



City of Kingston Finance and Audit Committee
Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, March 13, 2019
6:30 PM

NEW BUSINESS

Budget transfer Parks and Rec

[Budget Transfer Parks and Rec.pdf](#)

Broadway/Grand St./Pine Grove Ave./Prince St

[traffic redesign and upgrades.pdf](#)

2018 Participatory Budgeting Funds

[Participatory Budgeting funds allocation.pdf](#)

Planning Department Heritage Area Commission

[Establish new budget line Heritage Area Commission.pdf](#)

Revenue Line Historic Landmarks Commission

[New Revenue Line Landmarks Commission.pdf](#)

Budget transfer NYS retirement costs

[Budget transfer NYS retirement costs.pdf](#)

Open Space Grant Unspent funds

[20190308104650.pdf](#)

Grants Activity update

[Grants activity update.pdf](#)

CSEA and The City of Kingston Laboratory vs. The City of Kingston

[CSEA and Kingston Laboratory vs. City of Kingston.pdf](#)

Pike Plan Comment

[20190308143947.pdf](#)

Discussion of Flatbush Avenue sewer problems

[20190311084634.pdf](#)

1 OLD BUSINESS

Finance and Audit Committee Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 13, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Parks and Recreation

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

Subject:

Budget transfer Parks and Rec

Suggested Action:

Attachments:

[Budget Transfer Parks and Rec.pdf](#)

m r.e.d.

City of Kingston
Parks and Recreation Department
kgilfeather@kingston-ny.gov

Steven T. Noble, Mayor



Kevin D. Gilfeather, Superintendent

December 11, 2018

James Noble

President, Common Council

420 Broadway

Kingston, NY 12401

Dear President Noble:

Attached is the Committee Report for an internal Department budget transfer to cover unbudgeted funds for the 2018-2019 Kingston City School Tax bill for the Barmum Park property, in the amount of \$4452.49.

Please transfer the funds from account #: 7140.111 – Seasonal Employees, and increase account #: 7140.453 – Playgrounds General Tax. There is zero financial impact to the City.

If additional information is needed, please feel free to contact me via email, kgilfeather@kingston-ny.gov or at my Office number, (845)481-7333.

Regards,

Kevin D. Gilfeather

Superintendent

Cc: Steve Noble, Mayor

John Tuey, Comptroller

**THE CITY OF KINGSTON COMMON COUNCIL
FINANCE AND AUDIT
COMMITTEE REPORT**

REQUEST DESCRIPTION

INTERNAL TRANSFER X
AUTHORIZATION
CLAIMS

CONTINGENCY TRANSFER
BUDGET MODIFICATION
ZONING

TRANSFER
BONDING REQUEST
OTHER

DEPARTMENT Parks and Recreation DATE 12/11/18

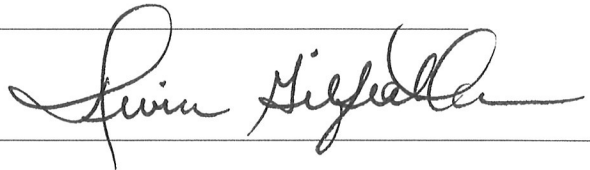
Description: Internal department transfer to cover unbudgeted funds for the 2018-2019 Kingston City School Tax bill for the Barnum Park Property, in the amount of \$4452.49

Transfer From: A1714014.5111 – Seasonal Employees

Transfer To: A1714014.5453 – Playgrounds General Tax

 Estimated Financial Impact 0

Signature



Motion by

Seconded by

Action Requested:

SEQRA Decision:

Type I Action

Type II Action

Unlisted Action

Negative Declaration of Environmental Significance:

Conditioned Negative Declaration:

Seek Lead Agency Status:

Positive Declaration of Environmental Significance:

<u>Committee Vote</u>	<u>YES</u>
Douglas Koop, Chairman	
Reynolds Scott-Childress Ward 3	
Anthony Davis, Ward 6	
Patrick O'Reilly, Ward 7	
Steven Schabot, Ward 8	

Finance and Audit Committee Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 13, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

Subject:

Broadway/Grand St./Pine Grove Ave./Prince St

Suggested Action:

Attachments:

[traffic redesign and upgrades.pdf](#)

CITY OF KINGSTON

Office of the Mayor

mayor@kingston-ny.gov

Steven T. Noble
Mayor



March 1, 2019

Mr. James L. Noble, Jr.
Alderman-At-Large
President of the Common Council
Kingston City Hall
420 Broadway
Kingston, New York 12401

Dear President Noble,

As you know, my administration has been working diligently on a number of transportation projects throughout the City of Kingston, all of which seek to enhance the safety of our residents and visitors and to make travelling throughout our community more accessible. With the Council's support, we are rebuilding sidewalks, adding bicycle amenities, installing new crosswalks, redesigning roadways and parking lots, building trails, and working towards reimagining our public transportation system. Through this work, we have identified the area of Broadway/Grand St./Pine Grove Ave./Prince St. as a key intersection in need of a traffic redesign and upgrades to serve a multi-modal purpose.

