RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF GRANT MODIFICATION DOCUMENTS FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – NEIGHBHORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Whereas, in January 2023, the North Carolina Department of Commerce (NCDOC) Rural Economic Development Division (REDD) issued a $400,000 Community Development Block Grant – Neighborhood Revitalization (CDBG-NR) award (21-C-4009) in response to Buncombe County's funding application to support home repair for low- and moderate-income homeowners;

Whereas, Buncombe County worked to launch grant-compliant home repair program, but progress was halted on or about September 27-28, 2024, when Tropical Storm Helene ("storm") devastated portions of Buncombe County and the incorporated municipalities;

Whereas, CDBG-NR is no longer a priority for home repair partners given disaster recovery needs and related funding sources, and no funds have been spent on the award;

Whereas, NCDOC REDD has invited Buncombe County to propose alternate activities in keeping with the CDBG-NR eligibility criteria, including benefit to low- and moderate-income residents, and to request additional funds as needed;

Whereas, Buncombe County has identified sidewalks in Swannanoa as a proposed alternate activity, eligible for CDBG-NR under Infrastructure and Public Improvements, to serve low- and moderate-income households and strengthen overall neighborhood connectivity by providing safe, continuous pedestrian access between residences, community destinations, and essential services;

Whereas, Buncombe County will work with North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) on the construction of new sidewalks in the downtown Swannanoa/Beacon Village commercial area, in support of Buncombe County's Helene Recovery Plan, Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and Swannanoa Small Area and Resilience Plan (in progress);

Whereas, Buncombe County has secured other funding for design and construction costs and proposes to utilize CDBG-NR for costs associated with preliminary engineering and right-of-way assessment and acquisition, eliminating the funding gap for the project;

Whereas, Buncombe County proposes a CDBG-NR modification from $400,000 to $719,400 with 90% for Infrastructure and Public Improvements and 10% for General Administration;

Whereas, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners conducted a properly noticed public hearing on October 6, 2026, to receive public input on the grant modification prior to submission to the NCDOC;

Whereas, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160D-1311, counties may engage in, accept federal and state grants, and appropriate fund for community development programs and activities, including programs concerned with the economic development needs of persons of low- and moderate-income; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners finds that submission of the proposed grant modification is in the best interest of Buncombe County and its residents, supports the County's ongoing disaster recovery and economic revitalization efforts and neighborhood/community revitalization for the Swannanoa are, and will improve the business prospects of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

1. The Board hereby authorizes the submission of grant modification documents to the North Carolina Department of Commerce (NCDOC) Rural Economic Development Division (REDD) for the Community Development Block Grant – Neighborhood Revitalization (CDBG-NR) award 21-C-4009 to change the activity to Infrastructure and Public Improvements and increase the budget to $719,400.

2. The County Manager, or her designee, is authorized to execute and submit all applications, certifications, assurances, forms, and other documents necessary to complete the application process on behalf of Buncombe County.

3. County staff are authorized to make such technical, administrative, budgetary, mapping, or narrative revisions to the applications as may be necessary or requested by the North Carolina Department of Commerce (NCDOC) prior to or during the application review process, provided such revisions do not materially alter the intent or scope of the projects authorized by this Resolution.

4. If the grant modification is approved, acceptance of any grant award and execution of any grant agreement, contract, or other legally binding funding documents shall be subject to subsequent approval by the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners in accordance with applicable law and County policy.

5. This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

This 6th day of October, 2026.

ATTEST

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

_____
Sarah Gross, Clerk

_____
By Amanda Edwards, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM

_____
Curt Euler, County Attorney