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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

December 20, 2021

Dear Governor Wolf,

In October 2021, we wrote to you to express our support for the Redevelopment Assistance Capitol Program (RACP) grant application for funding submitted by Beth Sholom Synagogue in Elkins Park, PA to repair the original glass roof structure of the historic building that is in desperate need of repair. We have attached a copy of that letter.

The purpose of this letter is to detail the importance of Beth Sholom not only to the Jewish community but to the entire community in which it resides. While Beth Sholom is rooted in Jewish tradition, it embraces the diversity of its membership including families who celebrate other traditions, cultures, and religions.

The synagogues Racial Justice Task Force works on aligning their values with foundational Jewish values of equality, humanity, and justice. However, the synagogue does more than just discuss its values. They conduct regular clothing and book drives and have a medical device lending library for all those in need. Their Food Pantry provides non-perishable food to all in need serving approximately 130 families each week. Many of the clients have been coming for over 3 years and the Pantry receives 5-10 new families each month.

Their Center for Spiritual Well-being (CSWB) is open to the entire community and offers programs, support groups and classes for individuals who are seeking mental, emotional, and spiritual, support and well-being. Beth Sholom also hosts a variety of important art installations, all open to the public. One example was David Hartt's The Histories which utilized tropical sights and sounds to reflect on the Jewish and Black diasporas in America and how the American cultural landscape is shaped by ethnic, economic, and religious migration.

This grant will literally help uphold a synagogue instilled with the principles found in their prayerbook: that they "uproot from our hearts hatred and malice, jealousy and strife. Plant love and companionship, peace and friendship, among the many peoples and faiths which dwell in our nation."

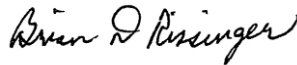
Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you should have any questions.



The Hon. Napoleon Nelson
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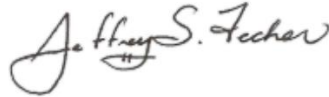
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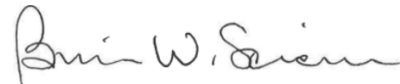
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