

MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION (NICC)

Community Meeting Center, Council Chamber
11300 Stanford Avenue

Monday, December 7, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

CHAIR BLACKMUN
VICE CHAIR CRAWFORD
COMMISSIONER FLANDERS
COMMISSIONER HANSSEN
COMMISSIONER NEWBOLD
COMMISSIONER PHAM
COMMISSIONER SWAIM

Absent: Swaim

ALSO PRESENT: Greg Blodgett, Division Manager; Monica Covarrubias, Sr. Project Manager; Nate Robbins, Senior Program Specialist; Timothy Throne, Program Specialist; Sergeant Royce Wimmer, Police Department; Judy Moore, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Chair Blackmun.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: None.

MINUTES: It was moved by Chair Blackmun and seconded by Commissioner Newbold, to receive and file the Minutes, with an amendment, from the June 1, 2020 Meeting. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote, with Commissioner Swaim absent and Commissioner Hanssen abstaining, as follows:

Ayes: (5) Blackmun, Crawford, Flanders, Newbold, Pham
Noes: (0) None
Absent: (1) Swaim
Abstain: (1) Hanssen

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2019-20 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/or 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 carried out the projects and activities identified in the previously approved FY 2019-20 Action Plan. 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, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

During FY 2019-20, 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 at-risk for homeless persons. Highlights of FY 2019-20 accomplishments include:

- Assisted a total of 16,687 low-income individuals through various programs and services
- Assisted 232 households with fair housing services
- Provided 61,110 home delivered and/or congregate meals to Garden Grove seniors
- Provided Rental Assistance via the HEART Program to 48 homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless households
- Assisted 13 low-income seniors with Home Improvement Grants
- Provided homeless services to 361 individuals
- Provided community outreach and education to nearly 7,500 individuals

The FY 2019-20 AAP was amended to include Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding awarded to the City in April 2020. The CARES Act expenditures and projected performance outcomes are included in the FY 2019-20 CAPER, but accomplishments for the CARES Act funding will not be reported to HUD until the activities are completed or the June 30, 2022 expenditure deadline is reached. The accomplishments shown in the FY 2019-20 CAPER reflect the activities funded through the City's entitlement grant allocations for FY 2019-20.

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 November 20, 2020 and will conclude at the end of tomorrow night's Public Hearing before the City Council. All public comments received are included in the final submission of the CAPER to HUD.

The City annually receives approximately \$3 million in CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds from HUD. The CAPER process allows the City to report out on expenditures and accomplishments achieved during the prior fiscal year, as well as to ensure future funding of programs and services for our low/moderate-income residents.

It is recommended that the NICC conduct a Public Hearing to hear and issue comments concerning the FY 2019-20 CAPER, accept the report, and direct its transmission to the City Council.

Comments:

Chair Blackmun opened the public hearing to receive public comments. There being no further comments, the public portion of the hearing was closed.

Chair Blackmun asked for clarification of the Goals and Outcomes categories on Page 4, specifically the numbers under 'expected, actual, and percent complete.' Staff explained that the first three columns in that category was the 5-year Strategic Plan and the last three were for the Program Year of FY-2019-20 (1 year).

Remaining on Page 4, Commissioner Hanssen asked why the numbers under 'expected and actual' differed greatly for addressing the needs of the homeless and those at-risk, as the table indicated that the 5-year Strategic plan showed an increase from 0-31, while Program Year One showed a decrease from 235 to 12, respectively. Staff responded that due to receiving CARES ACT funding in the middle of the Program Year, with only a couple of months to begin expending the funds, the resulting numbers showed a lack of accomplishments to be reported, however, all accomplishments would be reported either upon close-out of a specific program or when the June 2022 expenditure deadline comes about. The reporting method was the same for the Senior Center/Meals on Wheels results on Page 6.

Commissioner Hanssen then asked staff to clarify the qualifications for 'extremely low-income (30%), low-income (50%), and moderate-income (80%) on the table on Page 16. Staff responded that the numbers were based on HUD's county-wide area median income levels - 30% approximately \$20-30,000, 50% approximately \$50,000, and 80% approximately \$75,000.

Commissioner Hanssen then directed staff to Page 22 under Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families and asked why the points did not list 'education or job training.' Staff stated that the City does not directly fund these services, but the services are available through our sub-recipients. Commissioner Hanssen asked if the information on sub-recipients who offer those services could be included in the document. Staff replied yes.

