

To: Wilkes-Barre City Residents

From: Tony George

Date: April 29, 2015

Re: South Wilkes-Barre, First Business District Improvement Project

In 2016, the City of Wilkes-Barre will apply to PennDOT for Multimodal Transportation Fund grants to improve and enhance the Academy Street and Carey Avenue Business District.

The City will leverage PennDOT Multimodal Transportation funds with US Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and US Department of Commerce Economic Development for substantial improvement to the Carey Avenue and Academy Street Business District.

All of these grant funds encourage and recognize the leveraging of diverse grant funds to upgrade transportation, enhance communities, improve safety, revitalize neighborhoods and create jobs.

The first area of concentration in the South Wilkes-Barre Business District includes the following streets:

- Academy Street (South Main to West River Streets)
- Carey Avenue (Academy to Hanover Streets)

All City Departments will have an active role in this initiative including meeting in the neighborhood with the South Wilkes-Barre Business District partners and stakeholders to seek their guidance and input on how best to achieve these goals.

This will project will not only improve the neighborhood but promote economic opportunity thereby improving employment possibilities and increasing the City's tax base.

This area of the South Wilkes-Barre Business District will not be the only business district improved but it will be the first. The City will concentrate in these few blocks to send a clear message that law and order will be restored. By promoting economic development, this will greatly address a number of other challenges in this area including criminal activity and some negative publicity.

Once this area has been successfully improved other business districts in South Wilkes-Barre can become the focus in 2017 and 2018.