



2021 ARPA FUNDING REQUEST PUBLIC COMMENTS PACKET

This packet includes all written public comments received by the Mayor and Office of Community Development via email or mail before noon on July, 26, 2021. A total of 89 written public comments were received. Ten general comment letters provided general sentiments regarding priorities in Holyoke, areas of concern, and the process.

Seventy-nine letters were written in support of specific projects or applying entities and the breakout is as follows:

<i>Project(s)</i>	<i>Applying Entity</i>	<i>Letters of Support</i>
CT River Access Center Board Ramp Improvements & Youth Boating & Rowing Programs	Holyoke Rows/CT River Conservancy	49
To and Through College	CARE Center	8
Childcare Center Renovations	Boys and Girls Club of Greater Holyoke	7
Municipal Broadband	HG&E and OneHolyoke CDC	3
Whiting Street Reservoir Improvements	Holyoke Water Works	3
Together We Rise	Girls, Inc.	3
Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program	Valley Opportunity Council	3
South Holyoke Homes	Holyoke Housing Authority	1
Neighborhood Improvement Program	OneHolyoke CDC	1
Roof Replacement at 297 Main St.	Enlace de Familias	1



Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Re: ARPA funds public comment

1 message

Daphne Board <daphneboard@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 26, 2021 at 10:50 AM

To: Terry Murphy <murphyt@holyoke.org>

Cc: Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>, Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Thanks Terry. Below is my public comment:

I've just watched the one public hearing that took place in early July at the Senior Center. I heard several familiar voices and was happy to hear a few unfamiliar residents counter the usual "reduce our high taxes" mantra.

I've read through the list of proposed funding and have many questions about the specifics of these projects. I hope that the mentioned proposal books that will be made available to Councilors also gets made available to residents so that we can better know what exactly is being proposed. I know this is extra work and I thank those involved in doing this added work in the interest of transparency and broader public input and support.

One of the first guidelines Alicia asked the group at the public hearing to respond to was: What are we seeing as a community?, and I'd like to talk generally about how I feel the funds should be used in relation to that question:

I realize that our city has an old infrastructure that in many ways needs updating or fixing. At least one person at the meeting advocated for spending 90% of the ARPA funds on infrastructure to reduce the overall tax burden. Doing this would distribute the funds equally among all residents of Holyoke, not directly to those most impacted, and I would also argue that those infrastructure projects tend to be more 'invisible' to individual residents rather than highly 'visible', transformative neighborhood projects.

That said, I think some amount of ARPA funds should go towards infrastructure, if applicable, and in the qualified census tracts areas, if possible. However, highly visible projects that will help those most affected by the pandemic should be prioritized. Projects that will help transform neighborhoods, including housing needs as we face a severe housing shortage and escalating property prices. Relief to small businesses also ranks high on my priorities list.

I wondered about one person's comment regarding additional federal funds coming in the future, I believe he mentioned that a coordinated effort to spend the funds in a planned, effective way. I've questioned what I see as a rushed timeline for the spending of these ARPA funds, and if we are to receive more federal funding but aren't quite sure what or how that can be spent on, this further reinforces my opinion that we as a city need to be thoughtful and careful about how we spend this money, without rushing the process through arbitrary deadlines. Alicia mentioned that additional information regarding applicable uses was still (at that point, early July) coming from the government.

I'd like to see residents from the QCT areas be a larger part of the decision making process. At this point, perhaps targeted surveys or further outreach, or, an open public comment process (with outreach to specific neighborhoods) during the Council deliberation time would be good additions.

To answer the question Alicia posed at the community hearing, What are we seeing as a community?, I'm seeing that public investment in visible, tangible projects greatly impact how residents feel about their neighborhoods, which I believe effects quality of life and mental health. I'm seeing a housing crunch in the Valley at large and prices of properties in Holyoke escalate. And, of course, I'm seeing fairly low or moderately paid essential workers having had to go to work environments that are stressful this entire time.

Thanks,
Daphne

On Sun, Jul 25, 2021, 3:53 PM Terry Murphy <murphyt@holyoke.org> wrote:

Thank you for your thoughts on this funding and these projects. I look forward to receiving more feedback in the near future.

Terry Murphy, Acting Mayor
City of Holyoke
413-322-5510
murphyt@holyoke.org



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fw: ARPA public comment

svp01040@yahoo.com <svp01040@yahoo.com>
To: preisslerk@holyoke.org

Tue, Jul 27, 2021 at 12:19 AM

Typo in your email gave me a bounce-back, so I'm resending -- sorry about that!

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "svp01040@yahoo.com" <svp01040@yahoo.com>

To: "preisslerk@holyokr.org" <preisslerk@holyokr.org>; "zoellera@holyoke.org" <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021, 11:59:52 PM EDT

Subject: ARPA public comment

Dear Kate, Alicia, and Terry,

I write in regards to public comment on ARPA applications and allocations. I noticed that in the public comment forum on July 8, participants (and applicants in attendance) were instructed not to address specific applications as there would be opportunity for presentations, discussion, and public comment on specific applications at a future date. As far as I can see, no such opportunity has yet occurred.

It has been difficult to find relevant information online. The City's website has had pieces of information in different places, and the search function can be buggy in yielding and organizing results.

What I have been able to see is bare bones and sometimes inconsistent. It's unfortunate that an arbitrary and artificial deadline has been imposed that leaves public comment closing before public presentations -- with opportunity for questions, clarifications, or potential modifications -- have even occurred. Even as I write this, that deadline is itself unclear -- from a post in my ward's Facebook group, the public comment period seemed to have been extended through July 26 (today), and I'm submitting in good faith based on that, but other postings still contradict that. Regulations for eligibility also still seem unclear. With so much uncertain and unknown, foreclosing on public comment seems wildly premature. It has the appearance of being designed to thwart (rather than encourage or even allow) public comment on a massive piece of public investment that could have significant impacts on Holyoke's communities and future.

I hope you will formally and publicly re-open and extend public comment, or create a new public comment period dedicated to addressing the specific applications after the public has had better opportunity to learn about them. That said, here are my impressions so far, with the significant caveat that they're based on very limited publicly available information.

Like many in Holyoke, I'd love the opportunity for municipal fiber to the home (FTTH) and to say goodbye to Comcast's lousy service, price-gouging, and monopoly for what is at this point in history an essential utility. From my experience, from conversations with other Holyokers, and from observing as I walk around my neighborhood and see people parked in cars with laptops to access wi-fi through the library and schools, it's clear that affordable high-speed internet access is a crucial need which has been greatly exacerbated by the pandemic, but I've heard conflicting things about eligibility for FTTH under ARPA.

I've also seen contradictory information from HG&E. For years, HG&E has dragged its heels on pursuing FTTH in Holyoke even as surrounding communities surpassed us. Recently, HG&E surveyed rate-payers with what appeared to be a push poll designed to discourage potential customers -- they presented numbers as if customers would have to cover the full cost of build-out without a penny from grants or other sources. In a direct opposite, when Holyoke's ARPA applications were first unveiled, HG&E's request was listed at \$15 million for the first year and \$11 million for the second (for a total of \$26 million, or about 90% of Holyoke's total \$29 million, and also about what HG&E has publicly stated they estimate a total build-out cost would be) -- as if ARPA would be covering costs in full without contribution towards build-out from customers or other sources. This appears to have later changed without explanation to \$3.8 million the first year and \$11 million the second (with a total of \$15 million) plus a separate request for a specific pilot project. And there's also a note about the possibility of scaling back if partially funded. Despite all these

varying numbers and possible combinations for potential funding, the projected monthly pricing to consumers has remained about the same. That simply doesn't add up.

If past is prologue, then HG&E is designing their application(s) or pilot(s) (or maybe both) to fail. Or maybe they're finally bowing to public pressure in good faith and just haven't gotten all the details cleaned up for public presentation yet. Or, in the event their application is funded, maybe they're the proverbial dog that caught the car. I can only say the need is real, and it was made all the more acute by the pandemic, but I'm deeply skeptical of HG&E's sincerity or capability on this, and if they can't or won't pursue this promptly and well, then Holyoke should look to create as efficiently as possible another entity that will, so I hope ARPA application reviewers and the acting mayor will thoroughly interrogate and pin down before committing to funding or not funding HG&E's asks for this substantial infrastructure investment.

In the area of housing investments, I'm pleased to see so many applicants. The need to secure quality affordable housing is very great, all the more since the pandemic. I have heard about the dearth of opportunity for home ownership in South Holyoke in particular literally for decades. Towards that goal, I'd encourage funding the HHA application to move that process along more quickly.

Cabot/Newton has needed healthy investment for a long time, and I'm glad some has started. I'm intrigued by the application for a mix of rental and owner-occupied development, but I'd like a lot more information about the project (e.g., infill?, rehab?, both?, any measures to prevent displacement not wanted by current residents there or nearby?, etc.). Wayfinders has a good reputation, but I'd like to know more about this project.

Revitalize CDC's comparatively small ask for health-related retrofits looks like it could help people remain safely at home. But for their application and that from Appleton Mills, I feel I know very little based on what is publicly available.

Moving on, my impression of One Holyoke's work in my neighborhood is a very mixed bag. They appear over-extended with some promised developments left incomplete years later, prioritization has been questionable, and in the past their projects haven't blended in well with neighborhood characteristics (though that has improved some in recent years), so I would encourage reviewers to take a hard look and get many details firmly pinned down before throwing further money towards this applicant.

On a related note (since One Holyoke manages the program), the application for NIP concerns me. It appears to raise the income limit for eligibility without changing anything else about the program. Given the difficulties with the program as it exists (requiring unrealistically steep matches and monies up front from poor people), given a long waiting list (and a shut-down during the time period when residents had personal stimulus funds as potential sources for the required matches), and given that the program in recent years risked defunding because it struggled to spend its allocations (not because of lack of need in the community but because needs were too great for the program's requirements realistically to handle), lifting the cap without changing the program in other ways makes it highly likely to provide public subsidy sooner/more to those who need it less while still excluding many who need it most. It's upside-down priorities. Stimulus should be distinguished from regular income (so people aren't excluded who would otherwise have been eligible), but I'm not sure raising the cap is the best way to address that. And I'd agree that people at the lower ends of middle class also need and deserve assistance, but that shouldn't be structured to come at the expense of people who are even more poor.

In the areas of infrastructure, I generally favor public investments in public properties, including buildings (so many of our historic public properties desperately need attention), water, sewer, parks, streets, sidewalks, and the like. It would be nice to know more detail about some of the specific asks here. I also think it's in the public interest and worthwhile to support improvements to parking (and drainage) at Holyoke Health Center and for the roof at Enlace. Both organizations have stepped up each time the community has needed them even when facing new challenges.

I'd also like to express support for how Nueva Esperanza stepped up during the pandemic. It's an organization that has suffered serious internal issues, but they stepped in to fill a specific gap and did so very effectively, bringing perishable foods to where they were needed and could be collected on foot. NE's ask is among the smallest, and I hope it will be approved (and well-monitored) as an opportunity both to meet local material needs exacerbated during the pandemic and to repair and rebuild important community relationships that are key to getting through collective difficulties such as the pandemic. NE does a lot with little, keeps their ask humble and directly related to pandemic response and sequelae, and makes good faith effort towards seeking other sources of funding for other projects or programs.

I sincerely wish I could say the same about the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club. However, within the last year they threw away at least \$200k and possibly more in order to give a connected player a sweetheart deal on real estate rather than engage with or sell to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for a parcel on Mt Tom which they'd previously promised to develop for outdoor recreation and which they'd instead neglected throughout their years of ownership. The parcel was never used for their non-profit mission, so I believe by law it should have been taxed -- was it? HBGC is also the recipient of the single largest CPA grant allocated in Holyoke, a grant for which they provided no match at all (no other fundraising, no use of CPA to leverage other grants, no in-kind donation of supplies or labor... absolutely nothing but showing up with hands out and getting their ask funded in full). I urge ARPA application reviewers and the acting mayor to demand better from the HBGC management and board before giving them further public monies.

I urge ARPA application reviewers and the acting mayor to reject the Gary Rome request (there are small businesses who genuinely need help, but this ask simply isn't appropriate or necessary for public funding -- if the City wishes to fund electric car chargers, then let them be City-owned please) and the police pay bonuses (given that they're already the City's highest-paid employees, it's a slap in the face to many other workers, from the Library workers who were paid below minimum wage to the City Hall employees whose salaries are far below comparable workers elsewhere and haven't had raises in years to our incredibly overworked teachers to the health care workers and store clerks who've also had to deal with the public throughout the pandemic, etc, etc). As to the latter's separate request for ShotSpotter funding, I'd want to know a lot more about what it is, how it's used, and what it has to do with pandemic relief, but my gut sure says no.

I've missed a few, but I can't decipher the rest of my notes to myself, and my eyes and neck are tired of struggling with the online documents. I sincerely appreciate what has been made available online to the public so far, but I ask again that provisions be made for public outreach and comment after the public has had an opportunity to learn more about the specific applications, and I'll also repeat again my dismay at the composition of the CAC (particularly the absence of representation from residents of funding target areas, the lack of racial/ethnic diversity, and the lack of publicity and outreach) as expressed in earlier emails.

Thank you for considering my views.

