



# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

## Jacqueline M. Izzo



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **MAYOR IZZO ANNOUNCES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARPA FUNDED PROJECTS**

Mayor Jacqueline M. Izzo today announced her recommendations to the Common Council for eleven community-based projects to be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The first six projects included water and sewer extensions to facilitate new residential home development at Woodhaven and Delta Luxury, a new aerial fire truck and replacement of Engine #1 for the Fire Department, city hall improvements and demolition of the Fort Stanwix parking garage on the corner of N. James and Liberty Streets.

“The Administration and Council have been very deliberate in targeting ARPA funds to initiatives which will have the greatest impact on growing our tax base, improving our infrastructure and ensuring the entire community will benefit from the use of these federal dollars. Therefore, I am recommending to the Common Council the following projects which I believe will garner the greatest community benefit,” said Mayor Jacqueline M. Izzo.

#### **\$3M Renovation of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Rome Hospital.**

Rome Hospital provided exemplary care throughout the pandemic and was only one of a very few hospitals to never go on diversion (closing the emergency room to new patients and forcing patients to seek care at the first available emergency room in the state). Never before was the need for an acute care hospital in our city as strong as it was during this troubling time. The ability to be able to move patients from the emergency department to critical care and if necessary to an ICU bed for continued care was crucial during the crisis and remains today for patients who require a high level of care for cardiopulmonary issues, stroke, chronic diseases and much more. A newly renovated ICU will feature proper plumbing infrastructure to support inpatient restrooms which are necessary to promote the most stringent protocols for infection prevention of disposal of medical waste, families being able to support the patient at bedside for long periods of time, the ability to house durable equipment in the patient room so the caregiver and family can work together to promote mobility in the earliest stages of healing as possible and the renovation will increase Rome Health’s ability to recruit and retain high quality nurses and doctors who provide care in an acute care setting.

#### **\$500,000 Establishment of a Dental Hygienist Program at MVCC Rome Campus**

MVCC Rome Campus seeks to establish a Dental Hygienist major to include a teaching clinic with availability for dental hygiene services for community members. The establishment of this program at the Rome Campus will be a great addition to the course offerings at Rome with a total buildout of

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approximately \$1.5M. The dentists in the five-county region are staunch supporters of MVCC's plans to offer dental hygiene as there is a great shortage of hygienists and this program will go a long way to begin filling those professional positions and promoting good oral healthcare in our city and region.

### **\$300,000 Mental Health Supportive Services**

The Center for Family Life and Recovery, Inc. (CFLR, Inc.) is an organization committed to providing resources and leadership to improve our communities understanding and awareness of mental and substance use disorders. CFLR, Inc. is proud to be the area's leading resource provider for advocacy, prevention, counseling, and training. Together, we are assisting those who need help, receive the best care possible.

In 2022 CFLR purchased 201- 211 West Dominick Street (formerly known as the REACH Center) in the City of Rome for the purposes of creating a community impact center. The vision of this impact center is to lessen barriers to services, decreasing stigma, and positively impact Rome by providing prevention, treatment, and recovery services/programming. This year alone, Rome has had 9 Non-Fatal Overdoses. We all know that substance use, and mental Health issues have dramatically increased in our communities, we want to create successful long-term collaborative partnerships to deal with this health crisis. CFLR prevention will work with youth and families to help protect the next generation from experiencing the epidemic of overdose deaths that is currently ravaging our country. CFLR Recovery provides support and services to communities, families and individuals giving them the power to achieve recovery and wellness. As a community partner, it is important to us that we continue spreading the message of hope to our area; especially, to those who are suffering from alcohol and/or drug addiction, as well as mental illness.

"This funding was provided to local governments in response to a debilitating pandemic and as such I am strongly in favor of providing funds to the strengthening of our healthcare facilities as well as promoting new initiatives to expand health and wellness facilities and programs in our city. The virus proved we have an excellent healthcare system and we would be remiss if we did not provide ARPA funding to assist in the growth of the city's healthcare system for many years to come as well as expanding mental health services and supporting the education of future dental professionals," said Mayor Jacqueline M. Izzo.

### **\$1.2M Residential Home Rehabilitation**

The City of Rome has a unique opportunity with use of ARPA funding to make a substantial difference in the maintenance of residential housing located in the federally designated qualified census tracts in the city. With the loss of revenue and the ongoing issues related to maintaining good health, we realize some of our residents are not able to afford home improvements such as painting, roofing, porch replacements, siding, etc. and this program would be targeted toward exterior renovations with a cap of \$25,000 per recipient. The program would be administered through the Home Ownership Center in Utica which has a very successful track record of operating many different home improvement programs and is currently partnering with the City of Rome to offer a first-time home buyer's initiative.