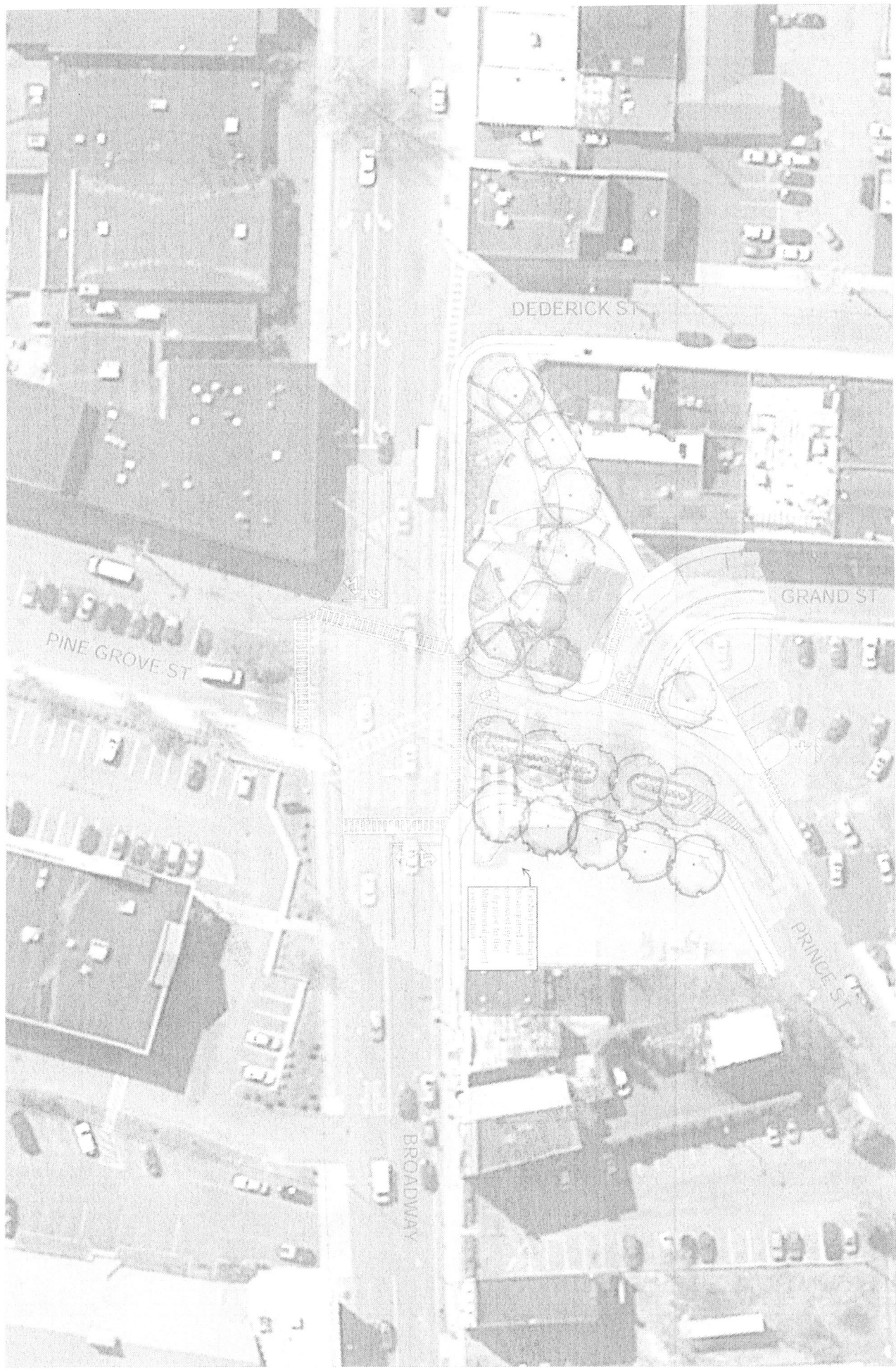
The Broadway and Grand St. Reconfiguration Project will realign the traffic patterns in this area, significantly improving traffic safety for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. This intersection is well-known for being difficult to navigate; over the past five years, 44 crashes at the intersection have been reported, with many resulting in injuries. This traffic reconfiguration will complement the Broadway Streetscape Project, ensuring that travelers can move throughout the area safely and more efficiently. It is also expected that the City will be able to include a new public green space, which is sorely need in this location. I have attached conceptual drawings for your consideration.

