

**FY17 Mini-Entitlement Community Development Block Grant**  
**Planning Public Hearing**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room, Manca Annex**  
**Gardner, Massachusetts**

**Present:** Joshua Cormier-DCDP, Katie Medina-DCDP, and Charles Murphy (MVOC)

***Joshua Cormier called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.***

J. Cormier explained the purpose of this public hearing is to give residents an opportunity to speak regarding unmet needs in the City.

Comments received will be considered for inclusion in the Community Development Strategy, a document that lists goals and action steps to address community needs such as housing, economic development, open space and recreation, transportation, green community, municipal utilities and services and special needs. This particular document is updated periodically and serves as an outline for needed projects throughout the community. Comments on projects for the FY19 block grant application will also be considered.

Community Development Block Grant funds are available to the City to assist low to moderate income individuals and address areas of slum and blight. The City is required to target funds to specific geographic areas in the City so not all suggested projects can be met through the CDBG allotment, which is currently estimated at a maximum of \$825,000.

The meeting was open to the floor for discussion. There were no comments from members in attendance.

Mr. Cormier offered an update on past grant performance:

The Department has a successful track record of receiving, implementing and completing projects:

The \$825,000 2016 Block Grant was awarded in July 2016. The projects in this grant include:

- Demolition of select parcels in the Target Area (\$476,900)
- Renovations at the NewVue Communities Central Street location (\$15,000)
- Façade improvement at Gardner Travel located on Central Street (\$70,000)
- Planning for Historic Downtown Gardner and Rear Main Street (\$105,600)
- First Time Homebuyer Education, for LMI Gardner residents, for the NewVue Communities (\$6,000)
- Domestic Violence Task Force funding through The Voices of Truth (\$10,000)
- Youth Employment for the CAC (\$2,000)

The \$775,000 2017 Block Grant was awarded in July 2017. The projects included in this grant are:

- Demolition of select parcels in the Target Area (\$257,250)
- Design & Construction of a Park at the Former Orpheum Theater Site (\$124,000)
- Design & Construction of a Parking Lot at the Former Orpheum Theater Site (\$175,000)
- Design of Rear Main Street (\$90,000)
- Project Learn STEAM through the Gardner Boys & Girls Club (\$5,000)

- Small Business Technical Assistance through NewVue Communities (\$7,500)

The \$825,000 2018 Block Grant was awarded in July 2018. The projects included in this grant are:

- Demolition of select parcels in the Target Area (\$106,250)
- Design & Construction of Downtown Phase I (\$548,750)
- Small Business Technical Assistance through NewVue Communities (\$7,500)
- Domestic Violence Task Force Funding through The Voices of Truth (\$12,000)
- Veterans Community Integration Initiative through MVOC (\$16,750)
- Gardner Public Schools Athletic Program (\$10,000)

We are currently in the process of applying for the 2019 Block Grant due March 8, 2019. The projects we are currently looking to include in the grant application are:

- Demolition of 20 Rock Street (\$395,200)
- Parker Street Façade Project (\$217,050)
- Small Business Technical Assistance through NewVue Communities (\$3,000)
- Boys & Girls Club Project Learn STEAM (\$10,000)
- Downtown Phase 2 (\$41,000)
- CAC Fuel Assistance Program (\$5,000)
- Gardner Public Schools Athletic Program (\$15,000)

The meeting was open to the floor for discussion. Charles Murphy from MVOC presented a project they would like to be included in the BG19 Grant application. It would rehabilitate 2 apartment buildings located on Nichols Street. One building has 2 units and one has 7 units. It needs roof repair, re-point chimney and to repair retaining wall. They are proposing \$15,000 from the grant.

Joshua Cormier closed the public hearing meeting at 9:05 am.