BOARD RESOLUTION
CREDIT EMPOWERMENT PILOT PROGRAM

At the Thursday July 28, 2022, meeting of the Board of Directors of Society of St. Vincent de Paul Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis, the following recommendation was proposed and approved.

WHEREAS the Board approved the establishment of the Credit Empowerment Task Force on September 23, 2021, and

WHEREAS the Task Force was formed to establish a Credit Empowerment Pilot Program to convert predatory high-interest loans to low-interest loans secured by SVdP for eligible Neighbors and educate these Neighbors on credit and money management for the purpose of improving credit opportunities, and

WHEREAS predatory loans are designed to trap borrowers in a cycle of debt difficult to repay in full and because these loans are rampant among the poor in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and

WHEREAS The Rule guides Vincentians to not only speak out against clearly unjust economic structures but also contribute to improvements (Rule 7:7.6), and

WHEREAS the National Council has encouraged Councils and Conferences to offer alternative lending programs coupled with financial education, and

WHEREAS the FY22-25 Strategic Plan includes Goal 3-3a which states *receive and review recommendations from the Credit Empowerment Task Force*, and

WHEREAS on July 20, 2022, the Finance Committee recommended Board Designated Funds totaling $40,000 be deposited in a Certificate of Deposit at Midwest BankCentre (MBC) to secure loans to approved Neighbors,

BE IT RESOLVED the Board approves the establishment of a Credit Empowerment Pilot Program, instructs the establishment of an MOU and service agreement with MBC for the first year of this pilot, and authorizes the deposit of $40,000 in a Certificate of Deposit at MBC.

John P. [signature] 7/28/2022

Board Secretary Date