# NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

DATE OF NOTICE: July 16, 2025

RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: City of Erie

ADDRESS: Department of Economic and Community Development
626 State Street, Room 404, Erie, PA 16501

TELEPHONE: 814-870-1274

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Erie (City).

# REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about August 1, 2025, the City will authorize the Enterprise Development Center of Erie County to submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of federal Community Project Funding/Economic Development Initiative funding authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-42) and the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-47) to be used for the following project:

**Hammermill Blight Remediation and Site Preparation in Erie** – The project involves the demolition of three remaining smokestacks, one concrete and two brick, likely containing asbestos. The Site is comprised of approximately 24 acres of vacant industrial land located at 1318 East Lake Road, City of Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania 16507 (Site). The Site was part of the former Hammermill Paper Plant (aka International Paper Co. Main Site Area) from 1897-2002. FY2024 CPF funding: $1,000,000. Total Estimated Project Cost: $1,000,000.

# FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Erie has determined that all three projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file with the City of Erie and the Erie County Redevelopment Authority and can be accessed by contacting the Erie County Redevelopment Authority; 1314 Griswold Plaza - Erie, PA 16501 814.480.0337 (o); tsumner@ecrda.net

# PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Debra Smith, Department of Economic and Community Development, 626 State Street, Room 404, Erie, PA 16501, or by email to dsmith@erie.pa.us. or to the Erie County Redevelopment Authority; 1314 Griswold Plaza - Erie, PA 16501 814.480.0337 (o); tsumner@ecrda.net All comments received by July 31, 2025, will be considered by the City prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

# ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City certifies to HUD that Joseph V. Schember, Certifying Officer, in his capacity as Mayor of the City of Erie, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City to use Program funds.

# OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City’s certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the of the City; (b) the City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Pittsburgh Field Office 1000 Liberty Avenue, Suite 1000, Pittsburgh, PA 15222; by phone to 412-644-5846, or by email to PGHCPDObjections@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact the Pittsburgh HUD Office to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Joseph V. Schember, Mayor