civil Service Examinations Certified List. Second by CM Reese. All voted aye.
- 3.Motion to approve an agreement with **Breakthrough-Butler** for use of Memorial Park Optimist and Deal (only after the YMCA has vacated the space) shelters on July 19, 2022, from 10:00AM until 6:00PM for a Breakthrough-Butler Event. Second by CM Reese. All voted aye.
- 4.Motion to approve a community skateboard competition at **Father Marinaro** skatepark on Saturday, August 6, 2022 starting at 12:00 PM and ending at 9:30 PM. Second by Shearer. All voted aye.

Mayor Dandoy

- 5.Motion to approve **City Resolution No. 2022-07-20**; a resolution authorizing the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Butler to file an application for Community Development Block Grant-Cares Act (CDBG-CV), as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES Act) {P.L. 116-136} on behalf of the City of Butler with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Second by CM Herr. All voted aye.
- 6.Motion to adopt the **Community Needs Assessment** attached to **City Resolution No. 2022-07-20**. Second by CM Shearer. All voted aye.
- 7.Motion to approve **City Resolution No. 2022-07-20A**; a resolution authorizing the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Butler to file an application for HOME funds for affordable housing activities on behalf of the City of Butler with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Second by CM Reese. All voted aye.
- 8.Motion to accept the bid from **Trinity Door Systems** in the amount of \$9,823.00 for the "Automated Doors" for Butler Area Public Library, to be paid by the Library with the **Keystone Grant**. Second by Shearer. All voted aye.
- 9.Motion to accept the bid from **You Name It Contracting** in the amount of \$3,500.00 for the "Electrical Work and General Labor" for Butler Area Public Library, to be paid by the Library with the **Keystone Grant**. Second by CM Shearer. All voted aye.
- 10.Motion to accept the bid from **Butler Floor & Carpet** in the amount of \$34,150.00 for the "Flooring" for Butler Area Public Library, to be paid by the Library with the **Keystone Grant**. Second by Shearer. All voted aye.

Announcements:

An application for an **ARLE Grant** has been submitted for the purpose of replacing the antiquated signal assets at the intersection of Cunningham Street and Pillow Street. Total project amount is estimated to be \$340,000.00. City match is estimated to be \$10,000.00.

The City of Butler consented to the sale of 463 E. Jefferson St.- 0.9 AC, Butler City, Ward 2, to be sold from the Butler County Repository by the Butler County Tax Claim Bureau to Kara Sellers (tax parcel 562-25-26-0000) in the amount of \$600.00.

In the absence of the City Controller, the City Clerk presented bills for payment as follows: from the general fund - \$701,760.58; from the parking fund - \$43,310.49; from the capital projects fund - \$1,287.00 and from the liquid fuels tax fund - \$19,312.45; for a **grand total of \$765,670.52**. Motion by CM Shearer with second from CM Reese to approve payment of bills as presented. All voted aye.

July Public Announcement - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

As part of an ongoing education plan, we would like to remind local residents to collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito proof rain barrels. The water can then be used later to water lawns and garden areas. Do not brush/sweep dirt, leaves, etc. into any storm drain. The purpose of the storm sewers are to direct stormwater runoff to the local streams. If the system is clogged, then localized flooding may occur during a large rainfall event.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- First Responder Light Up Night – Saturday, July 23rd

- **PERSONS TO BE HEARD:**

Ken Clowes discussed the importance of how Father Marinaro Skatepark helps the youth and presented his vision for the future of the skatepark.

Cindy Parker discussed the need for upgrades in Father Marinaro Skatepark and told council the updates that the **Southside Park Group** has done to date.

Mayor Dandoy will meet with both Ken and Cindy, as well as Councilman Herr to discuss the skatepark.

Mayor Dandoy adjourned the meeting at 8:32 PM.

SUBMITTED:


Melinda F. Gall, City Clerk

APPROVED


Robert A. Dandoy, Mayor

**RESOLUTION** City of Butler**RESOLUTION NO.** 2022-07-20

A Resolution of the City of Butler, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for funding through the Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Program, as part of the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act [P.L. 116-136], and further certifying compliance with the requirements of said program.

