



To: Niagara Falls City Council
From: Seth Piccirillo, Director of Community Development
Date: January 31, 2018

PURCHASE OF LIBERTY PARK EQUIPMENT

It is the administration's recommendation that Liberty Parks AKA Lou "Big Lou" Park equipment should be purchased via the New York State Office of General Services Playground Equipment, and Related Products Statewide Contract. **KOMPAN Playground Equipment** is a qualified vendor as part of the statewide contract. The total amount that the Niagara Falls City Council is being asked to authorize is **\$72,999.50**

The Liberty Park Project will not require any municipal general fund or casino capital fund revenue. The entire project, including the purchase of equipment and installation, will be funded by United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant funds. A total of **\$200,000** in CDBG funds was allocated to this project via the 2017 Participatory Budgeting Process (PB360). The Niagara Falls City Council approved a \$360,000 CDBG allocation to fund PB360 as part of the 2017 Niagara Falls Community Development Action Plan. The City of Niagara Falls is only the second American city to use participatory budgeting, a process in which citizens directly vote on public projects, to allocate CDBG funds.

Safety surfacing installation is estimated at **\$89,702** and general equipment installation is estimated at **\$36,725**, for a total project estimate of **\$199,426**. These expenditures will also be brought to the City Council for approval. Any contingency payments will be funded by CDBG rather than the City of Niagara Falls. The existing play structure will be replaced by the new facility but the swings will be left in place. This equipment will not add a new maintenance burden to the Department of Public Works, as there is already a need for maintenance now.

The proposed equipment is designed to offer physical activity and fitness opportunities to residents of all ages. Features include safety surfacing, pull up bars, push up bars, vertical ladders, horizontal ladders and a mobility course. In partnership with the Niagara Falls City School District, physical activity sessions will be scheduled throughout the summer months. Niagara Falls Community Development has applied to the New York State Health Foundation to fund programming at Liberty Park in 2018 and 2019. The Niagara Falls City Council is considering a resolution in support of this application at the January 31, 2018 City Council meeting.

The Liberty Park Improvement Project will transform a blighted park into a place for the community to come together with physical activity and fitness. The playground set has been in a state of disrepair for years and all other park amenities are aged considerably. The makeup of the community surrounding Liberty Park is largely residential and densely occupied. This project is part of our department's and the City of Niagara Falls' continuing effort to increase and improve youth facilities and services in our community. Improvement at Liberty Park are consistent with the adopted Niagara Falls Parks Master Plan.

Will the Council vote to so approve and authorize the Mayor to execute a contract for the purchase and limited installation of this equipment, in a form acceptable to the Corporation Counsel?

Paul Dyster, Mayor

Nick Melson, City Administrator

Seth Piccirillo, Director
Niagara Falls Community Development

Kennedy Scott Tompkins Voccio Touma