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TO: Mayor William Samaras and members of the City Council
FROM: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*
DATE: January 10th, 2019
RE: MSBA Accelerated Repair Program Statements of Interest

I want to give an update on the Accelerated Repair Program (ARP) application process, including some insight into the program and the benefits it would bring our school district if any of our applications are accepted into the program. The application window opened on January 4th, and since then my staff has been working on multiple applications to the ARP program in coordination with the Superintendent of School's office. After reading through the recently completed EMG Municipal Facilities Condition Assessments and comparing them with the Collin's Center Report, we have developed a strategy to address the most critical capital needs within some of our municipal buildings, specifically our schools. We are facing infrastructure problems throughout our school district, with active problems popping up on a daily basis due to years of little or no preventative maintenance.

The Accelerated Repair Program at the MSBA is a competitive grant program designed to ease the financial burden of large renovations and/or repairs to municipal building systems including roofs, boilers, windows and doors. This program has been around for a number of years and is a key tool for a school district to maintain its most valuable infrastructure, its school buildings. The City of Lowell, in coordination with the Lowell Public School District, had been regularly submitting applications with varying success to the MSBA's Repair Programs (Accelerated Repair Program and the Green Repair Program, which is no longer active). From 2011-2014, Lowell submitted 20 applications to either the ARP or the Green Repair Program, and had 4 projects selected and funded. In light of the fact that



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Lowell did not submit any applications since, we are preparing an aggressive schedule of nine applications this year. I have made it a priority to ensure these kinds of programs are applied to on an annual basis, for every single eligible project within our Schools. We simply cannot afford to miss out on critical funding to maintain our buildings, many of which are experiencing failures due to their age and lack of standardized preventative maintenance.

Once again, in order for a project to be eligible to submit a Statement of Interest for the ARP Program, it must meet a minimum \$250,000 overall site-project budget and have either (A) a minimum 20 year old roof; (B) a minimum 20 year old boiler; (C) a minimum 30 year old windows/doors; or (D) any combination of age-eligible systems that add up to at least \$250,000. Based on the information contained in the EMG Facilities Conditions Assessments, nine projects were identified as eligible for applications this year. In addition to the nine projects identified for this year, over the next five years we will apply for at least 24 eligible projects (subject to increase) with work valued at nearly \$19 million. Given the roughly 80% reimbursement rate the City of Lowell qualifies for on these projects, every application carries potential significant savings on badly needed work.

Please let me know if you have any further questions on this matter.