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the public interest that the City of Butler, Pennsylvania, receive funds from the Commonwealth through the Department of Community and Economic Development in accordance with the Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Butler has the legal authority and responsibility to apply for Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Butler have undertaken a considerable community participation process including but not limited to written invitations to municipalities, informational meetings, hearings and legal notices all of which culminated in the development of a Community Needs Assessment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Butler are familiar with the requirements of the program as included in the Statement of Assurances; and

WHEREAS, the City of Butler wishes to apply for said funds.

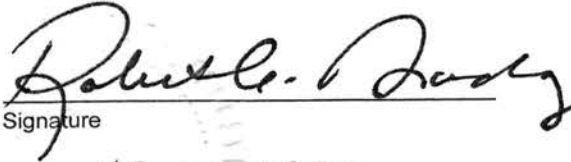
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Butler that its City Council is authorized to have prepared the necessary forms and documents to submit an application to the Department of Community and Economic Development for Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus funds for the purposes aforesaid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if CDBG-CV funds are determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to be expended on ineligible program costs or do not meet a national objective, the City of Butler agrees to repay the proportion deemed ineligible from non-federal sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Community Needs Assessment developed in coordination with low and moderate individuals, interested organizations, non-profits and other interested parties through the citizen participation process and municipal information gathering is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Butler is empowered to place her signature, on behalf of the governing body, on necessary application forms and affix thereto the official seal of the Unit of Local Government.

Adopted by the City of Butler at the regular meeting of date July 20, 2022.


Signature

07-20-2022
Date

Seal

City of Butler CDBG-CV Needs Assessment & Coordination Plan

The federal Cares Act, P.L. 116-136, made available supplemental funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus (COVID-19).

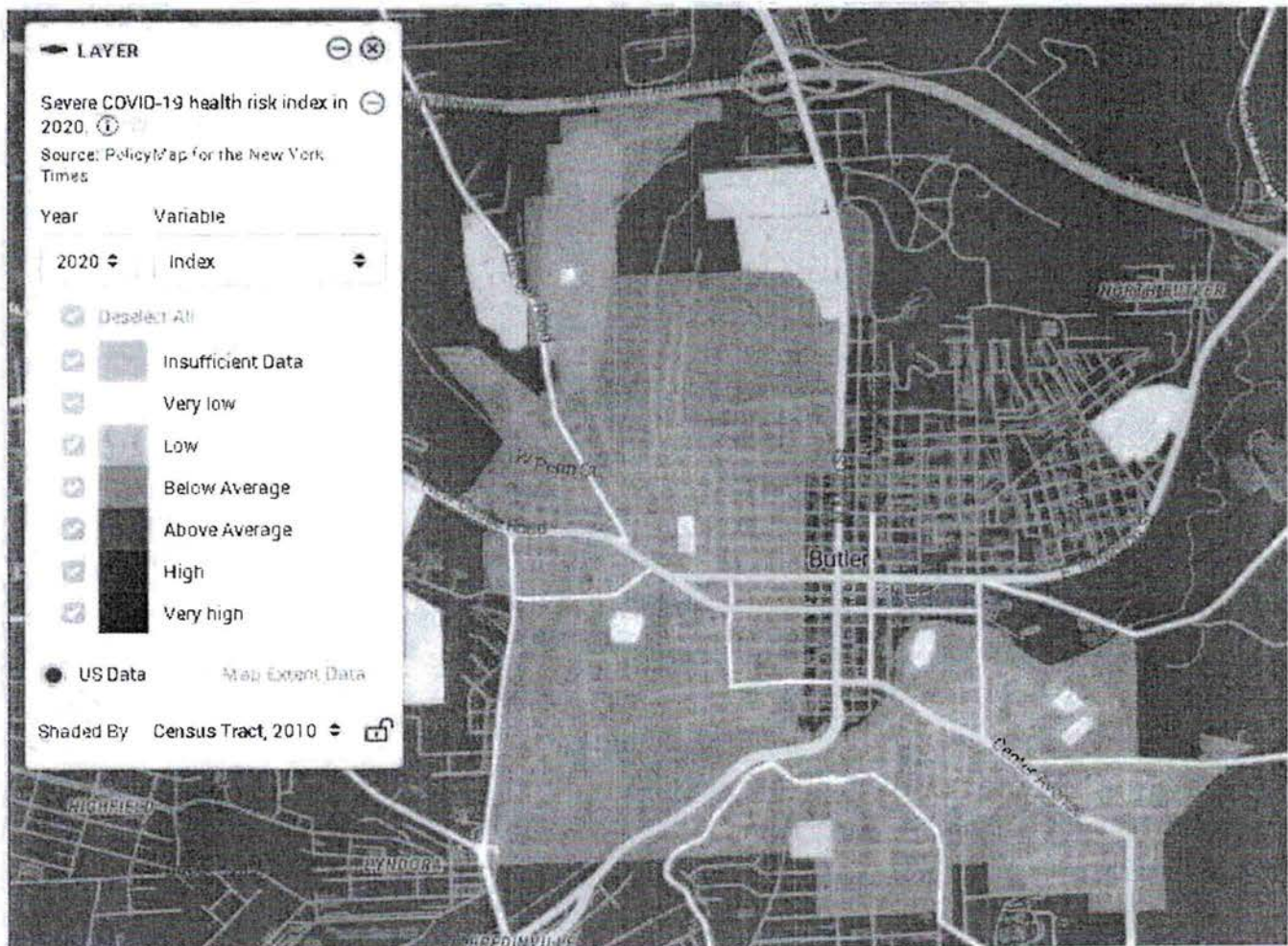
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) granted several waivers to program procedures to expedite the use of these funds. These waivers include an ability to amend the Citizen Participation Plan and allow for a much shorter timeframe for public display and use of virtual meetings to allow for input and comment.

