



Item: CDBG & HOME Grant/Consolidated Plan Community Needs Public Hearing

From: Planning and Community Development Department

Initiated By: Mike Haynes, AICP, Director Planning & Community Development

Presented By: Mike Haynes, AICP, Director Planning & Community Development

Action Requested: Set Public Hearing for December 18, 2012

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission set the public hearing for December 18, 2012, to obtain comments on the housing and community development needs of the City of Great Falls.”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, public comment, and calls the vote.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the City Commission set December 18, 2012, as the public hearing date for citizen comments regarding needs of the community that may be addressed with Community Development Block Grant and HOME grant funds.

Background:

CDBG and HOME programs are federal programs administered by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help fund local community development programs including affordable housing, public service, economic development and public infrastructure projects. The primary goal of these programs is to assist low and moderate income (LMI) persons in their respective communities. State and local governments receive funding from HUD based on a formula derived from population and housing statistics.

Over the period of the past two years, HOME funding to the City has been reduced by 48%. The Montana Department of Commerce HOME program has been unable to allocate all of its available HUD HOME funding during the past year. The Department is opening applications for State HOME funds to the three entitlement cities: Billings, Great Falls and Missoula. The situation presents an opportunity to compete for up to \$750,000 in State HOME funds. A successful application would help mitigate recent HOME Program funding reductions the City has experienced.

Significant Impacts

Not applicable

Citizen Participation

The Citizen Participation Plan, which is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, dictates that the City hold a public hearing to receive citizen input regarding the issues and needs of the community. Additionally, the State HOME program requires a public housing needs hearing be held prior to submission of a Montana Department of Commerce HOME grant application by the City.

Workload Impacts

Not applicable

Purpose

Public input helps identify Federal and State HUD grant funding opportunities in the community.

Project Work Scope

Not applicable

Evaluation and Selection Process

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires public input, especially input from lower income citizens and agencies representing them, as to the issues and needs of the community. The Commission will be asked to give consideration to citizen comments received during this public hearing when determining funding priorities for the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Grant Program and for submission of a HOME grant application to the Montana Department of Commerce.

Conclusion

The public hearing provides citizens an important opportunity to identify before the City Commission housing and community development needs, particularly those impacting low to moderate income households in Great Falls.

Concurrences: Not applicable

Fiscal Impact: Conducting the public hearing is a pre-condition for the City to receive its annual allocation of HUD CDBG and HOME grant funds and to apply for a Montana State Department of Commerce HOME grant.

Alternatives: The City Commission could elect to not hold a public hearing and thereby decide to not accept CDBG and HOME funding for FY 2013-2014.

The City Commission could also decide not to hold the public hearing with regard to the HOME grant application per the requirements of the Montana State Department of Commerce. Not conducting the public hearing would preclude the submittal of a grant application.

Attachments/Exhibits: Not applicable