-- Susan



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Valleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

regarding ARPA funding for maintenance of holyoke resources

1 message

Mbconnor <mbconnor@aol.com>

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 12:27 PM

Reply-To: Mbconnor <mbconnor@aol.com>

To: "zoellera@holyoke.org" <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Alicia and team....

I am writing in support of funding for sewer upgrades, sluiceway and all other needed repairs for Whiting Street Reservoir and for improvements to the Jones Ferry Connecticut River Access facility. These are both so important and timely

For Whiting Street Reservoir, the repairs are long overdue and will be important to maintain the access and usability for WSR for its important use as a backup critical resources for all of us..

The case for Jones Ferry Access is also important. As we have all learned the pandemic accelerated the notion that having safe and secure places for recreation in the city... as follows

I offer the following list of reasons for this:

1. During the pandemic, citizen use of the facility has nearly quadrupled.
2. To service the needs of the citizen's, many of whom come from the lower wards of the city and are at the poverty or below poverty economic strata, Holyoke Rows is in need of additional staff to further their programs of water safety, rowing, kayaking.
3. The present boat ramp cannot service the safety equipment or, indeed, Holyoke's Fireboat at low water levels in the River and thus needs to be extended for the safety of program users and fire protection.
4. Stairs, old pilings need to be removed and replaced.
5. Access for fishing, walking and simply viewing the River needs to be enhanced to accommodate the number of active users of the facility.
6. With improvements, there will be greater access to study the River, itself, as well as the endangered species living in it in close proximity to all of the people, commercial entities and industry that line the River.
7. Prepare the site of the Access Facility for further future expansion to benefit all users.

The use of the Facility is growing. Expansion of a waterfront park for the residents of Holyoke is one of those wonderful things that have absolutely no downside. Its existence and its further development adds a great selling point, along with Holyoke amazing water resources and green energy, to commerce or industry looking at locating in Holyoke.

The Connecticut River Conservancy has pledged its expertise and full support to the River Access Facility to doing all of the paperwork and reporting that ARPA funding will generate and thus there will be no cost to the city for this effort.

Please please please consider the importance of these resources for the City and our communities

Marlene Connor
275 Southampton Road
Holyoke, MA

July 23, 2021

Mayor Terrance Murphy
536 Dwight Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Mayor Murphy,

Please accept the following as public comment in response to the City of Holyoke's Round 1 ARPA funding notice.

Overview

This public comment emphasizes the importance of human infrastructure on level with emphasis on key physical infrastructure investments. Indeed the success and impact of physical infrastructure development is dependent upon an adequately staffed and supported local government administration.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) presents local government with an unprecedented opportunity to shape the long-term development of their communities. Holyoke need not reinvent the wheel in determining appropriation of funding because it approaches this moment equipped by two decades of comprehensive planning efforts reduced to writing in the Holyoke Master Plan and Urban Renewal Plan. Further, the City can leverage the local work of the Massachusetts Rapid Recovery Planning Program including recent study findings on the effect of downtown business needs and longterm economic development. Last, as mentioned previously, the City should tailor a diverse spectrum of proposals to take advantage of the state's proposed plans for its multi-billion dollar appropriation of ARPA and state relief funds.

I attempt to submit this Public Comment with objectivity and understanding of the practical and provincial challenges facing local governments like Holyoke. However, the points of emphasis selected here are of course informed my experience working within the City of Holyoke from 2014-2018 and more recently working with municipalities across Massachusetts and the country on data-informed community development decision making.

If there was one observation or suggestion I hope the reader of this comment would take away its this: **A great program or initiative has no impact without adequate personnel resources to implement, oversee and develop the idea.** The practical impact of underresourced city staff can be seen in myriad underutilized or abandoned initiatives from overgrown weeds on the Canal Walk, thoughtful ordinances turned to paper tigers by the lack of city staff to implement and administer, or missed opportunities to hold buyers of city-owned properties accountable to rehabilitation requirements due to the lapse of time-limited reverter rights. **ARPA funds must be used to ensure the administrative and professional support (i.e. the necessary human infrastructure) to implement programs in a cost-effective, transparent and sustainable manner.** Accordingly, I extend my strong support of OCD's request for administrative resources

and encourage the City to conduct needs analyses and adequately staff other municipal departments to respond to the impacts of COVID on housing, economic development, and public works.

The remainder of this comment focuses on particular policy areas where ARPA funding could most efficiently be leveraged to achieve systemic improvements to the generational obstacles facing this diverse, opportunity-rich and unique community. In particular, this comment identifies recommendations in three key domains: Public Health, Housing and Community Development, and Economic Development

Public Health

Recommendation 1A: Fund a comprehensive survey of asthma rates relative to building conditions and proximity to current industrial development.

In his remarks with Rep. Richard Neal announcing the City's receipt of ARPA funding, Mayor Murphy emphasized the disproportionate impact asthma has had on the economic and social mobility of underserved communities. Holyoke should follow best practices in similar post-industrial cities and develop interventions to improve the key contributors of poor air quality and asthma prevalence. In order to define and support those initiatives, Holyoke needs to assemble baseline data on the rate and cause of asthma within the community. Holyoke can look to cities like Pittsburgh, PA that have conducted targeted community surveys to determine current and historical asthma rates and indicators. In addition to being a high-risk comorbidity for COVID-19, low-income communities face decreased housing mobility due to rapidly increasing housing costs associated with COVID-19 market factors.

Recommendation 1B: Improve access to healthy food through food equity surveys and a small grant program for neighborhood bodegas and markets.

Downtown Holyoke has often been referred to as a "food desert." Indeed, the neighborhoods of The Flats and South Holyoke lack access to healthy food due to a combination of transportation limitations and isolation from the City's three primary grocery stores.

The City can leverage the recent work of the Chamber of Commerce and community groups to revitalize the Holyoke Farmers Market to support development of healthy food offerings at neighborhood markets and bodegas. Following communities small and large--from Hopewell, Virginia to New Orleans, LA--Holyoke should embark on a community survey to determine geographic availability of fresh produce in neighborhood markets across the downtown area and tailor financial assistance to help committed business owners overcome obstacles to expanding food options.

ARPA funding may be used to survey neighborhood markets to determine opportunities for connections and subsidization of local farmer distribution agreements and access to capital for small-scale refrigeration infrastructure for storing produce and non-shelf stable food products.

If access to advance capital for necessary equipment costs poses an obstacle for healthy food offerings, ARPA funding may be used to develop a small grant program offering businesses advance funding for key equipment (e.g., refrigeration). Given the low capital of eligible businesses, these small grants should be offered on an up-front "compliance guarantee" rather than reimbursement basis. For example, an eligible business would be able to receive \$5,000 to acquire refrigeration equipment to support produce offerings subject to a condition that the business provides documentation of a compliant purchase within 12 months or be subject to a debt for the up-front grant payment.

Housing and Community Development

Recommendation 2A: Support the impact of the City's existing Neighborhood Improvement Plan through targeted outreach to elderly homeowners and underserved communities.

The Neighborhood Improvement Plan (NIP) provides incredible value to homeowners, neighbors, and the City's financial and community interest in preserving a safe, viable housing stock. In addition to thoughtful proposals submitted on NIP and in alignment with the above emphasis on human infrastructure deficits in the City, this Comment urges the establishment of a community liaison to address existing outreach deficits in city assistance programming. The NIP program provides a key opportunity to facilitate the development of internal city resources by learning from collaboration with the existing expertise and experience of OneHolyoke on NIP outreach.

Recommendation 2B: Fund re-use cases for demolished properties

Federal guidelines and Holyoke's history of targeted demolitions have informed a cautious look at ensuring appropriate reuse cases for demolition of blighted properties--particularly those in downtown low-income census tracts. Typically, "open space" is cited as the reuse case for demolition of dangerous buildings, however, due to funding constraints this often amounts to nothing more than a vacant lot. To the extent ARPA funding is used for building demolition, the City should ensure compliance with the text and intent of federal guidelines for reuse by developing pocket parks and in-fill development. The creation of the Center City Plaza across from City Hall presents a good example of demolition reuse that achieves compliance with federal housing regulations, the City's Urban Renewal Plan and underlying tenets of social equity.

Recommendation 2C: Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of human infrastructure needed to meet all responsibilities charged to the Holyoke Board of Health under state and local law.

Even before COVID-19, the Health Department was tasked with myriad responsibilities under state and local law from enforcing all residential housing codes to air quality monitoring. A recent Harvard study found that landlords identified "deferred maintenance" as the primary

economic result of COVID-19 on their properties. An increase in housing code inspections and enforcement appears inevitable due to the upcoming expiration of eviction and foreclosure moratoriums. In my experience, the Board of Health is among the most heavily taxed and underresourced departments in the City. The performance of the Department throughout the pandemic is a testament to the leadership and commitment of its members, however, it is not a sustainable path forward for responding to changing economic conditions and responsiveness to implementing best practices identified in comparable communities. This Comment suggests that ARPA funding be utilized to retain professional personnel consultant to conduct an assessment of all the Board of Health's obligations under state and local law relative to existing staffing and professional development resources.

Economic Development

Recommendation 3A: Ensure adequate personnel resources to respond to downtown business concerns around quality of life improvements.

The Massachusetts Local Rapid Recovery Planning Program conducted a needs assessment of downtown businesses to determine the impact of COVID-19 on business viability. ARPA funds should align to addressing the needs identified therein. In particular, downtown business owners cite deferred public maintenance as a major visual deterrent for pedestrian solicitation of downtown businesses. ARPA funding should be leveraged to address the prevalence of downtown trash accumulation due to insufficient trash receptacles and poorly maintained sidewalks in key pedestrian areas. The Holyoke City Council and Mayor should determine whether Department of Public Works staffing for downtown street sweeping and trash receptacle placement and maintenance is sufficient to meet quality of life needs.

[* * *]

Thank you for your consideration and the significant effort put forward to plan for Holyoke's future.

Best,

Paul Payer
Holyoke, MA
(e) payer.paulc@gmail.com



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

ARPA

Laura CC <lauracclampitt@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 1:10 PM

To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>, "zoellera@holyoke.org" <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Good afternoon,

My very brief comments after looking through the proposals are that I am in strong support of HG&E's request for funding for fiber infrastructure. This will help our city once again become a leader in information technology infrastructure. I'm also in support of more affordable housing, particularly when it involves thoughtful reuse of existing buildings. I also think timelines for construction should be mandatory- is there a system in place for making sure this housing is actually being built? I hope OneHolyoke finishes existing projects before starting new ones. I am also inclined to support the requests from Providence Ministries and Enlace.

I hope there are additional opportunities for the public to learn about these proposals and provide feedback.

Thank you,
Laura Clampitt

[Quoted text hidden]



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fwd: ARPA funds

1 message

Jennifer Martins <martinsj@holyoke.org>
To: Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 2:16 PM

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>
<https://www.facebook.com/HolyokeOCD>

Jennifer Martins, Compliance Manager

Office for Community Development
Room 400 - City Hall Annex
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 322-5610

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **David W. Ostrander** <david@ostranderlaw.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 3:49 PM
Subject: ARPA funds
To: <martinsj@holyoke.org>

As a resident of Holyoke for 25 years, I would like to see at least some of these funds used to raze abandoned and condemned buildings in the city. Secondly, for other infrastructure improvements including water/sewer, roads, and sidewalks. Thank you.

David W. Ostrander
48 Holy Family Road Apt 120
Holyoke, MA 01040
413-210-4315



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fwd: 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Needs Assessment

1 message

Sue Ellen <sue.ellen.panitch@comcast.net>
To: zoellera@holyoke.org

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 5:21 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sue Ellen <sue.ellen.panitch@comcast.net>
Subject: 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Needs Assessment
Date: July 9, 2021 at 5:20:06 PM EDT
To: ortizn@holyoke.org

I am writing in favor of two projects

1. Repair and enhancement of the dam and sluiceway at Whiting Street Reservoir to be made by Holyoke Water Works

Holyoke has two major "jewels" in its crown. One of these is its water system. As chairman of the Whiting Street Reservoir Study

created by an order of the Holyoke City Council, I can report to you that the Committee has been studying the present and possible

future uses of this resource for the past seven months. The Reservoir now plays a part in providing for increased water needs

expected in the future and now plays an ever increasing place in providing a center for passive recreation for the entire community.

For the Greater Holyoke population it serves as a beautiful park. It is presently a source of non-potable water for the community and,

thus, water for fire protection, lawn and garden watering and to alleviate all of the various strictures necessary in drought related

conditions. The safety of the dam and sluiceway is crucial to prevention of flooding in the Northeast section of Holyoke.

Repair of the sluiceway and dam are now imperative. Use of ARPA funds for this project will be of major benefit to thousands of people.

All water replacement projects are absolutely necessary for all of the businesses and residents of this city.

2. All sewer maintenance and enhancement is of importance to all Holyoke residents and our downstream neighbors for the prevention of

both air and water pollution as well as for healthy habitat for endangered species we are fortunate to have in our stretch of the

Connecticut River.

3. Expansion of HG&E broadband services to the entire City of Holyoke will be of financial benefit to all and will also serve as an

additional selling point for business looking at possible location in Holyoke (the other two being green energy and water which, with

increasing global warming, is a tremendous major benefit to future Holyoke real estate tax income).