Commissioner Hansen turned to Page 36 under ESG Expenditures for Homelessness Prevention and asked staff to clarify the disparity between 2018 numbers and 2017 and 2019 numbers. Staff replied that surplus funds from 2017 were rolled over to 2018. This clarification point could also be added to the document.

Commissioner Flanders asked staff which sub-recipients receive funds for shelters and transitional housing, and are any in Santa Ana, such as the Bridges. Staff stated Interval House, Mercy House, Illumination Foundation, and Collette's Children's Homes provide emergency shelter in Placentia, Anaheim, and Orange, while City Net provides access to Santa Ana shelters through outreach.

Chair Blackmun asked staff to explain 'racial and ethnic composition of families assisted' on Page 10 and how services are accessed. Staff responded that 12 Black or African American means 12 families. An example of race vs. ethnicity would be a person's 'race' is White, while their 'ethnicity' is Non-Hispanic, however, a person could also be a White Hispanic or an Asian Hispanic. Also, individuals can access the

ESG programs and services through a central hub called OC211, City Net does outreach, people come into the Senior Center, small business programs, marketing approaches, referrals, and direct communication.

Chair Blackmun asked staff to explain 'leveraging'. Staff responded that Garden Grove dollars are matched by sub-recipients, for example, ESG requires 100% match, HOME Program 25%, and CDBG has no required match.

It was moved by Commissioner Hanssen and seconded by Vice Chair Crawford, to accept staff's recommendation to transmit the FY-2019-20 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), with two amendments, and any comments, to City Council for adoption. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote, with Commissioner Swaim absent, as follows:

Ayes: (6) Blackmun, Crawford, Flanders, Hanssen, Newbold, Pham
Noes: (0) None
Absent: (1) Swaim

MATTERS FROM STAFF:

SPECIAL RESOURCE TEAM (SRT) PRESENTATION:

Sergeant Royce Wimmer of the Special Resource Team, which includes four full-time SRT officers, provided an update on homelessness accomplishments that included 3982 contacts, 978 referrals, and 47 people referred to shelters; City partnerships include Neighborhood Improvement, Code Enforcement, Community and Economic Development Department, Public Works Department, Crime Prevention, P.E.R.T., and outside agencies; a new online trespass form was created to enable business owners to prosecute for trespassers via a 'trespass letter'; 1-3% homeless have COVID-19, however, no one is turned down because of COVID-19; most transients do not want to be hospitalized; police see more COVID-19 in routine service calls; crime has increased due to the release of inmates with offenders being released within hours without bail; Fentanyl appears to be the top drug on the streets; CHP and Caltrans are not enforcing laws in regard to homeless as long as the homeless are out of sight; other cities have different practices, or none, in regard to homeless; Project Roomkey connects homeless to converted hotel/motel rooms through screening, such as those with medical conditions or the elderly, however, it was mentioned that the project was not successful and would cease at month's end; due to the Disneyland shutdown, criminal activity at the Resort District hotel area has increased, not with the homeless, but with early release prisoners who come from all over, without resources, and who take rooms at the discounted prices; there is no mandated training for SRT officers, whose work is more social, however, there are classes to take such as for case management and mental health; to supplement the number of PERT clinicians, a suggestion was to reach out to nurses who need to fulfill community service hours to volunteer, however, it was mentioned that mental health clinicians require a Master's Degree and certain team members must be licensed.

CARES ACT FUNDING OVERVIEW:

Staff read a summary as follows:

On April 2, 2020, HUD awarded the City \$1,194,311 in CARES Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) funding and \$602,486 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) funding. President Trump signed the CARES Act on March 27, 2020 to help the Nation respond to the Coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19). These special CARES Act funds were made available to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and aim to assist individuals and families who are low-income or the homeless.

City Council approved the third Substantial Amendment to the FY 19-20 Annual Action Plan on April 28, 2020, which included the CDBG-CV and ESG-CV funding that was authorized by the CARES Act. The third Substantial Amendment expanded several existing program and created new programs to assist businesses and residents affected by COVID-19.

CDBG-CV

The City rebranded the Small Business Assistance Program and named the new program the Jobs 1st Program. Program guidelines were amended to increase the maximum loan amount for the program to \$50,000 to small businesses in exchange for hiring 2 low-income workers. Additionally, the program was expanded to include a grant of up to \$25,000 to small businesses that are negatively affected by COVID-19 for purposes of retaining low-income jobs for a period of up to 3 months. An allocation of \$830,449 was approved by City Council to assist approximately 50 businesses create or retain jobs through the Jobs 1st Program.

