

NAPOLEON NELSON, MEMBER
154TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

CAPITOL OFFICE:
26B EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202154
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2154
(717) 783-1079
FAX: (717) 787-2713

DISTRICT OFFICE:
115 E. GLENSIDE AVENUE, SUITE 8
GLENSIDE, PENNSYLVANIA 19038-4618
(215) 572-5210
FAX: (215) 517-1423



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
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
26B East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120



Zev Eleff
President
Gratz College
7605 Old York Road
Melrose Park, PA 19027



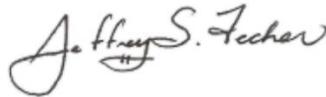
Brian Rissinger
Executive Director
Congregation Keneseth Israel
8339 Old York Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027



Thomas Sims
Institutional Advancement Officer
Manor College
700 Fox Chase Rd
Jenkintown, PA 19046



Eddie T. Graham, Esq.
President
Cheltenham Branch NAACP
Springfield Township
Board of Commissioners



Jeffery Fecher
Superintendent
Abington School District
970 Highland Avenue
Abington, PA 19001



Brian W. Scriven
Superintendent
Cheltenham School District
2000 Ashbourne Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027



George Locke, BCO
Borough Manager, Zoning Officer
Jenkintown Borough
700 Summit Ave,
Jenkintown PA 19046