The City has taken stock of local needs and the parameters of the CDBG program and determined how the CDBG-CV funds can be used within the city limits.

City of Butler

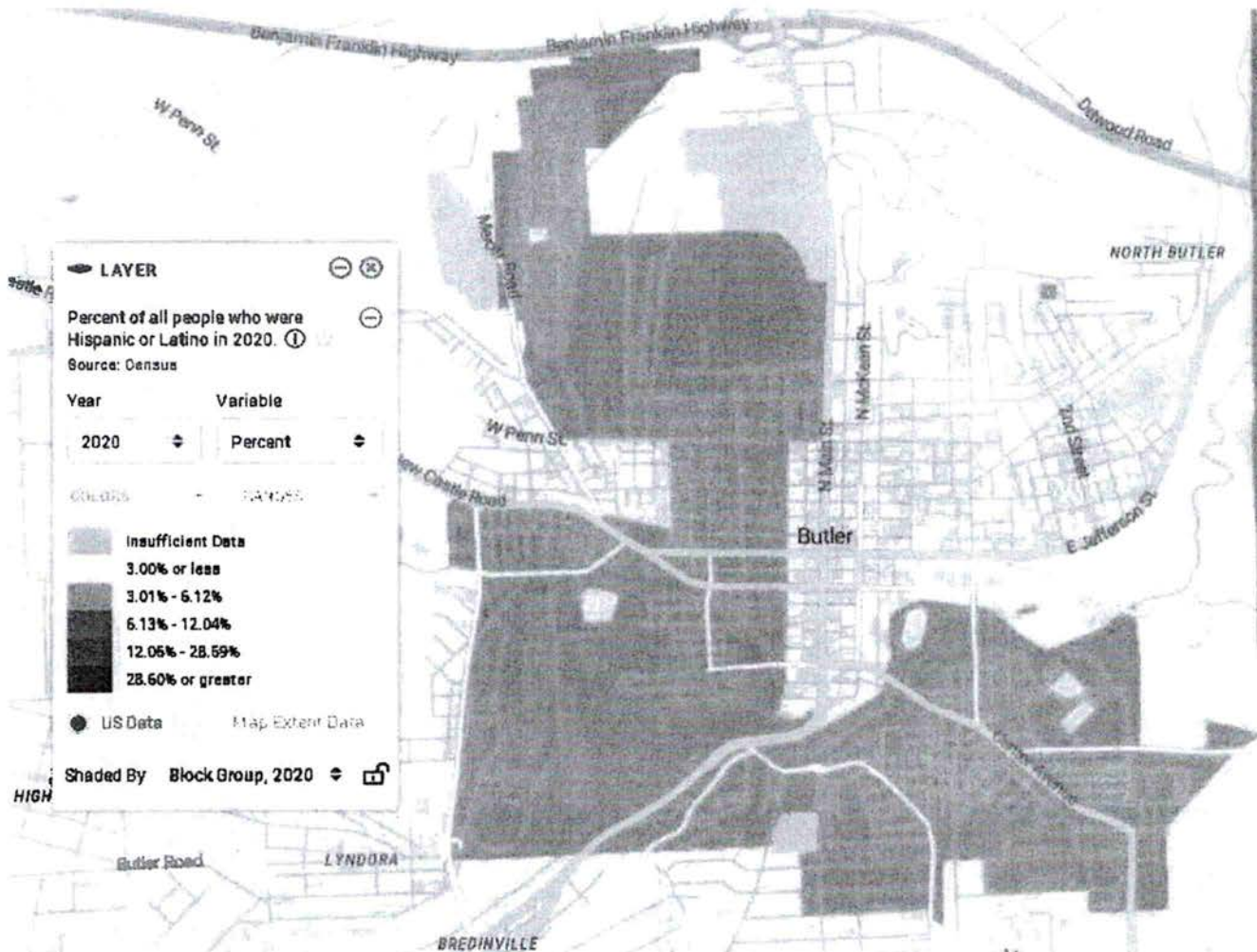
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children and teens, just like adults, can get very sick from COVID-19; have both short- and long-term health problems; and spread COVID-19 to others.

