



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: MAY 19, 2020**

FROM: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR PROGRAM YEARS 2015-2019 (EFFECTIVE UNTIL JUNE 30, 2020) IN RESPONSE TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT WAIVERS RELATED TO THE CARES ACT

ISSUE:

Adopt the amended 2015-2019 (effective until June 30, 2020) Citizen Participation Plan for the use of federal entitlement funding, including a future appropriation of \$3,318,707 in CARES Act funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to allow for the application of HUD waivers intended to expedite and simplify the administrative and citizen review processes in emergency situations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council authorize the amendment to the Citizen Participation Plan for Program Years 2015-2019 (effective until June 30, 2020) to allow public comment periods to be shortened to no less than five days in accordance with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines in the case of natural disasters, public health emergency, or other officially declared special circumstance.

BACKGROUND:

As a designated entitlement jurisdiction, the City receives federal funding to support projects and programs that provide decent and affordable housing, sustain suitable living environments, and expand economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons. As part of the selection process for these projects the City affords its residents, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine its content and to submit comments. The Citizen Participation Plan describes the process for how these documents are distributed for review and how the public may submit comments.

DISCUSSION:

On March 27, 2020 the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law. The City was allocated an additional \$3,318,707 through its Department of Housing and

Urban Development (HUD) entitlement grants for coronavirus response. These funds can be allocated to Program Years 2019/2020 to be used for projects that assist the City in preventing, preparing for, or responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

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| CARES Community Development Block Grant | \$1,870,896 |
| CARES Emergency Solutions Grant | \$968,672 |
| CARES Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS | \$ 479,139 |
| Total | \$3,318,707 |

In order to allocate CARES Act funds to new or existing projects, the City must first submit a HUD Annual Action Plan amendment to HUD which describes the new projects, funding amounts, and expected outcomes. These proposed amendments are subject to public review and comment before submission to HUD. This Citizen Participation Plan must also be amended to allow the City to expedite funding projects related to the coronavirus or other emergency situations. Action Plan amendments to allocate these funds in are in progress and will be submitted to City Council as soon as project details and appropriations are finalized.

The City has a requirement to include citizen participation and community input on the use of these funds prior to submission of any amendment allocating funding to new projects or substantially adjusting the allocation of existing projects to HUD for final approval. The processes for meeting this requirement are described in the Citizen Participation Plan. Under the current Citizen Participation Plan, all substantial amendments are subject to a 30-day public review and comment period.

HUD has allowed that in certain circumstances relating to providing resources for the immediate needs of the community, the timeline for public participation may be shortened to expedite the funding of necessary projects, including responses to the coronavirus pandemic. This amendment to the Citizen Participation Plan permits that in the case of natural disasters, public health emergency, or other officially declared special circumstance the regular public comment period may be shortened to no less than five days in accordance with HUD guidelines. The availability of amendments for public review and the process for submitting public comments will be published in local newspapers and posted on the Community & Economic Development Department website, located at <https://riversideca.gov/cedd/community-development-block-grant-grants-funding> with information describing the applicable HUD regulation regarding the length of the public comment period.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact at this time associated with updating the Citizen Participation Plan. Future project funding appropriations will be presented to City Council at a later date when specific projects are ready.

Prepared by: David Welch, Community & Economic Development Director
 Certified as to
 availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
 Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
 Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Amended Citizen Participation Plan for Program Years 2015-2019
 (Effective until June 30, 2020)