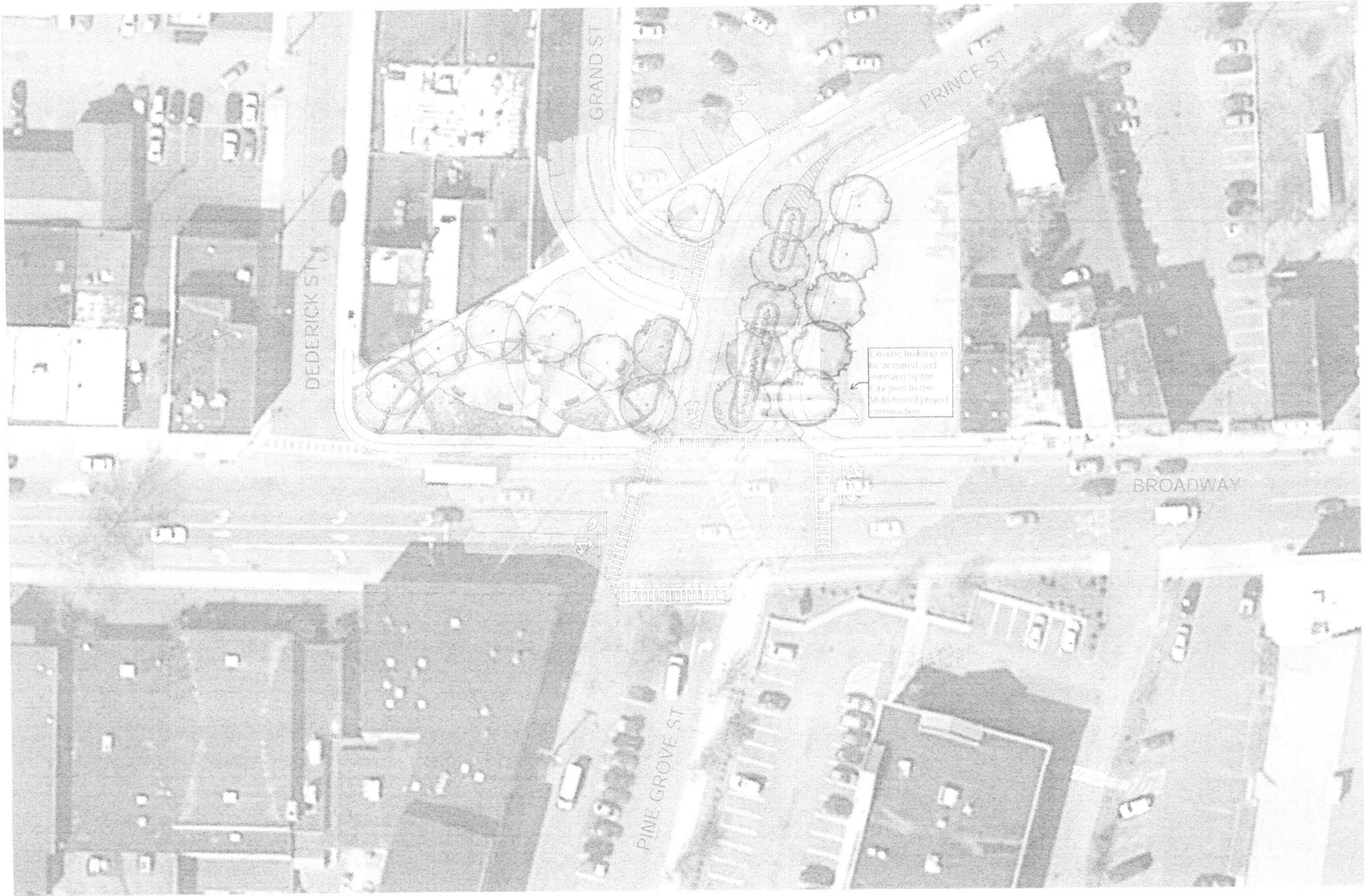
I respectfully request that this matter be referred to the Finance Committee of the Common Council for consideration. At that time, I expect to discuss with the Committee a proposed property acquisition, as well as upcoming grant opportunities to support the implementation of this ambitious project.

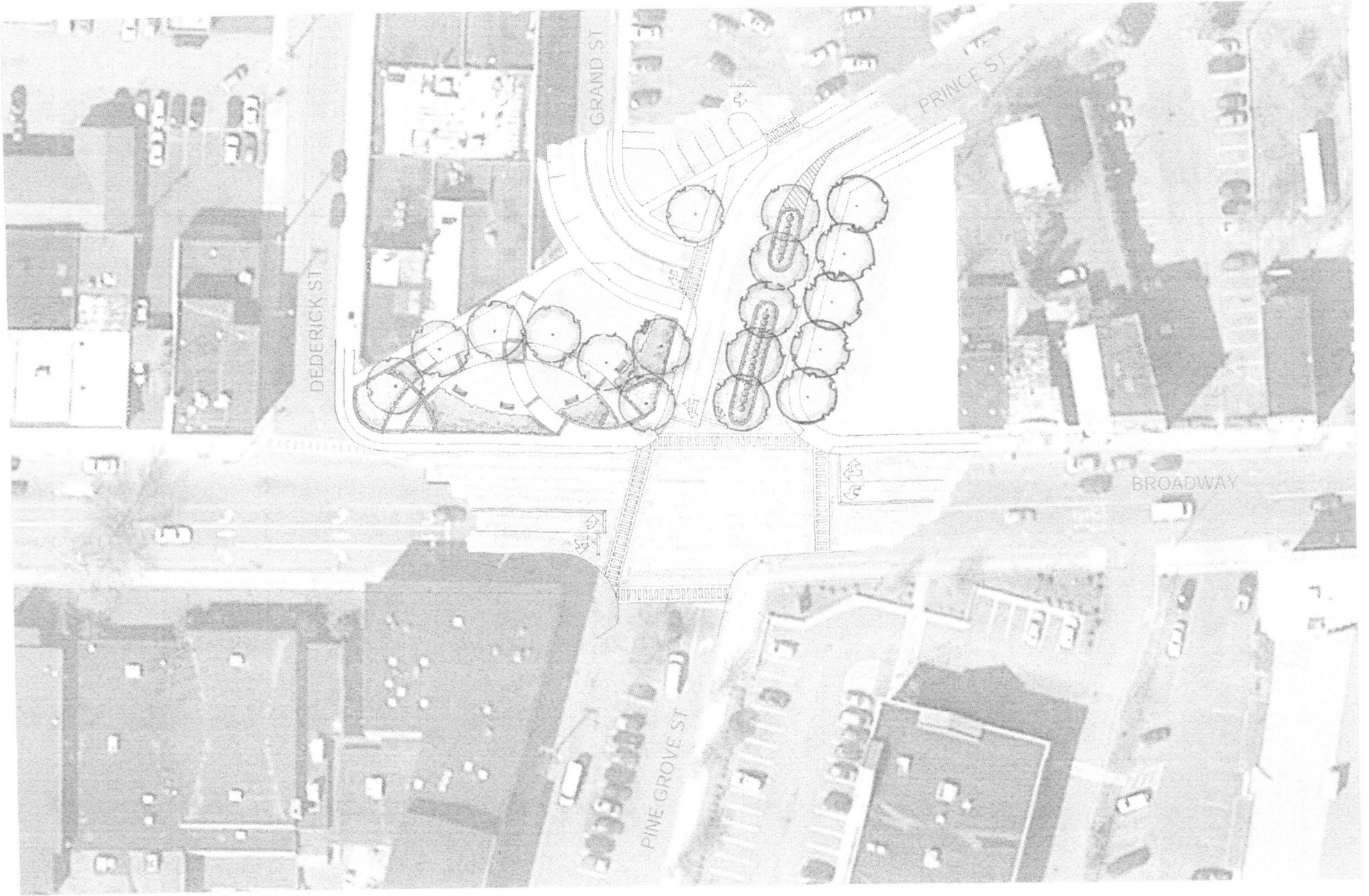
Thank you for your consideration.

