## APPENDIX A – PUBLIC COMMENTS

## Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) Meeting Public Comments Received

Upon call for public comment, the following people addressed the HCDC:

- 1. Susana Rodriguez with Caregiver Emergency Intervention Program: Ms. Rodriguez is an education development coordinator for the Valley Resource Center and there is a growing need within Fresno County. 147,000 family caregivers in Fresno County and many are unpaid; they are experiencing a burden that often times leads to a 63% high mortality rate. Many caregivers have to lose or give up employment. Valley Resource Center's goal is to provide advocacy services for those who intend to keep their family in the home. Vice Chair Hardie asked that Ms. Rodriguez explain the differences between services offered by Valley Resource Center and the IHSS program at Fresno County. Ms. Rodriguez clarified the differences and indicated that the County program requires patients to qualify for IHSS by being eligible for Medical; so many others do not qualify for the County program. Mr. Omar Gonzalez, resident in the Jefferson East Neighborhood, indicated that he runs an afterschool program out of his home. Mr. Gonzalez would like the City to address safety issues, such as street lights and sidewalks. He indicated that kids are walking in the dirt and mud or in the street on their way home from school; they need better lighting and sidewalks to help keep them safe.
- 2. Catherine Luna Rodriguez with the Department of Social Services: Ms. Rodriguez works for El Fuente, but is attending as a citizen to voice concerns for homeless families. She would like to see more collaboration within the different services such as Social Security and the Housing Authority. All our populations of homeless need help with convictions, credit barriers, evictions, single parents, foster children aging out.
- 3. Ivana Muldrew with Fresno Housing Authority at Emergency Housing: Ms. Muldrew is speaking as a private citizen, one who has a special interest with the homeless population decreasing. She will provide the City of Fresno with a proposal for homelessness prevention rapid rehousing assistance and diversion to temporarily assist the stabilization services individuals and families living on the streets or in emergency shelters obtain permanent housing. Ms. Muldrew spoke about the assistance that would be provided to households in transition or at risk of becoming homeless due to eviction, displacement and or transitioning. She also spoke of the importance of diversion activities to minimize individuals needing HUD assistance and the need to assist termed out teens that are coming out of the foster care system and are at eminent risk for homelessness. The application will include services for people living in places not meant for human habitation, emergency housing or shelters, transitional housing, people who lack resources, people who are losing their primary night time residence, matching funds, termed out teens and families with children. Ms. Muldrew would like to see assistance in homelessness prevention, rapid

#### **Public Comments Received (Continued)**

rehousing, and diversion. She would like to see financial assistance provided for rent, utilities, and match fund assistance. One of the main component services would be case management it will a cornerstone to divert homelessness via initial assessments and will allow for the ability to monitor, evaluate, provide credit repair, budget money management and in partnering with DSS, Housing Authority, and other agencies to work collectively to achieve this goal.

- 4. Karen Rivas: Ms. Rivas spoke on behalf residents near Columbia Elementary School. She would like to see the Fink White kiddie pool area to include a splash pad for the children of the neighborhood. This would benefit the children, families and the churches and school in the area. It would also be in alignment with the Parks Master Plan and other plans.
- 5. Yolanda Valeute: Ms. Valeute is also from the Columbia area and wanted to include that the parks need a lot of work and sometimes the children have to attend another park far away. It would be best for the neighborhood children to be able to attend Find White and she supports comments made by Ms. Rivas.
- 6. Jessica Curia: Ms. Curia is from the Hidalgo Neighborhood and is thankful for work being conducted on the sidewalks. She mentioned Bond Street also needs sidewalks that the work being done is a small box in Hidalgo and she would like to see more sidewalks outside of the little box, specifically on Bond Street.
- 7. Marcos Chapa: Mr. Chappa is from the Hidalgo neighborhood and reported that cars in the area go by too fast and the kids need sidewalks so they are not walking on the street. Mr. Chapa recalled a mishap that involved a child being run over. He also mentioned that Bond Street should have sidewalks.
- 8. Jason Spencer: Mr. Spencer indicated that he works in Columbia and is a pastor at a Southwest Fresno Church and coaches at Columbia also. He would like to see Fink White Park with a safe zone and a splash pad in the area. He believes that the Boys and Girls Club as well as the Housing Authority Sequoia Courts children would benefit also.
- 9. Kyle Guess: Mr. Guess and his daughter are from the King Neighborhood and would like a see the pocket park at Tupman and California benefit from improvements such as playground equipment. He spoke about the need for a fence around the park that will keep the children safe. Enhancements would go a long way to build community and would be supportive of the Southwest Specific Plan.
- 10. Troy McComas: Mr. McComas is a pastor at New City Church serving the King and Kirk neighborhoods. He is supporting comments to see a park in the area. Mr. McComas has observed kids hopping the elementary school fending to gain access to a safe place to play. Please allocate funds to see the parks renovated.

#### **Public Comments Received (Continued)**

- 11. Gaina Flores: Ms. Flores is a pastor at St. Paul Church and present to advocate for the pocket park and enhancement of the park. It is dangerous because of no fencing and does not have any play equipment, just two benches and a BBQ pit. The pocket park is underutilized and is not safe for the families. Please consider doing work at the King pocket park.
- 12. Kristina Chamberlin, City of Fresno PARC's Department: Ms. Chamberlain thanked the HCDC for past support of the Department's two programs that received CDBG funds, Senior Hot Meals and the After School Program. The PARCs Department has engaged the community through the City of Fresno's Parks Master Plan which affirms many of the needs within our community. Ms. Chamberlin indicated that the Parks Master Plan outlines approximately \$112 million in needs.
- 13. Lucianna Ventresca with the Marjaree Mason Center: Ms. Ventresca indicated the Marjaree Mason Center has lost funding for 16 beds. She also reported that the highest number of homeless on the streets were families who were affected by domestic violence. Ms. Ventresca is concerned about the amount of funds available through the Emergency Solutions Grant, and shared concerns with the wording that is on the Exhibit B for homeless services stating that the priority is it to provide assistance to homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless through housing first efforts. Ms. Ventresca is not sure what those are and she does not know if that is a limiting factor on her application Housing First is a permanent housing component not an emergency solutions component, but without that wording it works. Housing first does not always apply to domestic violence victims.
- 14. Karen Stoffers-Pugh with Wesley United Method Church: Ms. Stoffers-Pugh is a pastor at Wesley in the El Dorado Neighborhood and is speaking to the need for the Boys and Girls Club to have a new facility that allows for separation of the youth and teenager programming. Wesley Church is willing to provide space on their campus and still desires to partner with the City of Fresno and the Boys and Girls Club.
- 15. Brant John-Michael Williams: Mr. Williams is founding a new organization for land to donate to the Regents. He is a candidate for the congressional district and lives in Visalia. Mr. Williams asked the HCDC to provide him with five items he should focus on since Fresno is in his constituency. Chair Fiske let him know that the public comments being made are in fact the concerns of the public in this area, she invites him to stay and listen. Mr. Williams requested the HCDC provide him with a list, as he was unable to stay due to prior commitments.
- 16. Nicholas Martinez: Mr. Martinez focused on neighborhood infrastructure. As a Dominoes employee he is in his car a lot and explained the consequences of neglect on the neighborhood streets. Examples of infrastructure that needs to be addressed include Hughes Avenue south of Shaw and north of Emerson. Mr. Martinez discussed pot holes with poor patch work, and insufficient lighting in this area of high

#### **Public Comments Received (Continued)**

- traffic. Another area was west of Hughes and Hazel Avenue, south of Rialto, and west of Holland by Valentine and Ashlan. The same neglect issues were reported and Mr. Martinez stressed that these streets need to be fixed, not just have a band aid put on them. The area of Polk and Fairmont, south of Shaw is one of the worst.
- 17. Michealynn Lewis: Ms. Lewis spoke in support of Mr. Guess and the need to improve the pocket park in the King area. She is a co-leader with Action and Change in the Kirk neighborhood and lives south of Church Avenue between Jensen and Elm and church and the 41 freeway. Last spring a friend and she drove that neighborhood and found 75 code violations. She recalled a home with two full grown horses in the front yard and requested more funding for Code Enforcement and the Neighborhood Revitalization Team to canvas neighborhoods better and collect fines.
- 18. Alvin Covington: Mr. Covington is a single parent who has been homeless, lived in temporary housing and has experience related to difficulties finding a home given bad credit and a conviction. He is a hardworking parent but had some bad circumstances in his past, and needs the extra assistance offered to others. Mr. Covington spoke of the challenges for a single parent, and shared that being separated from his child is not ideal. He spoke of assistance needed for the homeless and for single parents and shelters for single parents that allow parents to stay with their children.
- 19. Kyle Jeffcoach with the PARCs Department: Mr. Jeffcoach spoke about the ten sites that the Afterschool Program is offered in. They range from 1,500-4,000 square feet and are open Monday through Friday from 3-7 pm, and 3-8 pm for sites with a gymnasium. There are four sites open on Saturday's also. The average daily attendance is 1,100 youth, plus approximately 600-800 attendees on the green space outdoors. Program components include performing arts, family fun, team empowerment, character development, games, healthy snacks, homework assistance and more for youth between the ages of 5-17.
- 20. Shaun Schaefer with the PARCs Department: Mr. Schaefer spoke on behalf of the seniors in the Senior Hot Meals Program, attending evening meetings is difficult for that population. He stated that 600 seniors 62 and above utilize the program, and receive approximately 30,000 meals through a partnership with the Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging. He also participated in the Senior Citizens Task Force, learning that 48% of seniors are single and 78% are living at poverty line and basic needs level. The Senior Hot Meals programs offered at six sites, seniors are also hired as coordinators. The program is leveraged with FMAAA and the City's general funds and focused on keeping seniors active. The have recreation programs and a new veterans program where a van brings seniors to the Ted C Willis Center for activities, meals and friendship.
- 21. Luis Miranda: Mr. Miranda spoke on behalf of the Highway City residents, and the science center. He would like to see progress. He indicated that a lot of kids stop in at

#### **Public Comments Received (Continued)**

the science enter and play basketball at the recreation center also. In the past there have been homeless and drug issues but it is now moving in the right direction and he would like to see the science program improved. Mr. Miranda indicated that many didn't have a ride to the hearing tonight, and that the neighborhood is blocked by Shaw and 99, they depend on the community center a safe place for afterschool and projects.