Policy Map created the Severe COVID-19 health risk index in 2020 for the New York Times. It represents a relative risk for a high proportion of residents in a given area to develop serious health complications from COVID-19 because of underlying health conditions as identified by CDC as contributing to a child's risk of developing severe symptoms from the virus. These conditions include asthma or chronic lung disease, sickle cell disease, diabetes, and obesity. As seen in the map below, two areas across the city scored above average, Census Tracts 9021 and 9024, indicating an increased relative risk for residents in those census tracts to develop serious health complications from COVID-19.



According to the 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) data, 20.7 % of the population within the City of Butler are age 18 or under.

In addition to people age 18 and under, some members of racial and ethnic minority groups are at an increased risk of getting COVID-19 or experiencing severe illness, regardless of age. According to the CDC, "among some racial and ethnic minority groups, including non-Hispanic black persons, Hispanics and Latinos, and American Indians/Alaska Native, evidence points to higher rates of hospitalization or death from COVID-19 than among non-Hispanic white persons." The CDC reports as of June 12, 2020 Hispanic or Latino persons have a rate of approximately 4 times that of non-Hispanic white persons. In the City of Butler the percentage of Hispanic persons is 3.38%.



Based on the 2015 ACS data and/or surveys, 8,670 persons of the total city population have "low/moderate" income limitations. This is a 66.56% city-wide low/moderate ratio. This high ratio of low income residents presents a challenge for the families; and, with the onset of COVID-19 and the ensuing economic crisis, low income families were unable to predict household income in a given week or month. This made making vital financial decisions – which bills to pay, how to manage debt, how to prioritize the needs of adults and children in the family, how to save and build assets, and how to pay for unexpected housing repairs – extremely challenging.

When schools and child care programs closed and stay-at-home orders went into effect, parents struggled with how to support their children with disabilities in a virtual environment. Special needs parents experienced higher rates of stress, depression, and anxiety than other parents. Parental stress is a concern because parents and caregivers provide the foundation for young children's healthy development particularly when children might not have access to their usual sources of support.

With the restriction of stay-at home orders, many children had academic and social issues, but for kids with developmental challenges, the challenges got worse with COVID. Children need to be able to burn off energy, provide exercise to their bodies, and encourage their minds to grow into healthy, happy teenagers and adults. Surveys show that elevated levels of activity have been associated with reductions in depressive symptoms; therefore, kids will benefit from the fresh air and fun, physical activity. Parents can enjoy "down-time" while their child is playing. They can feel the sunshine and wind on their face and focus on the beauty of their environment, which will help them forget the negative changes that have resulted in their life due to the pandemic.

Municipal Needs

The City of Butler is the County seat of Butler County, 30 miles north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As with many Third-Class cities, the City of Butler faces significant financial challenges due to the influx of residents requiring the types of social services that are provided by County government. Because fire, police, and road maintenance are priorities, there is little discretionary funding for maintaining its park system.

