



A Century of Progress with Pride

May 16, 2022

RE: Berwyn City Council Regular Meeting, Item D2 Clarification

Esteemed City Council Members:

Clear and fact-based communication between elected officials and its citizens is critical in creating trust to inspire residents to become involved in their community and in shaping public policy and addressing the concerns most important to our residents.

The residents of Berwyn deserve the facts so they are able to make the best decisions for themselves and their loved ones. Unfortunately, due to politically-charged false and misleading statements issued on City of Berwyn letterhead and using city intellectual property and imagery to further ongoing political online campaigns, I am issuing this clarification statement. Disappointingly, social media has been a recurring tool used by some council members for political motives, instead of sharing resources and facts.

At the previous City Council meeting held on Tuesday, May 10th, 2022, item D2 of the City Council agenda titled "***City Administrator Green: Engagement Letter for Phase I & II for Expansion for the Emergency Services Facility, Dispatch Expansion and North Fire House Maintenance Garage Expansion,***" was brought forth to the council floor for final approval.

In furtherance of the Safe-T Act and the recent Presidential commitment of American Rescue Plan funding to improve public safety, the Berwyn Police Department presented plans to the City Council for approval of ARPA funding after a year and a half of cooperative committee planning and eventual public hearings on the matter.

For the past several years, the Berwyn Police Department has been a leader in forward-thinking policing; proactively developing plans to continue modernizing the local approach to safety.

In early 2021, the Illinois Safe-T Act became law, codifying many of the concepts that were already being worked upon by the BPD administration. Unfortunately, state legislation did not include funding for local municipalities to enact many of the new mandates. This challenge was met through a cross-departmental yearlong process that was unanimously discussed, reviewed, and approved by each member of the City Council in its entirety, without omitting any budgetary plans or sources.

I am proud of the diligent work and collaboration between departments and what our council members achieved in this initiative, and look forward to seeing this plan unfold in the coming years.

In closing, I cannot stress enough the importance of providing clear, fact-based information to our residents, and the responsibility we have as elected officials to protect the public trust. False and intentionally misleading narratives disguised as concerns and gaps create a dangerous environment and impede our purpose to authentically represent our constituents and serve accordingly.

My door is always open to council members with concerns and solutions.

To learn more about the plan for the approval of American Rescue Plan Funding (ARPA) funding, please click on the link below:

[Berwyn Police Department Statement Issued RE: ARPA Funding](#)

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. J. Lovero".

Robert J. Lovero, Mayor

