

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (NICC)

Community Meeting Center, Council Chamber  
11300 Stanford Avenue

Monday, September 13, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: 6:33 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONER BLACKMUN  
COMMISSIONER CHAVIRA  
COMMISSIONER CRAWFORD  
COMMISSIONER GONZALEZ  
COMMISSIONER HANSEN  
COMMISSIONER TRAN  
COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS

Absent: Chavira, Gonzalez, Hansen

ALSO PRESENT: Monica Covarrubias, Senior Project Planner; Nate Robbins, Senior Program Specialist; Timothy Throne, Program Specialist; David Dent, Chief Building Official; Judy Moore, Recording Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner Tran.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: None.

MINUTES: It was moved by Commissioner Blackmun and seconded by Commissioner Williams, to receive and file the Minutes from the April 26, 2021 Meeting. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote, with Commissioners Chavira, Gonzalez, and Hansen absent, as follows:

Ayes: (4) Blackmun, Crawford, Tran, Williams  
Noes: (0) None  
Absent: (3) Chavira, Gonzalez, Hansen

MATTERS FROM STAFF:

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2020-21 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER):

Staff read a summary as follows:

Title I of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 requires jurisdictions that receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding to assess the activities implemented during its previous program year through an annual CAPER.

The CAPER details how the City of Garden Grove (City) carried out the projects and activities identified in the previously approved FY 2020-21 Annual Action Plan (AAP). The CAPER provides narrative descriptions and financial information on specific activities, and evaluates the City's progress toward the priority objectives addressing housing and community needs, as outlined in the 5-Year Consolidated Plan. The reporting period for the CAPER is from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

During FY 2020-21, the City utilized Federal funding to expand or preserve affordable housing opportunities, improve low-income neighborhoods through public infrastructure improvements, and assist special needs groups such as senior citizens, homeless and those who are at-risk of becoming homeless. The City assisted a total of 40,375 low-income individuals through various programs and services. Highlights of FY 2020-21 accomplishments include:

- Retained 24 jobs through job retention grants;
- Provided 438 home delivered and/or congregate meals to Garden Grove seniors;
- Provided rental assistance via the Valley View Senior Villas Program and the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rental Transition Program to 61 homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless households;
- Provided homeless services to 237 individuals;
- Assisted 12,315 low-income resident through infrastructure development;
- Assisted 15 low-income residents with Home Improvement Grants;
- Assisted 1,907 low-income resident with various public and community services;
- Provided community outreach and education to nearly 7,000 individuals.

The FY 2019-20 AAP was amended to include Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding that was awarded to the City by HUD in April 2020. The Community Development Block Grant CARES Act (CDBG-CV) and Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV) funding expenditures and performance outcomes for completed projects are included in the FY 2020-21 CAPER. In total, the City expended an additional \$2,182,256 in CDBG-CV and ESG-CV funding in FY 2020-21 to develop and expand programs in response to the Coronavirus. Please see below for the City's CDBG-CV and ESG-CV accomplishment for FY 2020-21:

#### CDBG-CV Accomplishments

- Provided an additional 284 seniors with home delivered and/or congregate meals;
- Assisted approximately 11,370 individuals by distributing boxes of groceries and hot meals.
- Created and retained an additional 149 jobs through the JOBS 1st Program; and
- Provided an additional 20 individuals with workforce development services through the Workforce Activation and Readiness Program (WARP).

## ESG-CV Accomplishments

- Provided 807 homeless individuals with street outreach, homeless prevention, and emergency shelter services;
- Provided 62 households with rapid rehousing services.

Per the HUD approved Citizen Participation Plan, the City is required to make the CAPER available to the public for review and comment for a minimum of 15 days. A public notice was published in English, Spanish and Vietnamese newspapers announcing the public comment period which began on August 30, 2021 and will conclude at the end of City Council's September 28, 2021 meeting. All public comments received are included in the final submission of the CAPER to HUD.

It is recommended that the NICC hold a public hearing to receive comments concerning the FY 2020-21 CAPER and recommend its transmission to City Council.

Comments: With no speakers from the audience, the public hearing was opened and closed. Responses to Commissioner's questions:

\* In the Jobs 1<sup>st</sup> To-Go Program, jobs being retained are part-time, low-income employees in local restaurants and drinks vendors, in order to enhance 'to-go/take-out' services and increase sales for businesses impacted by Covid.

\* Valley View Senior Villas is a 2-year TBRA assistance program to prevent homelessness allowing seniors the time to increase their income or the opportunity to find another location to live. Valley View seniors are on the interest list for the Garden Brook Senior Village apartments. The developers are required to complete a marketing and management plan to take recommendations from the City.

\* Meals provided by the City were funded by CDBG and originated with the City asking local restaurants to submit budgeted menus. Community Services then scheduled set dates and times at the family resource centers for families to take advantage of the food program, receiving food boxes or hot meals.

\* City Net and the SRT were involved in providing the 807 homeless residents, who were assisted in FY20-21, with outreach referral services.

\* A portion of the \$4.5 million to be spent to address homelessness programs and services, will be \$1.4 million toward a permanent supportive housing project through American Family Housing. Garden Grove is only one of the cities in Orange County with a full continuum of care program, with no gaps in homeless services. For homeless that do not want assistance, there is no answer to the problem as it is not illegal to be homeless or mentally ill. Garden Grove does not have a 'no camping law', therefore, non-enforcement outreach is used to build trust. Unless a city has a shelter, a homeless individual cannot be forced to leave public property. Upcoming programs include emergency housing vouchers and a mobile mental health unit to be deployed in October through Be Well Orange County in partnership with Police and Fire Departments to alleviate at least 15,000 calls per year.

\* For poverty-level families, advertising for job training development is through newspapers (multi-language), press releases, the City's website, social media pages, Channel 3 videos, Vietnamese TV, and direct marketing through service providers.

\* The low number of non-homeless households to be provided affordable housing units was due to changes in the Home Repair program as a result of Covid. Though inspections transitioned to virtual, home repairs were halted for two months while the contractor's group, Habitat for Humanity, recovered from an outbreak of Covid. The backlog of repairs will be caught-up in 2022.

It was moved by Commissioner Blackmun and seconded by Commissioner Tran, to accept staff's recommendation to transmit the FY-2020-21 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), with comments, to City Council for adoption. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote as follows:

Ayes: (4) Blackmun, Crawford, Tran, Williams  
Noes: (0) None  
Absent: (3) Chavira, Gonzalez, Hanssen

CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE: Chief Building Official, David Dent, presented an update of Code Enforcement's typical violations, which include issues concerning health and life safety, public nuisance, and property maintenance. With the use of newly implemented technology, the goal is for code officers to increase efficiency by spending more time in the field and less time in the office, to educate the public via social media, to track code officer's case-loads using a new in-house on-line dashboard, and to reduce the number of incoming phone calls by offering interactive maps on the City's website that show current violations. Discussions also included graffiti, complaint follow-up procedures, residential trees, commercial landscaping, fruit vendors, County Health task force truck, code officer funding, feral cats, and illegal fireworks.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS: Commissioner Tran asked if there was a plan to plant more trees in the City, especially in barren neighborhoods. Staff offered to connect Commissioner Tran to the Public Works Streets and Trees Division.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioners unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting of the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission, which will be held Monday, December 6, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA.

---

Judy Moore  
Recording Secretary