- 22. Julie Bounchareune: Youth Leadership Organizer for Women Empowered at Fresno Barrios Unidos spoke on behalf of a youth group that consist of 26 females and gender non-conforming youth ages 12-24 in south Fresno. She stated that youth have worked hard to identify an issue that they are passionate about and developed a campaign to improve the community that they live in. The youth group identified that homelessness is an issue that they care about the most, and has impacted some of the members directly. Women Empowered has met with Assembly Member Dr. Joaquin Arambula and City Council President Esmeralda Soria to talk about the issue of homelessness among women and children. Ms. Bounchareune asked that the HCDC ensure allocations of HUD funding go to women and children by investing in organizations that address the issues of homelessness among women and children such as the Marjoree Mason Center and the EOC Youth Sanctuary. The EOC Youth Sanctuary is the only emergency shelter from Stockton all the way to Kern County and was shut down last year.
- 23. Kelly Foster Nelum: Ms. Nelum spoke in support of Ivana's proposal for homelessness. She is attending as a private citizen, but also works at EDD and sees a lot of transitional individuals and homelessness. Ms. Nelum recognized that homelessness is an issue not only for veterans but also the elder community and family members who came from other areas to care for their parents. Ms. Nelum recalled an individual who came out of the bay area where she was working, making a great living, and received a call from adult service to come to Fresno and care for her ailing mother who was living in senior dwelling. The individual did not know about criteria that visitors could only stay for 10 days with her mother. The individual who had relocated to Fresno exhausted her FMLA and had to live at the Naomi House, this was a devastating transition for her while she continued to leave every morning to care for her mother with stage four breast cancer, and check into the Naomi House by 5:00 to get a bed each night. Ms. Nelum discussed how they assisted this individual who ultimately took a job and her mother away from Fresno. Ms. Nelum also spoke on behalf of an individual that relocated to Fresno from the L.A. area and found herself in similar circumstances after receiving a call from Adult Protective Services that her father had dementia, lived alone, and was wandering the neighborhood at night. This individual also put everything in a U-Haul and came to care for her father. The individual didn't allow her father to leave the house at 3:00

#### **Public Comments Received (Continued)**

- a.m. in his pajamas and barefoot, her father called 911. When the policeman, the individual was given 10 minutes to leave the house with what she could carry. This put her in the Naomi House as well. Ms. Nelum is hoping to formulate a housing solution for when people to take care of their parents.
- 24. Kiah Tiftick: Attending to speak about homelessness. Ms. Tiftick relayed a memory of about two years ago, when a distant cousin who was abandoned by his family at the age of 20 because they assumed drug use. Her family worked with the cousin to find a solution, he exhausted a 30 day stay at the Fresno Rescue Mission. He then spent six weeks on the street while waiting for youth services at the Transitional Youth Center. The process to be approved and to be accepted took Ms. Tiftick calling every other day to make sure her cousin wasn't forgotten, after the Transitional Living Center shut down he was back on the streets it was clear at this time that there was some mental illness throughout this process. Her cousin ended up receiving a bed at Exodus for mental health reasons related to schizophrenia when they shuttled him back, and dropped him off at the Fresno Rescue Mission. Ms. Tiftick is here to convey that there is a huge homeless crisis in Fresno; it has been made clear by many people speaking today for women and children and for men. Her cousin was only blessed with the TLC program because he was youth had he been five years older he wouldn't have qualified. She asked that when allocating funds, consider that emergency and permanent housing needs to be a priority for the City and the community and it's not all drug related and that mental illness is also a contributing factor.
- 25. Jackie Holmes: Ms. Holmes spoke on behalf of the El Dorado Park neighborhood, specifically supporting the Boys and Girls Club. She has been active in that neighborhood for about six years, and the neighbors call her the "Alley Lady" because that is where thee open space is for young people to gather and play in El Dorado Park. She stated that the area is all apartment complexes west of Fresno State. In the Westley United Methodist Church parking lot is a double-wide trailer that is the home to the Boys and Girls Club and it is an asset to the community. Ms. Holmes supported her pastor who already spoke and explained that Ms. Holmes is also President of the El Dorado Park Community Development Corporation. She recognizes the asset that the Boys and Girls Club is, and the value they provide to the neighborhood. It is a place where kids can come after school, it's a place where they can feel safe and connect with adults and services if needed. Ms. Holmes shared a story about two brothers who she helped move five times while their mother was becoming more involved in drugs. When the mother became homeless, they went to another family member but stayed in the same schools and continued attending the Boys and Girls Club and Every Neighborhood Partnership programs every week. The boys have excelled in school, they are helpful in the neighborhood,

#### **Public Comments Received (Continued)**

- and they have really used the Boys and Girls Club as stability. The Boys and Girls Club is not able to be maintained now its coming apart has aged out as a building it has been repaired and repaired. Not only is a new building needed, but also more room so that older and younger children can have separate space.
- 26. Paul Thomas Jackson with Fresno Homeless Advocates: This non-profit agency has a Facebook group of about 500 residents and former residents who were affected by homelessness. The crisis was analyzed around the country in 2012 by the Prosperity Institute in Canada; the survey stated that the 3rd highest rate of homelessness was in this city. The first was in Tampa, Florida, and the second was New Orleans. The crisis faces us all, he asked Council to be creative and give themselves a raise because meals are needed for this dialogue. Next speak to the County, talk with other organizations. He indicated that homelessness is a crisis here and he wants to underscore the three priorities which Ivana Muldrew spoke on earlier would require re-prioritizing funding.
- 27. Dorley Nezbeth: Ms. Nezbeth talked about community outreach and a solution for housing because she has a lot of property. She spoke about the importance of citizens using their own money and the need for emergency housing, policy rule and law. People are too low-income to have housing; she spoke specifically about rules that you must have \$1,200 in income. She guarantees that if income is used as matching funds for housing we can get them housed, people do not want to be enabled. She encouraged preparing people to work, write grants, and work with existing entities.
- 28. Arthur Servin: Mr. Servin spoke of his idea for the homelessness, an actual zone or piece of property that is purchased or owned that is considered or re-zoned as an urban camping site. What the homeless are already doing in our city scattered throughout the city we try to centralize in a parcel that is owned by the city that we can then surround with trash services, porta potties, and eventually have a bathroom with shower facilities on site. It is happening already, it's illegal to camp in the city but there is no other alternative for some. Parks are a great asset. This would be a first step to get them somewhere instead of pushing them out to the fringe. Keep reinvesting in these community centers and create more spaces to bring communities together.

## Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) Meeting Housing and Community Development Commission Comments Received

Upon call for Commissioner comments and questions, the following Commissioners spoke:

- 1. Commissioner Yang stated that he is looking forward to hearing more about creative ideas that have been brought up for homelessness solutions. Chair Fisk indicated that she is also encouraged to see professionals who work with this population speak, and appreciates that they have shared where they work even though they come as private citizens. Their expertise based on their professions is appreciated and she is looking forward to seeing proposals.
- 2. Commissioner Falke thanked the audience for coming and speaking at the Public Needs Hearing. He stated that the HCDC is committed to do the very best job possible, and that the Commissioner's represent fellow community members.
- 3. Commissioner Harutyunyan added that it was a wonderful evening because the HCDC had the opportunity to hear from the public. And, as a commissioner, she encouraged individuals to continue speaking at public meetings and sharing their opinions so that decision makers have the benefit of understanding the needs of the community.
- 4. Chair Fiske thanked the City of Fresno Neighborhood Revitalization Team, and staff. Based on the stories of the targeted areas she is aware of the hard work building resident capacity through community workshops, and explaining how the funding is granted and how to apply for funding. Chair Fiske recognized that the community coming together about priorities, and finding creative ways to meet the needs is an important element.

## Miscellaneous Letters Received-January 2018

- 1. Fresno Metro Ministry Keith Bergthold
- 2. Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission Brian Angus



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Thomas Morgan, Housing Manager City of Fresno 2600 Fresno Street Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Morgan:

Fresno Metro Ministry is working in Central Fresno neighborhoods along the Blackstone Corridor through its Better Blackstone initiatives to promote community revitalization and new investment in neglected neighborhoods.