I might add that I believe that what we absolutely do not need is additional "affordable housing" in our City. The eventual costs to a City, poor in income, of housing needs to be remembered. These costs include, Fire and Police protection, educational expenses per child in such housing, Public Works issues such as trash and garbage collection and additional road maintenance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Sue Ellen Panitch



Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

ARPA- Submission of Testimony Re Use of Funds From Holyoke Taxpayers Association

1 message

info@holyoketaxpayersassociation.org <info@holyoketaxpayersassociation.org>
To: Terry Murphy <MurphyT@holyoke.org>, Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 6:47 AM

Good Morning,

Please accept the attached as Testimony Suggestions from the Holyoke Taxpayers Association for anticipated decisions regarding the use of expected ARPA funds.

Thank you for all you are doing to collect suggestions from the people of Holyoke. We applaud your efforts and look forward to the decisions.

Helene Florio, President/Executive Director
Holyoke Taxpayers Association

 **Letter - To ARPA re proposed projects 2021.docx**
40K



Holyoke Taxpayers Association
PO Box 6007
Holyoke, MA 01041

July 15, 2021

To: ARPA Review Committee

From: Holyoke Taxpayers Association

Re: Suggested Considerations for use of ARPA Funds

Holyoke Taxpayers Association is a 501 (c) 4 organization in Holyoke that has been in existence since 1932. One of the main issues we address annually is how the City of Holyoke uses it's collected tax revenues, staying within means, and not allowing increased tax rate settings "just because we can". Regretfully, right now Holyoke has the highest tax rates in the Commonwealth...both Commercial and Residential. Of the 351 cities and towns we come in first. That is absolutely NOTHING to be happy about. At the same time, we are in this position because of basic needs within the city combined with a total void of forward thinking. Decisions have been made that have taken property off the tax rolls at the same time expenses have sky rocketed for our businesses. This way of running the City for the last few years combined with deteriorating infrastructure, with a significant portion of the community not working, while Holyoke is one of the most generous communities in the Commonwealth for aide to residents, has placed the city in a precarious position when it comes to needed, infrastructure funds.

It is the recommendation of Holyoke Taxpayers Association to use the funds coming in from ARPA to shore up the infrastructure with "permanent" updates and repairs without having the city go out for bonding. There are more immediate needs than there are funds, but our list includes the city's water system; the combined sewer overflow repairs mandated by the Federal Government; repair of any leaking gas lines; repair of roads, bridges, sidewalks, intersections and traffic lights. We also would suggest that preparing city owned property to the point of being "shovel ready" so it can easily be converted to use with a restriction that it be taxable property, whether for business or housing.

We suggest that the funds be used for these mentioned essential services. We do not suggest the use of any of the funds for the "feel good" issues that once initiated would need to be maintained with future funding dependent off of the tax revenue collections.

This would be an opportunity to build up the fleet of the Department of Public Works, so we would not have weeks of uncollected trash due to broken vehicles. This would be an opportunity to building up the fleet of the Holyoke Police Department, so there would not be so many vehicles off the road due to age and repairs. This would be an opportunity to order one of the forward scheduled fire department vehicles, so we do not have to go to bonding.

It is our collective opinion that ALL of the funds expended within the City of Holyoke through the ARPA monies should be "onetime expenses"or for infrastructure repairs and/or items of significance that would not be easily part of the regular funding expenses that would come through the City Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Helene Florio, President/Executive Director, Holyoke Taxpayers Association at hflorio64@comcast.net or 413-536-0490.



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

ARPA funding proposals

1 message

Deborah Panitch <d.panitch@comcast.net>
To: ortizn@holyoke.org, zoellera@holyoke.org

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 7:34 AM

Dear Mayor Murphy and Ms. Zoeller,

I am writing in support of several proposals for use of the City's ARPA funds. Infrastructure improvement for the City is my primary interest.

Repair of the dam at the Whiting Street Reservoir is a critical project. Water is a precious resource. Although we are fortunate to have an extensive reservoir system, drought and water shortages are an increasing issue in much of the world. Our water system is invaluable to the City, and may prove to be an important source of revenue in the future.

Improvements to the City's aging water and sewer system are critical as well.

HG&E's proposal to provide Fiber to the Home will improve living standard for Holyoke's citizens and will make the City more attractive to potential home buyers.

The proposed improvements at the Jones Ferry River Access site will allow for increased recreational use of the River for Holyoke citizens as well as visitors to our community, and will provide both health and economic benefits. The proposed improvements also will provide a reliable launch site for the City's Fireboat.

There are numerous proposals for projects to support/serve at-risk populations in Holyoke. Proposals to support youth mental health are of particular interest, but I do not have sufficient knowledge to comment on the specific requests.

Thanks you for the opportunity to provide input on the use of these funds.

Best,

Deborah Panitch

16 Pheasant Dr.

Holyoke, MA 01040



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts
Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: ARPA projects in Holyoke

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:55 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andrew Fisk** <andrew.c.fisk@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 8:46 AM
Subject: ARPA projects in Holyoke
To: <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>
CC: Todd McGee <mcgee.todd@yahoo.com>, <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <rebecca@votelisi.com>

Dear Mayor Murphy,

I am writing to express my support for several funding priorities submitted as part of the ARPA applications.

Water and wastewater infrastructure - these ARPA funds (as well as likely additional infrastructure funding from a variety of sources) should be applied toward the significant water and wastewater priorities of the City. Elimination of combined sewer overflows is a high environmental priority that can be accomplished not only through gray infrastructure, but green infrastructure that has multiple community benefits.

Municipal broadband - deploying residential broadband is a huge driver of economic and educational opportunity. It is important that HG&E evaluate a variety of ways to deploy broadband including through wifi, an opportunity to more quickly and cheaply deploy broadband throughout the community.

Housing equity - increasing home ownership is an important economic opportunity and a critical element of increasing generational wealth and closing the wealth gap.

Educational opportunity - I am particularly impressed by the work of the Care Center and their work to provide educational opportunity among their other inspiring successes. Their ARPA proposal is a strong one and should be funded.

I am writing this email from my personal email address. As you know in my capacity as ED of Connecticut River Conservancy we have submitted two ARPA applications in partnership with Holyoke Rows to invest in improvements at Jones Ferry. I obviously think those are important projects.

Thank you again for establishing a transparent and accessible process. These funds are a tremendous opportunity for Holyoke.

Regards,

Andrew Fisk
118 Madison Ave
413-210-9207

cc Alicia Zoeller, Todd McGee, Rebecca Lisi

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400

Holyoke MA 01040

413-322-5610

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyokeOCD>

Please contact us by email or phone prior to visiting. Virtual, in-person, and telephone appointments are available.



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Public comment

1 message

Kelly Curran <kellycurran@hotmail.com>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 11:48 AM

To: "murphyt@holyoke.org" <murphyt@holyoke.org>, Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Cc: Nilka Ortiz <ortizn@holyoke.org>

Hello Mayor Murphy and Ms. Zeller,

As a member of the Enlace Board of Directors and a resident of Holyoke, I'm writing to request that you consider making Enlace a priority for the ARPA funds. Enlace is the heart of the Holyoke Community. We have only been able to afford making repairs to the roof for years. The roof is in need of replacement. There is significant damage the roof has caused to the building and makes it unsafe for the staff and community. As one of the only community centers in Holyoke Enlace serves as a hub for:

- Supervised visit for parents who have their children in DCF custody
- Intake and referral services for health and mental health services, employment, education and housing
- Training and workshops for families in parenting skill building, financial literacy, nutrition and cooking classes, Nurturing Fathers and co-parenting classes
- We have a clinician and family partner on site to assist families with their children's behavior
- We work in collaboration with the Holyoke Public Schools and juvenile court
- We respond to family's needs during disasters and when they are in crisis
- We manage the only LGBTQ youth support group in the City.
- This space is used by many state and local agencies given the conference room space

I'd be happy to discuss further.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Kelly A. Curran

413-552-6168

Landlord Statement

From: misadargie@gmail.com <misadargie@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:03 PM

To: Faevea Benton <FBenton@valleyopp.com>

Subject: Re: Mynatt

It is with great pleasure that I can send this comment!

Faevea,

To begin, I would like to say that it has been simply wonderful working with you!

This past year and half has shown us all firsthand how quickly our lives can change. It has been a difficult time to say the least. I have seen the best and unfortunately the worst come out in people.

As a property owner in the city of Holyoke since the 1980's, I am fortunate to have many long term tenants as well as newer tenants who have made our buildings their home. It is with this that it became heartbreaking to watch some our families become financially devastated due to the COVID restrictions that took place. No one could have planned for this.

This is where your program came in. How fortunate we were to have discovered this grant to enable our tenants to apply and be able to breathe a sigh of relief to have been given monies to cover due rent so that they could work towards financial stability again. It has truly been a life saver! Because our tenants were granted this assistance, it also took a big burden from our shoulders! We were able to work WITH our tenants instead of against them through an eviction process for nonpayment of rent. The best way to describe this is a triangle... your program, our tenants and ourselves forming a partnership to ensure stability.

You have shown the utmost professionalism during this process. Your quick response to assist our tenants during the application process, and assistance in guiding us through to the end with payment is remarkable!

I cannot thank you enough on behalf of the families and ourselves!

Marise Dargie

Tenant Statement

From: Veronica Alvarez <vmalvarez0001@student.stcc.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 6:46 AM
To: Faevea Benton <FBenton@valleyopp.com>
Subject: VOC rental assistance

Good morning,

This email is in regards to the VOC rental assistance program. I just want to say how thankful I am for this program and the help it gave me. I was two months behind on rent due to me and my son getting COVID. I honestly had no idea how I was going to pay it back seeing how I wasn't working or getting enough income to pay it in full. But thankfully I found out about this program and within a couple of weeks of me applying and sending in all my verifications my rent was paid in full! I'm very thankful for this program and the help it gave me to keep a roof over my children's head. So again thank you, this program is truly amazing.

From: Jeanette Perez <jeanettep@eliotchs.org>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:25 PM
To: Xiomara Sanabria <XSanabria@valleyopp.com>
Subject: Re: Feedback Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program

To Whom It May Concern:

The Rental Assistance Program is a great program and, when the Pandemic started, I couldn't keep up with my rent, since I lost my 2nd income. The program was a big huge help and they paid my rent for 3 months and, I didn't lose my house cause of it. I was very blessed to find people like Xiomara Sanabria, she went far and beyond to help me when my mortgage gave me a very hard time to process the help and the check.

Without this program a lot of families would have been in the streets, including me. Thanks a lot and please as long this programs exists people out there will have hope. Thanks Xiomara for all your help. God Bless you.

Sincerely

Jeanette Perez



Mayor Terence Murphy

City of Holyoke

Holyoke Redevelopment Authority

Aaron M. Vega, Executive Director

July 14, 2021

Dear Mayor Murphy and Administrator Zoeller,

The Holyoke Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is writing to express our strongest possible support for the Holyoke Housing Authority's ARPA application for the South Holyoke Homes Phase 2. The HRA is a partner of the HHA in this important undertaking to transform the neighborhood with an emphasis on affordable home ownership. The project has seen more than a decade of planning and was a primary focal point in the HRA's creation and implementation of the Commonwealth's largest Urban Renewal Plan and the revitalization efforts in South Holyoke. The HRA and HHA have worked in concert with the City of Holyoke to support the development through site control and infrastructure improvements. It is important to note that this project has received an overwhelmingly positive response from residents and community organizations.

As you are aware, the project has received a \$6.5M MassWorks Infrastructure grant, which is currently underway to provide critical improvements to the area. The first phase of affordable housing received \$2.5M through the Community Scale Housing Initiative and construction has just begun with occupancy expected next year. As momentum for the South Holyoke Homes project grows, it is imperative to provide adequate resources to Phase 2, which has always been the most important, and most difficult phase to fund. While funding sources are available for affordable rental projects, it is much more difficult to fund affordable homeownership endeavors. This is especially true in South Holyoke, since the goal is to provide opportunities to the families who currently live in the neighborhood. The gap between the costs of construction and the sale price is wide, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic which has significantly increased the cost of construction. The HHA is in a very good position to begin Phase 2 and anticipate that construction could begin in the spring of 2022.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exasperated the housing market in a variety of ways, and the availability of quality affordable homeownership opportunities is even more critical to the South Holyoke community today.

We know you have many ARPA applications in front of you, but we request your consideration of funding for the South Holyoke Homes Phase 2 endeavor.

Sincerely,

Thomas Creed
Holyoke Redevelopment Authority



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Phil levy <dav41phil@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 8:09 PM

To: zoellera@holyoke.org, +tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net

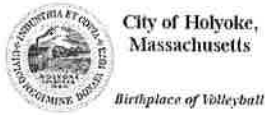
Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

The ability to have free access to kayaks and or canoe. And go right on to the river is great rewarding.. I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Phil Levy

Commander of DAV Chapter 41 Holyoke



Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for Holyoke Rows/Jones Ferry Access Facility

1 message

N <93musicalwaves@protonmail.com>

Sat, Jul 24, 2021 at 11:36 AM

Reply-To: N <93musicalwaves@protonmail.com>

To: "zoellera@holyoke.org" <zoellera@holyoke.org>, "tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net" <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I am a Holyoke resident who recently started adaptive rowing with Holyoke Rows, writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

I have been an athlete my whole life (primarily dance, biking, and rugby - for the latter, my college team was nationally ranked). I got really sick this past year, and ended up in a wheelchair. I really wanted to find a way to be active, for a combination of exercise, enjoyment, stress relief, and (perhaps most important in the present) to feel present in and appreciative of my body.

