City of New Rochelle
Development

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THRU: Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager

FROM: Adam Salgado, Commissioner of Development

DATE: January 14, 2025

SUBJECT: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF GRANT APPLICATION BY THE ENERGY JUSTICE LAW & POLICY CENTER (EJLPC) RE: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PROGRAM - Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application by the Energy Justice Law & Policy Center (EJLPC) to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Office of Environmental Justice relative to the Community Education Center grant program.

INTRODUCTION:
The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Office of Environmental Justice recently announced the funding opportunity for projects that will support the renovation of facilities to create Community Environmental Education Centers with the hope of inspiring exploration, discovery, and learning about the environment of local communities. The deadline to apply for funding under the program is January 22, 2025. The maximum award amount is $3,000,000. Municipalities are not eligible to apply; however, they may serve as subgrantee as part of a bid by an eligible not-for-profit. There is no match required by this grant.

BACKGROUND:
Beginning in 2022, the City has supported the Eco-Ambassadors initiative under the Youth Bureau's Learn to Earn Summer Youth Employment Program that provides experiential learning opportunities related to ecology, sustainability, and climate change. In 2023, a partnership with the Energy Justice Law & Policy Center (EJLPC), a New Rochelle nonprofit, was created in an effort to enhance the Eco-Ambassadors initiative. In 2024, the Oakwood Pavilion at Five Islands Park was utilized for the Eco-Ambassadors program due to its availability during weekday hours and because of its proximity to the Long Island Sound.

Constructed in 1981, the Oakwood Pavilion has served as a venue for special events, youth and recreation programming, and private rentals. The success of the 2024 Eco-Ambassadors partnership with EJLPC has highlighted a need to improve the pavilion and provide additional environmental/community programing. With the release of this grant opportunity, and based on the success of the 2024 program, the City was approached by EJLPC to partner in the Community Environmental Education Centers grant application. The grant requires that the applicant be a not-for-profit corporation, community-based organization.

The Community Environmental Education Center grant program would support capital costs of renovation proposals directly related to a facility project, including contractual services, feasibility study, construction costs, and the purchase of equipment/furniture/fixtures. If EJLPC is awarded this grant, the City would be a subgrantee and an agreement between the City and EJLPC would be required for proposed improvements to and use of the Oakwood Pavilion at Five Islands Park.

ISSUE:
Under the Community Environmental Education Center grant program, municipal endorsement is required for non-municipal projects located on municipal property. This endorsement must accompany the completed application.

RECOMMENDATION:
Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution approving/endorsing EJLPC's application to the NYSDEC for the Community Education Center Grant Program.

ADOPTED: 2025-4 January 14, 2025

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE ENERGY JUSTICE LAW & POLICY CENTER (EJLPC) TO THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (NYSDEC) RELATIVE TO THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER GRANT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS the Energy Justice Law & Policy Center (EJLPC) is applying to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for a project grant under the NYSDEC Community Environmental Education Center program to be located at the Oakwood Pavilion in Five Islands Park in the City of New Rochelle, a site located within the territorial jurisdiction of this Council; and

WHEREAS, as a requirement of this program, said EJLPC must obtain the approval/endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of New Rochelle hereby does authorize the City Manager to approve and endorse the application of EJLPC for a grant under the Round 12 Hudson River Estuary Program for a project known as Five Islands Coastal Education & Community Center at Oakwood Pavilion located within this community, and to make such

STATE OF NEW YORK }
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER} ss.:
CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE }

I, MICHELLE OLIVEROS, City Clerk of the City of New Rochelle, do hereby certify that I have compared the preceding RESOLUTION with the original RESOLUTION NO. 4 adopted at a meeting of the COUNCIL of the City of New Rochelle, held on the 14TH day of JANUARY, 2025, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the Official Seal of the City of New Rochelle, this 17TH day of JANUARY 20 25.

City Clerk

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE ENERGY JUSTICE LAW & POLICY CENTER (EJLPC) TO THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (NYSDEC) RELATIVE TO THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER GRANT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS the Energy Justice Law & Policy Center (EJLPC) is applying to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for a project grant under the NYSDEC Community Environmental Education Center program to be located at the Oakwood Pavilion in Five Islands Park in the City of New Rochelle, a site located within the territorial jurisdiction of this Council; and

WHEREAS, as a requirement of this program, said EJLPC must obtain the approval/endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of New Rochelle hereby does authorize the City Manager to approve and endorse the application of EJLPC for a grant under the Round 12 Hudson River Estuary Program for a project known as Five Islands Coastal Education & Community Center at Oakwood Pavilion located within this community, and to make such representation and execute such documentation as may be necessary and required to file and accept the grant, and to make such representation and execute such documentation as may be necessary and required to file and accept the grant.