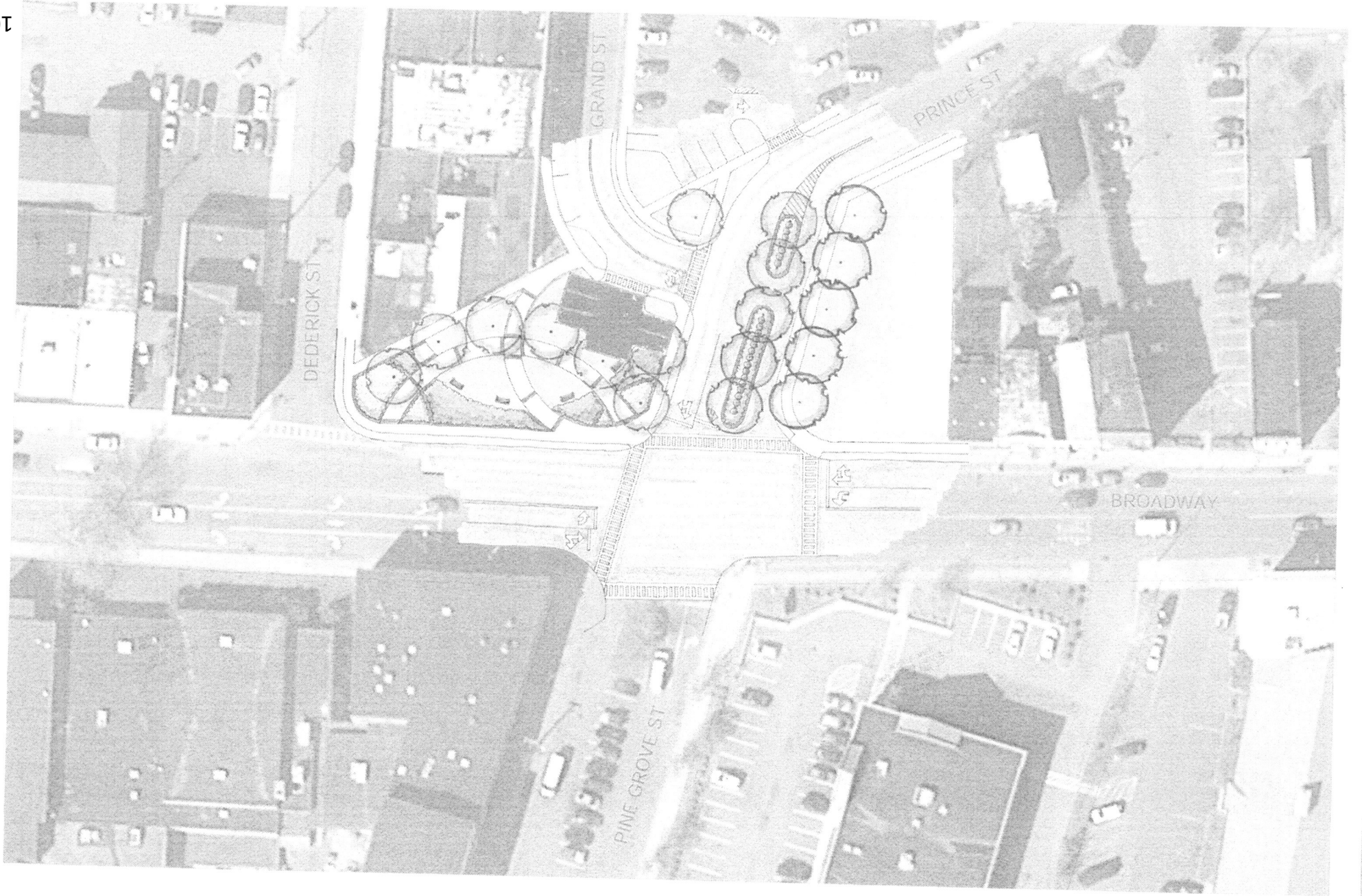
Respectfully Submitted,

Steven T. Noble
Mayor









Finance and Audit Committee Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 13, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

Subject:

2018 Participatory Budgeting Funds

Suggested Action:

Attachments:

[Participatory Budgeting funds allocation.pdf](#)

CITY OF KINGSTON

Office of the Mayor

mayor@kingston-ny.gov

Steven T. Noble
Mayor



March 1, 2019

Mr. James L. Noble, Jr.
Alderman-At-Large
President of the Common Council
Kingston City Hall
420 Broadway
Kingston, New York 12401

Dear President Noble,

Last year, the City of Kingston created its first Participatory Budget Project. After ample public input, the top selected options of how to spend \$15,000 per business district was identified. Both, Midtown and Uptown were interested in creating a youth development beautification project. The YMCA Farm Project has been identified as the appropriate partner to deliver this program for the City. For Downtown, the most voted initiative was to create a special youth development fund that organizations could apply to in an effort to provide youth-oriented programs and activities within the Rondout district. The best way to organize the applications and disperse the funds would be through the Office of Economic and Community Development.

