



THE CITY OF ERIE

**STATE OF THE CITY**





# Our Mission

- Build Opportunity
- Restore Hope
- Transform Erie



# Our Vision

Erie is a Community of Choice. We Celebrate our:

- Rich Cultural Diversity
- Welcoming, Vibrant Neighborhoods
- World-class Downtown & Bayfront
- Excellent Education for Everyone
- Abundance of Family-sustaining Jobs

TRANSCENDING POLITICS



• INFINITE  
erie

TRANSFORMING PLACE



# Infinite Erie Priorities

- Entrepreneurship
- Neighborhood revitalization
- Workforce development
- Industry clusters
- Anchor investments
- Permanent supportive housing



## Department of Economic and Community Development

- Grew the revolving loan funds from \$6.25 million in 2018 to \$22 million today
- Disbursed more than \$7 million in low-interest loans that leveraged \$20 million in projects
- Provided city businesses with \$20 million in financing, leveraging \$90 million in investments
- 141 Flagship grants totaling \$346,000, with 19 totaling \$69,000 awarded in 2023



# LERTA

**(Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance program)**

- Passed in July 2019
- Spurred investment in 555 projects totaling \$304.6 million
- \$252.8 million for 186 commercial projects
- \$51.8 million for 369 residential projects





# CRIZ (Eligible use of funds)

- Property Acquisition
- Demolition, Site Preparation, Infrastructure
- Property Development Soft Costs (Architectural, Engineering, Surveys, Legal Fees)
- New Construction
- Façade Improvements
- Interior Renovations (including Leasehold Improvements)
- Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment



# **\$76 million**

## **American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding**



# American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding

- \$20.15 million for economic and community development
  - Funding for small businesses and the redevelopment of EMI, Quin-T, Berry Plastics, and Savocchio Opportunity Park
- \$15.1 million for housing
  - To date, more than \$1 million has funded 73 housing rehabilitation projects







# American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding

- \$12 million for our over 100-year-old decaying stormwater infrastructure.
- \$9.2 million for improvements to parks and public spaces, including:
  - East Bayfront Greenway Trail
  - Former Quin-T site
  - Groundwork Erie
  - Love Your Block grants for small home repair projects.



# American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding

- \$14.1 million for
  - a public safety complex
  - and to reinstate the Juvenile Unit and Crisis Unit



# HUD (federal) and PHARE (state) Funding

- \$3.1 million for businesses, community groups, youth programs, parks
- \$950,000 for housing rehab, first-time homebuyers, affordable rental housing
- \$270,000 for rapid rehousing, emergency shelters, transitional living facilities
- \$100,000 in PHARE Funding for small home repair mini-grants





# Permanent Supportive Housing

- \$2.9 million in HOME-ARP funding
- Working closely with Infinite Erie and community partners
- 150 individuals in Erie County who are chronically unhoused and have the deepest service needs



# Grants Awarded to the City

- More than \$90 million in grants for exciting initiatives since 2018
- \$15.1 million in grants received in 2023
- An additional \$19.7 million still pending



# Department of Planning and Neighborhood Resources

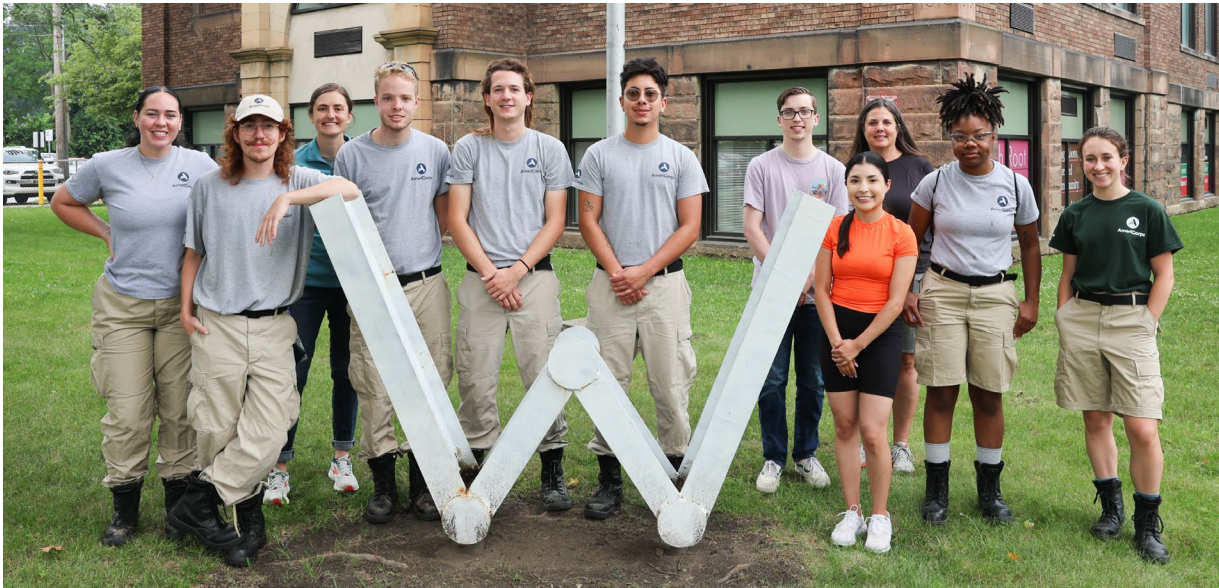
## Implement Erie Refocused Comprehensive Plan

- Revitalize and stabilize neighborhoods
- Eliminate blight
- Increase quality affordable housing
- Connect residents to resources



# Love Your Block

- Assisted 52 homeowners with mini-grants for small home repair projects in 2023.
- Projects included façade improvements, paint, removal of 114,000 pounds of junk and debris, landscaping, and installation of handrails, mailboxes, house numbers, and storm doors.
- Saved homeowners \$131,000 in labor costs.





# \$130,690

## Residents Saved in Labor Costs



Thanks to the City's Dept. of Public Works, Planning & Neighborhood Resources, Economic and Community Development, Communications, NCCC Maple 1 group, corporate and local partners and the help of many neighborhood volunteers, residents who participated in the LYB program saved over \$130,690 in labor costs.



# 2,700.5

Volunteer Hours

# 114,251

## Pounds of trash removed

# 160 repairs

# 202 new features





# Addressing Blight

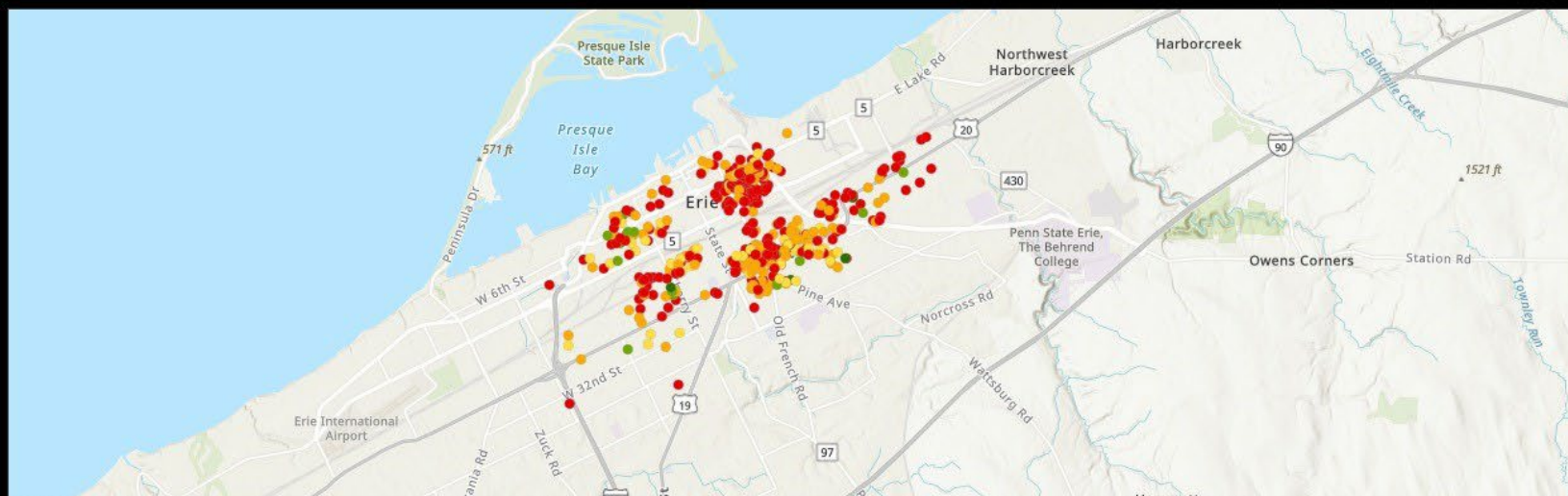
Vacant, Poor and Unsound Properties

Select a category  
No category selected

Select a category  
None

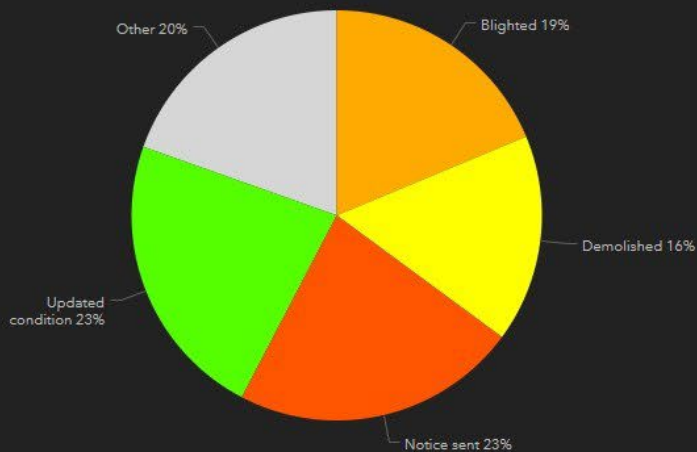
## Total Priority Properties

# 470



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS | Province of Ontario, data.pa.gov, Esri Canada, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, NRCAN, Parks Canada Powered by Esri

### Status



## Blighted

 88

## Demolished

 77

## Repaired

 118

## Rescinded

 11



# East Bayfront Greenway Trail

- Part of East Bayfront Neighborhood Plan
- Collaboration with Redevelopment Authority of the City of Erie, Erie Neighborhood Growth Partnership, and Groundwork Erie
- Replacing blighted properties and vacant lots with public greenspace, Parade to Wayne, 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Streets
- Implementation begins Summer 2024





# \$385K in Planning Grants Received

- Comprehensive City-Wide Parks and Recreation Plan
- Safe Streets and Roads for All to reduce accidents
- 12th Street Re-Imagined Initiative
- Local Climate Action Plan



# Neighborhood Plans

- Analysis of data and resident input on properties, infrastructure, safety, and community building.
- Neighborhood Plans completed:
  - East Bayfront
  - Academy Marvintown
  - Buffalo Road





# ERIE

HISTORIC **PENNSYLVANIA**  
PRESERVATION PLAN





# Cultures, Arts, Festivals and Events of Erie (CAFE)

- Lights Over Lake Erie
- 814 Concert Series
- Sounds of Summer
- CelebrateErie





# Public Works

- Broke ground on \$7 million Downtown Streetscape Master Plan,
- Began re-development of Miller Brother's Property into a Public Safety Facility
- Implemented Stormwater Fee for improvements to aging infrastructure
- Spent \$10 million on stormwater projects
- Received \$3.12 million DEP grant for 5 heavy-duty EV Refuse Trucks
- Oversaw redesign of Kahkwa Avenue Bridge
- Spent \$4 million on street paving







# Public Works Continued

- Worked with PennDOT on West 12<sup>th</sup> Street signal project
- Started implementation of Active Erie Transportation Plan
- Maintained City's 45 parks/greenspaces, received resident input on park priorities
- Completed installation of Baldwin Park Pickleball Courts \$245,000
- Renovated Martin Luther King Park \$225,000
- Upgraded Lighthouse, Pulaski, Rodger Young, McClelland, and Glenwood Parks
- Established baseball agreements requiring open-play access for residents





# Public Works Continued

- Worked with Erie Arts and Culture on public art installations
- Saw record youth participation in Summer Rec program
- Dedicated \$600,000 to remove dead trees, improve lighting, safety, and access
- Offered Electronics and Tire event, serving 700 residents
- Collected 55 tons of glass in partnership with Prism recycling
- Partnered with IRG to place plastic recycling containers in Erie parks
- Received \$2.6 million to maintain streetlights, traffic signals, and crosswalk signs
- Invested in and profitably operated Downing and J. C. Martin Golf Courses.