We have discovered a strong need for:

A small grants program sponsored by the City for emerging neighborhood associations for organizational development in forming independent 501(c)3s and building organizational and leadership capacities. We believe \$15,000 to \$25,000 grants to applicant neighborhoods for formation and initial year operations would produce many benefits directly for disadvantaged communities in Fresno – and better extend and sustain the work of the City's community development oriented activities than current transitory efforts. These new neighborhood organizations can work in collaboration with many existing CBOs and the Central Valley Community Foundation to achieve additional and more sustainable capacities – but need seed money to launch as effective organizations in their own right.

Fresno Metro Ministry is committed to helping these types of very necessary grassroots organizations over the long-term.

Sincerely,

Keith Bergthold Executive Director



**Board Chair** Linda Hayes

First Vice Chair Deanna Mathies

Second Vice Chair Angle Isaak

**Treasurer**Debbie Darden

Commissioners

Nathan Alonzo Juan Arambula Harpreet Bali Celeste Cabrera LeRoy Candler Jerome Countee Lee Ann Eagar Charles Garabedian Richard Keyes Tito Lucero **Daniel Martinez** Bruce McAlister Barigye McCoy Lisa Nichols Daniel Parra Michael Revna Catherine Robles Jimi Rodgers Maiyer Vang Juanita Veliz

**Chief Executive Officer**Brian Angus

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January 30, 2018

Tom Morgan, Director City of Fresno 2600 Fresno Street Fresno, CA 93721

RE: CDBG NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS - FRESNO EOC

Dear Mr. Morgan:

Thank you very much for contacting me about recommendations for services that could be supported by the City of Fresno's 2018 Community Development Block Grant allocation, especially job training and economic opportunities. Fresno EOC, as you know, offers a broad menu of services that contribute to the social, health, and economic wellbeing of our City's residents. As 70% of CDBG funds must be spent in services for low-income residents, Fresno EOC can offer many such opportunities, as our mission mandates that we focus our attention on our disadvantaged population. Following is a range of CDBG-eligible services that address job training and economic development. We hope the Mayor and Council will find these suggestions helpful as they determine priorities for the upcoming CDBG funding cycle.

Local Conservation Corps and YouthBuild

The Corps is part of one of our nation's premier youth development programs with a central focus on applied job training. That's the key. There are many job training models, but few that employ an applied training model. Youth learn to pour concrete by working on concrete pouring jobs. They learn to frame by framing homes. They learn to weld by welding. Crews could be dispatched to work on city parks improvements, repair irrigation lines, paint senior homes, repair and/or pour sidewalks, conduct weatherization and solar installations on the homes of eligible low-income families and seniors, or remove blight from low-income neighborhood allies. Another compelling feature of the Corps is the requirement that corpsmembers be enrolled in coursework leading to their high school diploma, and that they participate in life skills workshops. And, as they work on projects, many in their own neighborhoods, they begin to take pride of ownership and maintenance of their own streets, parks, and schools.

Sanctuary and Youth Services

The array of services Fresno EOC's Sanctuary offers are a lifeline to literally thousands of Fresno youth each year. Our continuum of housing services includes emergency shelter for minors; daily outreach to homeless or couch-surfing youth many congregating in dangerous areas such as Motel Drive; the administration of a city-wide National Safe Place program that provides safe passage of any homeless youth to our Sanctuary shelter; options for transitional, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing; and our acclaimed Central Valley Against Human Trafficking Program rescuing and supporting the reintegration of trafficked victims into stable, independent living environments. In each case, shelter and housing services are coupled with case management, supportive services, referrals for services and/or reunification with family when that is a desired option.

#### Access Plus Capital

Access Plus Capital (APlus) has become one of our region's most trusted names among low-to-moderate income small business owners. APlus leaders have correctly recognized that small business is the robust economic engine that drives job creation and is most responsible for the economic health of our region. More jobs are created through small business activity than through any other medium. And so APlus has passionately and aggressively raised funds – from diverse sources – in order to keep its lending pipeline flush with cash. Having raised over \$25 million in lendable capital since its inception in 2009, APlus is now services 15 counties primarily in central California. It has opened satellite offices in Bakersfield and Modesto. A CDBG investment in APlus would without question yield spectacular results – Aplus has a significant backlog of fundable loans awaiting capital. Or, CDBG funds could be used to enhance the featured pre-and-post loan assistance APlus offers its borrowers, or be used to "buy down" interest rates for borrowers with promising business plans but unable to afford the capital they need to begin or expand their businesses.

#### School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL) charter high school

SOUL, Fresno County's first charter school, opened its doors in 1998 to students who for a variety of reasons could not navigate the rigors of larger public high schools, students who required or preferred smaller classroom sizes so that they could get the individualized attention they needed. An array of support services and extracurricular activities distinguishes SOUL from other high schools. Students can access a variety of health services, explore and prepare themselves for careers, learn parenting skills, become civically engaged, and participate on community service teams. SOUL's career focus would benefit significantly from an investment in CDBG dollars. While many SOUL students aspire to enroll in college, others are exploring careers they wish to pursue after graduating from high school. Counselors are on hand to assure that every student is provided the guidance, options, and support needed to make sound job and career choices. Funding for career-based equipment, scholarships for internships, and the costs of enrollment in specialized career exploration such as is offered by Ideaworks are among the options that would enhance the job prospects of students at SOUL. Furthermore, SOUL needs more space. It has outgrown its campus. Demand for its services far outstrip the facilities it now occupies. We are fortunate that recently we received a significant donation toward the acquisition of land, architectural, and/or construction/renovation costs for a new campus. Should the City have any surplus land, or a suitable property that it might reasonably sell to Fresno EOC for the purposes of an expanded SOUL campus, that consideration would be gratefully appreciated.

#### Valley Apprenticeship Connections (VAC)

With the volume of public works projects scheduled for the central valley, including High Speed Rail, State Center Community College District expansion, and freeway improvements, to name just a few, we have a dire need for qualified, skilled construction personnel. Enter the VAC. In just over a year's time, Fresno EOC's VAC program has graduated more than 150 students with a 90+% placement rate, the majority in prevailing wage/living wage jobs. VAC is closely aligned with the variety of apprenticeship programs in the Valley. These trades are hungry for eager, hard-working individuals that have the aptitude and appetite for the salaries these projects pay. The 12-week program offers soft skills instruction, an introduction to the trades taught by local apprenticeship coordinators, and results in valuable certifications for graduates, including OSHA 10, CPR/First Aide, Confined Space Certification, Workplace Safety, and Traffic Safety. Substance abuse treatment is offered to students through co-enrollment in services at Turning Point Central California. CDBG funds would be used to fund cohorts of students enrolled in the VAC.

#### Fresno Street Saints

No Fresno EOC program has the community credibility that marks the history and efforts of the Fresno Street Saints. The Saints have the pulse of Southwest Fresno unlike any other initiative in this community. Tackling persistent gang activity, low student test scores, frequent violence, blight, and inordinately high crime, unemployment, and poor health indicators, numerous groups have hired the Saints for their ability to intercede in dangerous, unwelcoming situations and, because of the trust they have earned, to provide guidance for family development and economic stability to literally hundreds of families. They have been perhaps most effective as school liaisons, brokering peace, order, and hope, allowing faculty to concentrate on teaching. A CDBG investment in the Saints would add to the number of skilled family development specialists, or school liaisons in schools and neighborhoods overcome by disengagement, crime, and poor living conditions.

#### Weatherization and Solar PV installation

Fresno EOC has for over 40 years installed energy-saving weatherization and solar PV on the homes of low-income families. Its crews are well trained possessing all the certifications required to complete work to industry specifications. The ultimate goal is to improve the energy efficiency of homes to reduce the cost of keeping a home comfortable. That also frees up income for other essential family needs such as food, transportation, and health care. Though we were successful in acquiring funds to expand our weatherization and solar PV installations in SW Fresno through participation in the City's Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) grant process, this source, and most others we utilize for these services do not permit, or provide sufficient funding for structural improvements, including roof joists or upgraded electrical panels. Without these improvements and upgrades, many homes – often the homes of our most vulnerable residents – cannot receive these energy saving services. We would propose CDBG funding that complements our other energy serving sources by targeting roof repairs and other structural improvements needed to qualify the home for the installation of solar equipment and other weatherization measures.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to share these ideas to improve the quality of life for our most needy residents. The CDBG program is certainly an important tool to make prudent, leveraged investments in the kinds of programs cited above. Please let me know if you require any further information or clarification of these suggestions.

Sincerely.

**Brian Angus** 

Chief Executive Officer

cc: Paul McLain-Lugowski Chief Innovation Officer

### HCDC Public Hearing-March 14, 2018

## Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) Meeting Public Comments Received

Upon call for public presentations and comment, the following people addressed the HCDC:

**Facility Improvements:** A total of five presentations were made in the category of facility improvements. Presenters are listed in the order in which they provided a verbal summary of their application for funding submitted by the March 1, 2018, deadline.

- 1. Laneesha Senagal with Helping Others Pursue Excellence
- 2. Nicole Lender with Marjaree Mason Center
- 3. Sara Mirhadi with Poverello House
- 4. Rose Caglia with Warnors Theater
- 5. Lynn Pimentel with WestCare California

**Home Repair**: A total of three presentations were made in the category of home repair. Presenters are listed in the order in which they provided a verbal summary of their application for funding submitted by the March 1, 2018, deadline.

