



Budget Office

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Marisa G. Waxman, AICP, Budget Director

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Harvey Rice, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority
Via Email – Hrice@picapa.org

June 30, 2022

Dear Mr. Rice.

Please find attached the FY23-27 Five Year Plan, incorporating the FY23 Adopted Budget, passed by City Council and signed by the Mayor on June 27, 2022.

This Five Year plan was prepared during an ongoing global pandemic, paired with economic disruption, and ongoing calls for racial equity. These events are layered on top of Philadelphia's persistent challenges: intergenerational poverty, the need for an improving education system, and violence and public safety crises that threaten lives and disrupt our cherished communities. Even against this backdrop, the Plan has been updated to reflect more revenues, based on FY 22 collections, more reserves for future labor costs, more reserves for inflation and a potential recession, a significant increase in deposits into the Budget Stabilization Reserve, expanded investments in areas including public safety, community quality of life and public health, and a slightly higher ending fund balance than the original FY23-27 Plan and the PICA-approved FY22-26 Plan.

This Five Year Plan reflects evolving needs and changes to the resources available to serve Philadelphians. It demonstrates an improved revenue outlook compared to the version released in March, based on strong actual collections in FY22. As we anticipate that some of that strength is a one-time spike, this version of the Plan lowers growth rates for some tax types compared to the estimates presented that were generally accepted at the Economist Meeting convened by PICA. These changes are based on input from IHS Markit and updated collection figures to ensure reasonable revenue projections. Additionally, the updated Plan reflects property assessments released after March 31st, which enabled reductions to the Wage and Business Income and Receipts Taxes, as well as expansions of property tax relief and rental assistance to offset the impacts of the assessments on Real Estate Tax bills.

The spending side of this Plan is updated to reflect the adopted amendments to the FY23 budget and their impact across the Five Year Plan, as some of those increases will lead to recurring expenditures. Spending changes include increases for programs to address violence and community safety, including lighting, a new forensics lab, abandoned car



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removal, and police recruitment. Community and cultural facilities will be boosted with additional funds for Free Library materials and executive staff, expanding Rec Center hours to weekends, and expanded support for organizations including the Dell, Mann, Art Museum, Zoo, and African American Museum of Philadelphia.

This revised Five Year Plan also includes increasing allocations to support 3.25% raises for exempt employees, something not contemplated in the original FY23-27 proposal that creates parity with incorporated raises for represented non-uniform employees and non-represented civil servants. The Labor Reserve has been increased to reflect expected needs related to the outstanding contract for corrections officers and new contracts for all represented employees in the later years of the Plan. In response to inflation and supply chain pressures that have worsened since March, the Plan adds funding for fuel, utilities and adds \$12M per year to the Recession and Reopening Reserve, an amount roughly equal to 5% of the General Fund's Class 300/400 budget.

Through this careful approach of monitoring revenues and conservative revisions based on actual collections and stewardship of federal relief funds, this Five Year Plan makes sustained investments in the areas that matter most to Philadelphians while ensuring adequate reserves to weather expected and unexpected disruptions and economic trends. Revenue growth will average 3.9%. The level of revenue growth would be unachievable without the draw downs of American Rescue Plan funds that replace lost revenues. Absent these funds, the City would not be able to sustain needed services and fiscal stability.

This Plan will end with an \$86 million fund balance, nearly \$20 million more than the ending fund balance in the Plan most recently approved by PICA. In addition to this improvement, the revised FY23-27 Plan includes deposits into the Budget Stabilization Reserve in four of the five years. If untapped throughout the Plan, more than \$165 million will be available to the City in the event of future distress.

We look forward to working with you and your team as you review the Plan. Please reach out if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Marisa G. Waxman, AICP
Budget Director