MOTION

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently issued the FY 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, which focuses on assisting public housing agencies and cities in developing locally driven strategies that address struggling neighborhoods with public housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. An estimated total of $5 million in competitive grants will be made available to eligible applicants, including public housing authorities, units of local government, tribal organizations, and nonprofit entities. The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) will be applying for the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to advance the development of a comprehensive community-led Transformation Plan for William Mead Homes and the surrounding neighborhood. The Transformation Plan will provide a community vision for redevelopment of the existing public housing development and catalyze critical improvements in the neighborhood. It will also focus on strategies to improve the outcomes of households that live at William Mead Homes related to income and employment, health, and education.

The Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant funds will provide resources for HACLA and the Planning Coordinator Team procured by HACLA to engage in place-based, resident-informed planning work to co-create the Transformation Plan that will serve as the guiding document for the revitalization of William Mead while simultaneously directing the transformation of the surrounding neighborhood and creating positive outcomes for families. HACLA is eligible to receive up to $450,000, of which $100,000 would be set aside to support implementation of a to be determined Early Action Activity that enhances the neighborhood and addresses a community-identified need in real time. The goal is to increase neighborhood confidence and help convince skeptical stakeholders that positive change is possible.

The most competitive Choice Neighborhood Planning Grants demonstrate strong local involvement by public and private stakeholders, including the commitment of cash resources to support the two-year long planning process and/or Early Action Activity. The City can strengthen the planning grant application for William Mead by committing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to the planning effort during the term of the grant. The City should commit these funds and resources to HACLA for the benefit of the William Mead community and to further the City's vision for the Cornfield Arroyo Seco Specific Plan area. The completion of a holistic, visionary, and community-supported Transformation Plan would position the City and HACLA to compete for a Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant of up to $35 million to carry out the activities in the plan.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor, allocate $200,000 in PY 48 (2022-2023) CDBG funds toward the William Mead Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Plan/Early Action Activity, subject to a grant award from the HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant.

I FURTHER MOVE that HACLA be requested to report to the Council upon notification of the results of the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, and, should the William Mead effort be awarded a Planning Grant, direct the Housing and Community Investment Department and HACLA to report on the recommended use of the CDBG funding.

PRESENTED BY: ____________________________
GILBERT A. CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY: ____________________________

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