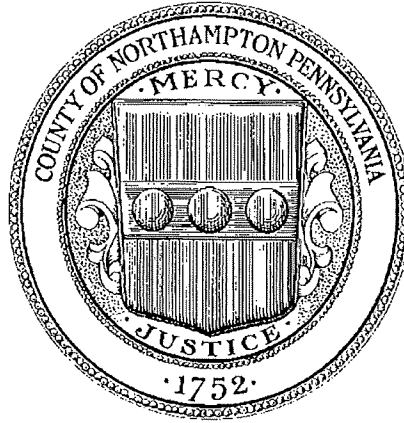


THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON



RESOLUTION

Number ??-2020

A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW THE GRACEDALE ADMINISTRATOR TO INCENTIVIZE THE COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR GRACEDALE STAFF

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the Gracedale Administration that the provisions of a COVID-19 vaccine in Gracedale will save lives; and

WHEREAS, the Gracedale Administration understands that a COVID-19 vaccine will be made available to inoculate the residents and staff in the very near future; and

WHEREAS, the Gracedale Administration has knowledge, information and belief that there may be some reticence on the part of some staff to be inoculated with the COVID-19 vaccination due in part to the rapidity of its development; and

WHEREAS, the Gracedale Administration believes that staff vaccination is as important as the inoculation of residents to protect the health, safety and well-being of everyone that lives and works at Gracedale; and

WHEREAS, the Gracedale Administration has throughout the pandemic left no stone unturned to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents and staff by implementing the following, including but not limited to: requiring two negative COVID-19 tests before admission to Gracedale; early adopting of universal COVID-19 testing in Long Term Care facilities (which has dramatically reduced infections); collaborating with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard to deal with over 1,200 call-outs during the height of the first wave of the pandemic which led Michael Whalen, BSN, NHDC-BC, CHEP, of The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of

Pennsylvania to write: "Thank you for allowing myself and LT. Peacock PANG to visit your facility today. As a trained emergency nurse, with a specialty in disaster preparedness and response, I would like to share the following observations. In my opinion, Gracedale Nursing Home has demonstrated several best practices during the COVID-19 Pandemic. You are the largest LTC under single roof in the Commonwealth but your number of COVID-19 patients are well below the average of most LTC in the State"; being the first nursing home in the Commonwealth to ban visitors and volunteers for resident safety; aggressively and successfully obtaining PPE during a time of national scarcity thereby keeping the staff and residents safe; and standing alone in innovating and creating an entire floor to isolate positive COVID-19 residents to limit the spread of the deadly contagion; and

WHEREAS, the Gracedale Administration believes based upon its experience during this pandemic that the flexibility to use some residual Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Emergency Security Act funding to offer a one-time, non-precedential incentive of \$750.00, payable over two (2) pay periods, to staff that receive the full COVID-19 vaccination protocol is warranted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Northampton County Council does authorize the Northampton County Executive to allow the Gracedale Administrator to incentivize the COVID-19 inoculation for Gracedale staff with a one-time non-precedential payment of \$750.00.

ATTEST:

INTRODUCED BY:

Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council

The above resolution was adopted by the Northampton County Council at the meeting held December , 2020.