I respectfully request that the 2018 Participatory Budgeting funds be allocated in the amount of \$30,000 to Contracted Services and \$15,000 be transferred to Community Development.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven T. Noble
Mayor

Finance and Audit Committee Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 13, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

Subject:

Planning Department Heritage Area Commission

Suggested Action:

Attachments:

[Establish new budget line Heritage Area Commission.pdf](#)

CITY OF KINGSTON
Heritage Area Commission
 planning@kingston-ny.gov

Suzanne Cahill, Planning Director



Steven T. Noble, Mayor

February 26, 2019

Ald. At Large James Noble
 President, Kingston Common Council
 City Hall – 420 Broadway
 Kingston, New York 12401

RE: FY 2019 Budget – New Account 8030 (Heritage Area Commission)

Dear President Noble:

As most are aware, the Kingston Planning Department has been charged with the administration of the Heritage Area Commission. For the two years we have made the effort to combine the accounting within the Planning Board budget. However, after this trial, and also newly designated responsibilities of the Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission, I believe that the budgets should be separated in order for accountability and tracking of the individual agencies. The intermingling of accounts is not deemed to be a benefit.

In speaking with Comptroller John Tuey, and reviewing the current budget, we are both in agreement that the current budget line A1 7989 should remain in place. This line is dedicated to cover expenses which are contracted with the County to operate/maintain the Downtown Visitor Center at 20 Broadway and is overseen by the City Clerk.

Therefore, we have arrived at proposal to establish a new budgetary line A1 8030, to be named Heritage Area Commission and are requesting the following amendments be made to the FY 2019 budget as follows:

Create New Expenditure Line A1-8030.14-5485 (General Materials and Supplies)	\$700.00
Create New Revenue Line A1-8030-22-42115	\$700.00

I appreciate your consideration and if there any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Cahill
 Planning Director

Cc: S. Noble, Mayor
 Ald. R. Scott-Childress, HAC Liaison
 Ald. D Koop, Chairman Finance
 J. Tuey, Comptroller
 E. Tinti, City Clerk
 H. Clement, Chairman HAC

Finance and Audit Committee Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 13, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

Subject:

Revenue Line Historic Landmarks Commission

Suggested Action:

Attachments:

[New Revenue Line Landmarks Commission.pdf](#)

CITY OF KINGSTON
Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission
planning@kingston-ny.gov

Suzanne Cahill, Planning Director



Steven T. Noble, Mayor

February 26, 2019

Ald. At Large James Noble
President, Kingston Common Council
City Hall – 420 Broadway
Kingston, New York 12401

RE: FY 2019 Budget – A1 – 7520 (Landmarks Commission)

Dear President Noble:

As many are aware, the Planning Department has recently been charged with the administration of the Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission. It is further noted that with the passing of the FY 2019 budget, an application fee of \$50 was instituted for all applications filed. In reviewing the account records, there was no recognized budget line under this account.

Therefore, after speaking with Comptroller John Tuey, I am respectfully asking for a new revenue line be established under the above referenced account as follows in order for our department to maintain accountability and for appropriate record keeping.

Create New Revenue Line A1-7520-22-42115.....\$750.00

I appreciate your consideration and if there any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Cahill
Planning Director

Cc: S. Noble, Mayor
Ald. P. O'Reilly, HLPC Liaison
Ald. D Koop, Chairman Finance
J. Tuey, Comptroller
M. Grunblatt, Chairman HLPC

THE CITY OF KINGSTON COMMON COUNCIL

FINANCE AND AUDIT
COMMITTEE REPORTREQUEST DESCRIPTIONINTERNAL TRANSFER _____
AUTHORIZATION X _____
CLAIMS _____CONTINGENCY TRANSFER _____
BUDGET MODIFICATION _____
ZONING _____TRANSFER _____
BONDING REQUEST _____
OTHER _____DEPARTMENT Planning (HLPZ)DATE 2/26/19

Description: _____

Request to amend FY 2019 Budget to include revenue line for
Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission per adopted schedule for FY 2019Create New Revenue Line AI-7520-22-42115 \$750.00Estimated Financial Impact \$Signature SL

Motion by _____

Seconded by _____

Action Required:

SEQRA Decision:

Type I Action _____

Type II Action _____

Unlisted Action _____

Negative Declaration of Environmental Significance: _____

Conditioned Negative Declaration: _____

Seek Lead Agency Status: _____

Positive Declaration of Environmental Significance: _____

Committee VoteYESNO

Douglas Koop, Chairman

Reynolds Scott-Childress Ward 3

Anthony Davis, Ward 6

Patrick O'Reilly, Ward 7

Steven Schabot, Ward 8

Finance and Audit Committee Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 13, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

Subject:

Budget transfer NYS retirement costs

Suggested Action:

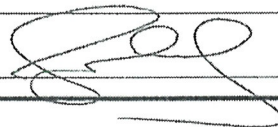
Attachments:

[Budget transfer NYS retirement costs.pdf](#)

THE CITY OF KINGSTON COMMON COUNCIL

FINANCE AND AUDIT
COMMITTEE REPORT

REQUEST DESCRIPTION		
INTERNAL TRANSFER _____	CONTINGENCY TRANSFER <u>X</u> _____	TRANSFER _____
AUTHORIZATION _____	BUDGET MODIFICATION _____	BONDING REQUEST _____
CLAIMS _____	ZONING _____	OTHER _____

DEPARTMENT <u>Comptroller</u>	DATE <u>2/6/19</u>
Description: <u>2018 Budgetary Transfer to cover NYS retirement system costs, including amounts used to pay off 2012 & 2014 amortizations as previously approved by the City's Common Council.</u>	
Estimated Financial Impact <u>\$374,261</u> Signature 	

