Comments to 8.28.2013 Housing Committee Agenda No. 3-CFI 13-0995 39th Year CDBG Substantial Amendment-Jordan Downs

Joyce Dillard <dillardjoyce@yahoo.com>   Tue, Aug 27, 2013 at 2:55 PM
Reply-To: Joyce Dillard <dillardjoyce@yahoo.com>
To: Richard Williams <Richard.Williams@lacity.org>
Cc: William Vasquez <william_g._vasquez@hud.gov>

Deny this motion and operate as per Federal regulations.

You are not following Federal regulations in the issuance of Substantial Amendments.

You have not identified projects that are not using the funds in the 39th Program Year.

Citizen Participation must be met. Please provide the publication for the Public Notice including the deadline for the comment period.

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MOTION

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has issued a 2013 Notice of Funding Availability for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) for Implementation Grants which focus on implementing a transition plan to redevelop distressed neighborhoods. A total of approximately $100 million will be awarded to three or more entities to receive approximately $30 million each for the neighborhood which the entity has applied. In transforming these neighborhoods, HUD will focus on: (1) housing objectives (energy efficiency, mixed-income, financially viable); (2) people objectives (effective education, greater employment opportunities, quality healthcare, housing quality and affordability); and, (3) neighborhood objectives (private and public neighborhood investment, services and amenities, effective education/public school system, safety).

The Mayor's Office, on behalf of the City, will be applying for the CNI grant funding to implement the Jordan Downs Transformation Plan, an existing plan to redevelop and improve the Jordan Downs housing project in the Watts area of Council District 15. Although total project costs are approximately $1 billion, the grant funding of $30 million will be the initial Federal investment to create commercial/retail space, improved housing units, open park space, and family and job resource centers.

As part of the CNI grant application process, HUD will award a greater number of points to those applicants who can demonstrate a 7.5% Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) commitment based on the City's 2013 CDBG entitlement which would provide a one-time total allocation of approximately $3.95 million dollars to be used over the five-year CNI grant period to support the neighborhood transformation activities included in the grant application. These funds would be contingent upon receipt of a CNI grant award, for which the City should be notified by January 2014.
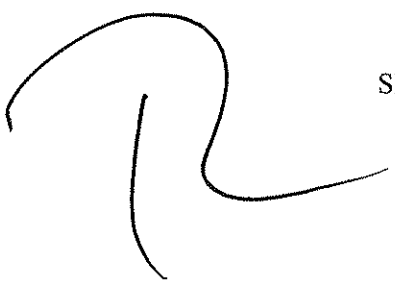
To show the City's commitment to the Jordan Downs Housing Project, maximize potential application points, and improve the probability of receiving $30 million in CNI grant funds, the Council should earmark $3.95 million in 39th Year (2013-14) CDBG funds.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council:

1. Earmark $3.95 million from unallocated funds in the Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Improvement Fund and the Economic Development Fund line items, and any other source with available funds in the 39th Year Consolidated Plan (2013-14) for the Jordan Downs Housing Project, subject to a grant award from the Department of Housing and Urban Development Choice Neighborhood Initiative for Implementation Grant; and

2. Instruct the Housing and Community Investment Department to:

   a. Take the necessary steps to earmark $3.95 million from the Neighborhood Improvement Fund and the Economic Development Fund line items, and any other source with available funds in the 39th Year Consolidated Plan (2013-14) for the Jordan Downs Housing Project, with funds to be distributed upon award of the Choice Neighborhood Initiative for Implementation Grant; and,

   b. Report to the Housing Committee upon notification of award of the Choice Neighborhood Initiative for Implementation Grant.

PRESENTED BY: _Joe Buscaino_

JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

AUG 7 2013

SECONDED BY: _____

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