

**DRAFT Public Hearing Minutes – Pending Approval
Block Grant Working Committee
Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendments (2020-#1)
Friday, April 24, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.
City of Aurora Virtual Public Hearing**

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDEES

Block Grant Working Committee: Linda Cole, Ken Gaul

City Staff: Chris Ragona, Amy Munro, Tara Neff, Liz Carrizales

Others: Michelle Meyer, Executive Director, Mutual Ground/Breaking Free

Meeting was called to order 4:05 p.m. by Chris Ragona. He introduced himself as the City of Aurora, Community Development Division Manager. He introduced the Block Grant Working Committee members, Community Development Division staff, Mr. Ragona asked if there were any members present: Michelle Meyer introduced herself as the Executive Director, Mutual Ground/Breaking Free.

Mr. Ragona opened the public hearing for Substantial Amendment 2020-#1

Mr. Ragona stated the purpose of this Public Hearing is not to discuss or respond to specific questions regarding Substantial Amendment. The purpose of this public hearing is to obtain public input for the City Council in their deliberations, and to HUD on the proposed Substantial 2020-#1 recommendations to the City's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, 2019 and 2020 Annual Action Plans and also amendments to the City's Citizen Participation Plan. Input will be provided to City Council in their consideration of the funding recommendations and Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendments, and will be included in the amended Action Plan submitted to HUD.

Prior to today's public hearing, the public hearing notice was posted on Friday, April 17, 2020 in the *Reflejos* newspaper and on the City's website. On Sunday, April 19, 2020 the notice was posted in *The Beacon News*. Those wishing to provide public comment were asked to pre-register with the Community Development Division no later than 12:00 noon on April 23, 2020 and advised that all telephone numbers and participant names would be visible to the public. Additionally, the public hearing notice advised that upon advance request, the City would provide translation services to meet the needs of non-English speaking residents. On April 23rd, 2020, a summary of the proposed *Substantial Amendments to the City of Aurora's 2019 and 2020 Annual Action Plans* and its *Citizen Participation Plan* was made available for review and public comment on the City of Aurora's website.

Mr. Ragona provided a brief overview of Substantial Amendment 2020-#1:

Mr. Ragona read the public notice as posted in the newspapers: As an entitlement community, the City of Aurora receives funding from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), HOME (HOME) Investment Partnerships Program, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program. Through the March 27, 2020 passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, the City has also

received a CDBG-CV allocation. To expedite the disbursement of the City's 2019 CDBG, 2020 CDBG, and 2020 CDBG-CV funds, via 24 CFR 5.110, the CARES Act authorizes HUD to grant waivers to the public notice, public comment, and citizen participation plan requirements found in 24 CFR 91.105I(2) and (k), 24 CFR 91.115I(2) and (i) and 24 CFR 91.401. In accordance with the City of Aurora's Citizen Participation Plan and HUD's regulatory requirement waivers (which reduce the minimum 30-day public comment period to a 5-day period), today's virtual public hearing was scheduled to provide an opportunity for public comment on proposed *Substantial Amendments to the City's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan as well as its 2019 and 2020 Annual Action Plans* and also the City's *Citizen Participation Plan*.

The Substantial Amendments will result in the re/allocation of unexpended CDBG (\$900,000) and the CDBG-CV funds (\$902,078) and adjustments needed to ensure the integrity of the City's spending obligations and also further address the City's effort to comply with HUD's regulatory requirements in administering the City's CDBG Program. The total amount to be allocated and/or reprogrammed is \$1,802,078.

The proposed CDBG Amendments are as follows:

Proposed New or Amended CDBG Activity	Recommended Re/Allocation Amount	CDBG Program Year Funding Source	Original Funding Allocation	Project Reallocation Comments
CDBG-2018-14 – The Standing Together with Aurora Businesses Local Emergency Fund (STABLE Fund)	\$500,000	CDBG-2019-09 – City of Aurora Residential Resurfacing Program	\$500,000	The Standing Together with Aurora Businesses Local Emergency Fund (STABLE Fund) can provide funding of up to \$15,000 for businesses with 5 or less employees, and up to \$25,000 for businesses with between 6 and 50 employees. The total funding for this program will be \$1,400,000 when combined with previously approved funding.
CDBG-2018-14 – The Standing Together with Aurora Businesses Local Emergency Fund (STABLE Fund)	\$100,000	CDBG-2019-11 – Hope Wall Special Needs Playground	\$100,000	
CDBG-2020-08 – The Standing Together with Aurora Businesses Local Emergency Fund (STABLE Fund)	\$300,000	CDBG-2020-11 – City of Aurora Residential Resurfacing Program	\$300,000	
CDBG-CV-2020-01 The Standing Together with Aurora Businesses Local Emergency Fund (STABLE Fund)	\$300,000	CDBG funds received as part of COVID-19 Stimulus #3 Package	N/A	

CDBG-CV-2020-02 – Non Profit Public Service Activities	\$200,000	CDBG funds received as part of COVID-19 Stimulus #3 Package	N/A	Additional non-profit public service dollars will address basic needs for residents directly. City staff will work with non-profit agencies over the next several weeks to determine eligible projects supporting COVID-19 activities.
CDBG-CV-2020-03 – Subsistence Payments Emergency Assistance	\$200,000	CDBG funds received as part of COVID-19 Stimulus #3 Package	N/A	To assist residents directly impacted by COVID-19 by recommending approval for a set aside for the activity of subsistence payments emergency assistance.
CDBG-CV-2020-04 – Emergency Shelter Activities	\$21,663	CDBG funds received as part of COVID-19 Stimulus #3 Package	N/A	Activities include motel vouchers and other eligible emergency expenses related to shelter activities. City staff will look to partner with non-profit agencies to provide this funding for existing programs.
CDBG Administration	\$180,415	CDBG funds received as part of COVID-19 Stimulus #3 Package	N/A	Up to 20% annually of CDBG funds can be used towards administration such as salaries, benefits, trainings, and other operating expenses. City staff will monitor administration expenditures for the remainder of 2020 and any remaining funding will be allocated to a new activity.
Estimated Allocation / Reallocation Total	\$1,802,078			

Updates to the Citizen Participation Plan have been made to accommodate the City's receipt of its COVID-19 funding as well as HUD's waivers on its public notice and citizen participation regulatory waivers.

To provide comments, please contact the Community Development Division (CDD) via phone at (630) 256-3320 or dnr@aurora-il.org. Written and verbal comments will be accepted no later than 4:00 p.m., April 27, 2020. All responses will be addressed by the CDD and submitted to HUD. The Substantial Amendment is scheduled for review and adoption at the City Council's April 28, 2020 meeting at 5:00 p.m., via the Zoom video conferencing platform. As with all Aurora City Council meetings, public viewing will be available on the City's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/cityofauroraIL) and on the homepage of the City's website (www.aurora-il.org).

Mr. Ragona asked if anyone would like to provide public testimony should state their name, address, and if representing an agency, the name of agency.

No one from the public provided testimony.

He said that the comment period extends through April 27, 2020, 4:00 p.m. It is expected that the City Council will make a final determination for approval of Substantial Amendments 2020-#1 on April 28, 2020.

Mr. Ragona closed the public hearing at 4:16 p.m.