

2022 CRIZ Increment Set at \$13 Million



Lancaster City

The Lancaster CRIZ Authority announced a record \$13 million in state and city tax revenues from the 2022 tax year provided to the Authority. This money is generated by businesses in the CRIZ and will be used to support economic development projects in the designated zones. The 2021 increment was \$10.1 million.

Lancaster City is one of only three cities in the state with a CRIZ and the program is in place to encourage development, revitalization, and business growth in the City. The zone consists of about 110 acres in the city and focuses on vacant and underutilized properties. Of the \$13 million, nearly \$12.7 million is from state taxes and \$327,510 is from city taxes.

“The success of the CRIZ relies on strong partnerships between the CRIZ Authority and the business community,” said Marshall W. Snively, President, Lancaster City Alliance and CRIZ Acting Executive Director. “We are here to support a robust business climate in the City and are pleased that we now have over \$13 million to distribute to Lancaster City economic development projects,” said Snively.

The CRIZ program works by allowing certain state and local taxes to be provided to the CRIZ areas to help finance redevelopment and new construction opportunities. The CRIZ Act provides that qualified state and local tax revenues may be used for payment of debt service on bonds or loans issued for the acquisition, improvement, and development of qualified capital improvements within the CRIZ. The CRIZ program has supported both large-scale projects such as the creation of the Southern Market food hall/restaurant incubator/coworking facility and the Ewell Plaza public space. It has also supported small businesses through its creation of the CRIZ Small Business Financial Assistance grant and loan program. To date, that program has supported 36 small businesses.

“The CRIZ Authority is pleased to support a diversity of projects and provide funding for projects that may not have happened if it were not for the CRIZ program’s financial assistance,” said John Reed, Chair, CRIZ Authority.

Property owners in the CRIZ must apply for CRIZ assistance and their projects are reviewed and approved by the CRIZ Authority and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Last year, CRIZ funds supporting major upgrades to Clipper Magazine Stadium and the development of LancasterHistory’s Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy were approved. Rendezvous Pizzeria & Steak Shop, which is anticipated to open this month, received approval by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on October 31 to use certain taxes it generates in

future years to help pay off loans issued to build out its space. Additionally, earlier in October, the Commonwealth approved \$2 million to the non-profit Tenfold in support of the extensive renovations they have planned for the Transitional Living Center.

“Since 2014, more than \$60 million in CRIZ state and local tax revenues have been returned and distributed to the city, leveraging more than \$130 million in private matching funds invested to support over \$190 million in economic development,” said Jeremy Young, Lancaster City Alliance Director of Community and Economic Development and CRIZ Authority Acting Managing Director. “The 2022 increment furthers our goal of shaping Lancaster as a model city for urban economic development,” said Young.