Holyoke Rows gave me a space to find myself, again. You see, in a lot of my life, I'm the guy in the wheelchair, the guy that (people assume) needs help.... out on the water, I'm just me. I can be present with myself, present with the water and other nature around me, and present with the moment. I can do something that not everyone can/does, disabled or able-bodied, and my body is no longer wrong or incompatible with the way society is set up, because water doesn't know the difference. It's really something special. Not only have I gotten much stronger physically, but also mentally -- rowing has been vital in my processing and self-acceptance as someone who has recently become significantly physically/visibly disabled by reclaiming the identity of "athlete", providing me a calm space to escape from an often hectic world, and remembering that *I'm still me*.

I remember sitting in my hospital bed at an inpatient medical rehab unit, googling "accessible sports in Western Mass." At that point, I'd spent many weeks admitted to acute and physical rehab hospitals, and just wanted to be outside and do something active and fun, again. In my research, Holyoke Rows popped up. Once I got up the nerve, I called Stephanie, the executive director/coach, and the first thing she said to me was, "I can put anyone, of any ability, out on the water, safely, who wants to go out." And that's exactly what she does at Jones Ferry, every day -- it doesn't matter if someone has a disability, what their age is, what their socioeconomic status is, what shade their skin is: everyone is welcome. Holyoke Rows is committed to reaching beyond the traditional rowing population to make passive river recreation accessible to the entire community by eliminating the physical, financial and social barriers to participating in our programs. This funding would allow Holyoke Rows to continue to make a difference in our community, and share the amazing opportunity of rowing with even more people.

From my first call to today, where I went out training for my first regatta, Holyoke Rows has given me hope, in a way that nothing else has during the pandemic and during my recovery/adaptation to a new way of navigating the world. Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Sincerely,
Noah Blohm



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Marg Fan <margofan33@gmail.com>

Sat, Jul 24, 2021 at 3:41 PM

To: zoellera@holyoke.org, tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

Our family loves nature very much, you have a very beautiful river here and we were happy to have the opportunity to see this beauty on the river itself! I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Best regards Antipkin family 😊



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Gloria Pires <gpaires10101@yahoo.com>

To: zoellera@holyoke.org, +tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net

Sun, Jul 25, 2021 at 12:10 AM

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

(no subject)

1 message

Martha Kegeles <markegeles@gmail.com>
To: zoellera@holyoke.org, tmurphyhcc@comcast.net

Sun, Jul 25, 2021 at 9:46 PM

Support of grant application

Dear Mayor Murphy and Ms. Zoeller, I am writing to support the grant application that Holyoke Rows and are applying for. I remember after a rowing race, realizing that 7 of the 8 women rowing were in the midst of major life upheavals, yet we had the constancy of rowing, to help us through our difficult times. Fast forward, for most of the last 19 years I have been able to work off my stress and maintain my health through Holyoke Rows. And I see people of all ages using the facilities. I remember one Friday afternoon looking over and realizing the kayakers were teenagers. Kayaking at Holyoke Rows was considered fun. And I remember hearing younger kids laugh. And people set up their chairs and fish off the dock. Smiling, laughing, talking with kayakers and rowers. But the dock space is small. I am now 66 years old and I broke my foot. Will Holyoke Rows have the ability to get the equipment my foot will need to enable me to row? Will the dock be long enough to allow me the extra time it will take to get into the boat? Rowing has been a lifetime healthy pursuit. Does it have to end because Holyoke Rows doesn't have the ability to meet the needs of the diverse people who use their resources? Holyoke Rows uses their money wisely. I trust them. They would enrich many peoples' lives if they receive the grant. Sincerely, Martha Kegeles

Reply

Forward

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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Jones Ferry improvements

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:56 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jessica Burt** <jessieandmary@yahoo.com>

Date: Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 7:02 AM

Subject: Jones Ferry improvements

To: tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>, zoellera@holyoke.org <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Hi!

Our family has loved kayaking and rowing from the Jones Ferry Road dock. They greatly need improvements for safety. My son has enjoyed kayak camp and rowing team for 4 years now. They really need the opportunity to improve the docks, stairs, etc for everyone's safety and making it more accessible.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities.

Jessie Burt

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

--

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD

Administrator (She, her, hers)

City of Holyoke Office for Community Development

City Hall Annex Room 400

Holyoke MA 01040

413-322-5610

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyokeOCD>

Please contact us by email or phone prior to visiting. Virtual, in-person, and telephone appointments are available.



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:57 AM

To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Patti DuPont** <dupmd10@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 6:46 AM

Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>

I started rowing through the cancer connection 5 years ago. Sending this email to support this wonderful program.

Sincerely,

Patti DuPont
Holyoke Resident

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyokeOCD>

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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:57 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Patti DuPont** <dupmd10@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 6:41 AM
Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <+tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

I started rowing at Holyoke Rows through the cancer connection 5 yrs ago and have continued to row every year since. Wonderful program that needs support for more to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Patti DuPont
Holyoke resident

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyokeOCD>

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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 10:00 AM

To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Phil levy** <dav41phil@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 4:56 PM

Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <+tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Phil Levy

DAV Chapter 41 holyoke ma

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Alicia M. Zoeller, JD

Administrator (She, her, hers)

City of Holyoke Office for Community Development

City Hall Annex Room 400

Holyoke MA 01040

413-322-5610

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyokeOCD>

Please contact us by email or phone prior to visiting. Virtual, in-person, and telephone appointments are available.



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Holyoke Rows

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 10:01 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Marybeth Home** <marybethhome45@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 5:18 PM
Subject: Holyoke Rows
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

Getting on the river is my favorite part of the day. I'm so grateful to Holyoke Rows for providing myself and my 95 year old, blind mom many opportunities to scull on the river each week. Often we stop for pizza on way home which makes her day complete.

I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Marybeth Home

Click the easy link below to send your email:

Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

or email City officials directly:

Alicia Zoeller, Community Development Director zoellera@holyoke.org

Acting Mayor Terry Murphy tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net

Sent from my iPhone

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610
<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>

City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

2 messages

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 10:00 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ortiz Alicea** <ortizalicea2@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 4:59 PM
Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: <+tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>, <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

Jones Ferry has been a safe heaven for me. There, I can meditate and practice my water sport. Most importantly kids involved in the kayaking camp really enjoy the area when I take them out to the river. I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Netshari Ortiz Alicea

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>

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Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 10:01 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ortiz Alicea** <ortizalicea2@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 5:10 PM

Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

To: tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>, zoellera@holyoke.org <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

Jones Ferry has been a safe heaven for me. There, I can meditate and practice my water sport. Most importantly kids involved in the kayaking camp really enjoy the area, they always look forward to getting out to the river. I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Netshari Ortiz Alicea

[Quoted text hidden]



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 10:00 AM

To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Karen Bayne** <krn.bayne@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 4:49 PM

Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

My name is Karen Bayne. I am a registered nurse in our community and a mom of two teen boys. Last summer, our access to the Connecticut River at Jones Ferry, specifically through Holyoke Rows was, perhaps, the single most important factor in promoting the health of my family during the pandemic and the main way we were able to safely connect with our community. I want even more families to have access to our river!

I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Karen

Karen Rosenblum Bayne, RN
413-588-7020

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:57 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sue Keller** <drsuekeller@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 4:28 AM
Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: <+tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>, <zoellera@holyoke.org>
CC: Stephanie Moore <smoore@holyokerows.org>



Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor
Murphy,

Rowing at Holyoke Rows since last fall has kept me sane and healthy during the pandemic. I had been rowing in Northampton with a team for 2 years when the pandemic ended our ability to use big boats and required us all to use single boats. Northampton had a very limited supply of boats, and required us to only go in groups of 6 with a coach. Costs were high, access low, and the season short: July-October.

I had been to Holyoke Rows for a

couple Regattas/races, and Coach Stephanie Moore would sometimes substitute for us in Northampton.

When Northampton's season ended in October, Stephanie reached out to me and offered use of the boathouse if I wanted to keep rowing, at a very reasonable drop in fee, important as I was unemployed during that time.

We rowed into December thanks to the warm weather, and celebrated Thanksgiving at the boathouse! There are many boats there that Stephanie works hard to keep in good repair to allow more people access.

In March, I got the word that Holyoke Rows would be on the water. I couldn't believe it- Northampton wouldn't have its docks in for months-end of May- and we were able to get on the water in singles in March! I had been training on the Erg rowing machine all winter and I couldn't wait to get on the water.

I was nervous about the early season rowing, but Stephanie was right there, in the launch, coaching us on using the pontoons and life jackets and wider boats. And as the season moved on, so did my

skills and confidence until I can take out the best boat in the boathouse with confidence, and even carry it all by myself.

Holyoke Rows is a unique community.

I have rowed with a blind rower in her 70's who tired me out despite my training. I was inspired to carry my own boat for the first time by a woman in her 80's-if she could do it, so could I!

We have rowers who are tethered to wheelchairs on land, but glide free on the water. It is amazing to watch them and see their confidence.

There are youth rowers and summer camps. Just today, the water was filled with campers in a kaleidoscope of boats, singles and kayaks and the motorboat.

I helped Stephanie carry back one of the boats with the heavy adaptive seat, and chatted with our 2 rowers in wheelchairs-one in is 60's and the other in his 20's.

On the water, a younger camper being towed in her kayak by her counselor noticed "The water is gentle today." Fast flowing, but gentle-she was right!

Every morning I row, I see eagles,
herons, fish leaping from the
water. I can row upstream to
Holyoke, or downstream to
Springfield. I wave to the
fishermen who camp on the
shores.

Tonight, we had a team potluck. I
drove all the way from Deerfield to
attend.

Saturday mornings there is yoga
on the porch.

And there is a sense of
community, and chores to help
with around the boathouse.

When I hit a log and broke the
skeg (rudder) off my boat,
Stephanie didn't get upset; she
just helped me find and caulk a
new one on!

Fishermen use the docks and
locals use the ramps for boats and
jet skis. Everyone gets along and
shares the limited space. Boat
wakes /waves can swamp or
overturn our smaller boats, so
communication is important!

Holyoke Rows is an amazing and
welcoming community. It aims to
offer more services to more
people.

The water levels have been so variable-especially high and fast this year. Giant logs hit our dock at the beginning of the season. We have to pull the docks in and out with daily changes in the water level.

With better docks and well-maintained equipment, we can introduce even more people to the joys of the river, healthy movement, and give them a chance to join an amazing community of people.

I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that

will be a real help in addressing
the challenges and opportunities
of the pandemic.

Dr. Sue Keller
413-218-3388

--
Dr. Sue Keller
OPEN Oral Health Progress and Equity Network
MA State Representative Regional Oral Health Connection Team (ROHCT)
Dental Wellness Collaborator
Connecting providers and patients for optimum prevention
drsuekeller@gmail.com
413-218-3388

--
Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts
Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:57 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nicole Hendricks** <nicolejhendricks@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 10:42 PM
Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Dear Ms. Zoeller,

I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility.

I first learned of the boathouse and the river access when I brought my 10 year old daughter Ella to a rowing program. Rowing is a sport that often feels inaccessible and unwelcoming to some people - it requires expensive equipment and can also involve a level of competitiveness which can be intimidating. Yet walking up to the boathouse at Jones Ferry and meeting Stephanie, it is immediately clear that the facility challenges these barriers and is an oasis of inclusion and accessibility.

The Jones Ferry River Access is a hidden gem and has offered my family countless opportunities to enjoy the water. We use it to go kayaking as a family, my daughter is on the rowing team and is now employed as a camp counselor, and I serve on the board of Holyoke Rows. I live and work in Holyoke (14 year resident and Professor at Holyoke Community College), and feel strongly that more of our community members could benefit from the beautiful natural resource that is the CT River.

The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Nicole Hendricks
12 Amherst Street

--

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:57 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Whittaker Deborah & Chris** <canddwhit@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 10:15 PM
Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I am grateful to have this opportunity to support this effort to help Holyoke rows! I first was involved as a participant of the cancer connection. I learned so much and have since purchased equipment to row. Without Holyoke Rows I would still just be thinking and dreaming about rowing. I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Deborah Whittaker

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:58 AM

To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Josh Knox** <joshbknox@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 8:49 PM

Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Hi Alicia-

Long time no chat!

I hope this message finds you well.

I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility.

Both organizations are excellent (I have done work with each) and will benefit a broad base of folks in Holyoke.