Despite these challenges and thanks to several civic groups, the City has been able to maintain its park system that includes five parks and four playgrounds. In recent years, local organizations have made significant improvements at multiple city parks with additional community based efforts; however, updates at all of the parks are greatly needed.

The City of Butler has identified needed improvements to public facilities throughout its municipality to accommodate social distancing practices and to respond to the coronavirus hindrances as follows: 1.) installation of one ADA special needs compliant playground set and two additional playground sets at Butler Memorial Park along with an ADA compliant restroom and pavilion, new parking areas, sidewalks, and a new footbridge; 2.) one playground set, two parking areas, and a sidewalk at Rotary Park, 3.) a sidewalk entrance to the Christie Avenue (South Hills) playground, and 4.) reconstruction of a parking lot at Father Marinaro Park along with the installation of sanitation stations and other cleaning/sanitizing measures at all of the parks.

Housing Needs

The economic crisis of COVID-19 resulted in nearly 50 million Americans applying for unemployment benefits. This crisis impacted low-moderate income workers: nearly 40% of families earning less than \$40,000 a year were impacted by job loss during the first two month of the crisis. This income instability caused homeowners to be unable to perform needed household repairs.

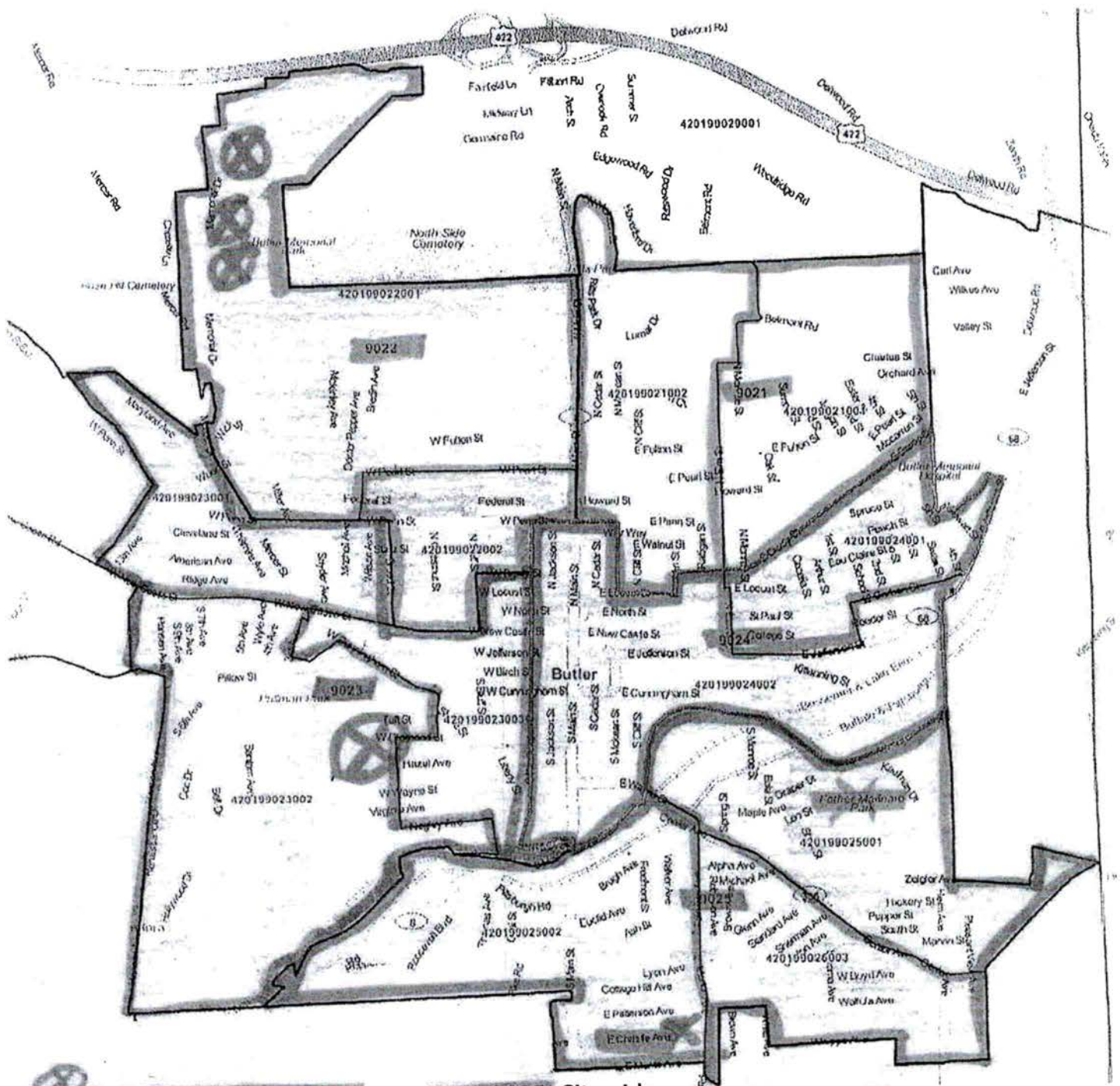
The City of Butler has an extensive waiting list of applicants interested in the Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation program; however, residents with financial hardships who are in need of emergency housing repairs are not being helped. With the lack of any emergency funding, the City cannot assist them. The City of Butler will be applying for Emergency Repair funding to meet these needs.