- 6. Vong Mouanoutoua with Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
- 7. Jerry Zuniga with Habitat for Humanity
- 8. Susan Long with Self Help Enterprises

**Homeless/Homelessness Prevention**: A total of six presentations were made in the category of homeless and homelessness prevention. Presenters are listed in the order in which they provided a verbal summary of their application for funding submitted by the March 1, 2018, deadline.

- Misty Gattie-Blanco with Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (ESG Funds)
- 10. Doreen Eley with Fresno Housing Authority (HOME TBRA Funds)
- 11. Nicole Lender with Marjaree Mason Center (ESG Funds)
- 12. Sara Mirhadi with Poverello House (ESG Funds)
- 13. Mary Ann Calderon Knoy with WestCare (ESG Funds)
- 14. Lynn Pimentel with WestCare The Living Room (HOPWA Funds)

#### H. Spees, Strategic Initiatives Director for Mayor Lee Brand:

15. Mr. Spees thanked the HCDC and presenters on behalf himself and Mayor Brand. Mr. Spees expressed appreciation for the many organizations coming together to fight homelessness. Seeing those resources multiplied

## HCDC Public Hearing-March 14, 2018

#### **Public Comments Received (Continued)**

and then aligned so that they are part of a system not just random acts of charity, but to see hospitals, businesses, philanthropies, and faith-based organizations come together in alignment so that resources really do get targeted in a way that rapidly reduces homelessness is positive. He went on to state that Fresno has the best track record out of the west coast cities when it comes to reducing homelessness over the last 10 years. However, he takes no consolation in that because we still have about 1700 people out on the streets and that is unacceptable. Mr. Spees informed the HCDC and the public that Mayor Brand is very committed to the efforts to reduce homelessness and recently joined with the Mayors of the eleven largest cities in California in a bipartisan effort to ask the state to fund \$1.5 billion in additional resources for homelessness, this effort could generate as much as \$20 million dollars for Fresno. Mr. Spees continued to inform the HCDC that the Mayor's Office has also engaged one of the nation's foremost experts on homelessness, Barbara Poppe. Ms. Poppe is the former executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and she is an expert on best practices from coast to coast. She has been engaged with the help of the Housing Authority. At the invitation of Mayor Brand, Ms. Poppe has specifically evaluated Fresno and will provide recommendations based on best practices and options for addressing homelessness even more effectively in our city. The Mayor's Office will continue to provide updates as that process is currently under way.

**Public Services:** A total of five presentations were made in the category of public services. Presenters are listed in the order in which they provided a verbal summary of their application for funding submitted by the March 1, 2018, deadline.

- 16. Diane Carbray with Boys and Girls Club
- 17. Veronica Wilson with Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
- 18. Laneesha Senagal with Helping Others Pursue Excellence
- 19. Esther Delahay with Lowell Community Development Corporation (Capacity Building)
- 20. Esther Delahay with Lowell Community Development Corporation (Tenant Education)

Upon call for additional public comment, there was none. Chair Fiske closed the Public Hearing at 8:01 p.m.

## Additional Letter-March 14, 2018

3/14/2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Ongoing support for the Marjaree Mason Center is crucial to providing a safe place for families experiencing abusive, even life-threatening home environments. As a member of the Board of Directors for Marjaree Mason, I have been able to see the incredible services the center provides to families in crisis. Providing safe housing for these children and families is particularly important to me as a pediatrician in the community. The Marjaree Mason Center was able to provide over 50,000 nights of safe housing through our Fresno and Clovis safe houses and provided services to over 5,700 adults and children last year alone.

In order to continue serving our community, ongoing funding through grants such as the City of Fresno Emergency Solutions Grant and Community Development Block Grant are critical. Your approval of the grants submitted by Marjaree Mason Center would allow our agency to continue providing comprehensive domestic violence services in the City of Fresno.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

D. Casey Gray, M.D.

Marjaree Mason Board of Directors

Chief of Pediatrics at Kaiser Permanente, Fresno

4785 N. Frist Street, Fresno, 93726

## Public Review Period March 23, 2018 – April 23, 2018

The draft of the 2018-19 Annual Action Plan was made available on March 23, 2018, for a 30-day public comment period ending April 23, 2018. There were a total of five written comments (attached) that have been summarized below. The City of Fresno's (City) responses are provided below.

1. Rev. Gaina Flores, Saint Paul Christian Methodist Episcopal Church: Letter supporting California Avenue Corner Park.

[City Response: The City has included improvements including play equipment and fencing at the California and Tupman Park in the amount of \$225,655 as part of Consolidate Plan Goal #4 – Public Facilities and Public Improvements. Please see the AP-38 Project Summary for additional details, specifically the project named "Park Improvements" in the AP-38 section of the 2018-19 Annual Action Plan.]

2. Jesus Perez, Principal at King Elementary: E-mail supporting California Avenue Corner Park funding for consideration.

[City Response: The City has included improvements including play equipment and fencing at the California and Tupman Park in the amount of \$225,655 as part of Consolidate Plan Goal #4 – Public Facilities and Public Improvements. Please see the AP-38 Project Summary for additional details, specifically the project named "Park Improvements" in the AP-38 section of the 2018-19 Annual Action Plan.]

3. Steve Skibbie, Lowell Neighborhood Association: E-mail supporting further improvements to Dickey Playground ADA compliance.

[City Response: The City has included improvements related to ADA compliance of play equipment at Dickey Playground in the amount of \$150,000 as part of Consolidate Plan Goal #4 – Public Facilities and Public Improvements. Please see the AP-38 Project Summary for additional details, specifically the project named "Park Improvements" in the AP-38 section of the 2018-19 Annual Action Plan.]

4. Letanya Patilla, King Elementary: E-mail supporting California Avenue Corner Park funding for consideration.

[City Response: The City has included improvements including play equipment and fencing at the California and Tupman Park in the amount of \$225,655 as part of

Consolidate Plan Goal #4 – Public Facilities and Public Improvements. Please see the AP-38 Project Summary for additional details, specifically the project named "Park Improvements" in the AP-38 section of the 2018-19 Annual Action Plan.]

 Patience Milrod, Central California Legal Services (CCLS): Letter and attachments related to various components of the Annual Action Plan, specifically the geographic allocation of CDBG funds, the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, the Housing Element, and homelessness.

[City Response: The City appreciates Ms. Milrod's interest in being included in the consultation process moving forward. The City welcomes all interested parties to participate in the action planning process, and will include CCLS in consultation efforts. Currently the City has record of three email addresses associated with CCLS in the email distribution list used for outreach and communication related to the action planning process.

CCLS is requesting clarification regarding the lack of target areas and the statement that "most funding will go toward the improvement of predominantly low and moderate income residential areas." By stating that no target areas have been identified, the plan is communicating that (1) the City does not have any areas with special designations under the CDBG program, such as Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs) or Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) target areas; and (2) the City will not use geography or target areas when selecting which projects to fund.

Under the CDBG program, the use of geography and target areas is one of many ways to allocate funding. Funding can also be allocated according to specific categories of needs, such as rental housing, or to address the needs of specific populations, such as at-risk youth, the elderly, and the homeless. The City has opted to allocate funds based on categories of need, the need of specific populations, and the merit of individual projects.

The City does have target areas identified where the Neighborhood Revitalization Team is focusing code enforcement efforts. However, the City does not utilize CDBG funding for those activities.

Furthermore, by stating "most" funding will go toward the improvement of predominantly low and moderate income residential areas, the City is acknowledging that some CDBG funds will be used outside of these areas. However, it is important to understand that this does not mean that the funded projects located outside of low and moderate income areas will not benefit low and moderate income persons.

The City can use CDBG to benefit low and moderate income persons in a number of ways. The City can fund investments, such as housing and infrastructure, in low and moderate income areas. However, the City can also fund programs and projects that benefit low and moderate income persons regardless of location. For example, in the 2018-2019 Action Plan, the City is proposing to fund upgrades to homeless facilities. These projects will most definitely benefit low and moderate income persons but are not necessarily located within low and moderate income areas.

Ms. Milrod also requesting clarification on why the City is not using CDBG funded code enforcement to alleviate blight. In the past, CDBG funds have been used for code enforcement efforts. However, the City will not use CDBG to fund code enforcement at the recommendation of the HUD Office of the Inspector General, as well as the Office of Community and Planning Development.

A large portion of the CCLS letter is addressing the City's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. When creating the Annual Action Plan, the City is obligated to use the HUD-provided template. The HUD template does not include a specific section for describing fair housing actions for the current year. The City does include the "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" certification as part of its submission to HUD. Once the City is subject to the new Fair Housing Assessment requirements, the Analysis of Impediments will be more tightly interconnected with the Action Plan. Until then, the City will continue to add new narrative to the Action Plan to clearly state the proposed goals it will pursue during the program year.

The City is also required to summarize its progress in address the identified impediments to fair housing as part of its Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER). The 2016-2017 CAPER report is available on the City's website for public review. The next update to the City's progress will be included in the 2017-2018 CAPER report, which should be available for public review in August or September.

