

RESOLUTION No. 2019-

***RELATIVE TO NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION (NFARS)
COMPATIBLE USE PLAN***

BY:

Council Chairman Andrew Touma
Council Member William Kennedy
Council Member Kenny Tompkins
Council Member Christopher Voccio

WHEREAS, the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (“NFARS”) is the County’s largest employer with over 3,000 full time and part time employees and is responsible for generating over \$88 million in annual payroll, \$168 million in annual economic impact and plays a critical role in our national security; and

WHEREAS, in the past, NFARS has found itself at risk of closure through the Base Realignment and Closure process (“BRAC”); and

WHEREAS, through an intense and concentrated community effort, locally and in Washington, supporting NFARS, these closure proposals were reversed; and

WHEREAS, a persistent threat to any US Air Force installation is “encroachment” from land uses in surrounding areas that interfere with flight operations; and

WHEREAS, the presence of encroachments have led to US Air Force bases being closed; and

WHEREAS, local governments play a crucial role in evaluating and approving land uses and projects; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities of Wheatfield, Lewiston, Niagara, Pendleton, Cambria and Niagara Falls have all explored the Office of Economic Adjustment (“OEA”) program to fund the development of a “Compatible Use Plan” (“CUP”) to protect military installations from encroachment uses; and

Kennedy _____ Scott _____ Tompkins _____ Voccio _____ Touma _____

WHEREAS, NFARS and NIMAC leadership have stated that a CUP designed by these communities would be a strong statement to the US Air Force that the community is invested in the long-term viability of NFARS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Niagara Falls supports pursuing funding for a “Compatible Use Plan” through the Office of Economic Adjustment, in conjunction with the NFTA, Niagara County and NFARS for the purposes of coordinating local land use planning to prevent encroachment uses from interfering with operations at NFARS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Niagara County Legislature, NFARS, NIMAC, and Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand.