A RESOLUTION NO. 12 2015

TO ENDORSE PENNSYLVANIA'S STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN 2012-2017

WHEREAS, the City of Reading understands that the irreplaceable historical, architectural, archaeological, and cultural heritage of this Commonwealth should be preserved and protected for the benefit of all the people, including future generations, and;

WHEREAS, Section 301 of the Municipalities Planning Code requires local governments to identify a plan for historic preservation and the adoption of relevant goals of the Pennsylvania's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan is a step in fulfilling that requirement;

WHEREAS, the City of Reading has expressed interest in the endorsement of Pennsylvania's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan and will assist in the implementation at the local level;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Reading City Council of Berks County Pennsylvania endorses the Pennsylvania's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan and will ask the Administration to take *the following actions to implement relevant goals and objectives:*

Local Action:

A. Maintain a comprehensive historic resources inventory to help identify places of local significance that will also be shared with Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission's Bureau for Historic Preservation (BHP).
B. Identify ways that cultural and historic resources contribute to local community character, quality of life, and economic growth potential.
C. Evaluate municipal planning policies and regulations to ensure that these policies address the community's historic preservation needs to the greatest extent possible. A thorough review of the municipal code and zoning ordinances, planning procedures and other *regulatory mechanisms is essential to advancing preservation and making the highest and* best use of historic resources.
D. Identify significant historic resources that need to be protected through the City of Reading's Historic District Ordinance (seeking technical advice from the BHP community preservation coordinator). For resources that are threatened by demolition or neglect, apply to be included on the annual *Pennsylvania at Risk* list.
E. If the City of Reading owns, occupies, or manages historic buildings, it will take action to keep these properties occupied and in good repair.

Training:

A. Alert municipal staff and local partner organizations to the requirements of the *Pennsylvania History Code, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and* consultation obligations required when state and federal funding are used for projects and request training for the BHP staff when necessary.

B. Seek training for the City of Reading's Historical Architectural Review Board to ensure that the review process is professional and fair.

Signs and Markers:

A. Partner with local preservation advocates to submit a historical marker application to BHP for persons, places, or events that have statewide or national significance.

B. Partner with local preservation advocates to interpret history in public spaces (public gathering areas, parks, and trails) that would benefit from the addition of a sign, marker, or media tag to educate people about community history.

Outreach and Funding:

A. Advise property owners of income-producing buildings (stores, offices, rental housing, etc.) that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places or are located in Historic Districts to the federal Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit (RITC) program for historic building rehabilitations. Advise applicants that the BHP tax credit manager is available for assistance in preparing RITC applications.

B. Identify all active, preservation-related, grassroots advocacy groups, reach out to them and seek their support in working toward preservation goals and priorities.

C. Reach out to local school districts and preservation advocacy organizations to identify ways to provide traditional and non-traditional (outside the classroom) learning opportunities.

D. Seek out grants, state and federal funding and philanthropic donations to conduct historic preservation projects; as a Certified Local Government, the City of Reading is specifically eligible to receive federal funding through the National Park Service.

Adopted by Council on Feb 17 2015

Francis G. Acosta Council President

ATTEST:

Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk

I, LINDA A. KELLEHER, City Clerk of the City of Reading, Pa., do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution passed by Council of the City of Reading, on the 17 day of Feb A. D. 2015 and approved by the Mayor of the said City this 6 March 2015

City Clerk