The City believes that the Action Plan clearly describes its efforts to coordinate its homeless strategies and goals with the Continuum of Care, which is the primary local initiative and planning body focused on homelessness. This information can be found in AP-10 Consultation, starting on page 11 of the Draft 2018-19 Action Plan, and AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities, starting on page 53.]



Senior Pastor Rev. Gaina Flores St.paulcmefresno@gmail.com

Associate Ministers Rev. Timothy Simmons Rev. Tora Shaw Min. Darryl Hilliard Min. Lillie Swillis

Department Chairperson Steward Board Mr. Kevin Swillis

Recording Steward Mrs. Jessica Malone

Treasurer Mrs. Versie Bufford

Director, Board of Christian Education Mrs. Beverly Hilliard

> Board of Trustees Mr. Eddie Swillis

President, Stewardess Board Mrs. Beverly Hilliard

President, Women's Missionary society
Ms. Everlener Smith

Director of Music Min. Lillie Swillis

Coordinator, Ministry to Men Mr. CJ Miller

Director, Christian Youth Fellowship Mrs. Carol L. Swillis

Saturday's Children's Church Ministry Ms. Lena Davis

Superintendent, Sunday School Rev. Timothy Simmons

> Prayer Line Ministry Rev. Tora Shaw Rev Darryl Hilliard

Rev. TJ Davis Presiding Elder Oakland Dist. 9th Episcopal

Bishop Rt. Rev. Bobby Best Presiding 9th Episcopal Dist.

#### Saint Paul Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

2191 South Eunice Fresno, CA 93706 Telephone (559) 389-0886 Rev. Gaina Flores, Pastor

April 15, 2018

Development and Resource Management Department (DARM) Housing and Community Development Div. 2600 Fresno Street Fresno, Ca 93721 Email: Thomas.Morgan@Fresn.gov

Dear Tom

I have reviewed the Annual Action plan draft and noticed that our project had not been included. The California Ave. Corner Park located on the corner of California and Tupman street. The park is a potential site for community development. The park does not have a secure safe fence, and it does not have play equipment. Additional playground equipment would give children and families a resource for safe play. Also, It would make the space more family-friendly and overall enhance our community.

Please Consider adding the California Ave. Corner Park in the future.

Sincerely,

Pastor Gaina Flores

From: Jesus Perez [

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2018 2:15 PM

**To:** Thomas Morgan **Cc:** Alice Green

Subject: California Ave. Corner Park

#### Dear Tom,

I have reviewed the draft Annual Action plan and noticed that our project has not been included. Please consider adding the **California Ave. Corner Park** in the future. Southwest Fresno is in dire need for parks and green space to provide positive outdoor experiences for our youth and families. This need comes up again and again during parent meetings. I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Jesus Perez, Principal King Elementary

Home of the Pharaohs!



From: Steve Skibbie

Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 10:23 PM

**To:** Thomas Morgan **Cc:** Alice Green

Subject: Dickey Playground improvements

Dear Tom,

On behalf of the Lowell Neighborhood Association, I would request that further improvements be made regarding Dickey Playground's ADA compliance.

Our city continues to advance toward better neighborhoods and parks, think Dickey Playground has never looked as inviting and with so many amenities. We know there is need to make the Playground accessible and useable to all of our neighbors.

Community Development Block Grant funds for Lowell Neighborhood would enable the improvements to continue.

Thank you,

Steve Skibbie Lowell Neighborhood Association

395 North San Pablo Avenue Fresno, California 93701-1788

559-355-1779

From: Letanya Patilla [

Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 3:54 PM

**To:** Thomas Morgan **Cc:** Alice Green

Subject: West Fresno Parks

I believe it would be beneficial to have a park in West Fresno because it will create a peaceful and positive environment for individuals to go to. With the decline of our students attending boys and girls clubs, this will give them a place to go after school, to create friendships, and engage in something positive and avoid the negative influences. It will also build positive family experiences, such as a family get together at the park, individuals playing with their children, and also people with pets can also enjoy this peaceful place as well.

Letanya Patilla – Librarian/After School Coordinator - King Elementary



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April 23, 2018

Barbara Fiske, Chair Members of the Commission City of Fresno Housing and Community Development Commission

RE: City of Fresno 2018-2019 Annual Action Plan

Dear Chairwoman Fiske and Commissioners:

Central California Legal Services, Inc. ("CCLS") is a private, not-for-profit, public interest law firm established for the purpose of providing free civil legal assistance to low income individuals, families, organizations, and communities. CCLS provides education and representation, and maintains access to the legal system, for clients who would otherwise be unable to participate in our civil justice system.

In particular, our client communities include thousands of low-income homeowners and renters in the City of Fresno whose housing is neither safe nor affordable, as well as thousands of homeless and housing-insecure individuals and families. The dynamic the Annual Action Plan ("AAP") describes at page 6—a 94% increase in Fresno rents between 2000 and 2013, with only a 30% increase in median income—is one that affects our client families harshly. At CCLS, we see the cruel effects on families when the scarce supply of affordable and decent housing forces Fresnans to pay well over half their income in rent, often for substandard premises. We also see families falling into homelessness when the pressure of rent increases overwhelms their meager resources.

In light of CCLS's core work assisting the populations the City will be serving with its HUD

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See, Maria Hanratty (2017) Do Local Economic Conditions Affect Homelessness? Impact of Area Housing Market Factors, Unemployment, and Poverty on Community Homeless Rates, Housing Policy Debate, 27:4, 640-655, DOI: 10.1080/10511482.2017.1282885 (detailing research showing a 10% increase in the median rent translated almost fully to an increase in the total homeless rate (9%), whereas a 10% increase in the poverty rate correlated to only a 4.5% increase in the total homeless rate). The United States Conference of Mayors' 2014 Hunger and Homelessness Survey came to similar conclusions, identifying a lack of affordable housing as the leading cause of homelessness among families with children, and showing that providing more assisted housing was the most effective and necessary of the list of actions needed to reduce homelessness. <a href="http://nlihc.org/article/report-ties-lack-affordable-housing-family-homelessness">http://nlihc.org/article/report-ties-lack-affordable-housing-family-homelessness</a>



April 23, 2018

funding, I write first to propose that the City include CCLS in its "in-depth and collaborative effort to consult with community stakeholders," to "identify shifts and trends within the needs of the community." (AAP, page 11.) In future we look forward to being included in the List of Consultations the City will be submitting with Annual Action Plans going forward. Secondly, by this letter and attendance at your Commission's April 25 hearing, CCLS seeks to better understand how the City's intends to reach its identified Annual Action Plan Goals, and to obtain information and clarification regarding how the City will implement its AAP so as to coordinate with and reinforce the City's commitments set forth in its 2016 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, and its 2017 revised Housing Element.

#### The AAP does not allocate CDBG investments geographically

The AAP points out Fresno's urgent need to address "a large number of blighted properties, and substandard condition of housing, especially within the neighborhoods identified as CDBG target areas." (AAP, page 9.) Targeting scarce HUD funding to the neediest areas appears logical, and in fact is what federal law requires. However, at page 49, the AAP notes that "The Consolidated Plan did not identify any targeted areas. Instead, the City will spread resources throughout the City, with the understanding that *most* funding will go toward the improvement of predominantly low and moderate income residential areas." [emphasis added]

CCLS is requesting clarification. Federal regulations pertinent here require the City certify that its CDBG spending serves national objectives—that "projected use of funds has been developed so as to give maximum feasible priority to activities which will carry out one of the national objectives of benefit to low- and moderate-income families or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight." A plan that aims only to spend *most* of the funds for these purposes would seem to fall short of the standards the regulations establish.

Second, the City must document that it has spent CDBG funds properly. Documentation, in the case of preventing or eliminating slums or blight, must include "the boundaries of the area and the conditions and standards used that qualified the area at the time of its designation. The recipient shall establish definitions of the conditions listed at § 570.208(b)(1)(ii)(A), and maintain records to substantiate how the area met the slums or blighted criteria." It is unclear how the City will meet its obligations to document its CDBG-funded efforts to address "a large number of blighted properties, and substandard condition of housing" if it has not identified with specificity the areas it intends to improve.

The City of Fresno has previously found itself under scrutiny from HUD's Office of the Inspector General, for failing to properly spend and adequately document its CDBG expenditures. (*Please see*, August 19, 2017 HUD OIG Audit Report Number 2017-LA-1006, "The City of Fresno, CA, Did Not Administer Its Community Development Block Grant in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 570.200 (a)(2). Mechanisms for achieving these objectives are set out in detail at 24 C.F.R. § 570.208 (a) (activities benefiting low and moderate income persons) and 24 C.F.R. § 570.208 (b) (activities which aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight). The AAP has not identified any projects under 24 C.F.R. § 570.208 (c), permitting CDBG spending to alleviate recently-arising conditions posing a serious and immediate threat to community health or welfare.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 570.208 (b)(1)(iii).

April 23, 2018

Accordance with HUD Requirements," attached, hereafter "Audit.") The Audit called out, in particular, the City's failures to account for its code enforcement expenditures. (See Audit, pages 4-5.)

Although its code enforcement team is ordinarily on a city's front line of defense against blighted properties and substandard housing conditions, this AAP's implementation programs do not include use of CDBG funding for code enforcement efforts in identified areas of Fresno where such efforts are most obviously most needed. It would be helpful to understand the reasoning behind the choices in this Annual Action Plan: why not identify such areas specifically? and why not use CDBG-funded code enforcement to alleviate blight in those identified areas of most need?

Finally, the AAP's programming for CDBG funding fails to make clear what City funding the federal dollars are *supplementing*. In other words, the City needs to be investing its own general fund dollars in the parts of Fresno that have traditionally lacked adequate infrastructure investment and maintenance; the purpose of CDBG funding is to *add to* the investment the City is already making, to help fill the gap created by long-term neglect. Instead, it appears that CDBG funds are the only funds being directed to many of the identified projects—in fact, that CDBG dollars are *supplanting* City investment rather than *supplementing* it. CCLS is requesting clarification on this question.

## The Annual Action Plan does not consider the City's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing

At page 16 of the AAP, it lists "other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan and how the goals of the Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan." Fresno's 2016 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice<sup>4</sup> (hereafter "AI") is not on the list.

However, federal law<sup>5</sup> requires that the AAP not only consider the AI, but that it include a section entitled "Affirmatively furthering fair housing," incorporating planned actions to address fair housing over the next year. While the current HUD Secretary has extended the deadline for implementing Obama-era fair housing regulations<sup>6</sup>, the City remains under obligations imposed by the Fair Housing Act itself to reverse the effect of decades-long housing segregation in Fresno. The AI sets out with great clarity a range of mechanisms for taking those actions.

CCLS therefore requests clarification as to the AAP's lack of any reference to the AI, or to the recommendations the AI makes for remedial action on fair housing issues. This omission is particularly puzzling in light of the July 17, 2015 Letter of Special Assurances from then-City Manager Bruce Rudd to HUD official Maria Cremer (attached; hereafter "Rudd letter"), committing to amend the City's 2015 Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans "to identify

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The AI is too large to attach electronically to this letter. Please follow this link to see the full report: <a href="https://www.fresno.gov/darm/housing-community-development/fair-housing/">https://www.fresno.gov/darm/housing-community-development/fair-housing/</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 24 C.F.R. § 91.220 (k)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/01/05/2018-00106/affirmatively-furthering-fair-housing-extension-of-deadline-for-submission-of-assessment-of-fair

April 23, 2018

additional actions it will undertake to address newly identified impediments." (Rudd letter, page 2.)

Racial segregation in housing has been shown to contribute to unsafe, overpriced private market rental housing. The 2016 AI did identify numerous impediments to fair housing that had not previously been recognized, and made specific recommendations for mitigation measures—some of which would be highly appropriate uses for HUD funding, in that they could facilitate the increase in affordable units as well as reducing the level of racial segregation in Fresno's neighborhoods. As the Action Plan stands, however, its entire allocation for fair housing purposes is \$40,000 in CDBG funding, 0.6% of the \$6,628,923 total; the proposed grant is for "fair housing planning," and imposes no set of identifiable deliverables. (AAP, page 47.)

Following is a short summary of those AI findings with respect to which CDBG dollars could fund mitigating recommendations. It is CCLS's hope that the City can offer information explaining its decision as to each of these strategies not chosen for funding, especially the recommendations that explicitly propose CDBG-funded action. (For example, the Analysis of Impediments' commitment to "new or additional CDBG funding designated for improvements to infrastructure, public works projects, and housing rehabilitation/preservation in areas of poverty and high concentrations of minority residents." (Measurable Objective 1.2, AI, page 14. [emphasis added]))

• AI Private Sector Impediment 1 (pages 11-12): Black and Hispanic home purchase loan applicants have been denied home-purchase loans at a higher rate than white or non-Hispanic residents.

#### AI recommendations:

- --collaboration (with banks and nonprofits) to develop strategies to promote lending in areas with relatively high concentrations of racial/ethnic minority residents
- -- promoting credit and personal finance education among area high school students
- --partnerships with non-profit entities to support the development of a land bank or community land trust to acquire properties for rehabilitation and/or development of affordable and mixed income housing
- AI Private Sector Impediment 3 (pages 12-13): Relatively low levels of private investment in racial/ethnic minority neighborhoods and areas with comparatively high poverty rates.

#### AI recommendations:

- -- funding, matching funding, training programs, and Section 3 opportunities for small business loan investment, and to prepare small businesses for loans
- -- explore the creation of a Transit Oriented Affordable Housing Loan Fund in support of mixed-income housing.
- AI Public Sector Impediment 1 (pages 13-14): Persistence of concentrated areas of poverty with disproportionate shares of racial/ethnic minorities.

#### AI recommendations:

- -- CDBG funding be used to promote investment and to leverage lending in these areas of Fresno.
- -- creation of enhanced infrastructure financing districts (EIDFs)

- -- City expand or reallocate CDBG funding for infrastructure improvements, public works projects, and housing rehabilitation/preservation.
- AI Public Sector Impediment 2 (pages 14-15): Concentration of assisted housing in concentrated areas of poverty with relatively high concentrations of racial/ethnic minority residents.

#### AI recommendations:

- --pursue and deploy funding to assist in the development, preservation, and rehabilitation of any existing housing type with a particular emphasis on the development of mixed-income neighborhoods. [emphasis added]
- AI Public Sector Impediment 3 (page 15): Need to promote active public participation and involvement on issues impacting City residents.

#### AI recommendations:

- -- implementation of a website; multiple additional measures with respect to better and deeper engagement with the Fair Housing Council.
- -- improve public participation processes

#### The AAP does not suggest coordination with other City efforts to end homelessness

Although Goal #02 is Homeless Services, the AAP does not mention the collaboration currently under way among City, community partners, and the Housing Authority, to devise solutions for Fresno's homelessness issues. These efforts have included significant participation from homelessness expert Barbara Poppe, who has successfully consulted with other cities to prioritize housing-first transitional strategies.

CCLS here requests information about the specific initiatives under consideration with Ms. Poppe's consultation, and seeks clarification about whether the AAP can incorporate some of these innovative ideas into its 2018-2019 Plan on this issue. Especially given increasing levels of funding for police efforts to deal with homeless encampments, including storage of property seized, it could be cost-effective to consider using available ESG funds to reduce the demand for high-dollar police enforcement.

Thanking you for this opportunity to obtain information and clarification regarding these important issues, I remain,

PATIENCE MILROD
Executive Director

Enclosures:

August 19, 2017 HUD OIG Audit Report Number 2017-LA-1006

City of Fresno July 17, 2015 Letter of Special Assurances

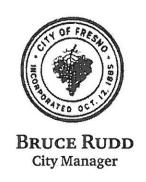
CC:

Jennifer Clarke

Sophia Pagoulatos

Kelli Furtado

Tom Morgan



July 17, 2015

Maria Cremer, Acting Director
Office of Community Planning and Development
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
One Sansome Street
Suite 1200
San Francisco, CA 94104

Re:

Letter of Special Assurances

City of Fresno

Dear Ms. Cremer:

The Department of Development and Resource Management, on behalf of the City of Fresno, hereby acknowledges the obligation to affirmatively further fair housing and to address impediments identified in the City's Analysis of Impediments in accordance with the Consolidated Plan and CDBG Certification statements and anti-discrimination laws (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973). HUD's program regulations for administration of the Community Development Block Grant program require recipients of this type of funding to "affirmatively further fair housing which means that it will conduct an analysis to identify impediments to fair housing choice within the jurisdiction, to take appropriate actions to overcome the effects of any impediments identified through that analysis, and maintain records reflecting the analysis and actions in this regard" (24 CFR 91.225(a)(1)).

In this respect, the City of Fresno agrees to commence the process of developing a revised Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice document (AI) within 90 days of the date of this letter, and to complete the process leading to adoption of AI including its approval by authorized representatives of the city within 270 days of the date of this letter. The revision of the AI shall include the following:

- 1.) All public participation processes as required by CDBG regulations (24 CFR 91.100, et seq.),
- 2.) An analysis of the degree to which the LIPH, HCV and project-based affordable housing programs of the housing authorities promote a range of housing choices outside of areas of concentration,

City Manager's Office • City of Fresno 2600 Fresno Street • Fresno, California 93721-3601 (559) 621-7784 • FAX (559) 621-7776 • Bruce.Rudd@fresno.gov 3.) Analysis of whether lack of housing choice should be identified as an impediment, thus meriting remedial action in its revised AI and successive Consolidated Plans. This analysis of housing authority programs will be conducted within the context of all of the city's affordable housing programs, including those developed with CDBG/HOME/NSP funds, LIHTCs, and also including those privately developed through other means without these funding sources. Immediately upon approval, copies of the AI will be forwarded to HUD's Offices of Community Planning and Development and Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

The City of Fresno also agrees that if new impediments are identified in its revised AI, the City agrees to amend its 2015 Consolidated and first-year Annual Action Plans to identify additional actions it will undertake to address the newly-identified impediments.