# Erie Police Department

- 59,399 calls for service in 2023 (up from 45,000 in 2020)
- ~1,142 calls/week
- 2023 Crime Trends show decreases in aggravated assaults, persons shot, shots fired, firearms stolen, thefts, forgery, fraud, and criminal mischief.
- Homicides up to 14 compared to 6 in 2022.
- In the last 2 years, detectives solved all homicide cases.



# Erie Police Department Continued

- Arrest of 58 drug dealers
- Body Worn Cameras - no sustained use-of-force complaints since started October 2022.
- Juvenile Unit - diverting youth into programs to put them on a positive path.
- Crisis Unit - 162 incidents/month related to domestic, mental, and behavioral health issues.





# Erie Police Department Continued

- SWAT team - activated 70 times compared to only 39 in 2022.
- PAL - more than 1,200 youth and 103 officers committed to building the cop-kid relationship in 19 locations via after-school programs and 4 summer camps.
- Received \$8.1 million in grants to purchase vital equipment, technology, and training; expand PAL; implement crisis teams; and reimburse salaries.



# Erie Fire Department

- 8,890 calls for service, up 3,000/year pre-COVID
- 5,068 Emergency Medical Calls
- 490 Motor Vehicle Accidents
- 122 Structure Fires
- 38 Vehicle Fires
- 362 Outside Fires
- 134 HazMat Calls
- Accelerant Detection Canine (Horus) - 5 arson arrests







# Erie Fire Department

- \$800,000 in grants for fire trucks and equipment
- Made significant improvements to firehouses
- First solar-powered fire station in PA (fifth in the nation)



# **Project: City of Erie Public Safety Complex**

- Space to house admin, equipment, operations critical to the safety of residents, visitors, employees, and business owners; and evidence (some of which must be kept for 99 years)
- Immediate need to move Erie Fire Department admin and fire mechanics division
- Adaptive Reuse of Historic Structure
- Emergency Operations Center
- Central location; Consolidation of services



### I. Non-Discrimination Laws\*\*

This category evaluates whether discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is prohibited by the city, county, or state in areas of employment, housing, and public accommodations.

	STATE	COUNTY	MUNICIPAL	AVAILABLE
Employment	5/5	4/4	0/0	5/5
Housing	5/5	5/5	0/0	5/5
Public Accommodations	5/5	5/5	0/0	5/5
<b>SCORE</b>	<b>30 out of 30</b>			
<b>FLEX</b> Single-Occupancy All-Gender Facilities	+0	+0	+0	+2
<b>FLEX</b> Protects Youth from Conversion Therapy	+2	+2	+2	+2

### II. Municipality as Employer

By offering equivalent benefits and protections to LGBTQ+ employees, awarding contracts to fair-minded businesses, and taking steps to ensure an inclusive workplace, municipalities commit themselves to treating LGBTQ+ employees equally.

	COUNTY	MUNICIPAL	AVAILABLE
Non-Discrimination in City Employment		7/7	7/7
Transgender-Inclusive Healthcare Benefits		6	6
City Contractor Non-Discrimination Ordinance		2/2	3/3
Inclusive Workplace		2	2
<b>SCORE</b>	<b>26 out of 28</b>		
<b>FLEX</b> City Employee Domestic Partner Benefits		+0	+1

### III. Municipal Services

This section assesses the efforts of the city to ensure LGBTQ+ residents are included in city services and programs.