Motion by _____

Seconded by _____

Action Required:

SEQRA Decision:

Type I Action _____

Type II Action _____

Unlisted Action _____

Negative Declaration of Environmental Significance: _____

Conditioned Negative Declaration: _____

Seek Lead Agency Status: _____

Positive Declaration of Environmental Significance: _____

<u>Committee Vote</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Douglas Koop, Chairman	☐	☐
Reynolds Scott-Childress Ward 3	☐	☐
Anthony Davis, Ward 6	☐	☐
Patrick O'Reilly, Ward 7	☐	☐
Steven Schabot, Ward 8	☐	☐

FUND	DEPARTMENT	OBJECT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
TRANSFER FROM:				
A1	5142	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	15,300
A1	6989	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	12,369
A1	1680	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	10,024
A1	1010	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	7,716
A1	1625	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	5,018
A1	1430	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	4,906
A1	8010	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	4,323
A1	1650	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	4,206
A1	4010	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	3,581
A1	1440	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	3,377
A1	1420	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	3,331
A1	7010	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	2,862
A1	3320	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	2,854
A1	4020	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	2,481
A1	8161	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	1,557
A1	3311	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	1,379
A1	9999	5901	FUND BALANCE	374,261
				<u>459,545</u>
TRANSFER TO:				
A1	8040	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	741
A1	1130	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	999
A1	7240	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	1,381
A1	7180	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	1,830
A1	1345	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	2,044
A1	1210	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	2,100
A1	3989	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	2,162
A1	7020	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	2,730
A1	3510	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	2,823
A1	1620	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	3,094
A1	7141	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	3,445
A1	1330	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	3,598
A1	1621	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	4,263
A1	7110	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	4,622
A1	7210	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	5,752
A1	7142	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	7,034
A1	1410	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	7,370
A1	8020	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	8,532
A1	3620	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	8,588
A1	8160	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	8,997
A1	1315	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	9,936
A1	3120	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	10,604
A1	3310	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	10,909
A1	5132	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	11,438
A1	1355	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	12,009
A1	8164	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	12,992
A1	3410	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	13,319
A1	1490	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	16,115
A1	5110	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	16,657
A1	8170	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	16,924
A1	5630	5812	NYS RETIREMENT	29,479
A1	3410	5813	FIRE RETIREMENT	104,183
A1	3120	5814	POLICE RETIREMENT	112,875
				<u>459,545</u>

Finance and Audit Committee Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 13, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

Subject:

Open Space Grant Unspent funds

Suggested Action:

Attachments:

[20190308104650.pdf](#)

CITY OF KINGSTON
Office of Environmental Education and Sustainability
climatesmart@kingston-ny.gov

Julie L. Noble, Coordinator



Steven T. Noble, Mayor

March 1, 2019

Mr. James L. Noble, Jr.
Alderman-At-Large
President of the Common Council
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401

Re: Budget Transfer for the NYSDEC 2016 Open Space Plan Grant

Dear President Noble:

This is a request for placement on the agenda of the next appropriate Committee, expected to be the Finance and Audit Committee, to discuss the authorization of resolutions for budget transfer for a grant awarded to the City. The information is as follows:

A grant was awarded to the City of Kingston by the NYSDEC for an Open Space Plan for the City of Kingston which is for \$22,000 with a local match of \$3897.50. This grant was awarded in 2016 and the request is for a budget transfer in the Parks and Recreation budget for carryover of unspent grant monies from 2018 in the amount of \$13,330.00.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie L. Noble".

Julie L. Noble
Sustainability Coordinator

Cc: Steven T. Noble, Mayor
John Tuey, Comptroller
Kristen Wilson, Director of Grants Management
Douglas Koop, Chair, Finance Committee

THE CITY OF KINGSTON COMMON COUNCIL

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

REQUEST DESCRIPTION

INTERNAL TRANSFER _____
AUTHORIZATION _____
CLAIMS _____

CONTINGENCY TRANSFER _____
BUDGET MODIFICATION _____
ZONING _____

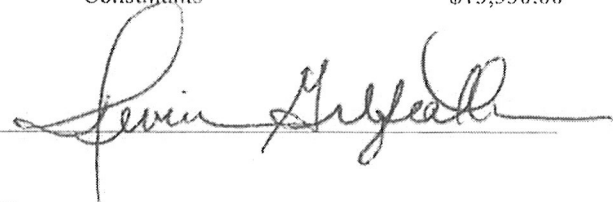
TRANSFER X _____
BONDING REQUEST _____
OTHER _____

DEPARTMENT Parks and Recreation DATE 3/1/19

Description: Transfer funds in the 2019 Parks and Recreation Department budget for carryover of unspent grant monies from the Hudson River Estuary Program 2016 grant project "Open Space Plan for City of Kingston". Reimbursement will come from funding provided by a NYSDEC grant for \$24,500, and the required match funding of \$10,700 will come from in-kind donations including and staff and volunteer time.

FROM
Parks and Recreation Account #A1 7240.43889 NYS Aid Culture & Education \$13,330.00

TO
Parks and Recreation Account(s) #A1-7250.5411 Consultants \$13,330.00

Estimated Financial Impact \$0 Signature 

Motion by _____

Seconded by _____

Action Required:

SEQRA Decision:

Type I Action _____

Type II Action _____

Unlisted Action _____

Negative Declaration of Environmental Significance: _____

Conditioned Negative Declaration: _____

Seek Lead Agency Status: _____

Positive Declaration of Environmental Significance: _____

<u>Committee Vote</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Douglas Koop, Chairman. Ward 2		
Reynolds Scott-Childress, Ward 3		
Steven Schabot, Ward 8		
Patrick O'Reilly, Ward 7		
Anthony Davis, Ward 6		

Tinti, Elisa

From: Noble, Julie
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2019 10:33 AM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Cc: Koop, Douglas; Tuey, John; Wilson, Kristen; Noble, Steve; Noble, James
Subject: Communication for March Common Council Meeting
Attachments: HREP 2018 to 2019 OSP Finance and Audit Committee Report Budget Transfer....pdf;
Communication re HREP 2018 to 2019 Open Space Plan Budget Transfer 2019....pdf

Elisa,

Please see the attached attachments that I would like to formally submit as a part of my communication that I uploaded to Granicus for the March Common Council meeting, Budget Transfer for the Open Space Grant 2018 Unspent Funds.