The City allocated funding to expand the Meals on Wheels Program to assist those impacted by COVID-19. The City currently provides CDBG funding to Meals on Wheels of Orange County, for purposes of providing meals to the Garden Grove senior population. The \$30,000 in additional funding will provide additional resources for Meals on Wheels of Orange County to deliver pre-packaged meals to approximately 345 low-income homebound seniors.

City Staff has implemented a Hot Meal Program that will provide prepackaged meals from local restaurants to Garden Grove residents affected by COVID-19. The Community Services Department schedules specific pick up dates for residents to pick up prepackaged hot meals for their families. The City allocated \$45,000 to serve approximately 3,200 individuals through the Hot Meal Program. Partnering restaurants include:

- Tam's Restaurant and Sandwiches
- Los Sanchez
- Carolina's
- Yogis Teriyaki House
- Louie's on Main
- Bracken's Kitchen

- Kerostena

The Food Box Program supplements the Hot Meal Program and will provide perishable and non-perishable food items to low-income Garden Grove families. Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAPOC) has partnered with the City to provide prepackaged groceries for low-income Garden Grove families. The Community Services Department schedules specific pick up dates for residents to pick up their food box. The City allocated \$20,000 to provide food boxes to approximately 3,200 individuals.

The City allocated \$30,000 of CDBG funds to purchase PPE for Garden Grove employees.

ESG-CV

Homeless services were expanded through the addition of \$602,486 in ESG-CV funds as follows:

- Homeless Prevention funded at \$349,163, is projected to assist 59 households who are at risk of becoming homeless with rental assistance and stabilization services.
- Rapid Rehousing services funded at \$150,000, will assist approximately 7 households who are literally homeless with rental assistance and wrap around services.
- Street Outreach funded at \$25,000, is projected to connect approximately 120 homeless individuals to housing and services.
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is funded at the 3% ESG cap at \$18,075.

211 Orange County received an additional allocation of \$18,075. The primary responsibility of 211 Orange County is to manage Orange County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Coordinated Entry System, which are databases every homeless service provider is required to utilize to ensure duplication of assistance does not occur and to track each client's progress toward permanent housing. The additional allocation is for purposes of producing and maintaining "Data Dashboards" for the City, which provide important information regarding the homeless population being served and the needs of the Garden Grove residents who call into the 211 Orange County call centers for assistance.

ESG-CV2

On June 9, 2020, HUD awarded the City a second round of CARES Act Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV2) funding in the amount of \$3,635,163. City Council approved the fourth Substantial Amendment to the Fiscal Year 19-20 Annual Action Plan on August 11, 2020, which included \$3,635,163 of ESG-CV2 funding. Homeless services were expanded as follows:

- The primary activity funded through ESG-CV2 is Rapid Rehousing at \$1,451,803, which is projected to assist 94 homeless households with rental assistance and stabilization services.

- Homeless Prevention is funded at \$696,000 and will assist approximately 186 households who are at-risk of homelessness with rental assistance and wrap around stability services.
- Emergency Shelter is funded at \$998,844 and will assist approximately 285 homeless individuals with shelter and essential services.
- Street Outreach is funded at \$25,000 to connect approximately 120 homeless individuals to services and resources.

Approximately \$100,000 in ESG-CV2 funding is unallocated and will be programmed in FY 2020-21.

Comments:

Commissioner Hansen asked staff to clarify the criteria for restaurant selection for the Hot Meal Program. Staff responded that due to time constraints, no formal applications were issued and selections were open to Garden Grove businesses offering discount prices and combo meals. One restaurant was selected from each District and those chosen had previous relationships with the City's Community Services Department. Other restaurants could be vetted if the program was funded in the future after this fiscal year, as the program was designed to assist during COVID-19. Two areas that benefit by address are Buena Clinton and Magnolia Park, with access to Hot Meals or Food Box with Community Services handling the marketing.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS: Commissioner Pham noted that the June 1, 2020 request for 30 seconds of silence to remember those affected by the crisis, including black indigenous people of color affected by systemic racism, was not met as the moment only lasted seven seconds. Commissioner Newbold expressed his apology for the interruption of the moment as he did not hear the 30 second request.

Staff then stated that the NICC Commissioners are to remain seated in their current role until further notice.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Hanssen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m., followed by a second from Vice Chair Crawford.

The next Meeting of the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, March 1, 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