	COUNTY	MUNICIPAL	AVAILABLE
Human Rights Commission	5	0	5
NDO Enforcement by Human Rights Commission	2	0	2
LGBTQ+ Liaison in City Executive's Office		5	5
<b>SCORE</b>	<b>12 out of 12</b>		
<b>FLEX</b> Youth Bullying Prevention Policy for City Services		+1/+1	+1/+1
<b>FLEX</b> City Provides Services to LGBTQ+ Youth		+0	+2
<b>FLEX</b> City Provides Services to LGBTQ+ People Experiencing Homelessness		+0	+2
<b>FLEX</b> City Provides Services to LGBTQ+ Older Adults		+0	+2
<b>FLEX</b> City Provides Services to People Living with HIV or AIDS		+0	+2
<b>FLEX</b> City Provides Services to the Transgender Community		+0	+2

### IV. Law Enforcement

Fair enforcement of the law includes responsible reporting of hate crimes and engaging with the LGBTQ+ community in a thoughtful and respectful way.

	MUNICIPAL	AVAILABLE
LGBTQ+ Liaison/Task Force in Police Department	10	10
Reported 2020 Hate Crimes Statistics to the FBI	12	12
<b>SCORE</b>	<b>22 out of 22</b>	

### V. Leadership on LGBTQ+ Equality

This category measures the city leadership's commitment to fully include the LGBTQ+ community and to advocate for full equality.

	MUNICIPAL	AVAILABLE
Leadership's Public Position on LGBTQ+ Equality	5	5
Leadership's Pro-Equality Legislative or Policy Efforts	3	3
<b>SCORE</b>	<b>8 out of 8</b>	
<b>FLEX</b> Openly LGBTQ+ Elected or Appointed Leaders	+2	+2
<b>FLEX</b> City Tests Limits of Restrictive State Law	+0	+3

**TOTAL SCORE 98 + TOTAL FLEX SCORE 6 = Final Score 100**  
CANNOT EXCEED 100

\*\* On June 15, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia* that sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination are prohibited under federal sex-based employment protections. Nevertheless, it is imperative that localities continue enacting explicitly LGBTQ+-inclusive comprehensive non-discrimination laws since it will likely take additional litigation for Bostock to be fully applied to all sex-based protections under existing federal civil rights law. Moreover, federal law currently lacks sex-based protections in numerous key areas of life, including public spaces and services. Lastly, there are many invaluable benefits to localizing inclusive protections even when they exist on higher levels of government. **For these reasons, the MEI will continue to only award credit in Part I for state, county, or municipal non-discrimination laws that expressly include sexual orientation and gender identity.**

PTS FOR SEXUAL ORIENTATION — PTS FOR GENDER IDENTITY + FLEX PTS for criteria not accessible to all cities at this time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CITY SELECTION, CRITERIA OR THE MEI SCORING SYSTEM, PLEASE VISIT [HRC.ORG/MEI](https://hrc.org/mei). All cities rated were provided their scorecard in advance of publication and given the opportunity to submit revisions. For feedback regarding a particular city's scorecard, please email [mei@hrc.org](mailto:mei@hrc.org)



# Citizens Response Center

- 3,494 calls ranging from refuse collections to large item pick-up to blight to potholes, and more
- **Call 814-870-1111 or online [www.erie.pa.us/crc](http://www.erie.pa.us/crc)**
- Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.





# Finance Department

- \$2.5 million under budget in 2023
- Fifth straight year without an increase in city property taxes







# Ahead in 2024 and Beyond

- Launch a new website
- Expand Love Your Block
- Build a comprehensive housing strategy to add affordable housing, workforce, market-rate, and permanent supportive housing
- Embark on a Street Light Assessment to provide funding for paving
- Renovate the former Miller Bros/Erie Brewing Company property into a Joint Public Safety Complex



# Ahead in 2024

- Work with PennDOT on the Bayfront Parkway Central Corridor Project
- Renew our Welcoming Erie certification
- Submit our CRIZ application to the Commonwealth.
- Create plans for parks and recreation, safe streets, climate action, 12<sup>th</sup> Street Reimagined



# Ahead in 2024

- Implement plans for
  - Historic Preservation
  - Downtown Streetscape
  - Active Erie Transportation
  - East Bayfront Greenway Trail
  - Kahkwa Bridge
  - Byrne Grant in the East Bayfront Neighborhood
  - Neighborhood Plans



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