

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	March 9, 2015
	Agenda Item No.	40
	Roll Call No.	<u>15-0398</u>
	Communication No.	<u>15-115</u>
	Submitted by:	Phillip Delafield, Community Development Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Resolution authorizing support of a grant application by Community Housing Initiatives (CHI) for funding a proposed housing rehabilitation initiative in the East Bank neighborhoods.

SYNOPSIS:

The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) and WellsFargo have partnered to offer the CommunityWins grant program to member cities, who can nominate nonprofit initiatives or programs that address neighborhood stabilization, economic development, or job creation. CHI, a statewide nonprofit based in Des Moines, is proposing an initiative to rehabilitate and resell blighted residential properties in the East Bank neighborhoods, which meets goals of three (3) Neighborhood Revitalization Plans. CHI's application to the CommunityWins program requires the support of the Mayor to be eligible.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The USCM and WellsFargo have partnered to offer the CommunityWins grant program to member cities, who can nominate nonprofit initiatives or programs that address neighborhood stabilization – projects designed to stimulate growth and stability while assisting in the removal of blight and the rebuilding of neighborhoods, economic development – projects designed to promote business development, or job creation – projects designed to aid in local job creation or assist in job training. Over the next three (3) years, \$3 million will be made available with six (6) awards given nationally per year. Award amounts are based on city size, with two (2) awards per size category. The top award for a city of Des Moines' size is \$150,000, and the second award is \$50,000. A nonprofit organization must apply, with the full support of the Mayor for the proposed initiative or program.

CHI is an Iowa nonprofit dedicated to creating vibrant neighborhoods and communities through housing and development work. CHI is a major partner in the Viva East Bank! coalition, a group of nearly 30 community organizations working together to implement the neighborhood plans for Capitol East, Capitol Park, and Martin Luther King Jr. Park. The City approved all three (3) of the neighborhood plans in 2014 and is also a participant in the Viva East Bank! coalition.

For the grant application to the CommunityWins program, CHI is proposing an initiative to rehabilitate and resell at least 15 homes in the East Bank neighborhoods. The proposed initiative is one (1) of many strategies to improve the housing stock and increase home values, complementing the efforts of Habitat, HOME Inc., Rebuilding Together, the City's Community Development Department, and other

partners. The funding provided by the grant would help cover any gap CHI has from rehabilitating the homes, as current market sale prices frequently do not cover the costs to acquire and renovate homes in this area. The initiative is modeled after a program CHI has implemented in Dubuque, IA's Washington Neighborhood, where it has been successful at prompting significant improvements to the neighborhood's home values and conditions. Over time, the gap decreases as higher comparable sales are established.

Any application to the CommunityWins program must have the full support of the Mayor to be eligible. The application is due March 16, 2015 and awards will be announced in June 2015 at the USCM Annual Meeting. All award dollars must be utilized within one (1) year of receipt.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: October 20, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-1643](#)

Action: [Approving](#) the Viva East Bank! Coalition Memorandum of Understanding for Partners Coalition – Implementation Phase and Steering Committee. ([Council Communication No. 14-509](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: August 11, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-1225](#), [14-1226](#), and [14-1227](#)

Action: Items regarding Martin Luther King Jr. Park Neighborhood Revitalization Plan: ([Council Communication No. 14-378](#)):

- (A) [Receive](#) and file recommendation from the Plan and Zoning Commission. Moved by Mahaffey to receive and file. Motion Carried 7-0.
- (B) [Receive](#) and file recommendation from the Neighborhood Revitalization Board. Moved by Mahaffey to receive and file. Motion Carried 7-0.
- (C) [Resolution](#) adopting the Martin Luther King Jr. Park Neighborhood Revitalization Plan as an element, including the following revisions to the future land use designations: Moved by Mahaffey to approve. Motion Carried 7-0.
 - 1) Amend from Low/Medium Density Residential to High Density Residential for property located at 1731 Cleveland Ave (Logan Park Apartments).
 - 2) Amend from Low/Medium Density Residential to Public/Semi-Public for property located at 1740 East 17th Court (Joshua Christian Academy).
 - 3) Amend from Low/Medium Density Residential to Park/Open Space for Crowley Park property fronting Garfield Avenue between East 17th Court and Stewart Street.
 - 4) Amend from Commercial: Auto-Oriented Small-Scale Strip Development to Public/Semi-Public for property located on the south side of Walker Street between East 14th Street and Johnson Court.
 - 5) Amend Public/Semi-Public to Commercial: Auto-Oriented Small-Scale Strip Development for property located on the north and south sides of Buchanan Street from East 14th Street to Johnson Court.

- 6) Amend future land use designation on the north side of East University Avenue from East 15th Street to Easton Boulevard from Low/Medium Density Residential and Commercial: Auto-Oriented Small-Scale Strip Development to Mixed Use and Density Residential.

Date: April 21, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-0607](#)

Action: [Adopting](#) the Capital Park Neighborhood Plan Update. ([Council Communication No. 14-180](#)) Moved by Hensley to approve. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: April 21, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-0606](#)

Action: [Adopting](#) the Capitol East Neighborhood Plan Update. ([Council Communication No. 14-177](#)) Moved by Hensley to approve. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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