

## MEMORANDUM

---

January 29, 2015

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Commission

**VIA:** Kenneth Fields, City Manager

**FROM:** Jennifer Nanek, Assistant to the City Manager/Deputy City Clerk

**RE:** CDBG 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing

**SYNOPSIS:** This is a first public hearing required by the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Commission take the following action:

1. Approve preparation of a CDBG application in one of the four CDBG grant categories: Housing, Neighborhood Revitalization, Commercial Revitalization or Economic Development.
2. Approve Tuesday, March 3, 2015 as the date for the 2nd CDBG public hearing.
3. If the Neighborhood Revitalization category is approved, the CDBG funds will be used to continue the sewer line improvements in the C Street area. Also, the CDBG funds will be combined with the State Revolving Loan funds that have already been approved for the sewer projects.

### **BACKGROUND**

In conjunction with the FFY 2014 CDBG grant application, the City's grant consultant, Andy Easton, will be present to conduct the required CDBG first public hearing. The City of Lake Wales is eligible to receive up to \$750,000 in CDBG funds through the Small Cities Program. These funds must be used for one of the following purposes:

1. To benefit low and moderate income persons;
2. To aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or
3. To meet other community development needs of recent origin having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

The categories of activities for which these funds may be used are: housing, neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization, or economic development including such improvement

activities as acquisition of real property, loans to private-for-profit business, purchase of machinery and equipment, construction of infrastructure, rehabilitation of houses and commercial buildings, and energy conservation.

At the Commission meeting, Mr. Easton will lead a discussion on the following issues:  
Summarizing the issues that were discussed at the recently held Citizen Advisory Task Force  
Submitting an application in one of the four CDBG grant categories: Housing, Neighborhood Revitalization, and Commercial Revitalization or Economic Development  
Future meetings for the grant application process.

### **OTHER OPTIONS**

Do not apply for a FFY 2014 Small Cities Program grant. Since the City has missed the deadline for reentering the County's program, no CDBG funds would be forthcoming from the County's CDBG program this fiscal year.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The City is eligible to apply for up to \$750,000 in CDBG funding and may apply for less than this amount if it improves the competitiveness of the grant application. If the Commission decides to apply for the Neighborhood Revitalization funding category, and the CDBG grant is funded, the CDBG funds will be combined with loan funds from the State Revolving Loan fund that has already been approved for the project. The CDBG grant will help to lower the total amount of funds that need to be borrowed from the SRF program.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Handout for 1st Public Hearing: Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant  
Public Hearing Advertising Insertion Order

## **THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG)**

There are four categories of funds available under the Community Development Block Grant Program. Each is designed to address local needs and benefit low to moderate-income persons. A summary of each grant category is provided below.

### **(1) Housing Rehabilitation (HR)**

Substandard housing occupied by low to moderate income households may be rehabilitated with CDBG funds to meet code requirements. Both owner occupied and rental housing may be included.

### **(2) Neighborhood Revitalization (NR)**

This category is primarily for water and sewer improvements in low/moderate income neighborhoods. The CDBG-NR category also funds street paving, drainage and recreation improvements.

### **(3) Commercial Revitalization (CR)**

Various improvements may be funded in commercial areas. Eligible projects include parking facilities, drainage, street paving, sidewalks, lighting, recreation facilities, water and sewer. This is an extremely competitive category.

### **(4) Economic Development (ED)**

The CDBG-ED program provides grants to local governments for the construction of infrastructure needed to serve a new and expanding business. Local governments may also loan funds directly to the business for capital expenses (land, building, equipment, site development). The grant funds are made available on the condition the new or expanding business create new jobs, of which, 51% would need to be available to low/moderate income persons.

### **Grant Schedule**

The City is eligible to apply for one \$750,000 grant in either the housing, neighborhood or commercial revitalization category (and one grant in the CDBG-ED grant category, but only if the grant will result in the creation of new jobs).

The City Commission will hear comments from the public on community development needs at this 1st Public Hearing. Later, at a 2nd public hearing, the public will be offered an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed grant application. The City Commission will review the comments made at all public hearings and revise the grant application if needed.

The Citizen Advisory Task Force (CATF) met on January 22, 2015 and recommended that the City apply for CDBG funding in the Neighborhood Revitalization Category. The grant application deadline is expected to be in March 2015.

# The Ledger

theledger.com

300 West Lime St., Lakeland FL 33815

Classified Advertising: (863) 802-7355

Fax Number: (863) 802-7814

East Polk bureau: 455 Sixth St. NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881

Order:	L060G0GO0A	Pubs:	14,44	Rate:	LA
Phone:	(863)678-4182	Class:	0001	Charges:	\$ 0.00
Account:	300655	Start Date:	01/28/2015	List Price:	\$ 41.00
Name:	C/O ACCT.	Stop Date:	01/28/2015	Payments:	\$ 0.00
Caller:	Jennifer N	Insertions:	2	Balance:	\$ 41.00
Taken By:	L060	Columns:	2	Lines:	17
Schedule:	1/28 1x, 1/28 1x, , ,			Taken On:	01/26/2015

## FAIR HOUSING PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

The City of Lake Wales will conduct a fair housing meeting in the City Commission Chambers at the City of Lake Wales Administration Building located at 201 Central Avenue West, Lake Wales, Florida 33859-1320 on , February 3, 2015 during the City of Lake Wales City Commission meeting that begins at 6:00 p.m. The meeting is intended to provide the general public, property owners, housing professionals and local elected officials with information concerning fair housing requirements. Anyone interested in understanding the importance of fair housing should attend. For more information concerning this meeting, contact Ms. Jennifer Nanek at (863) 678-4182. Also, persons seeking additional information about fair housing issues may contact the following toll free hotlines 1-802-342-8170 (Florida Commission of Human Relations) or 1-800-669-9777 (HUD-Washington, D.C.)

A FAIR HOUSING/EQUAL/OPPORTUNITY/  
HANDICAP ACCESS JURISDICTION

NC2296 1-28; 2015

Attention: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

This is a representation of the content of your ad. Your ad may be larger or smaller when printed in the newspaper. If any information is incorrect, please contact your sales representative prior to the deadline of the first insertion. Otherwise your order is accepted as having been approved.