### **\$500,000 Sidewalk Repairs/Improvements**

Sidewalks are an important element to lift up neighborhoods providing safe pedestrian passage and ADA accessibility. The City has maintained a list for years of sidewalk improvement requests in various neighborhoods throughout the city. The Administration is proposing to fulfill all the requests on this list and continue with ADA accessibility intersection improvements.

### **\$400,000 Potter Road-NYS Rt 26 to Rome-Westernville Road Water and Sanitary Service Installation**

A section of Potter Road is tentatively planned for development by the new owner of the former Beeches property. Nascentia Health proposes to create a senior living community designed to allow for “aging in place” with many different amenities available to the residents of this new planned senior community. The section planned for development is currently not served by City of Rome water or sanitary utilities. The Administration proposes utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funds to install necessary public water and sanitary sewer service to the planned development section. The work would consist of extending an existing 8” water utility from the Brookside Village housing area to the east to an existing 8” water transmission line which serves properties on the east end of Potter Road. The Sanitary sewer utility installation would extend an existing sanitary sewer utility that serves the same Brookside Village housing. A positive gravity flow sanitary system would extend easterly for approximately 1600 linear feet or to the proposed easterly extent of development from the new owner or Nascentia Health.

In addition to promoting development to the former Beeches property, these extensions will improve water quality along Potter Road, Winfield Circle and Brookside Village and extend sanitary sewer service to the proposed new development and the existing Jehovah Witness complex on Potter Road. Potter Road development is vital to the northern expansion of utilities in the City of Rome. The gravel soil composition on Potter Road, and in its proximity, provide stable foundation footing and economical expansion of services.

### **\$1M Downtown Parking Canopy**

As the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) continues to unfold, one of the next projects is the demolition of the Fort Stanwix Parking Garage. A new 200 space surface parking lot will service the eastern end of the superblock. The Administration proposes to add shade structures to provide vehicle cover through all seasons including the harshest summer and winter months to better serve both those who will permanently reside in downtown residential facilities and those visitors to Rome’s Downtown.

### **\$800,000 Replacement of Engine #2**

In reviewing the Rome Fire Department fleet, Engine #2 will age to 10 years in 2025. The current build time for a new fire rig is approximately two years from the date of order. The Administration proposes including the replacement of Engine #2 to the ARPA funding stream as it would remove an onerous burden directly from the city taxpayers and strengthen RFD’s engine fleet for years to come.

### **\$950,000 Renovation of Rome Art & Community Center**

As the owner of the Rome Art & Community Center buildings and grounds, the City has a responsibility to fortify the main mansion house structure and the surroundings outbuildings and grounds. The City engaged LaBella Associates to perform a structural assessment of the facilities. LaBella studied the current architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical, grounds and pavilion and a window condition matrix to arrive at an Opinion of Probable Cost consisting of High Priority Work and Other Recommended Work. Based on these items, the Administration recommends allocating approximately \$950,000 in ARPA funding to the Rome Art & Community Center, a vital component to this community’s arts and culture space. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of the Carpenter House circa 1923 and these investments will help continue its legacy for another 100 years.

### **\$170,000 Franklyn’s Field Clubhouse Improvements**

The City of Rome has built a strong, neighborhood based Parks and Recreation system. Franklyn’s Field is easily accessible from N. James Street and Black River Blvd. The park hosts many activities from spring to fall. The Clubhouse facility is aging and in need of repair. Two years ago, the Administration

was able to locate a vendor who could match the original masonry block and the items were purchased. The project was slated for 2022 but construction cost was high and other materials were slowed through the supply chain. The project was rebid early in 2023 and the Administration is recommending approximately \$170,000 in ARPA funding be allocated to support renovation of the Clubhouse facility.

#### **\$300,000 Child Watch Room/New YMCA**

An emphasis throughout the state is to build more capacity for childcare. This child-minding space will be geared toward children under the age of 5 with three zones for infants, crawlers and walkers. The YMCA is an important provider of childcare services and this child watch area will service a very diverse population in the city.

“We have conducted an extensive review of the key areas in the city that need immediate attention, and will have a significant on our residents. These programs and initiatives will strengthen our community’s healthcare, contribute to higher education, further expand our sewer system to create a neighborhood setting truly dedicated for the 55+ population, something our residents have long wished for, increase public safety with new sidewalk construction and replacing aging fire rigs, providing funding to encourage neighborhood residential home improvements, contribute funding to encourage the growth of arts and culture in our city and improve our parks facilities.

I have submitted my recommendations to the Common Council for their review and would urge them to act swiftly on these projects as they fit perfectly into the federal requirements for the use of ARPA funding which stresses creating growth and opportunity to enable our great City of Rome to continue moving forward,” said Mayor Jacqueline M. Izzo.