

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITY OF HERMITAGE & STATE OFFICIALS

ANNOUNCE \$2.5 MILLION GRANT FOR THE HERMITAGE TOWN CENTER PROJECT

(Hermitage, Mercer County, PA) – The City of Hermitage has been notified that Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf announced a \$2,500,000 Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant to the City to assist in the implementation of the Town Center Redevelopment Project, including the Shenango Valley Mall property. The City of Hermitage recently adopted the “Hermitage 2030” Comprehensive Plan and, by far, the community’s top priority is the plan’s Core Value – “Vibrant Center”. The city staff has been working diligently meeting with state officials to secure assistance to collaborate with private developers to repurpose properties in the city center consistent with the comprehensive plan goals and objectives. Gary Hinkson, City Manager, commented: “This is great news for the City of Hermitage and surrounding communities. With the ink barely dry on the Comprehensive Plan these funds will provide critical assistance for the implementation of this initiative. The receipt of these funds was made possible through a strong working partnership with Senator Michele Brooks and Representative Mark Longietti.”

The RACP financing assistance can be used for the acquisition, infrastructure, construction and other related costs for the redevelopment of the Hermitage Town Center. The project will strengthen the retail and commercial core of Mercer County and will support Hermitage’s efforts to develop a mixed-use Town Center. The “Hermitage 2030 plan” stated – *With the retail commercial landscape changing, the time is ripe to focus on creating a walkable city center that is home to public open space, a mixture of uses and entertainment. Placing a higher emphasis on building form and design can help to establish an identity for what it is now, the geographic center of the city.*

The RACP funded project will strengthen the foundation of the center city and the project will be a leading economic development example of what a city can accomplish by collaborating with private developers, economic development partners and state agencies.

Bill Moder, President, Hermitage Board of Commissioners added “The City of Hermitage is committed to the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan recommendations to develop a vibrant city center and to provide a high quality of life for residents and an inviting atmosphere for the public. Based on the feedback from the Comprehensive Plan

steering committee, community stakeholders and the general public it is clear that a vibrant city center is of the highest priority and the board supports a proactive approach to address this need.”

The Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) is a Commonwealth grant program administered by the Office of the Budget for the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational, and historical improvement projects. RACP projects are authorized in the Redevelopment Assistance section of a Capital Budget Itemization Act, have a regional or multi-jurisdictional impact, and generate substantial increases or maintain current levels of employment, tax revenues, or other measures of economic activity. RACP projects are state-funded projects that cannot obtain primary funding under other state programs.

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