Please help them provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families with better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Best,

Josh Knox
40 Morgan Street
Holyoke, MA

431-522-5770

--

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 4:38 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alan Symington** <nosliw135@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 4:33 PM
Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <+tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I am the coach of Veterans Dragon Boat USA, and hold training practices for the team of military veterans on the CT River, accessing it from Holyoke Rows. I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration,
Alan Symington
Coach, Veterans Dragon Boat USA
413-539-0068

--
Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts
Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 4:38 PM

To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Anna Symington** <asannagee33@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 4:25 PM

Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I am the co-founder and trainer of Veterans Dragon Boat USA, the nation's first all-veteran dragon boat team, accessing and training on the CT River from the home of Holyoke Rows (Sue Ellen Panitch River Access Area on Jones Ferry Road). I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry Road River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at this facility and on the river that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Anna Symington
Veterans Dragon Boat USA
413-539-0068

--

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
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City of Holyoke,
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Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 10:01 AM

To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Susan Marciniak** <susan_marciniak@yahoo.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 7:18 PM

Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

To: zoellera@holyoke.org <zoellera@holyoke.org>, tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I have been rowing for 9 years at Holyoke Rows. I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Thank you,

*Susan Marciniak
36 Valley Heights
Holyoke, MA 01040*

--
Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
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City of Holyoke,
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Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: office@holyokerows.org

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 10:02 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jean Meier** <jeanameier2@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 11:48 AM
Subject: office@holyokerows.org
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I write in support of the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. My husband and I joined the group when we attended a meeting back in 2020, during the early months of the pandemic. We were very impressed at how enthusiastic everyone was and how they energetically took on projects necessary to keep the boathouse and equipment maintained. Their good stewardship backs up a dedication to kayaking and boating on the lovely Connecticut River. They comprise a very welcoming group which is a credit to the Holyoke community. Holyoke is fortunate to have such an organization, one that is dedicated to encouraging outdoors activities that build the skills and improve the health of the area's youth and adults.

Unfortunately, our membership was brief, because we have since moved out of state. But it was a bright light for us during our time in the Holyoke area. I hope it will remain a bright light for current residents.

Sincerely,

Jean Meier

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for proposal to improve Holyoke Rows Jones Ferry facilities and programing

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 10:02 AM

To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joannah Whitney** <joannah.whitney@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 11:34 AM

Subject: Support for proposal to improve Holyoke Rows Jones Ferry facilities and programing

To: <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>, <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I am writing in support of the Holyoke Rows/Connecticut River Conservancy proposal for improvements at the Holyoke Rows/Jones Ferry Dock and programs.

I became disabled, due to MS, about 11 years ago. Before that, I worked as an archaeologist and regularly spent time outdoors enjoying the many natural areas in western Massachusetts. One of the most difficult aspects of transitioning to life as a person who uses a wheelchair was the loss of opportunity to enjoy the many Nature areas in western Massachusetts as they change through the seasons.

The first few years of adjusting were difficult because I thought I had lost the ability to be in the natural world. I was very fortunate to work with an occupational therapist who told me about the adaptive rowing program at Holyoke Rows. I can't tell you what a joy it is to be out on the river, by myself, save for various water birds or the occasional eagle. As I became stronger, I began to row longer distances. In 2019, my cumulative distance for the rowing season was almost 200K! Holyoke Rows has given me both the opportunity to regularly spend time on an amazing river, and to set new goals for myself.

I am submitting this letter to express my support of the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The programs and facility at Holyoke Rows offered an important opportunity to exercise safely during the pandemic, something that continues to be important for people, like myself, who are immune-compromised and must continue to be careful about potential covid exposure. On the River, I can exercise as much as I want without worry.

As an individual on SSI, my financial resources are very limited. I feel enormously fortunate that the adaptive rowing program at Holyoke Rows is offered free of charge. I know there are many other adaptive rowers who are able to enjoy this program because it is free. There are ways this program could be made even more inclusive by upgrading the dock and using buoys and signs to make boat traffic safer for the range of ways people enjoy the river.

Please accept my letter of support on behalf of the proposal by Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy to make improvements at the Jones Ferry facility that will improve and expand programming available to the public as we find healthy ways to recover from the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Joannah Whitney

Greenfield, MA

--
Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Holyoke Rows

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 10:02 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Barbara Black** <barbarablack413@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 11:36 AM
Subject: Holyoke Rows
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

As a person who is blind, I have been able to take advantage of adaptive rowing at the Jones Ferry River Access for many years. It is one of the few places available locally where I can independently access our wonderful Connecticut River. Holyoke Rows welcomes people of all abilities, ages and backgrounds and we are so lucky to have it as a community resource! Though I live in Northampton, in addition to accessing the river at Jones Ferry, I have been excited to check out the new restaurants and businesses opening up in Holyoke.

I am writing in support of the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. This is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Barbara Black

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: holyoke rows

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 10:01 AM

To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lori Koziara** <lorikoziara@yahoo.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 8:01 PM

Subject: holyoke rows

To: zoellera@holyoke.org <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Hi Alicia I am sending you this email on behalf of holyoke rows. My son has attended the summer camp there for years. It is a amazing program. It gives kids a wonderful outdoor experience.

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyokeOCD>

Please contact us by email or phone prior to visiting. Virtual, in-person, and telephone appointments are available.



Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 10:02 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joy Erickson** <erickson64@charter.net>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 11:51 AM
Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms Zoellera and Mayor Murphy,

I have rowed at Holyoke Rows for over 20 years - from the time of storing boats in a small trailer to the convenience of the boathouse that we have now. People of all ages and abilities have learned to row, to sail, to kayak and to join in the teamwork required of such activities.

The programs have grown through the hard work of our director, Stephanie Moore. However, the docks, boats and necessary equipment required for each sport need to be regularly updated to meet the needs and ensure the safety of the participants.

I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry Access facility.

Yours truly,

Joy Erickson
Southampton, MA

Sent from my iPad

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Jennifer Martins <martinsj@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Holyoke Rows

1 message

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>
To: Jennifer Martins <martinsj@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:08 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alicia Zoeller** <zoellera@holyoke.org>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 11:28 AM
Subject: Fwd: Holyoke Rows
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Stephen Bosco** <stephen@arrowpropertiesinc.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 11:23 AM
Subject: Holyoke Rows
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Hi Alicia,

I'm writing to let you know that I support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility.

I've been supporting (and using) that facility for a few years now myself, and I think it's an excellent program. The folks there are very welcoming to all types of people, including handicapped boaters and inner city young people who sometimes arrive with no background in boating.

Thanks for reading-

Stephen

--
Stephen Bosco
General Manager

Arrow Properties, Inc.
430 Appleton St.
Holyoke, Mass. 01040
P: 413-536-0555

--
Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Jennifer Martins <martinsj@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>
To: Jennifer Martins <martinsj@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:08 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alicia Zoeller** <zoellera@holyoke.org>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 10:05 AM
Subject: Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sandra Picard** <mpicard1961@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 9:45 AM
Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I am writing to you both for the outlined purpose below.

I have been using the River for recreation for at least 30 years, most recently with Holyoke Rows.

I have seen more and more interest as people of all ages and cultures come to take advantage of all the rowing, canoeing, kayaking, regattas, sculling, that occurs. The indirect lesson that naturally happens is one of respect for the water, it's powerful currents, automatically monitoring the weather because people involved want themselves and others to be safe. And then of course watching all the wildlife that migrate back and forth throughout the seasons.

This River could help bring unity and pride back to the city as more and more people get involved in the options the River offers. So I am hoping you take a few minutes and drive down there and let the River talk to you and you see the continued possibilities you could support with the funds.

I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Sandra M. Picard

Sent from my iPhone

--

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

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--

Kate Preissler
Special Programs Manager
Office of Community Development
City of Holyoke



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Jennifer Martins <martinsj@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>
To: Jennifer Martins <martinsj@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:08 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alicia Zoeller** <zoellera@holyoke.org>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 11:29 AM
Subject: Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Charles Motes** <charles.i.motes.jr@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 11:12 AM
Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <+tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>
CC: Charles Motes <charles.i.motes.jr@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

Our Coast Guard Auxiliary flotillas which are part of the Western Massachusetts Auxiliary Division spend time on the Connecticut River between the City of Springfield and northern reaches above Northampton. We provide public education, boating safety courses, free boat safety exams general public education and boating safety patrols on the River. We are proud to serve the people of Western Massachusetts and in particular the Connecticut River area. I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river. The Pandemic of 2020 and 2021 has resulted in a very frightening increase in deaths on the waters of our state, and we join with you and Holyoke Rows and the Conservancy in moving toward more safety and education on the waterways. Please add our support to the efforts and programs we all espouse, and please feel free to call on us for boating safety courses, vessel (boat) safety exams, attendance at public events at Jones Ferry and free or low-cost training and education.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Charles I. Motes, Jr. M.S., M.P.H.
Division Commander, Division 09, District 1 North
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

(my cell phone number is 860-209-5339)
(We have flotillas in Westfield and South Hadly, and are only a telephone call away.)

--

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040

7/23/2021

City of Holyoke Mail - Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

413-322-5610

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>

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--

--
Kate Preissler
Special Programs Manager
Office of Community Development
City of Holyoke



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Jennifer Martins <martinsj@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>
To: Jennifer Martins <martinsj@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:08 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alicia Zoeller** <zoellera@holyoke.org>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 11:28 AM
Subject: Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sherri Schon** <sherri.schon@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 11:27 AM
Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <+tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I love to kayak on the Connecticut river from the Jones Ferry River Access facility. It's a great way to exercise and to gain access to the "beach" on the other side of the river for swimming. It's a wonderful part of Holyoke and of western MA in general. Therefore, I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Sherri L. Schon

--

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610
<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>
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--



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Jennifer Martins <martinsj@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>
To: Jennifer Martins <martinsj@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:07 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alicia Zoeller** <zoellera@holyoke.org>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 11:30 AM
Subject: Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Matt Chenier** <mpchenier@hotmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 11:30 AM
Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: zoellera@holyoke.org <zoellera@holyoke.org>, tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Matthew Chenier -Holyoke

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610
<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>
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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: This veteran asks support for "Holyoke Rows"

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:55 AM

To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Walter Mozgala** <walter-43@comcast.net>

Date: Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:39 AM

Subject: This veteran asks support for "Holyoke Rows"

To: zoellera@holyoke.org <zoellera@holyoke.org>

zoellera@holyoke.org

My name is Walter Mozgala, a veteran with a few minor service connected disabilities. I have been involved in the Veteran Dragon Boat Team and have found it healthful, helpful, and invigorating.

I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Walter J Mozgala Jr

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 10:00 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Karen Bayne** <krn.bayne@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 4:46 PM
Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <+tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

My name is Karen Bayne. I am a registered nurse in our community and a mom of two teen boys. Last summer, our access to the Connecticut River at Jones Ferry, specifically through Holyoke Rows was, perhaps, the single most important factor in promoting the health of my family during the pandemic and the main way we were able to safely connect with our community. I want even more families to have access to our river!

I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Karen

--
Karen Rosenblum Bayne, RN
413-588-7020

--
Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610
<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>
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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:59 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lydia Bussiere** <lbussiere08@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 3:49 PM
Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <+tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

To start, I would like to disclose that I am the President of the Board of Trustees for Holyoke Rows, so I cannot claim to be fully objective in this matter. However, I am writing to you as a former Holyoke citizen and an avid participant in all manner of river activities. I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility.

At the start of the pandemic, when we had to suspend all programming out of the Jones Ferry boathouse, we had been gearing up to start our spring rowing season. As someone who rows regularly 3x per week, this was an incredibly difficult decision, but one that needed to be made. We quickly implemented new protocols, switched to only single sculling programs, and slowly invited folks back.

I had never sculled before the pandemic. But a few weeks into April, I was sculling at least four times a week and loving it. It got me through those early months of confusion, uncertainty, and fear. And I discovered that I wasn't alone.

The pandemic inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. We saw a huge uptick in kayaking memberships, sculling members, and camp signups. There were also significantly more people hanging out on the docks, jet skiing, boating, and using the outdoor areas at Jones Ferry to socialize. It was incredible to see the community using the river and our boathouse as a resource. It has been a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river. This is clear to everyone who uses the Jones Ferry facilities currently.

The goals of Holyoke Rows include increasing river recreation accessibility to everyone in Holyoke. However, in order to expand, we need support.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic. Please feel to reach out to me if you would like to discuss any of this further.

Thanks,

Lydia Bussiere
413-275-4540

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development

City Hall Annex Room 400

Holyoke MA 01040

413-322-5610

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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Financially fund Holyoke rows

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:59 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Linda** <lillindyt@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 1:02 PM
Subject: Financially fund Holyoke rows
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>

This organization is a win win for the community. Excellent staff, very welcoming to anyone that is interested in learning how to row. Great opportunity to be healthier by participating and has a good system to bring costs down by volunteering. Please support this fabulous activity.

Linda Mancuso

Sent from my iPhone

--

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>

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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts
Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 10:00 AM

To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Phil levy** <dav41phil@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 4:48 PM

Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

--

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD

Administrator (She, her, hers)

City of Holyoke Office for Community Development

City Hall Annex Room 400

Holyoke MA 01040

413-322-5610

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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:58 AM

To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: orestefv@yahoo.com <orestefv@yahoo.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 8:28 PM

Subject: Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I am a member of the Veterans Dragon Boat team. We practice twice a week using the JFRA facility. I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Respectfully,

Oreste Varela

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

--

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Pamela Smith <pamelasmith0020@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 7:30 AM

To: zoellera@holyoke.org, +tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net, tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I am writing to enthusiastically support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility.

