



To: Niagara Falls City Council
From: Niagara Falls Community Development
Date: April 25, 2018
Re: Acceptance of KaBoom! Community Partner Agreement

Pursuant to a competitive application submitted in March 2018, KaBoom! Inc. has offered to collaborate with the City of Niagara Falls on the construction of a new playground at 473 7th Street. In early 2018, the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation, in partnership with KaBoom!, announced the *Built to Play Initiative* to provide more opportunities for kid-driven free play across Western New York and Southeast Michigan. The Niagara Falls Community Development Department applied to the “Build It With Kaboom!” grant as a component of the *Built to Play Initiative*.

The 7th Street Park Project is a component of the Niagara Falls Community Investment Strategy presented to foundational funders in December 2017. The surrounding neighborhood is densely residential, with 78 school children within just two blocks of the project site, per the Niagara Falls City School District. The proposed site of the 7th Street Park is at the center of several large investments in market-rate commercial and residential developments, educational infrastructure, and affordable housing. What's missing from this neighborhood is a vibrant public space for children and their parents to play and spend time. The 7th Street Park proposal would create a unique amenity that demonstrates commitment to a community whose access to public spaces has long been in need of serious investment. By capitalizing on the high volume of vacant lots on this block, and by timing this investment with several others in the area, we believe that a park on the 400-block of 7th Street would go a long way in improving the health of this community.

The Build It With KaBoom! model includes an extensive community design process and volunteer installation. This initiative would both add lasting value to the neighborhood and create an opportunity for civic engagement through the design/installation process. The site is not currently a city park, but still requires lot maintenance, paid for by the City of Niagara Falls. The Build It With Kaboom agreement offers both playground equipment and design services that exceed a value of \$150,000 for a 2,400 square foot ADA compliant playground. All of the playground equipment includes specific warranties. Per KaBoom!, this project can be completed within the 2018 construction season.

This requested action does not expend general fund or casino fund dollars. The KaBoom! Community Partner Agreement requires an \$8,500 local fundraising investment as a match. The Niagara Falls Community Development Department proposes using United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, applicable as part of the proposed “Improvement of Public Spaces/Place-Making” CDBG budget amendment on this City Council agenda.

Will the Council vote to so approve and authorize the Mayor to execute the KaBoom Community Partner Agreement , in a form acceptable to the Corporation Counsel?

Paul Dyster, Mayor

Nick Melson, City Administrator

Seth Piccirillo, Director
Niagara Falls Community Development

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