

HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT relative to authorization for the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department (HCIDLA) to release the Neighborhood Improvement Fund (NIF) Call for Projects.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. AMEND the NIF Call for Projects in the following manner:
 - a. Delete the 100 percent match requirement for project budgets at or below \$250,000.
 - b. Delete the inclusion of the Great Streets Initiative and the Promise Zone from the evaluation factors used to score proposed projects.
2. AUTHORIZE the General Manager, HCIDLA, or designee, to:
 - a. Prepare and release an amended Call for Projects, including revised NIF Call for Projects Evaluation Factors, with projects to be funded by the NIF, subject to the review and approval of the City Attorney as to form.
 - b. Submit recommendations of project awards to Council for review and approval, subject to the receipt of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funding to the City.
 - c. Make any technical adjustments that may be required and are consistent with this action, subject to the approval of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA).

Fiscal Impact Statement: The CLA reports there is no impact to the General Fund. The NIF Call for Projects is funded entirely with federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

At a regular meeting held on August 13, 2014, the Housing Committee considered reports from the HCIDLA dated February 21, 2014, the City Administrative Officer dated April 4, 2014, and the CLA dated August 12, 2014, relative to the NIF Call for Projects.

A representative of the CLA addressed the Committee and reported that the Committee previously considered this matter on April 7, 2014 and the CLA was instructed to provide an additional report. The NIF is \$2.6 million program that is part of the 2013-14 Consolidated Plan and funded by CDBG funds. The NIF is designed to fund small neighborhood improvement projects throughout the City that meet certain federal criteria and that have the support of the Councilmember in whose district the project is located.

The CLA report recommends two amendments to the recommendations for the NIF Call for Projects: 1) delete the 100 percent match requirement for projects at or below \$250,000, and 2) delete the Great Streets Initiative and Promise Zone as evaluation factors used to score projects. The CLA representative advised the Committee that approval of these amendments would remove barriers for smaller projects that are below the \$250,000 threshold and make it easier for projects to be funded. A representative of the HCIDLA also addressed the Committee and provided additional information on the origins and function of the NIF Program.

After providing an opportunity for public comment, the Committee approved the recommendations in the CLA report. This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

HOUSING COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
CEDILLO:	YES
FUENTES:	YES
WESSON:	ABSENT
BUSCAINO:	ABSENT
PRICE:	YES

REW
8/21/14
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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-