

Downtown Revitalization Initiative Downtown Improvement Fund: February 2019 Update

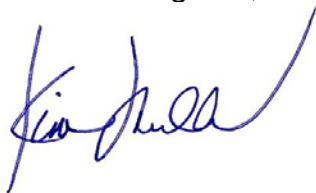
Greetings to all of the applicants and stakeholders in the City of Oneonta. On behalf of the Project Selection Committee, I wanted to provide an update on our work to date in reviewing DRI applications.

As of February 1<sup>st</sup>, the Committee has completed its review of all Downtown Improvement Fund applications. The next step is to package our recommendations for projects and grant funding so that program staff at the Housing Trust Fund Corporation (the New York State agency overseeing this Fund) can review the recommended projects for compliance with all of the State's requirements for grant funding.

While we don't know how long the State's review will take, we share the City's interest to move to final awards as quickly as possible. The Mayor hopes to provide information concerning the expected improvements to Downtown by early March, following State review and approval.

In my decades of public service, I have rarely been involved in an effort with individuals as committed to purpose as the members of the Project Selection Committee. We have spent far more hours than any one of us anticipated at the outset, but it has been with dedication and a strong commitment to give thorough consideration to each of the almost 100 applications. And the applicants demonstrated a passion for their businesses and properties and a willingness to co-invest in partnership to improve our Downtown. The results of this combined effort of the City and our downtown businesses and property owners will inarguably have a very positive impact on our City. We await the announcements with excitement!

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Muller", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Kim Muller  
Chair, Project Selection Committee