



# Administrative Report

## Mayor Eddie Moran

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** William M. Heim, Managing Director  
**PREPARED BY:** Maritza Loaiza, Special Assistant  
**MEETING DATE:** November 23, 2022  
**AGENDA MEMO DATE:** November 28, 2022

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### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

- The Community Development Department has reached out to several vacant building owners to prepare additional shelters during Code Blue declarations. CD, in collaboration with Opportunity House and Berks Coalition to End Homelessness, is working to finalize this project.
- The Community Development's Lead Remediation Program has received an additional grant allotment of \$575,000 from the PA Department of Health to remediate 23 homes within 18 months. The additional funding was given to the City due to the progress and exceptional staff performance with the initial grant of \$175,000 for the remediation of nine homes.
- The Community Development Director was notified of the City of Reading's acceptance into the Legacy Cities Initiative program, sponsored by the Lincoln Institute, at no cost to the City. The initiative is a place-based project approach focusing on areas with large concentrations of low to moderate families. The City has selected the southern part of Reading as the initial phase for revitalization. The readiness phase is the first step and will help develop land capture tools creating equality, inclusionary housing, betterment contribution, land readjustment, and development rights. Once the program is completed, the City will better qualify for federal grants.

### **FIRE:**

- The Reading Fire Department partnered with the Reading Recreation Commission on a 5k race that benefited the Recreation Commission. Firefighter Luke Schultz collaborated with RRC Executive Director Daphne Khlar on the race; both did a fantastic job.

- The 9<sup>th</sup> & Marion Fire Station construction was scheduled for completion in December 2022; the projected completion date has been pushed back to January 2023 due to supply chain issues.

9<sup>th</sup> & Marion Fire Station Progress Update (November 17, 2022):



### **HUMAN RESOURCES:**

- The Human Resource Department would like to welcome the following new employee to the City of Reading organization:
  - Louis Lopes, Telecommunicator, December 1.

### **LIBRARY:**

- The Reading Public Library hosted a successful Halloween Bash event on October 29. 75 children and adults attended the event, which included live orchestra music, crafts, a STEM project, a costume contest, free books, and candy.
- RPL staff held numerous outreach events throughout October, some of which included storytime programs at 13+ daycare locations, at BCIU Head Starts, at 10<sup>th</sup> & Penn Elementary School, and at St. Peter's fall family night. Additional outreach was conducted at Goggleworks Pumpkinpalooza, a teen STEM program at Southern Middle School, and senior outreach at 20 locations that reached 215 patrons.
- RPL staff answered 14,116 reference questions in October.

### **POLICE:**

- The Reading Police Department conducted a successful traffic and security detail for the City's Annual Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 19. There were no traffic or public safety incidents during the parade.

- The Reading Police Department's Criminal and Vice Investigations, with assistance from County law enforcement agencies and Homeland Security, conducted a gun trafficking investigation that resulted in three arrests and the seizure of several firearms.
- The Reading Police Department conducted active assault training was provided to all Olivet Boy and Girl Club locations.

### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

- Public Works staff has also completed:
  - 30 sites were cleaned up, primarily illegal dumping sites, which resulted in 239 bags of trash and litter, 22 bulk items, 22 tires, and 76 televisions.
  - 90 illegally posted signs were removed throughout the City
  - 13 dead animals were picked up
- Public Works Clean City Coordinator reports:
  - 1 cleanup event with 23 volunteers was held, which resulted in the collection of 10 bags of trash and litter and 4 bags of yard waste.
  - 5 Adopt-A-Block cleanup events were held, which resulted in 46 bags of trash and litter and 12 yard waste bags.
  - Distribution of door hangers in various areas within the City regarding proper trash set-out/pick-up occurred.
- Public Works expanded street sweeper routes on November 17 to permanently include the Reading Housing Authorities Glenside and Oakbrook Housing Developments.
- Public Works began the Mount Penn Lookout Tree Removal Project. Tree removal activities will occur at Lookout 1 on November 7 – November 11, Lookout 2 on November 14 –November 18, and Lookout 3 on November 28 –December 2.