

# **TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION**

## ***Building & Planning Committee***

### **Issue Briefing**

**Topic:** Certified Local Government Certification Renewal

**Prepared By:** Andrea M. Campisi, Senior Planner

**Date:** July 2, 2019

**I. Action to Be Considered by The Board:**

Adopt a resolution to renew the Township's participation in the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Certified Local Government program.

**II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:**

In order to maintain our Certified Local Government (CLG) status, the Township must adopt a resolution and sign an intergovernmental agreement with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). The resolution must be acted upon by the Board of Commissioners.

**III. Current Policy or Practice (If Applicable):**

N/A

**IV. Other Relevant Background Information:**

The Township has been a Certified Local Government since 1992. Since that time, the Township has received significant grant funds and technical assistance from PHMC which has been used to implement our historic preservation program.

PHMC recently revised the CLG program guidelines and is asking all participating communities to renew their interest in the program by signing a new Certification Agreement (attached). Several information sheets about the CLG program are attached which explain the program, associated benefits and the requirements the Township must meet to maintain our CLG designation. In summary the Township must:

1. Continue to submit an annual report outlining the number and types of project reviewed by the HARB and Historical Commission, training activities, and changes to ordinances and plans; and
2. Meet ongoing performance standards such as consulting with the Community Preservation Coordinator to ensure that projects to be undertaken such as ordinances and plans are consistent with CLG guidelines.

V. **Impact on Township Finances:**

While there is no immediate impact upon Township Finances, participation in the CLG program makes the Township eligible for grant funding from PHMC.

VI. **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the Board adopt the resolution.