For whatever reason, I was not prompted to upload attachments.

Can you please include these with the agenda for me?

Thanks,
Julie

Julie L. Noble
Environmental Education and Sustainability Coordinator
Climate Smart Community Coordinator
467 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 481-7339
JulieLNoble@kingston-ny.gov

Go Green! Print this email only when necessary.
Thank you for helping the City of Kingston be environmentally responsible.

Finance and Audit Committee Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 13, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

Subject:

Grants Activity update

Suggested Action:

Attachments:

[Grants activity update.pdf](#)

F.D.D.
26
(58)

CITY OF KINGSTON
Office of Grants Management
grants@kingston-ny.gov

Kristen E. Wilson, Director



Steven T. Noble, Mayor

March 1, 2019

Honorable James L. Noble, Jr.
President/Alderman-at-Large
Kingston Common Council
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401

Re: Grants Activity Update

Dear President Noble,

The Office of Grants Management is preparing a grants activity update to present to Common Council members in March. This update will share statuses for each of the grant-funded projects and details on the funding and matching requirements for each grant. I will bring 11 X 17 hard copies of the update sheets to appropriate committee meeting. After review and comment by the Council members at the meeting, I will share the finalized update electronically on the City's website.

I am requesting placement on the agenda of the appropriate committee in March for the presentation of the update.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristen E. Wilson
Director

Finance and Audit Committee Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 13, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

Subject:

CSEA and The City of Kingston Laboratory vs. The City of Kingston

Suggested Action:

Attachments:

[CSEA and Kingston Laboratory vs. City of Kingston.pdf](#)

CITY OF KINGSTON
Office of Corporation Counsel
kbryant@kingston-ny.gov

Steven T. Noble, Mayor



Kevin R. Bryant, Corporation Counsel
Daniel Gartenstein, Asst. Corporation Counsel

TO: James L. Noble, President, Common Council

FROM: Kevin R. Bryant *KB*
Corporation Counsel

DATE: March 1, 2019

RE: CSEA and City of Kingston Laboratory
vs. City of Kingston

Please be advised that I wish to discuss the above matter at the next Finance/Audit Meeting.

Finance and Audit Committee Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 13, 2019

Submitted by: Dee Sills

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Informational Purposes

Agenda Section:

Subject:

Pike Plan Comment

Suggested Action:

Attachments:

[20190308143947.pdf](#)

Sills, Dee

From: Tinti, Elisa
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2019 11:59 AM
To: Sills, Dee
Subject: FW: Pike Plan: Repair or tear-down?

Elisa Tinti

City Clerk and Registrar
 City of Kingston

(845) 334-3914 Office
 (845) 334-3918 Fax

Kingston City Clerk Webpage



From: Noble, James
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2019 11:17 AM
To: Tinti, Elisa <emtinti@kingston-ny.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Pike Plan: Repair or tear-down?

Hi Elisa
 Please add this communication to the FED committee. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: ken Abatayo <kenaba9@gmail.com>
Date: March 8, 2019 at 5:23:15 AM EST
To: <mayor@kingston-ny.gov>
Cc: <ward1@kingston-ny.gov>, <ward2@kingston-ny.gov>, <ward4@kingston-ny.gov>, <ward5@kingston-ny.gov>, <ward6@kingston-ny.gov>, <ward7@kingston-ny.gov>, <ward8@kingston-ny.gov>, <ward9@kingston-ny.gov>, <commoncouncil@kingston-ny.gov>
Subject: Pike Plan: Repair or tear-down?

March 8, 2019

Dear Mayor Noble:

Re: Pike Plan

Before stating my position I would like to inform you that I preferred to have chimed in anonymously on this issue but was unable to, or blocked from, logging into your "<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/----->" survey platform, even though I used the 7-letter code exactly as it was sent to me. So, now what I write is probably much more than I would have been otherwise able to. My apologies if I bore you.

As a building owner, business operator, and resident directly affected by the Pike Plan canopies, I want to thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion on its' value as it applies to maintenance vs. removal.

To begin with, I believe that it is in the best interest of Kingston to keep the canopies in place:

1. One, because of the unique beauty it lends to the area. No single picture signifying and commemorating the beauty of the Stockade District, and Kingston in general, does so more than the iconic photo taken at the intersection of Wall St. and N. Front St. facing south with the Old Dutch Church tower in the background. It is one of the most incredible street scene pictures in the entire United States. Without the canopies in place it will still be a beautiful picture, much like pictures of many beautiful streets throughout the nation. The church tower will still look dramatic. But the photo will lack the current unique iconic beauty it now has with the canopies. Of the many thousand business communities throughout the nation that also experimented with canopies during the 1960's-1980's, very few still remain. Almost all were taken down once it was realized that the canopies were ineffective against the retail environment brought on by the massive mall shopping scene wherever one was built. The greatest number had been erected in California. Most have since been removed. But I can tell you as a fact, having lived in California for 15 years, that all the streets that had them looked more beautiful before removal than they did after removal. But their beauty pales in comparison to the natural beauty as captured in photos of our own Wall St. For example, a large accounting firm with offices in Hudson and Lake Katrine, but no office in Kingston, uses the Wall St.-canopy-church tower scene to grace the front page of their website. Why? Maybe because beauty is a force, as is wisdom or physical strength, but effortlessly absorbed through the eyes before any effort of willful mental or physical restraint can be applied, thereby absorbing the seer into a world of curiosity and desire to see and know more.

