



WORKSESSION MAYOR'S REPORT

Meeting Date: December 5, 2022
To: Members of the Town Council
From: Jodie Kulpa-Eddy
Subject: Berwyn Heights Police Department Facility funding

Intent

Request the Council consider all revenue sources, including ARPA related funds, for the establishment of a new Berwyn Heights Police Department (BHPD) facility

Background

In 2021, the Federal Government provided \$350 billion to state, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. The funding was intended to:

- Fight the pandemic and support families and businesses struggling with its public health and economic impacts
- Maintain vital public services, even amid declines in revenue resulting from the crisis
- Build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity

Analysis

ARPA funds are a one-time, temporary infusion of resources. Several experts have indicated it is prudent to apply these non-recurring funds primarily to non-recurring expenditures. Investment in critical infrastructure is a particularly well-suited use of ARPA funds because it is a non-recurring expenditure that can be targeted to strategically important long-term assets that provide benefits over many years.

A permanent, Town-owned BHPD location would be useful for residents. For example, by removing the uncertainty of the availability and cost of a rental space, it will help stabilize budgeting for the BHPD (and by extension, our property taxes), among other benefits.

In May 2022, President Biden renewed his call for communities to invest more American Rescue Plan funding in strategies to make communities safer, and gave as an example that Chesterfield County, Virginia, is using \$1.5 million to purchase land to accelerate the construction of a new police station. Therefore, the use of ARPA funds for such a purpose is acceptable.

Time to encumber and expend ARPA funds is limited, and may be revised. I would ask the Council retain the option to consider use of these funds for a possible BHPD relocation, to ensure maximum flexibility should the need arise.