

Legislation Text

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Authorizing the Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development (“PAID”) to file an application with the Office of the Budget, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, under the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, in an aggregate amount not to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) to assist in the development of WHYY Learning Lab; and authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with PAID in furtherance of grant requirements; all under certain terms and conditions.

Whereas, The City and the Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development (“PAID”) desire to obtain funds from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Office of the Budget, in an amount not to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) for the undertaking of approved Capital Budget projects under Section 4(c) of the Housing and Redevelopment Assistance Law as amended; and

Whereas, Guidelines issued pursuant to the Housing and Redevelopment Assistance Law, as amended, define a blighted area to include portions of an urban community with economically undesirable land uses; and

Whereas, The City and PAID recognize that blighting influences exist due to economically undesirable land use throughout the City; and

Whereas, One project (“Project”) is being proposed in order to eliminate the existing blighting influence by renovating facilities to house educational and community service delivery facilities; and

Whereas, The City and PAID desire to advance the necessary development of the above-referenced Projects; and

Whereas, The Housing and Community Development Program authorizes PAID to file applications for grants; and

Whereas, The Commonwealth regulations require the City and/or its designated project recipients to assume the provision of the full matching share of the project costs above the aggregate amount of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000); and

Whereas, The Commonwealth regulations require the City to obligate itself to reimburse the Commonwealth for expenditures found to be ineligible and not reimbursed by the project recipient; and

Whereas, The Commonwealth regulations require the City to enter into a Cooperation Agreement between PAID and the City to create the mechanism to reimburse the state for project expenses found to be ineligible and not reimbursed by the project recipient; and to reimburse the state when warranted for project expenses on projects not completed within the agreed upon term of the grants; and

Whereas, The Commonwealth regulations require City Council’s approval prior to PAID’s submission of an application; now, therefore

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. The City of Philadelphia authorizes the Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development

(“PAID”) to file applications for Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grants through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Office of the Budget, including all understandings and assurances contained therein, in an aggregate amount not to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) to assist in the development of and improvements to the WHYY Learning Lab, as individually described in Capital Budget Project Itemization Acts including 1999-35, and as described in Exhibit “A” attached hereto and incorporated herein.

Section 2. The City of Philadelphia authorizes PAID to enter into grant agreements with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Office of the Budget to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance.

Section 3. The City and/or its designated project recipients will assume the provision of the full matching share of project costs above the aggregate amount of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000).

Section 4. The City or the designated project recipient will reimburse the Commonwealth for the State’s share of any expenditure awarded pursuant to this Ordinance that is found by the Office of the Budget to be ineligible.

Section 5. The City of Philadelphia and/or its designated project recipients also agree to guarantee that it shall fully complete the projects within the agreed upon term of the grant (including reasonable extensions requested by the City and/or its designated project recipients).

Section 6. The City Council of Philadelphia also authorizes the City to enter into an agreement with the Philadelphia Authority for Industrial Development (“PAID”) whereby the City and/or its designated project recipients, at the discretion of the City, will assume the provision of the full local share of the project costs above Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000); or to reimburse the Commonwealth for project expenditures for projects not completed within the agreed upon term of the grants.

EXHIBIT “A”

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

WHYY Learning Lab:

The Learning Lab at WHYY will be built on the 7th Street lot behind the station’s existing Philadelphia headquarters. It will cover roughly 10,000 square feet of space. In addition, a \$4 million capital campaign is planned to raise an operating fund for the Lab. The mission of the Learning Lab at WHYY is to share the power of digital technology to foster a more connected and informed community in our broadcast area. Using WHYY’s advanced technologies, Learning Lab programs will train community groups and K-12 students to produce their own video; train corporate employees and K-12 teachers both via distance learning and face-to-face in the Lab; create electronic field trips and interactive musical performances for schools; exhibit digital art; and connect the region’s citizens in ways never before possible. This Redevelopment Assistance Grant is in addition to \$1million previously awarded in 2003. The total project cost is approximately \$6million.

RACP Grant \$2,000,000