

# CITY OF BATAVIA

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**DATE:** April 27, 2018

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Laura Newman, City Administrator

**SUBJECT: APPRIVAL TO PURCHASE THREE WINDMILLS FROM FRANCINE POPECK FOR \$11,375**

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## **Background**

Robert (Bob) Popeck was a former Batavia Police Chief and avid collector of Batavia windmills. He and his wife Francine can be credited with locating and enabling the acquisition of the City's magnificent collection of windmills which are representative of the industry that made Batavia famous throughout the country. Bob also assisted in the care and maintenance of Batavia's windmills until his passing in 2016.

The City has been offered to purchase from Bob's widow, Francine, three pristine Batavia made windmills that are part of her private collection:

- Appleton Goodhue, manufactured in the building that is now City Hall, valued at \$6,500 and offered to the City for \$5,000
- Challenge 27: Bob personally restored this metal mill and he and his brother built the wood tower. It is valued at \$4,000 and offered to the City for \$3,000
- Challenge Big Spear, Model 1913: This mill is on an original Challenge tower. It is valued at \$4,500 but offered to the City for \$3,375.

The three windmills would be an enhancement to the City's current collection. Acquisition is timely as Chris Cudworth, Communications Coordinator is creating a "Windmill Walking Tour" highlighting all of the windmill specimens in our comprehensive collection. Because of the Popecks long history of support for Batavia's windmills, it is suggested that plaques commemorating their donation be placed upon each of these three windmills.

## **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Committee of the Whole approves the purchase of the three windmills being offered for sale by Francine Popeck.