A RESOLUTION PROPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CITY COMMUNITY SUSTAINMENT FUND THROUGH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

WHEREAS, the City is facing the potential loss of Community Development Block Grant money, which provides funds for Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing, Connections Community Support Programs, Inc., first time homebuyers, housing rehabilitation and repair for very low income homeowners and other needs; and

WHEREAS, the budget for the State of Delaware is likely to see reductions, not increases, in local aid; and

WHEREAS, City taxpayers could be facing increases in other taxes from various levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the lack of these funds would create severe hardship on some citizens, increase urban blight, and undermine economic development and safety in the City; and

WHEREAS, many citizens of Dover have testified about the cost of the social problems of homes falling into disrepair, homelessness, and addiction over the past year; and

WHEREAS, the City would benefit from a mechanism which would allow voluntary support for improving the atmosphere, quality of life, and sustainability of our City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Section 1. Dover City Council shall establish a $1 a month negative checkoff on the utility bill which will be solely for the Dover Community Sustainment and Enhancement Grant Fund.

(a) This contribution shall be voluntary for any taxpayer, renter of taxable property, or entity which makes payment in lieu of taxes. It shall be mandatory for non-taxpaying entities. No person or business shall be denied utility service, nor shall non-payment be submitted to collections. It shall be listed as a line item on the bill, and included unless a person affirmatively opts out.

(b) This fund shall be appropriated annually by City Council, in the same fashion, with the same reporting standards as Community Development Block Grants, except it shall not be subject to the 15% restriction, and shall be open to application by any nonprofit established for at least one (1) year or to the Mayor’s office to fund Council approved initiatives on homelessness.
(c) This fund shall be administered by the Director of Planning and Community Development's designee.

ADOPTED: *

ROBIN R. CHRISTIANSEN
MAYOR

TIMOTHY A. SLAVIN
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Actions History
05/23/2017 - Scheduled for Introduction - Council Committee of the Whole/Special Parks, Recreation, and Community Enhancement Committee