



# American Rescue Plan Review

Municipality of Norristown – What We've Committed and What Comes Next!



# Current ARPA Commitments

ARPA is a stimulus bill totaling \$1.9 trillion passed by congress and signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021, to assist communities with the escalating health and economic impacts due to COVID-19.

The municipality of Norristown received the following in ARPA funds:

- \$ 10,070,108.50 awarded on June 7, 2021
- \$ 10,070,108.50 awarded on June 9, 2022

Council has committed \$12.56 million toward the following:

- \$7 million towards Budget Relief under General Revenue Loss.
- \$1.3 million toward infrastructure improvements.
- \$2.2 million in response to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
- \$2 million reserved for Administrative Expense Allowance.



# Funds Committed to Relieve General Revenue Losses

Norristown Municipal Council approved \$ 7.0 million toward the following:

- \$2 million to fund first year operations of the Norristown Stormwater Authority
- \$500,000 to purchase new vehicles for our Police and Codes departments.
- \$720,000 to acquire a high-water rescue vehicle to address the now regular 100-year storms.
- \$2.8 million to purchase a new fire ladder truck and engine.
- Invest in a Master Plan for Elmwood Park.
- Purchase flood control gates and dam gauge.



# Funds Committed to Infrastructure Improvements

Norristown Municipal Council approved \$1.3 million toward the following:

- Services to evaluate Norristown's aging sanitary sewer infrastructure and gravity collection/conveyance system.
- Construction improvements for Rapp Alley storm water installation.



# Funds Committed to COVID-19 Public Response

Norristown Municipal Council approved \$2.2 million toward the following:

- Design and construction of an urban skateboard park at Poley Park.
- Upgrades to Riverfront Park, which include a new pavilion, benches, grill, entry gate and signage.
- Purchase new playground equipment for Bartash And McCann parks.
- Improvements to Simmons basketball courts which include new pavement, painted courts and new backboards.





# Businesses and Organization's ARPA Requests

- Theatre Horizon request \$225,000 to launch a Theater for Young Audiences, over the next 3 years.
- MONTCO Library to create The Hive, a library teen space and working lab.
- Blazin' Body Fitness request \$19,000 to purchase new equipment and extend hours to better serve community.



# Community Feedback from Public ARPA Meetings and Survey Posted at NorristownBuzz.org

Community meetings were held throughout the summer and offered at two different locations, on July 12, July 14, Aug. 9 and Aug. 11, 2022.

Feedback was also collected on NorristownBuzz.org which allowed residents to participate in two ARPA surveys. The first survey began in early November 2021 and closed in late December 2021.

Results were as follows:

- Improvements to municipal infrastructure- 26 votes.
- Provide economic relief to the budget and mitigate tax increases - 19 votes.
- Help small business/impacted businesses- 11 votes.
- Increase municipal services- Six votes.

# Community Feedback from Public ARPA Meetings and Survey Posted at NorristownBuzz.org

A second survey was conducted on NorristownBuzz.org which began in early Jan. 2022 and closed on Aug. 31, 2022.

Results were as follows:

- Street and alley repairs - 53 votes.
- Park improvements to include a new dog park - 40 votes.
- Community Center offering programs and rental space -21 votes.
- Crime Prevention/Public Safety Programs - 12 votes.

Other suggestions: aid for unhoused population, plant Trees, more trash bins, MS4 projects, rain barrels, Electronics recycling and lowering taxes.





# ARPA Recommendations for Consideration

As of April 30, 2023 we have \$7,575,520 uncommitted ARPA funds remaining. We have another opportunity to improve our Town and improve our resident's quality of life.

Additional options for Council to consider are as follows:

- \$3 million remaining in General Revenue Loss can be used to offset General Fund in 2023-2024 enabling a transfer of savings to CIP for future projects.
- Blight remediation, demolition of vacant properties and abandoned buildings.
- Purchase of Roosevelt field.
- Crosswalks to promote pedestrian safety.
- Infrastructure repairs to Culvert repairs etc.
- Additional costs for Crawford Retaining Wall and Poley Park.