2. Two, because of the practical security afforded to those walking on Wall St. or N. Front St. during rainy and, especially, snowy conditions, coupled with the obviously reduced need to shovel snow from the sidewalks. In this sense, the canopies are a big success. Shielding strollers safely from the elements was one of the principal reasons for building the canopies in the first place. They thought that by protecting shoppers they would be less likely to automatically go to the malls. Maybe for some it did work, but not enough. For other reasons, though, the fates have been turning against the malls, and against brick and mortar stores in general. And that is due to online shopping. Nothing we can do about that. But regarding climatic conditions, no town shopping district in the region is better suited than we are to deal with bad weather. So let's not act in too much haste and foolishly throw away our advantage to the benefit of our neighbors in other towns who would be all too happy to see us do so.

3. Three, and most importantly, its' incredible historic value reflective of that turbulent period (1960's-1980's) when individual businesses as well as entire business districts in towns small and large throughout the country, went out of business because of the development of strip malls and large shopping centers. Desperately, many believed that canopies could help as a shield against economic decimation. They were wrong. Now, however, history seems to be repeating or reversing itself. The same shopping malls that caused the economic ruin of many business districts and stores both large and small, are now themselves experiencing huge economic declines as a result of the latest phenomenon "online shopping." No one can say for sure what the near and long range future has in store, so it would be wise not to step too quickly into the unknown. Let us retain our advantage a while longer to find out. The numbers are already moving in our favor. Is not the increase in the value of local real estate a good sign? Is not the talk of gentrification, or the willingness of people to move here who might possibly have greater means than the average Kingston resident, a good sign. Without doubt these are very good signs. Naysayers beware. These are the signs of a town on the rise. Just wait and see!

Regarding the historic value of the canopies, please consider the following. Without disagreement, I believe we can all affirm that Kingston is a community justifiably filled with pride for its' great historical tradition going back hundreds of years. In every century beginning with the 1600's, there are incredible memories of events, some of which are reflected in physical remains from those times.

The four building structures from the 1600's on the corner of Crown St. and John St., and the present Old Dutch Church structure, are reflections of the earliest settlers ever to come to America. The Senate house from the 1700's recalls to mind America's greatest moment, The American Revolution, and our incredible struggle for independence. The 1800's, the Civil War, and going forward into the early 1900's, are

emblematic times of the impact our region has had in the North's struggle to provide claim for all indigent groups to all the rights guaranteed in The U.S. Constitution for minorities, women and children, through the court system right here on Wall St.

Now, as a city that loves its' history, we have another opportunity to preserve a period of our, and our nation's, history through the preservation of the canopies. The canopies represent a very specific period of U.S. history when towns across the nation sought out a solution to survive the negative economic impact shopping malls were having in drawing away business. As previously mentioned, thousands of business districts throughout the nation did what Kingston did. They built canopies around the stores. Most have since been removed. The few still remaining are historical icons to those times in the 20th century when growing prosperity created a need for a more complete shopping experience, that was also faster and with greater variety. The only way to do this at the time was to bring all the stores together in one location. The canopies represent the lengths that people were willing to go to in order to protect their hopes and dreams which were being swallowed up by malls. The canopies wherever they exist are now an iconic part of our nation's, and Kingston's, history. They must be kept, in my opinion, almost as much as any other historical icon in the city, and more so due to their practical benefits.

Two final thoughts. Since 2005 I have personally met thousands of visitors to the uptown Stockade shopping district. Not one person ever thought that removing the canopies could in any way be a good idea. The only people ever mentioning the canopies in a negative light are business owners who claim that they lose business as a result of them. I can say from knowing them, their business and their business practices, that if they really are not earning or generating the sales they think they should, it's not because of the canopies.

Finally, based on your cost estimate for repair of \$450,000, and your cost estimate for demolition and façade repair of \$868,000, I offer this approach. Keep the canopies and spend the \$450,000 for repairs. The \$418,000 difference saved from the demolition costs can be applied towards the upkeep and maintenance. That should last a good 15 to 20 years. The canopies are a historic gem. See them in that light, and you'll know it too.

Sincerely,

Anonymous.

Finance and Audit Committee Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 13, 2019

Submitted by: Dee Sills

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Informational Purposes

Agenda Section:

Subject:

Discussion of Flatbush Avenue sewer problems

Suggested Action:

Attachments:

[20190311084634.pdf](#)

Tinti, Elisa

From: Noble, James
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2019 11:14 AM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Subject: Fwd: finance committee meeting

Hi Elisa

Please add this communicate to the FED committee. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: ANN PAPELIAN <annpapelian@gmail.com>
Date: March 7, 2019 at 11:21:14 AM EST
To: <jnoble@kingston-ny.gov>, ANN PAPELIAN <annpapelian@gmail.com>
Subject: **finance committee meeting**

Hi,

My name is Ann Papelian, and I live in the city of Kingston at 280 Flatbush Ave.

I would like to be placed on your meeting agenda for the Finance Committee on Weds 3/13 with 2 other citizens of Kingston to discuss a sewer backup that occurred on 1/31/19.

I can be reached via email at annpapelian@gmail.com, cell 845-417-4571 or 845-338-2766.
I appreciate your time and consideration.

Ann Papelian