I first heard about Holyoke Rows from my former boss Barbara Black. She is an enthusiastic rower and has been legally blind for 30 years -- and she has steered multiple others to go there as well, for the easy access to boating recreation and the incredibly supportive atmosphere at Holyoke Rows.

The kind of strong support for EQUAL ACCESS to health and recreation that happens at Jones Ferry is longstanding and real. Holyoke Rows offers so many outreach programs to support everyone, from expert college rowers, to teens in the Holyoke community, to veterans, to those who are disabled, even to duffers like me who are rank beginners. :) Stephanie (who runs Holyoke Rows) has the biggest heart and an extraordinary commitment to sharing her expertise and love of boating to EVERYONE.

The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families.

It's all good. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river. This is about increasing public safety, encouraging public health and recreation opportunities, and about actively supporting equality of use of our public resources. Equality of ACCESS to safe recreation is important, and it is what Holyoke Rows is all about.

I really hope that you grant funds for this project. Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Pamela Smith
Northampton, MA



Virus-free. www.avast.com



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

RE: I support the joint application for funds to improve the Jones Ferry RAF

1 message

Kevin Lonergan <klonergan44@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 8:47 PM

To: TMurphy1HCC@comcast.net, zoellera@holyoke.org

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I have been involved with Holyoke Rows for the past 13 years. I first started using the Jones Ferry facility when it was a metal storage building and watched as the new structure was built. During that time, I have seen the good that has been done at this facility. This facility is a gem and allows river access to the people of Holyoke. We have fishermen putting in boats on the ramp or fishing from the docks, local kids learning to row in the high school rowing program and para-athletes rowing programs. We have local veterans training and competing with the Dragon Boat program and local families that stay cool in the summer, using the kayaks from the boathouse. Our annual regatta helps introduce new people to Holyoke as they compete and enjoy the river. Local neighbors have stopped by to volunteer, find out about membership or to just say hello. We have a community.

Although not a resident of Holyoke, through my time at Holyoke Rows, I have come to know and enjoy Holyoke, whether it is grabbing breakfast after practice at the Dam Cafe or Rusty's, watching a game and eating a burger at JP's, making a hardware store run for supplies to Highland Hardware or just sitting on the porch at the Jones Ferry River Access facility, relaxing and watching the river run. While I have other options when it comes to rowing and getting out on the river, I continue to choose Holyoke Rows and Jones Ferry due to the sense of community and its welcoming feel.

For these reasons and many more, I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. There is a need for better docks, buoys, and signs to help facilitate safer use of the river. These improvements will help ensure that the Jones Ferry River Access facility will be able to handle the needs of its community.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for these important improvements at Jones Ferry. These improvements help make a wonderful part of Holyoke become even better.

Kevin Lonergan



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Jones Ferry River Access

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <teamzoeller@yahoo.com>
To: Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 1:58 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sue Ellen <sue.ellen.panitch@comcast.net>
Date: July 12, 2021 at 5:17:03 PM EDT
To: Alicia Zoeller <teamzoeller@yahoo.com>
Subject: Jones Ferry River Access

Dear Alicia,

I understand that Holyoke Rows, with the support of the Connecticut /River Conservancy, has applied for ARPA funding.

As you know, from my prior involvement both as a Conservation Commissioner and a Holyoke Rows supporter as well as a former chairman of the Board of the Connecticut River Watershed Association, I am in solid support of the Connecticut River access which the Holyoke Rows programs provide for the City of Holyoke.

Despite having been founded because of the River, Holyoke residents have long been divided from the River by the railroads whose tracks follow the River's course. This meant, for over a hundred years, that Holyoke citizens were denied to use of the River for recreational activities. This has been a particular hardship for those living closest to the river in the lower wards of the city. These people, many of whom live at poverty and low income levels, are unable to take advantage of the great natural resource which could - if properly accessed - allow them the advantages of both passive and active recreation at Riverside. There, they could fish, hike, go boating and enjoy the scenery of this beautiful river and its surroundings.

The City's acquisition of this area which now is home to Holyoke Rows, brought the River to the citizens of Holyoke and, conversely, brought citizens to the River.

Presently hundreds of children are using the facility to learn kayaking and rowing; to learn teamwork; to learn how to care for their equipment and to assist others. Adults are also enjoying the site in similar fashion. Many are also fishing from the docks and boat ramp.

Any ARPA funds which could be made available to the site and to the programs at Holyoke Rows would be of inestimable benefit to the City. Many hundreds of children and adults will benefit from enhanced programming and staffing.

Further, any help, improvement, enhancement to Holyoke's only Riverfront Park - if properly publicized - will be an additional benefit, together with Holyoke's known superiority in Water resources and green energy, in attracting new residents, business and commercial venture to our City.

The Connecticut River Conservancy is well positioned and staffed to support Holyoke Rows in the management of paperwork and reporting that are necessitated by use of Federal funding such as ARPA and is ready to provide this help.

For all of these reasons and conditions, I believe that ARPA funds would be well-used if granted to Holyoke Rows for site, building and program growth which will undoubtedly benefit the City of Holyoke.

Yours truly,
Sue Elle Panitch



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

tmtheroux@aol.com <tmtheroux@aol.com>

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 1:16 PM

To: tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net, zoellera@holyoke.org

The Honorable Acting Mayor Terry Murphy and Ms. Alicia Zoellera,

-

I am pleased to support Holyoke Rows ARPA Application for funding to promote and improve Connecticut River safety in Holyoke and to develop and expand programs for the residents of the City of Holyoke and for those who participate in its programs. It has been 10 years since I started rowing at this unique Holyoke resource and I have not only developed wonderful friendships and respect for fellow participants, but I am an active member of its Board. All of us who have met with Stephanie Moore, the Executive Director of Holyoke Rows, fully understand her unique ability to encourage and coach any child or adult who wishes to learn to row – regardless of his/her ability, or who wishes to enjoy this organization's unique place on the River at little or no cost to most participants. Her dedication, kindness, compassion and experience have encouraged and supported hundreds of Holyoke residents to both enjoy and respect the Connecticut River through her teaching, her programs, and her promotion of River safety at this location.

-

Because of this, I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funding to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. Over the past 18 months, the pandemic has inspired many people to utilize the Jones Ferry access to the River, to use the boats, and to participate in the programs that Holyoke Rows offers. This is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and to provide free and low-cost programming to the residents of Holyoke. Because of this increase in River use over the past 18 months, it has meant there is now a critical need for safer docks, safer access to these docks, the deployment of and River buoys, the utilization and posting of bilingual signs, and increased education for safer ways to use the River.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements for Holyoke Rows at Jones Ferry that will help to address the challenges and opportunities this unique organization is now facing.

Sincerely,

Terri Theroux



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Purcell, Rick <Rick.Purcell@baystatehealth.org>

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 10:34 AM

To: "zoellera@holyoke.org" <zoellera@holyoke.org>, "tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net" <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I am a Veteran Dragon Boat Racer. I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Richard P. Purcell

279 Suffolk St.

Holyoke, Ma

Please view our annual report at <http://www.bhannualreport.org>

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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Stimulus support public comment

1 message

Anne Teschner <ateschner@carecenterholyoke.org>
To: "Alicia Zoeller (zoellera@holyoke.org)" <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 7:50 PM

Dear Alicia:

We are excited to support Connecticut River Conservatory / Holyoke Rows application to the City of Holyoke for stimulus funds to make much improvements at the Jones Ferry Boathouse that will allow more people to better enjoy the River and the Boathouse programs. Their plans to replace and expand the docks to allow for universal access and safer rowing, paddling, fishing, and recreation; replace the stairs; extend the boat ramp; develop bi-lingual signage; deploy no-wake and channel markers; and support 3 years of expanded programming all make a great deal of sense. The Care Center runs a robust rowing program out of the boathouse for the teen mothers who attend our program. Access to the river and the boathouse has been a life-changing experience for the young women over the many years we have used the boathouse. We enthusiastically support the proposed improvements.

Sincerely, Anne Teschner

Anne Teschner

Executive Director

The Care Center

247 Cabot Street

Holyoke, MA 01040

413-532-2900 x124

www.carecenterholyoke.org



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Joe Shaw <josephshaw@hotmail.com>

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 9:03 AM

To: "zoellera@holyoke.org" <zoellera@holyoke.org>, "tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net" <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

Back in 2008 Stephanie Moore/Holyoke Rows hosted the **USA Marathon Team Trials** - and from 2003-2008 Holyoke Rows hosted a 42K Pro Kayak Marathon (article attached)
Without Holyoke Rows these events would not have been held!

I have seen a lot more outdoor activity since the pandemic began.

I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Thanks

Joe

Joe Shaw
10 x Member of USA Marathon Canoe/Kayak Team
Western Mass Paddlers
<https://www.facebook.com/westernmasspaddlers/>
<http://worthingtoninma.com>
PO Box 104
27 Old North Road
Worthington, MA 01098
Phone: 413-537-8821
Email: Josephshaw@hotmail.com



Holyoke Race Write up Final.pdf

431K



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Kimm Quinlan <kimmq2@gmail.com>
To: zoellera@holyoke.org, tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 8:08 AM

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

My name is Kimm Quinlan I am an HCC employee and a regular rower at Jones Ferry. I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy to receive funds to improve Jones Ferry River Access facility. I am amazed at how the pandemic increased the numbers of people utilizing Jones Ferry and the Holyoke Rows programs. Jones Ferry and Holyoke Rows provide great opportunities to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. However, the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs and safer ways to use the river.

Thank you for hearing my voice of support for these important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a really help to addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Kimm Quinlan



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Darby Dyar <mdyar@mtholyoke.edu>
To: zoellera@holyoke.org, +tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net

Sun, Jul 18, 2021 at 9:04 AM

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I am a geologist, conservationist, and professor at Mount Holyoke College. I use the Connecticut River in my courses to talk about rivers and flooding, and I also use the river directly as a member of Holyoke Rows. I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility.

The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. It is wonderful to see so many Holyoke residents taking advantage of the parking lot, river bank, and docks. But there is also a serious and growing safety problem because of the very close proximity of long crew shells, fishing boats, jet-skis, and small children swimming and diving off the dock.

There is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Darby Dyar

--

M. Darby Dyar
217 Kendade Hall
Mount Holyoke College
50 College St.
South Hadley, MA 01075



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Joy Ferwerda <pjferwerda14@gmail.com>

Sun, Jul 18, 2021 at 7:23 PM

To: +tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net, zoellera@holyoke.org

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. I have been participating in the sweep rowing program with Holyoke Rows for over 12 years and have been tremendously blessed by this experience. Rowing has been rewarding in innumerable ways. Not only has it benefited me physically and socially, but it has given me greater confidence, as I have never been a natural athlete. The welcoming and encouraging atmosphere allows all people an opportunity to try new activities and thrive. Rowing has also given me a greater appreciation of the river, a place of peace and rejuvenation within the city. In recent years the wildlife has been a special blessing too. We have the opportunity to see eagles, egrets, and foxes-- among the other more expected animals along the river. During the pandemic, having a regular opportunity to row (with safety measures in place) allowed me to maintain some normalcy in my life and gave me the opportunity to enjoy creation and keep perspective regardless of what was going on in the world around me. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Joy Ferwerda



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Michelle Bussiere <mbussiere101@gmail.com>
To: zoellera@holyoke.org, tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net

Sat, Jul 17, 2021 at 11:22 PM

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

Jones Ferry and the CT River are such a great asset to Holyoke. I own a Condo at 101 Cabot and I love being able to go to the river to row with Holyoke Rows. I am writing to ask for your support of the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the CT River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. So many people enjoy the opportunity to learn how to row boats or paddle kayaks through the programs that Holyoke Rows offers. The pandemic has increased the number of people learning to enjoy the river. There is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for listening and please consider supporting this application. What a great use of federal funds to improve Holyoke!

Michelle Bussiere



Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Dawn <dawn.chipman77@gmail.com>
To: zoellera@holyoke.org, tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net

Sat, Jul 17, 2021 at 4:35 PM

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I am a Holyoke resident and on a recent afternoon, I was at Holyoke Rows at Jones Ferry and the small dock and river bank there were packed with people from the community—people boating, fishing, picnic-ing, playing with their kids in the water, laughing and so on. Wonderful, but there was absolutely more safe space needed. Since the pandemic, I think being outdoors is even more important to people. It has been and continues to be a difficult time in our lives; the river is the perfect antidote. Everyone should have access.

I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. As I mentioned, the pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Dawn Chipman



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

Thomas Horton <thomashort@gmail.com>

Sat, Jul 17, 2021 at 8:17 PM

To: zoellera@holyoke.org, tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net

Folks: Please support Holyoke Rows! I am a 60 T5 paraplegic and have been helped by Stephanie Moore and the good people of HR get out on the water for years. HR helps distinguish Holyoke as a city that supports people with disabilities and gives access to the great sport of rowing to individuals of every race, economic position, national origin, or any other identifier, allowing them meet their highest aspirations.

Thank you!

Tom Horton
413-695-9131
thomashort@gmail.com



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for Holyoke Rows ARPA Application

1 message

hott florentinefilms.org <hott@florentinefilms.org>

Fri, Jul 16, 2021 at 9:28 PM

To: "zoellera@holyoke.org" <zoellera@holyoke.org>, "tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net" <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Ms. Zoeller and Mayor Murphy,

I am an active member of Holyoke Rows. I row there twice a week with my friend Barbara Black, who is blind. She is one of many people with a disability who take advantage of Holyoke Rows fine adaptive rowing opportunities.

