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City to receive \$1 million in federal funding for Imperial Centre roof replacement

Rocky Mount, N.C. – A funding measure approved by Congress this week includes \$1.04 million for a roof replacement project at the Imperial Centre for the Arts and Sciences.

The money is part of \$22,798,291 in Community Project Funding secured by U.S. Rep. G. K. Butterfield for projects in the First Congressional District of North Carolina. The city of Rocky Mount requested funding last year for the Imperial Centre project.

“We are grateful for Congressman Butterfield’s successful efforts to obtain funding for this critically important project,” Interim City Manager Peter Varney said. “This will allow us to properly maintain Rocky Mount’s top cultural attraction.”

Located on Gay Street in downtown Rocky Mount, the Imperial Centre features a popular children’s museum and science center, art galleries, a community theatre and an education building. The campus consists of three buildings, including the former Imperial Tobacco Company warehouse.

The existing roofs on these buildings were installed before the Imperial Centre opened in 2005. The roofs have undergone a series of minor repairs, but city officials determined that a larger replacement project was needed within the next year.

The federal money will pay for about 80% of the costs for replacing 140,000 square-feet of roofing at the art and science museum, community theatre and education building. City officials are planning to allocate about \$400,000 to cover the remaining costs as part of the Capital Improvement Program in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget.

About Rocky Mount

The city of Rocky Mount, located in the Coastal Plains of North Carolina, was incorporated in 1867 and lies in Edgecombe and Nash Counties. Rocky Mount is a two-time All-America City on the Tar River. Serving as the Gateway to Eastern North Carolina, the city's 875 employees serve approximately 58,000 residents daily.

The city's mission is to advance community well-being, safety and quality of life by delivering excellent public services and actively collaborating with the community toward a fulfilling and inspired future for its citizens. As a publicly owned utility, the city of Rocky Mount is committed to safe, reliable service for its customers and operates in Nash and Edgecombe counties, providing customers with electricity, natural gas, water, wastewater (sewer), refuse, recycling and/or stormwater services. To learn more, visit www.rockymountnc.gov for news and updates.

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