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February 4, 2022

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The Flagship Niagara League Board of Trustees has voted to request the release of \$200,000.00 from the Erie Maritime Museum/U. S. Brig Niagara Fund at your earliest convenience. This rare request is made due to the unforeseen costs associated with the Niagara's recent shipyard (US Coast Guard inspection and repairs) conducted in Cleveland.

Due to the unprecedented events caused by the pandemic, the ship has not sailed since 2019 and our normal operations were shut down. The pandemic also prevented the ship from conducting her routine maintenance at shipyard conducted every 3 years. By delaying the standard maintenance, the shipyard repairs were much more extensive and exceeded our budget proportionally to the 2-year delay. COVID mitigation efforts also led to multiple sources of revenue lost over the course of 2 years including the cancelled sailing seasons of 2020 and 2021.

This request enables the Flagship Niagara League to keep operating for the next several months in preparation for Tall Ships Erie, port visits, other fund raisers such as Mariners Ball slated for June 4th. The requested \$200,000 will primarily cover the outstanding shipyard costs and give us the time we need to get Niagara and Tall Ships Erie 2022 going in the coming months. We are also expecting further reimbursement from PHMC but that will not arrive until March.

The Flagship Niagara League is a leader in the non-profit community here in Erie and we collaborate fully with our community in the continuous Bayfront transformation. With Erie Community Foundation's willingness to release this money to the League, you will be allowing us to continue to serve the Erie region and Northwest PA not just survive the pandemic. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you have.

Sincerely,

William Sabatini
Executive Director/Fleet Captain
Flagship Niagara League, Inc.

[Redacted]

Scott Nick
President
Flagship Niagara League, Inc.

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The Flagship Niagara League is a 501 (C) 3, non-profit educational associate organization of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), chartered to facilitate citizen participation and operation of the U.S. Brig *Niagara* and its homeport, Erie Maritime Museum.