Holyoke Rows has a wonderful, dedicated board of directors and a spirited membership. Over the years I have witnessed how excited young Holyoke residents are about getting out on the river, learning new skills, and staying in shape.

I am writing to support the joint application of Holyoke Rows and the Connecticut River Conservancy for funds to improve the Jones Ferry River Access facility. The pandemic has inspired many more people to come to Jones Ferry to enjoy the river and use the boats and programs that Holyoke Rows offers. That is a great opportunity to support public health outcomes from outdoor recreation and provide free and low cost programming to Holyoke families. But the increase in use has meant there is a critical need for better docks, buoys, signs, and safer ways to use the river.

As a frequent user of the docks and river, I can confirm that the Jones Ferry area needs a makeover.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my support for important improvements at Jones Ferry that will be a real help in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lawrence Hott

Lawrence Hott
Florentine Films/Hott Productions
65 Mann Terrace
Florence, MA 01062-1917 USA
Cell: 413-530-4809
www.florentinefilms.org
hott@florentinefilms.org



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

The Care Center

1 message

Karen Fisk <karenmargaretfisk@gmail.com>
To: zoellera@holyoke.org, tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net

Sun, Jul 25, 2021 at 5:40 AM

Dear Mayor Murphy and Ms. Zoeller,

I am writing to express my support of The Care Center's request to the City of Holyoke for stimulus funding to help low-income women get to and through college. The Care Center's highly effective program will increase the earning potential of low-income women, enabling them to raise healthy, academically successful children. College completion is linked to lower rates of child neglect; reduced health and mental health care costs; reduced costs of child welfare services; improved academic achievement; living wage employment; and improved earnings of children in adulthood. This program benefits the families participating and also our City as a whole.

Sincerely,

Karen Fisk

--

Karen Fisk



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Support for our College Program

1 message

Carmen H Vicenty <crmhvcnt3@gmail.com>
To: zoellera@holyoke.org, tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net

Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 12:07 PM

Dear Mayor Murphy and Ms. Zoeller,

I am writing to express my support of The Care Center's request to the City of Holyoke for stimulus funding to help low-income women get to and through college. The Care Center's highly effective program will increase the earning potential of low-income women, enabling them to raise healthy, academically successful children. College completion is linked to lower rates of child neglect; reduced health and mental health care costs; reduced costs of child welfare services; improved academic achievement; living wage employment; and improved earnings of children in adulthood. This program benefits the families participating and also our City as a whole.

Sincerely,

Carmen H Vicenty



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Care Center Stimulus Funding

1 message

jayne stearns <jaynebstearns@gmail.com>
To: zoellera@holyoke.org, tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net

Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 1:42 PM

Dear Mayor Murphy and Ms. Zoeller,

My granddaughter and her 7 month old daughter attended the Care Center. Because of what she learned there, she earned her GED and found herself a year later in college. I am confident her and her daughter's road to success would have been even rockier without the support of the Care Center, maybe even non-existent.

PLEASE, PLEASE continue whatever funding is needed to keep that program alive! It has enabled many to live enriched lives and enabled them to make better choices for themselves and their children.

In addition, The Care Center's highly effective program will increase the earning potential of low-income women, enabling them to raise healthy, academically successful children. College completion is linked to lower rates of child neglect; reduced health and mental health care costs; reduced costs of child welfare services; improved academic achievement; living wage employment; and improved earnings of children in adulthood. This program benefits the families participating and also our City as a whole.

The Best to you both,

Jayne Billings

774.212.0837



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Time-Sensitive Request: Send an Email to Support our Proposal

1 message

m6l <m6l@aol.com>

Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 2:16 PM

To: zoellera@holyoke.org, tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net

I wholeheartedly support the Care Center's grant request.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

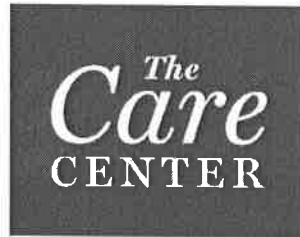
From: Anne Teschner <jslater@carecenterholyoke.org>

Date: July 20, 2021 at 11:58:50 AM EDT

To: M6l@aol.com

Subject: Time-Sensitive Request: Send an Email to Support our Proposal

Reply-To: jslater@carecenterholyoke.org



Dear Margaret,

Will you send an email to support The Care Center?

Here's the story: The Care Center has requested a major grant from the City of Holyoke's CDBG program. This stimulus funding will support our college programs for low-income women. The City is now seeking public input on proposed projects.

Please copy and email the note below to express your support before 7/23:

Email to: Alicia Zoeller, Community Development Director and Acting Mayor Terence Murphy:

zoellera@holyoke.org

tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net

Dear Mayor Murphy and Ms. Zoeller,

I am writing to express my support of The Care Center's request to the City of Holyoke for stimulus funding to help low-income women get to and through college. The Care Center's highly effective program will increase the earning potential of low-income women, enabling them to raise healthy, academically successful children. College completion is linked to lower rates of child neglect; reduced health and mental health care costs; reduced costs of child welfare services; improved academic achievement; living wage employment; and improved earnings of children in adulthood. This program benefits the families participating and also our City as a whole.

Sincerely,

Your Name

From all of us at The Care Center, thank you!

**Anne Teschner,
Executive Director**





City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Stimulus funding for the Care Center

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:55 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Angela Wright** <slotgram@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:19 AM
Subject: Stimulus funding for the Care Center
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Dear Ms. Zoeller

I am writing to express my support of the care Center's request to the City of Holyoke for the stimulus funding to help low-income women get to and through college.

I was involved some 35 years ago to help address the difficulties the city was having with the high rate of teen pregnancy and low birth weight babies. As a result of all the studies I started the Care Center program at the Holyoke Hospital.

We are now and have been for many years an independent program on Cabot Street., It is an amazing program providing : education, counseling, day care, transportation as well as other programs. The Care Center enables low-income young women to get their GED's , bridge to college at HCC and now an affiliation with Bard College as well as a newly opened dormitory facility in downtown Holyoke.

The young women are amazing students and mothers. They are productive citizens of our community. As you know college degrees are important to move on with better jobs and a better life. We are that successful program that enables these young women to achieve their goals and become the productive citizens for our city of Holyoke.

Please consider helping to support the stimulus funding for our hugely successful programs and goals of the Care Center.

My heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation. I hope you will consider a visit to the Center - if you have not been there yet. Anne Teschner, Executive Director will be delighted to meet with you.

Gratefully, Angela Wright

Sent from my iPad

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610
<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyokeOCD>

Please contact us by email or phone prior to visiting. Virtual, in-person, and telephone appointments are available.



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: CDBG program grant

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 6:58 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **JOAN DALY** <jdal2@verizon.net>
Date: Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 4:52 PM
Subject: CDBG program grant
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Dear Ms. Zoeller,

I am writing to express my support of The Care Center's request to the City of Holyoke for stimulus funding to help low-income women get to and through college. The Care Center's highly effective program will increase the earning potential of low-income women, enabling them to raise healthy, academically successful children. College completion is linked to lower rates of child neglect; reduced health and mental health care costs; reduced costs of child welfare services; improved academic achievement; living wage employment; and improved earnings of children in adulthood. This program benefits the families participating and also our City as a whole.

Sincerely,

Joan Daly

--

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyokeOCD>

Please contact us by email or phone prior to visiting. Virtual, in-person, and telephone appointments are available.



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Care One , Holyoke

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 8:38 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jean Deschaine** <jeana039@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 8:08 PM
Subject: Care One , Holyoke
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Dear Mayor Murphy and Ms. Zoeller,

I am writing to express my support of The Care Center's request to the City of Holyoke for stimulus funding to help low-income women get to and through college. The Care Center's highly effective program will increase the earning potential of low-income women, enabling them to raise healthy, academically successful children. College completion is linked to lower rates of child neglect; reduced health and mental health care costs; reduced costs of child welfare services; improved academic achievement; living wage employment; and improved earnings of children in adulthood. This program benefits the families participating and also our City as a whole.

Sincerely,

Jean Deschaine

Life is an adventure. Enjoy the ride.

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyokeOCD>

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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts
Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Care Center

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:58 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jane Frey** <jnvegafrey@comcast.net>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 9:53 PM
Subject: Care Center
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>, <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Dear Mayor Murphy and Ms. Zoeller,

As a current board member of the Care Center and Holyoke resident, I am writing to express my support of The Care Center's request to the City of Holyoke for stimulus funding to help low-income women get to and through college.

In the early 1980's I was part of a task force in Holyoke that set out to create better systems to address the high infant mortality and teen pregnancy rates in the city. The Care Center, a new maternity delivery system that focused on a bilingual midwifery model at Providence Hospital and a Teen Clinic for Holyoke High School were important programs that came out of these efforts. As a nurse midwife who helped start that midwifery program and worked collaboratively with the Care Center for many years, I have seen first hand the tremendous effect that this program has had on the lives of young mothers. The education and support they receive provides them with the confidence, skills and foundation to secure a better economic future and raise healthy, academically successful children. Many of these young women continue onto college and, as I am sure you are aware, college completion is linked to lower rates of child neglect, reduced health and mental health care costs, reduced costs of child welfare services, improved academic achievement, living wage employment, and improved earnings of children in adulthood.

This program benefits the families participating and also our City as a whole. I hope you will support their efforts. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jane Frey

Sent from my iPhone

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>

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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: CDBG ARPA Funds: Letter of Support for Girls Inc. of the Valley Proposal Together We Rise

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 4:42 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **T Espinosa** <tespinosa@yahoo.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 4:41 PM
Subject: CDBG ARPA Funds: Letter of Support for Girls Inc. of the Valley Proposal Together We Rise
To: ortizn@holyoke.org <ortizn@holyoke.org>, zoellera@holyoke.org <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Dear Acting Mayor Murphy, Administrator Zoeller, and other CDBG ARPA Funds decision makers,

As a citizen of Holyoke, I would like to encourage you to support the **Girls Inc. of the Valley's** CDBG ARPA Fund Proposal "**Together We Rise**". Their proposal to support mental health care for youth and families in our community is going to be critical as we address the trauma and challenges wrought by COVID-19, and move forward as a community.

The families that Girls Inc. of the Valley works with represent those hardest hit by the pandemic, including those grappling with the stress and impacts of poverty, food insecurity, and unemployment.

Supporting this proposal will improve access to mental health care for our youth. Hampden county has one of the lowest numbers of mental health care providers per 10,000 children in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. On top of that, there are a range of barriers that Holyoke families face when trying to access mental health care in Holyoke including: cost, long waiting lists, lack of insurance coverage, and logistical barriers for working parents. Additionally, caregivers of Hispanic and black children in our community may be reluctant to seek help for fear that providers might not appreciate unique challenges their children may face around racism and/or poverty.

Girls Inc. of the Valley has been in this community for 40 years, and is a trusted and established resource for local families. They are well positioned to engage vulnerable youth and their families, as well as to work with schools and other local youth service providers.

This proposal will help youth and their families access support that is critical as we move forward. It also will help them develop a broader set of skills to support their long term resilience and success.

While the return on this investment starts at the individual/family level, it will also have employment and economic impacts as caregivers can access services more easily, it will reduce the amount of time they need to take off to address their kids' needs. It will also help reduce their own stress and anxiety, and help them be more successful and engaged at work and civically.

Please support the Together We Rise proposal from Girls Inc. of the Valley; investing in this proposal will help support the vitality and thriving of this whole community.

Sincerely,
Tiffany Espinosa
30 Amherst St.
Holyoke, MA 01040

--

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>
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Please contact us by email or phone prior to visiting. Virtual, in-person, and telephone appointments are available.



Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

ARPA Comments

1 message

Yadilette Rivera-Colon <riveracolony@gmail.com>
To: zoellera@holyoke.org, ortizn@holyoke.org

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 3:16 PM

Greetings!

Acting Mayor Terry Murphy
City Hall Room 1
Holyoke MA 01040Administrator Alicia Zoeller
City Hall Annex Room 400**Summary of Girls Inc. of the Valley Together We Rise Proposal for Holyoke CDBG ARPA Funds**

As staff continue to provide Girls Inc. programming to the community that we have served for the past 40 years, they observe how COVID-19 has increased the level of trauma experienced by Holyoke families that were already facing the challenges of poverty and racism. Through our connections with girls and families, we are hearing about loneliness, isolation, loss of family members, loss of work, remote schooling stress, increased alcohol and drug use, and food insecurity.

Through Together We Rise, we will address this deepened need by adding mental health professionals to our team, strengthening our ability to respond to emerging issues. Due to our long-term relationships with participants, we can play a unique role in providing low barrier access to mental health care. The mental health professionals will collaborate with staff to provide personalized, professional support. Integrating this support within our programs, in a familiar, trusted setting, will reduce the stigma often felt in seeking mental health care. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) consultant will build the program in years 1-2, then a staff Mental Health Coordinator will be hired to run the program for years 3-5. By bringing the Mental Health Coordinator on staff to run the established program, we will be able to have professional mental health guidance onsite for more hours, allowing us to meet the needs of more girls and families.

