



Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 52.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: MARCH 18, 2009

DEPARTMENT: NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

DIRECTOR: STEPHEN HARSIN

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:

Discussion and possible action on an allocation of \$5,068,721 in FY 2009-2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to the City of Las Vegas by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): All Wards

Fiscal Impact

☐ No Impact

☐ Augmentation Required

☐ Budget Funds Available

Amount: \$5,068,721

Funding Source: HUD-CDBG

Dept./Division: Neighborhood Services/Neighborhood Development

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

The City of Las Vegas anticipates utilizing \$5,068,721 of United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CDBG funds for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Neighborhood Services shall complete all HUD-required Environmental Reviews (ER). The CDRB (13 citizen appointments) reviewed applications and heard presentations in order to make funding recommendations to the City Council. No project may commit and/or expend any funds prior to compliance with 24 CFR Part 58 and final notification by Neighborhood Services. Should supplementary funds be granted to the City, additional allocations will be brought before Council for approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the CDBG allocations and authorizes the Mayor to execute any and all related agreements and documents required for the projects following approval as to form by the City Attorney.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Agenda Memo

Motion made by GARY REESE to Approve

Passed For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

RICKI Y. BARLOW, LOIS TARKANIAN, STEVE WOLFSON, OSCAR B. GOODMAN, GARY REESE; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-STEVEN D. ROSS, DAVID W. STEINMAN)

Minutes:

STEVE HARSIN, Director of Neighborhood Services, stated that, for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, priority consideration had been given to homeless prevention and outreach, senior services,

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persons with special needs and youth programs focusing on academic skills and early childhood development. The Community Development Recommending Board (CDRB), 13 citizens appointed by the Mayor and Council to represent the community, had evaluated the 50 completed applications with respect to the priority considerations and the limited funds available.

DEBBIE KINSORA, Chair of the CDRB, stated that, in accordance with federal regulations, 15 percent of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds may be used for public service projects. Community Schools and Leisure Services Community Center After School and Track Break programs were partially funded with \$156,000 CDBG funds. The programs serve over 4000 low-income children and provide tutoring and recreation activities. The Board recommended funding for 31 of the 36 CDBG public service applications as listed in the Agenda Memo for Item 52. Regarding the FY 2009-2010 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) grant funds, the Board recommended funding all six HOPWA applications as listed in the Agenda memo for Item 53. The programs will assist persons living with HIV/AIDS with rental assistance, affordable housing, case management and emergency services.

VERLIA DAVIS-HOGGARD, Vice Chair of the CDRB, thanked COUNCILMAN BARLOW for her appointment and stated she was honored to work with distinguished members of the Board. She also thanked staff for their hard work as members of the Board. Regarding the FY 2009 HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) grant funds, the Board recommended funding all five HOME TBRA applications as listed in the Agenda Memo for Item 54. The funds will fund programs to prevent homelessness by providing rental and utility assistance to low-income families. Regarding the FY 2009-2010 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds, the Board recommended funding for all five ESG applications as listed in the Agenda Memo for Item 55. These programs will fund the operational costs of providing emergency shelter for the homeless.

MS. KINSORA introduced the Board members who were present: KARMEN LaSHAUN MILLER, PHYLLIS McFADDEN and TOM McGRATH. She also acknowledged the Board members who were not able to attend: DEVINDER PAPPAS, PEGGY POUND, ISRAEL FUENTES, MIKE AKER, PAM HARTLEY-KOWALSKI, ANTHONY BRUGES, ANNE BLUE and FATEEN SEIFULLAH.

MAYOR GOODMAN thanked the Board for their hard work and their tough decisions in making these recommendations.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW also thanked the Board for their participation in the grant review process. He noted the homeless problem in the area bounded by Main Street, Owens Avenue, Las Vegas Boulevard and Foremaster Lane. He stated the problem is negatively impacting the area's business owners and appealed to the Council for assistance as the situation was worsening. MAYOR GOODMAN acknowledged the problem in the area. He agreed existing conditions are hazardous and that the area should be cleaned up. The City has to find a way to balance the interests of the homeless with the interests of society.

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COUNCILMAN REESE recognized COUNCILMAN BARLOW'S concerns. He stated that the homeless issue is a Valley-wide problem and the current efforts to help the homeless were counterproductive.

In response to MAYOR GOODMANS direction, CITY MANAGER ELIZABETH FRETWELL indicated that the homeless issue and potential solutions would be addressed in upcoming briefings.

FRANK PERNA, Southern Nevada Advocates for Homeless People, argued that many homeless people suffer from mental illness and the City should be advocating for more mental health services.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN noted that some homeless people are mentally ill and are unable to get the help they need due to the severe cutbacks in services.