The signing of this Letter of Special Assurances commits the City's Department of Development and Resource Management to address the civil rights concern raised by HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

Sincerely, Since Mels

Bruce Rudd City Manager

cc: Renena Smith, Assistant City Manager

Jennifer Clark, Director, Development and Resource Management

Jose Trujillo, Housing Division Manager

#### **Attachment**

#### **Office of Inspector General Report**

Due to the size of the attachment, it has not been included in the public comment section. The full report can be viewed by searching "Fresno" on the HUD website <a href="www.hudoig.gov">www.hudoig.gov</a> under the Reports and Publications section, or by typing the following link into a web browser:

https://www.hudoig.gov/reports-publications/audit-reports/city-of-fresno-ca-did-not-administer-its-community-development

## HCDC Public Hearing-April 25, 2018

## Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) Meeting Public Comments Received

The draft of the 2018-19 Annual Action Plan was made available on March 23, 2018, for a 30-day public comment period ending April 23, 2018. On April 25, 2018, the HCDC held a public hearing to obtain the views of interested individuals on the draft 2018-19 Annual Action Plan. The City of Fresno's (City) responses are provided below.

1. Patience Milrod, Central California Legal Services: Ms. Milrod indicated that her comments have also been documented in writing (Attached as part of Public Comments on the Draft Annual Action Plan). She questioned the HCDC related to the purpose of holding a public hearing if it was not part of a recommendation. Ms. Milrod raised concerns related to spending CDBG funds all over the city instead of concentrating it where it could do more good. She indicated that her clients are confused about why that policy decision was made and requested that the HCDC look into changing that decision. She also commented on her clients need for CDBG funds to go towards code enforcement efforts. Ms. Milrod questioned why the City hasn't addressed efforts about de-concentration of racial segregation in housing in the Annual Action Plan. Ms. Milrod offered to assist with outreach efforts in the future.

[City Response: The City received and responded to the letter mentioned as part of the comments received during the 30-day period covering March 23 through April 23, 2018. The HCDC held its first Public Needs Hearing on January 24, 2018, and heard from approximately 30 individuals related to the needs in the community. Those public comments were taken into consideration during the March 14, 2018, HCDC Public Needs Hearing that includes applicant presentations. The HCDC scored applications and made recommendations for funding based on the previous public needs expressed. Those recommendations were the basis for the draft 2018-19 Annual Action Plan. Ms. Milrod's concerns related to the geographic funding of CDBG have been addressed previously in "Public Review Period March 23 – April 23, 2018" section.]

Lucianna Ventresca, Marjaree Mason Center: Ms. Ventresca spoke about her
consideration of the plan and addressed the needs that exist for the population
served by the Marjaree Mason Center. She appreciated the funding
recommendations for rehabilitation and emergency shelter operations, and stated
that they remain in need for the funding.

[City Response: The City received and considered Ms. Ventresca's comments.]

## City Council Public Hearing-May 10, 2018

#### Fresno City Council Meeting Public Comments Received

Upon call for public comment, the following people addressed the Council:

 Miriam Powles representing the Hidalgo Neighbors: Ms. Powles thanked the Mayor, Council, and Housing and Community Development Commission for support in Hidalgo Neighborhood through CDBG funding to install new sidewalks near the elementary school. Ms. Powles read a letter of support for additional funding to complete sidewalk work from First Street to Cedar Avenue and Belmont Avenue to Harvey Avenue. The letter was from approximately ten members of Hidalgo Neighbors in Action – Vecinos en Accion.

[City Response: The City has included Hidalgo improvements in the Neighborhood Street and Sidewalk Improvements category. The boundaries include First Street to Fourth Street, and Belmont Avenue to Harvey Avenue.]

2. Nicole Linder, Executive Director of the Marjaree Mason Center (MMC): Ms. Linder strongly encouraged support for the 2018-19 Annual Action Plan and indicated that the MMC was recommended for funding in three categories. She shared that this year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> year since losing Marjaree Mason to domestic violence and the work of the MMC continues to be a Safe Home for thousands of victims each year.

[City Response: The City received and considered Ms. Linder's comments.]

3. Todd Cook, Board Member of the Marjaree Mason Center: Mr. Cook is a proud member of the MMC Board of Directors, one of the largest domestic violence shelters in California. He reviewed the needs in the community, and the high calls for service through the Fresno Police Department. Mr. Cook encouraged, thanked, and humbly requested continued support.

[City Response: The City received and considered Mr. Cook's comments.]

4. Laneesha Senegal, Helping Others Pursue Excellence: Ms. Senegal expressed support for the Annual Action Plan and shared information about the advocacy efforts for small business conducted by HOPE and how resources are being leveraged in the airport district.

[City Response: The City received and considered Ms. Senegal's comments.]

5. Esther Delahay, Lowell Community Development Corporation (CDC): Ms. Delahay thanked the City Council for the Annual Action Plan, which includes recommended funding to the Lowell CDC. As a local CDC cohort member, she spoke to the importance and the need for capacity building in Fresno neighborhoods. Ms. Delahay applauded the City's effort to allocate CDBG grant funds to many of the worthwhile nonprofit agencies doing meaningful work in Fresno. She strongly supported the Action Plan and is encouraged by seeing the funds going towards amazing organizations doing good work in Fresno.

[City Response: The City received and considered Ms. Delahay's comments.]

6. Diana Carbray, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Fresno County: Ms. Carbray shared her support of the Action Plan and reviewed that the plan recommends funding for three Boys and Girls Clubs at El Dorado, Fink-White, and Inspiration Park. She informed the Council that the programs are aligned with the City's Consolidated Plan goals and offer job and life skills, as well as gang prevention and education. Ms. Carbray informed the Council that due to the loss of other funding, the 950 children served at these three sites are in need of the recommended CDBG funding for the upcoming year and that she appreciates the Councils consideration.

[City Response: The City received and considered Ms. Carbray's comments.]

## APPENDIX B – PUBLIC NOTICES

# The Fresno Bee fresnobee.com





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<u>Customer EMail</u> caroline.hyder@fresno.gov

Order Taker

chall@fresnobee.com

PO Number Susie Williams	<u>Payment Method</u> Credit Card		Blind Box	<u>Tear Sheets</u> 0	Proofs 0	Affidavits 1
Net Amount \$1,026.00	Tax Amount \$0.00	Total Amount \$1,026.00		Payment Amount \$0.00	A	Amount Due \$1,026.00
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Invoice Text				Prom	o Type	
Package Buy				Mater	ials	

#### **Ad Order Information**

Ad Number 0003444614-01 Ad Type

FRS-Legal Liner

Production Method AdBooker

**Production Notes** 

External Ad Number

Ad Attributes

Ad Released No Pick Up

Ad Size

2 X 89 li

Color

Product

<u>Placement</u>

Times Run

Schedule Cost

FRS- The Fresno Bee

0300 - Legals Classified

1

\$1,026.00

Run Schedule Invoice Text

#3444614 2018 2019 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

<u>Position</u>

0301 - Legals & Public Notices

Run Dates

12/22/2017

PUBLIC NOTICE

#3444614

2018 – 2019 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT HEARING

The City of Fresno annually receives federal funding on an entitlement formula basis from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Planning and Development Office under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA) Programs. To receive HUD funding the City prepares its application for funds through an annual action plan. The annual action plan details projects/programs funded with the federal funds and the benefit to low and moderate-income persons. The City expects to receive the following grant amounts for fiscal year 2018 – 2019:

CDBG: \$6,422,423 HOME: 2,204,672 ESG: 569,903 HOPWA: 441,305

In preparation for developing the 2018 – 2019 Annual Action Plan, the City will: 1) conduct a public hearing to discuss prior year accomplishments; 2) obtain input from interested persons on housing and community development needs; and 3) provide information on funding opportunities.

The Needs Assessment Hearing initiates the action plan process and examines and discusses the nature and types of assistance required to address the City's future housing and community development goals and priorities. The hearing enables the public, local service providers, community organizations, interested government or other agencies and individuals to provide comments and views on the housing, community and economic needs and strategies to be outlined in the 2018-2019 Annual Action Plan. Citizens, public and private agencies, and other interested stakeholders and parties are invited and encouraged to attend and participate in this discussion.

The Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) will conduct the Needs Assessment Hearing on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fresno City Hall at 2600 Fresno Street on the second floor in the room numbered 2165A. The City will provide translation services, upon request, and will make special accommodations for persons with disabilities. Persons needing these services should contact the Housing Division, at (559) 621-8300 or by TTY (559) 621-8721, at least five calendar days prior to the meeting date.

Additionally, two Community Workshops and Conversations will precede the HCDC Needs Assessment Hearing. One Workshop/Conversation will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at the Columbia Elementary School located at 1025 South Trinity Street in Fresno. The other Workshop/Conversation will be held 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at the Living Grace Fellowship Church located at 3239 W. Ashlan Avenue in Fresno, CA.

Questions regarding the action plan process can be directed to Thomas Morgan, Housing Manager, (559) 621-8003, by mail 2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065, Fresno CA 93721, and by email at thomas.morgan@fresno.gov.