I would so appreciate any help you can offer. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you!

Yadilette

Resident, 70 Lawler Street, Holyoke, MA 01040

Yadilette Rivera-Colón, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
Undergraduate Science Program Research Coordinator



588 Longmeadow Street
Longmeadow, MA 01106
Office: Carr Hall 106A
Phone: (413) 565-1441
yriveracolony@baypath.edu



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts
Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Letter of Support for Girl's Inc. of the Valley to Receive ARPA Funding

1 message

Debra Vega <debradvega@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 3:35 PM

To: ortizn@holyoke.org, Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

To: Acting Mayor Terry Murphy and Alicia Zoeller

My name is Debra Vega and I am a resident homeowner and small business owner in Holyoke, as well as a 5 year member of the Board of Directors for Girl's inc of the Valley. I am writing in support of the Girl's inc "Together We Rise" proposal for the upcoming ARPA Funding. I believe so strongly in the mission of Girl's inc. and have seen first-hand time and time again what the Girl's inc. programming can do to uplift the young women of our community. Below is a summary of the "Together We Rise" Proposal, demonstrating how the funding would be used. Please consider supporting Girl's inc. of the Valley as you distribute the ARPA Funding.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Debra Vega

Holyoke, MA

Summary of Girls Inc. of the Valley Together We Rise Proposal for Holyoke CDBG ARPA Funds

As staff continue to provide Girls Inc. programming to the community that we have served for the past 40 years, they observe how COVID-19 has increased the level of trauma experienced by Holyoke families that were already facing the challenges of poverty and racism. Through our connections with girls and families, we are hearing about loneliness, isolation, loss of family members, loss of work, remote schooling stress, increased alcohol and drug use, and food insecurity.

Through Together We Rise, we will address this deepened need by adding mental health professionals to our team, strengthening our ability to respond to emerging issues. Due to our long-term relationships with participants, we can play a unique role in providing low barrier access to mental health care. The mental health professionals will collaborate with staff to provide personalized, professional support. Integrating this support within our programs, in a familiar, trusted setting, will reduce the stigma often felt in seeking mental health care. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) consultant will build the program in years 1-2, then a staff Mental Health Coordinator will be hired to run the program for years 3-5. By bringing the Mental Health Coordinator on staff to run the established program, we will be able to have professional mental health guidance onsite for more hours, allowing us to meet the needs of more girls and families.

Debra Vega
Co-director, Vega Yoga Mobile
Holyoke, MA
413-519-4966
www.vegayoga.com





Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Boys & Girls Club

1 message

The Plan <connect@theplanholyoke.com>

Sat, Jul 24, 2021 at 12:14 AM

To: "tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net" <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>

Cc: "zoellera@holyoke.org" <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Good morning,

My name is Chelsea Falcetti and I am a resident of Holyoke. I have 3 children who attend holyoke public schools, I own a successful business in downtown holyoke and a proud supporter of Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke.

When COVID-19 closed schools and nearly every social service agency, Boys & Girls Club remained open as a safe, positive place for kids. I am a strong advocate for this organization because they simply love every second of being inside the club - the feeling is something every kid should experience.

Please consider supporting their ARPA application - every kid who needs the Club should be given the chance to go.

Thank you for your time.

Chelsea Falcetti
Owner The Plan



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Holyoke Boys and Girls Club

1 message

Cynthia Marquez <cmarquez@hps.holyoke.ma.us>
To: tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net, zoellera@holyoke.org

Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 9:53 AM

Good Morning Mr. Murphy and Ms. Zoellera,

I am a resident of Holyoke and a proud supporter of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke.

When COVID-19 closed schools and nearly every social service agency, Boys & Girls Club remained open as a safe, positive place for kids. I am a strong advocate for this organization because they offer support to children and families in this community. They have also employed many youth and provided guidance to those seeking a college education. The club has a positive impact in the present and it helps to develop good citizens.

Please consider supporting their ARPA application - every kid who needs the Club should be given the chance to go.

Cynthia Marquez, MSW
School Adjustment Counselor
Dr. Marcella R. Kelly Full Service Community School
216 West Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 534-2078



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

ARPA Letter of Support

1 message

Samantha Garcia <sagarcia@hps.holyoke.ma.us>
To: tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net, murphyt@holyoke.org
Cc: zoellera@holyoke.org

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 11:20 AM

Hello,

Please see the attached letter of support on behalf of Mr. Anthony Soto.

Sam

Samantha Garcia
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Holyoke Public Schools

57 Suffolk Street, 3rd Floor

Holyoke, MA 01040

Office: 413.512.5300 (or ext. 1300)

Fax: 413-534-2297

Letter of Support_ARPA_Mayor Murphy.pdf
224K



HOLYOKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A PATHWAY FOR EVERY STUDENT

Holyoke Public Schools
57 Suffolk Street – Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040
Tel. (413) 534-2005 | Fax. (413) 534-2297
asoto@hps.holyoke.ma.us

Mr. Anthony Soto, Superintendent/Receiver

Holyoke City Hall
Mayor Terence Murphy
536 Dwight Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
Re: Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke Letter of Support

Dear Mayor Murphy,

I am writing to provide the highest level of recommendation as well as express the urgent need to support Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding applications. Across the commonwealth, COVID-19 pandemic changed life as we know it. For our most vulnerable youth in Holyoke, the impact has been magnified and their futures are now in danger.

The pandemic exposed many gaps within our social service infrastructure. Unfortunately, the reality is that we face a childcare crisis and there are limited youth service organizations in Holyoke. When the vast majority of agencies were forced to close, reduce capacity, or pivot to virtual services due to COVID-19, our community relied heavily on Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke.

Since March 2020, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke was on the frontlines providing essential youth services. In less than 12 months the organization provided over 1,000 youth with a high quality childcare and teen programs, served over 225,000 meals and snacks, and was the primary partner for Holyoke Public Schools supporting their transition from remote, hybrid, and in-person learning. Whether it was a child of a school teacher in need of care and remote learning support or DCF involved youth desperately seeking a safe environment, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke doors remained open for every child in Holyoke. Though this impact speaks for itself, the organization faces one main consistent barrier – capacity.

ARPA is a once in a lifetime investment opportunity in Holyoke and our children's future hang in the balance of these very critical funding decisions. For over a century, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke has been a fabric of our community. Please consider supporting the organization ARPA childcare center renovation and Summer Camp – Homeless & Vulnerable Youth proposals. This investment will allow the organization to serve more kids, more often, and create even more long-term impact for decades to come within our community.

Sincerely,

Anthony Soto

Receiver / Superintendent of the Holyoke Public Schools



City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts
Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Holyoke Boys and Girls Club

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:59 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lori McKenna** <lmckenna@hps.holyoke.ma.us>
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 4:44 PM
Subject: Holyoke Boys and Girls Club
To: <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>, <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Hello!

I hope this email finds you well and that you have had the chance to enjoy some summer fun.

I am a life-long resident of Holyoke and a proud supporter of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke.

When COVID-19 closed schools and nearly every social service agency, Boys & Girls Club remained open as a safe, positive place for kids. This was no easy task and the work that they did showed a commitment to kids and the ability to adapt to an ever-changing world. I am a strong advocate for this organization because they know how to support students, make connections with families, keep kids engaged in positive ways, and put the needs of kids first in all the work that they do.

Please consider supporting their ARPA application - every kid who needs the Club should be given the chance to go.

Thank you,

Lori McKenna
Principal
Holyoke High School North Campus
Holyoke Public Schools
500 Beech Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
413-534-2020

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610
<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>
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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Holyoke ARPA Appliaction

1 message

Alicia Zoeller <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 11:57 AM

To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jim Meara** <Jim@mearalawoffice.com>

Date: Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 11:49 AM

Subject: Holyoke ARPA Appliaction

To: tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net <tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net>, zoellera@holyoke.org <zoellera@holyoke.org>

CC: lindavac@aol.com <lindavac@aol.com>

Dear Mayor Murphy & Alicia,

My name is Jim Meara and I am a proud Holyoke resident. My primary residence is 10 Labrie Lane and I own other propertities within our city. I invest in Holyoke because I grew up here and as a kid many teachers, coaches, and community members invested in me. Thanks to this support, I have obtained degrees, traveled the world, and now operate a successful law firm.

I am writing today to express my utmost support for Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke ARPA applications. It is essential our community invest in our youth as they are the future leaders of tomorrow and the key to transforming our city. Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke operates truly life changing programs which more kids should have the chance to go.

Thank you for your consideration of supporting their application.

Best,

Jim Meara

Real Estate Attorney



200 North Main Street • Suite 6

East Longmeadow, MA 01028

P: 413 525 1313

F: 413 525 7272

Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyokeOCD>

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City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts

Birthplace of Volleyball

Jennifer Martins <martinsj@holyoke.org>

Fwd: Advocating for American Rescue Funds for HB & G Club

1 message

Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>
To: Jennifer Martins <martinsj@holyoke.org>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 9:09 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alicia Zoeller** <zoellera@holyoke.org>
Date: Wed, Jul 21, 2021 at 11:06 AM
Subject: Fwd: Advocating for American Rescue Funds for HB & G Club
To: Kate Preissler <preisslerk@holyoke.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mary McAndrew** <mmcandrew@hps.holyoke.ma.us>
Date: Wed, Jul 21, 2021 at 10:56 AM
Subject: Advocating for American Rescue Funds for HB & G Club
To: <zoellera@holyoke.org>

Ms. Zoeller,

I am a resident of Holyoke, a leader at Kelly School, and a proud supporter of Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke.

When COVID-19 closed schools and nearly every social service agency, Boys & Girls Club remained open as a safe, positive place for kids. I am a strong advocate for this organization because they consistently strive to be responsive to community needs, youth needs, and youth opportunities. In their responsiveness they strive for excellence. The leaders and staff at the HB&G Club work to maintain a safe and caring environment for the youth of our community to learn and grow as contributing members of the organization and community. The participating youth benefit from the mentoring of the staff, many of whom have benefited from HB&G Club mentorship throughout their own youth.

In my role as a Kelly School leader, I have seen first hand the value this organization adds to our community through their service as a learning pod, their partnership with our school through the 21st Century Grant, the after school programming, and summer program design. The staff at the HB&G Club provided the most attentive support to our students who benefited from being there for remote learning. As part of the multi-year partnership between Kelly School and the Boys and Girls Club, our students in grades 2 - 8 have benefitted from engagement in weekly enrichment that enhanced their learning and served as a motivator for potentially disengaged students. Our students love to participate in cooking, sports, outdoor activities, and being mentored by the dedicated HB&G staff. Our entire school community is grateful for the opportunity the students have with the HB&G Club, which provides the time and space for ongoing professional learning and support as we work towards success for all students.

I cannot imagine a more impactful use of this funding. Please consider supporting their ARPA application - every kid who needs the Club should be given the chance to go.

Mary McAndrew
(she, her, hers)
Instructional Leadership Specialist / Reading Specialist
Dr. Marcella Kelly School
216 West Street
Holyoke Public Schools
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 534-2078, ext. 1115
mmcandrew@hps.holyoke.ma.us

--
Alicia M. Zoeller, JD
Administrator (She, her, hers)
City of Holyoke Office for Community Development
City Hall Annex Room 400
Holyoke MA 01040
413-322-5610

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/community-development/>
<https://www.facebook.com/HolyokeOCD>

Please contact us by email or phone prior to visiting. Virtual, in-person, and telephone appointments are available.

--
Kate Preissler
Special Programs Manager
Office of Community Development
City of Holyoke

RICHARD E. NEAL
FIRST DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS



CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DEAN
MASSACHUSETTS AND
NEW ENGLAND CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATIONS

DEMOCRATIC LEADER
FRIENDS OF IRELAND CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 12, 2021

Mr. Terence Murphy
Acting Mayor
536 Dwight St Ste 1
Holyoke, MA 01040-5019

Dear Mr. Murphy:

I am writing to express my support for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke's two proposals to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding opportunity, for its childcare center renovation and Summer Camp – Homeless & Vulnerable Youth Program.

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke intends to utilize the funds to expand service capacity, and address gaps in Holyoke's childcare and social service infrastructure. When other agencies were forced to reduce capacity or pivot to virtual services, the community relied heavily on the Boys & Girls Club to bridge that gap in service. Since March 2020, the Boys & Girls Club has served on the frontlines providing essential youth services. This past year the organization provided over 1,000 youth with a high-quality childcare and teen programs, served over 225,000 meals and snacks, and was the primary partner for Holyoke Public Schools supporting their transitions from remote, hybrid, and in-person learning.

Given the limited availability of youth service organizations in Holyoke, it is crucial that we prioritize efforts in our community that aim to provide quality service and engaging opportunities to our children. ARPA is a once in a lifetime investment opportunity, and this funding will allow the organization to serve more kids, more often, and provide long-term positive impacts that will further the betterment of the City of Holyoke.

I request that the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke be given your full and fair consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact my Grant Coordinator, Kareem Kibodya (Kareem.Kibodya@mail.house.gov), should you have any questions or further updates related to these proposals.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

2309 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6601

300 STATE STREET
SUITE 200
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01105
(413) 785-0325

SILVIO O. CONTE FEDERAL BUILDING
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(413) 442-0946

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