

RESOLUTION NO. M-2479

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING AUTHORIZATION AND SIGNATURE BY THE CITY MANAGER OF A CASH PRIZE ACCEPTANCE FOR PHASE 1 OF THE AMERICAN-MADE BUILDINGS UPGRADE PRIZE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Olympia has been selected as an Equity-Centered Innovation Pathway winner for Phase 1 of the American-Made Buildings Upgrade Prize (Buildings UP). As a Phase 1 winner, the City of Olympia will receive a \$350,000 cash award and 140 hours of Technical Assistance over the prize period; and

**WHEREAS**, Buildings UP is a U.S. Department of Energy prize designed to build capacity to accelerate equitable, widespread energy efficiency and efficient electrification building upgrades across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, a prize is not a grant. The Buildings UP prize is a one-time disbursement of cash awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on the merit of work already completed; and

**WHEREAS**, in Phase 1, Buildings UP teams submitted innovative concepts to leverage the billions of dollars available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), utility rebate programs, and many other funding sources, capitalizing on this once-in-a-generation opportunity to equitably transform a wide variety of buildings across diverse geographies; and

**WHEREAS**, in Phase 1, the City of Olympia partnered with Olympia Community Solar to develop a concept proposal for a rental decarbonization and resilience navigator, to provide streamlined technical support and guidance to weatherize, electrify, and improve the resilience of affordable rental housing within the City of Olympia; and

**WHEREAS**, According to a 2016 study by ACEEE and Energy Efficiency for All, low-income, Black, and Latinx communities spend a much higher share of their income on energy. Additionally, this study found that 97% of excess energy burdens for renting households could be eliminated by bringing their homes up to median efficiency standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Olympia recognizes that preservation of existing rental housing stock is of tremendous importance. There are more than 14,000 rental housing units in Olympia. Rental housing provides needed affordable housing for many and is a valuable asset that must be preserved and maintained. The City of Olympia has a significant interest in ensuring that rental housing remains a safe and desirable housing option for its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan identifies reducing energy use in existing residential buildings and supporting building electrification retrofits as key strategies to achieve regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Olympia has been invited to participate in Phase 2 of the Buildings Upgrade Prize. During Phase 2, the City of Olympia and Olympia Community Solar will develop the Phase 1 Concept Proposal into a Pilot Implementation Plan and have the opportunity to compete for future funding awards; and

**WHEREAS**, the prize acceptance for the Buildings UP award was due by October 20, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 18, 2023, the City Manager authorized and signed a Prize Acceptance Form to accept the \$350,000 cash award; and

**WHEREAS**, Olympia Municipal Code Subsection 3.16.030(A) authorizes the City manager to approve and execute on behalf of the City of Olympia any contract or agreement not otherwise subject to OMC 3.16.020, which among other factors, includes any contract or agreement with a cost of \$350,000 or less.


**NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE** as follows:

1. The Olympia City Council hereby ratifies and approves the execution of the \$350,000 cash prize award to the City of Olympia by the U.S. Department of Energy for the Phase 1 of the American-Made Buildings Upgrade Prize (Buildings UP) by the City Manager on behalf of the City of Olympia and the terms and conditions contained therein.

**PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL** this 14th day of November 2023.

  
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MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**Mark Barber**  
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CITY ATTORNEY