City of Butler

The needs identified are in association with discussions held between numerous City officials. This has provided a good look at the long overdue needs of the City. See attached map and 2015 ACS data.

It is anticipated that the CDBG-CV contract with DCED will be approved in September 2022 so that the public facility activities can be initiated and completed prior to the proposed June 2023 deadline. The completion of these activities will greatly assist the city with preparing for, preventing, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CITY OF BUTLER - 2010 - BG & CT



Butler Memorial Park

Christie Avenue Park

Father Marinaro Park

Rotary Park

Emergency Housing Rehab 9021-9025 Citywide

9021-9025 Citywide

9025 BG 2 - See map

9021-9025 Citywide

9023

Low/Moderate Income

**INCIDENCE: CONCENTRATION OF LOW AND MODERATE INCOME PERSONS
2015 ACS**

COLOR CODE (SEE MAP)	CENSUS TRACT	LOW	LOW/MOD PERSONS	LOW/MOD UNIVERSE (Area Pop)	% LOW / MODERATE	MINORITY %
	<u>9021</u>	495	1010	2260	44.64%	14.55%
	BG-1	230	550	1150	47.83%	
	BG-2	265	460	1110	41.44%	
	<u>9022</u>	775	1170	1925	60.68%	17.05%
	BG-1	295	535	930	57.53%	
	BG-2	480	635	995	63.82%	
	<u>9023</u>	1925	2240	2970	74.58%	21.08%
	BG-1	730	975	1225	79.59%	
	BG-2	715	735	970	75.77%	
	BG-3	480	530	775	68.39%	
	<u>9024</u>	1300	1625	2075	80.30%	19.44%
	BG-1	550	795	1190	66.81%	
	BG-2	750	830	885	93.79%	
	<u>9025</u>	1970	2625	3800	68.46%	19.10%
	BG-1	865	1060	1315	80.61%	
	BG-2	775	935	1345	69.52%	
	BG-3	330	630	1140	55.26%	
		6470	8670	13025	66.56%	

RESOLUTION # 2022-07-20A

Resolution of the City of Butler authorizing the filing of an Application for funds with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, the HOME Applicant is desirous of obtaining funds from DCED for affordable housing activities fundable under Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12701 et. seq and the implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 92.

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Butler is the administering agency for grant funds on behalf of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a housing need exists that has been identified in the local or state Consolidated Plan and the proposed housing activity addresses this need.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the HOME Applicant has conducted the required citizen participation process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the HOME Applicant will assure the provision of the other necessary funds to make the activity feasible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the HOME Applicant will reimburse the commonwealth for any expenditures found by DCED to be ineligible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriate officer of the HOME Applicant is directed to execute a certificate attesting to the adoption of this Resolution and to furnish a copy of this Resolution to DCED.

RESOLVED into a Resolution this 20th day of July 2022.

ATTEST:

CITY OF BUTLER


(SEAL)


Robert A Dandoy, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution 2020-07-20 and dated by the City Council of the City of Butler at its regular meeting.