# The Fresno Bee fresnobee.com





\$3,112.20

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**Customer EMail** 

caroline.hyder@fresno.gov

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chall@fresnobee.com

	Susie Williams	Cred	lit Card		0	0	1	
ı	Net Amount	Tax Amount	<b>Total Amount</b>	Pa	vment Amount	Δ	mount Due	

\$3,112.20

0003500687

Ad Order Number Order Source

\$0.00

Sales Rep

r Source Ordered By

ed By Special Pricing

\$0.00

Invoice Text Promo Type

\$3,112,20

Package Buy Materials

4:21:54PM

#### Ad Order Information

Ad Number 0003500687-01 Ad Type

FRS-Legal Liner

**Production Method** 

**Production Notes** 

**External Ad Number** 

AdBooker

Ad Released

No

Pick Up

Ad Size 3 X 182 li Color

**Product** 

**Placement** 

Times Run

**Schedule Cost** 

FRS- The Fresno Bee

0300 - Legals Classified

1

\$3,112.20

Run Schedule Invoice Text

**Position** 

**Ad Attributes** 

#3500687 NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

0301 - Legals & Public Notices

**Run Dates** 

01/31/2018

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### #3500687

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME TBRA)
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
Housing Opportunities for Persons With ANDS/HIV (HOPWA)

The City of Fresno (City) invites interested and eligible public or private nonprofit agencies to submit an application for funding in the upcoming 2018 – 2019 Fiscal Year (FY). The funding sources under this NOFA are: Community Development Block Grant (CD8G), HOALE Investment Partnerships (HOALE) Tenant Based Rental Assistance (18RA), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA) programs. This NOFA seeks projects that meet the priorities cultimed in the City's FY 2016 – 2020 Consolidated Plan. The priorities are:

- Increase development, preservation, and rehabilitation of affordable housingfor low-income and special needs households.
- 2. Provide assistance for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless through housing first collaborations.
- 3. Provide assistance to low-income and special needs households.
- 4. Provide public facilities improvements to strengthen neighborhood revitalization.

#### APPLICATIONS / PROPOSALS

#### DEADLINE:

Thursday March 1, 2018 by 4:00 p.m. PST Postmarks will not be accepted

#### QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE MAY BE DIRECTED TO:

For Hamelessness and Hamelessness Prevention Programs, Services and Related Facility Improvements and Tenantbased Rental Assistance (TBRA – home-less prevention only):

Dannya Casey, Project Manager, (559) 621.8469, dannye.casey@fresna.gov

#### For Home Repair Programs:

► Erica Castaneda, Project Manager, (559) 621.8514, erica costaneda@fresno.gov

For Community Service and Related Facility Improvements [non-homelessness):

Tom Margan, Manager, (559) 621-8064, thomas.margan@fresna.gov

#### APPLICATION DELIVERY:

Development and Resource Management Department Attn: Housing and Community Development 2600 Fresno Street, Room 3065 Fresno, CA 93721

#### Bookground

aborgrams

The Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Act (HOME), Emergency Solutions

Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA) entitlement programs are established through the

Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990; the Stewart B. McKinney

Homeless Assistance Act, and the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act, respectively. Funding for the entitlement programs is received

annually and is based upon formulas and allocation methodalogies established by Congress.

Funding levels of the entitlement programs varies from year to year depending upon the federal budget. Historically, the City receives funding requests that exceed the actual funds available, and therefore, does not expect to fund all requests submitted.

#### Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan

As a recipient of federal entillement funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City is required to prepare a Consolidated Plan that sets farth a five-year strategy for allocating resources to meet the housing and community development needs of its low and moderate income residents. The strategic report, known as the 2016 – 2020 Consolidated Plan, provides a prioritized list of needs that will be addressed annually through the federal entitlement programs.

CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA program funds are allocated in accordance with local plans and priorities, federal regulations and the needs identified in the Consolidated Plan. Each year the City prepares an Annual Action Plan that identifies programs, projects, activities, and funding levels that will be undertaken to address the Consolidated Plan priority needs. Applications for funds are required to meet one of the prioritized needs. A summary of the priorities are provided in a later section of this notice.

#### Citizen Participation Process

An integral part of developing the annual action plan is input from the community, porticular emphasis is placed upon gathering input from populations directly impacted by the funding, such as: low and moderate income persons, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, homeless persons, persons with HIV/AIDS, illiterate adults, and migrant workers.

In accordance with the Citizen Perticipation Plan in the City's 2015 – 2019 Consolidated Plan, the City is required to hold two public hearings for the Annual Action Plan. The public hearing before the Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) will be on March 14, 2018 and the public hearing before City Council will be an Mary 10, 2018. The HCDC public hearing will be held at Fresno City Hall, Roome 2165N, located at 2600 Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93721. The City Council public hearing will be held at Fresno City Hall, Council Chambers located at 2600 Fresno Street, Roome 2097, Fresno, CA 93721. Ustening devices, interpretation services, and other assistance to disabled persons or those with limited English proficiency will be provided upon request, ranging up to five business days prior notification to the City Clerk. Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for auditory aids and services, require different lead times, ranging up to five business days. For this reason, it is important to provide as much advance notice as possible to ensure availability. Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs) are available upon request.

Staff will be available to provide technical assistance to prospective applicants upon request and may be contacted as provided above.

Anticipated Funding Award Levels
The City anticipates that the following funding levels will be available for subrecipients, as follows:

CDBG Funding:	
Community and homelessness facility improvements	\$ 500,000
Home repair programs	\$ 500,000
Community and homelessness services, including diversion services	\$ 180,000
HOME funding:	
Tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA - homelessness prevention only)	\$ 667,000
ESG funding:	
Street outreach and emergency shelter	\$ 185,220
Homeless prevention	\$ 25.075
Rapid re-housing	\$ 296,920
Subrecipient administration (in tandem with activity funding)	\$ 14,247
HOPWA funding	
Eligible HOPWA activities	\$ 428,066

Applying for Funds
Applications for Funding will be available on February 1, 2018 at the Development and Resource Management Department, 2600 Fresno Street, City Hall Room 3065 and on the City's website at <a href="https://www.fresno.gov/hausing">www.fresno.gov/hausing</a>.

Agencies with multiple activities/projects must submit separate applications for each activity/project. One original application must be received no later than, 4:00 p.m. on March 1, 2018, at the Development and Resource Management Department, 2600 Fresno Street, City Hall Room 3065. Postmarks and facsimiles will not be accepted.

# The Fresno Bee fresnobee.com





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BUDGET & MANAGEMENT STUDIES OFFICE - CDBG SECTION

FRESNO CA 937213604 USA

**Customer Phone** 

559-621-8507

**Customer Fax** 

Sales Rep

mthomas@fresnobee.com

**Payor Customer** 

CITY OF FRESNO

**Payor Account** 

401242

Payor Address

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FRESNO CA 937213604 USA

**Payor Phone** 

559-621-8507

**Customer EMail** 

**Order Taker** 

mthomas@fresnobee.com

PO Number Susie Williams	<u>Payment Method</u> Invoice		Blind Box	<u>Tear Sheets</u> 0	Proofs 0	Affidavits 1
Net Amount \$843.60	Tax Amount \$0.00	Total Amount \$843.60		Payment Amount \$0.00		<u>Amount Due</u> \$843.60
Ad Order Number 0003581375	Order Source Sales Rep		Ordered By	Specia	al Pricing	
Invoice Text				Promo Type		
Package Buy				<u>Materi</u>	als_	

#### Ad Order Information

Ad Number 0003581375-01 Ad Type

FRS-Legal Liner

**Production Method** 

AdBooker

**Production Notes** 

External Ad Number

**Ad Attributes** 

Ad Released No Pick Up

Ad Size

Color

2 X 74 li

Product

<u>Placement</u>

Times Run

**Schedule Cost** 

FRS- The Fresno Bee

0300 - Legals Classified

1

\$843.60

Run Schedule Invoice Text

#3581375 PUBLIC NOTICE DRAFT FISCAL YEA

<u>Position</u>

0301 - Legals & Public Notices

**Run Dates** 

03/23/2018

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

#3581375

PUBLIC NOTICE DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Annual Action Plan is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that specifies the fiscal year activities and funding levels to be undertaken to meet the housing and community development priorities established in the Consolidated Plan. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2018–2019, the City of Fresno anticipates administering approximately \$10.3 million dollars through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA) Programs.

The Draft 2018–2019 Annual Action Plan will be made available for public review on March 23, 2018, at: Fresno City Hall 2600 Fresno Street in the City Clerk's Office (Room 2133); the Housing and Community Development Division (Room 3065); the Fresno County Library (Downtown branch); and online at <a href="https://www.fresno.gov/housing">https://www.fresno.gov/housing</a>

On Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at 5:00 PM, the City's Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) will conduct a public hearing in City Hall Room 2165A, 2600 Fresno Street, Fresno, CA to allow interested persons to provide comment on the draft Annual Action Plan. On May 10, 2018, the City Council will conduct a public hearing to allow interested persons to provide comment on the draft Annual Action Plan. The City Council will consider adoption of the plan following the Public Hearing, which will be held at 10:10 AM, Fresno City Hall, Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street, 2nd floor, Fresno, CA. The City will provide translators and will make special accommodations for persons with disabilities.

In the meantime, questions and comments on the draft document can be submitted to the contact information provided below:

City of Fresno
Development and Resource Management Department
Attn: Tom Morgan, Housing and Community Development Manager
2600 Fresno Street Room 3065
Fresno CA 93721

Phone:(559) 621-8003
Fax:(559) 559-457-1054
TTY: (559) 621-8721
Email:thomas.morgan@fresno.gov
(Please type "2019 Action Plan Comment" in the message subject line)