



Agenda Item:

042

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 05/03/04

Communication

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Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: Larry D. Hulse, Community Development

SUBJECT—

Certifications Of Consistency – Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC)

SYNOPSIS—

The Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC) has submitted Certifications of Consistency with the City's Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2000-2004 Consolidated Plan and Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) Strategic Plan that require Council's approval. The certifications are required as part of their application to HUD for Youthbuild funding to provide youth with training in leadership development and construction trades.

FISCAL IMPACT—

None

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

CHDC will apply for a Youthbuild Grant from HUD to provide 24 low-income youth with training in leadership development and construction trades. In addition, the program will build 2

two homes within the Enterprise Community, which will be sold to low-income families as part of CHDC's home ownership program.

Youthbuild is a comprehensive youth and community development program. Youthbuild simultaneously addresses core issues facing low-income communities including among others: education, housing, jobs and leadership development. The program uniquely addresses the status of unemployed young men and women who have dropped out of school and have no apparent path to a productive future. It allows them to serve their communities and build their own future simultaneously.

Because it is comprehensive in its approach, the Youthbuild program serves in several capacities.

- 1) It is a community service program, in which young people build housing for homeless and other low-income people, providing the most valuable and visible commodity for their hard-pressed communities: affordable housing.
- 2) It is an alternative school, in which participants spend 50 percent of their program time pursuing academic goals, which may include vocational and remedial education, study toward a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma, and preparation for higher education.
- 3) It is a job training and pre-apprenticeship program, in which young people receive on-site training in construction skills during 50 percent of their time in the program from qualified instructors who are often union journeymen, and then get placed in construction-related jobs or apprenticeships.
- 4) It is a leadership development program, in which young people share in the governance of their own program and participate actively in community affairs, learning the values and the life-long commitment needed by effective and ethnical community leaders.
- 5) It is a youth development program in which young people participate in personal counseling, peer support groups, and life-planning processes that assist them in healing from past hurts, overcoming negative habits and attitudes, and pursuing achievable goals that will establish a productive life, sustaining themselves and their immediate families.
- 6) It is a long-term mini-community, in which young people make new friends committed to a positive lifestyle, may pursue cultural and recreational activities together, and can continue to participate through follow-up services and a graduate program.
- 7) It is a community development program, in which community organizations obtain the resources to tackle several key community issues at once, strengthening their capacity to build and manage housing for their residents, education and inspire their youth, create leadership for the future, and generally take responsibility for their neighborhoods.