

**City of Hollywood  
Community Development Advisory Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 9, 2020**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The City of Hollywood, Florida, held a Community Development Advisory Board Meeting on December 9, 2020 at City Hall, 2600 Hollywood Blvd., Room 219, Hollywood, Florida. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Phil de Souza, at 6:05 P.M.

*\*\*Motion to accept WebEx attendees was made by Kelly Edwards and seconded by David Rosas Jr. Motion carried unanimously. \*\**

**2. ROLL CALL:**

**Present:**

Phil de Souza  
Kelly Edwards  
Joann Fullington Reese  
Jennifer Luciani (via WebEx)  
Siobhan McLaughlin  
David Rosa  
Marty Shuham (via WebEx)  
Milana Walter  
Amber Yeisley

**Absent:**

Ana Kairis

**STAFF:**

Donna Biederman, Staff Liaison  
Anthony Grisby, Community Development Program Administrator

**PUBLIC:**

Antonio Balbuena

**3. New Business:**

**Public Hearing: Citizen Needs Assessment**

Mr. de Souza introduced Mr. Grisby to give his presentation.

Mr. Grisby presented an overview of the City's use of CDBG and HOME federal funding and eligible uses of funds to be considered.

Mr. Grisby opened to the public and the board for questions.

Mr. de Souza commented on the homeless issue that Mr. Grisby spoke about during his presentation. Due to COVID restrictions, the shelters could not open itself for more people. Was there any dialogue about opening makeshift housing?

Mr. Grisby said that has been no dialogue regarding this idea. However, if someone was evicted, working under the rental assistance program and with their partner, Hope South Florida, we are adjusting the contract to include rehousing if affected by COVID.

Mr. Grisby further commented that the moratorium on evictions from the CDC will be ending on December 31, 2020. This could cause a great amount of evictions in the near future.

Mr. Rosa commented about how Hope South Florida in the past had used faith-based housing to assist with the shortfall of beds to the homeless.

Mr. Grisby replied to that comment that with anyone seeking a place to stay at Broward Outreach, is tested. If they test positive, they are quarantined in a hotel paid for by the City. The testing issue and capacity issue will also fall to any faith-based organizations as well.

Ms. McLaughlin questioned the 30% of the funds going to public safety matters. Could the police be asked to use other funding for public safety?

Ms. McLaughlin also asked about the anticipation of evictions. Could the landlords be asked to hold off on seeking evictions by offering additional grants.

Ms. McLaughlin's asked if there something that can be done about the hunger issue within the City of Hollywood.

Mr. Grisby spoke about how they are currently working with landlord and telling them how they are going to get paid with the rental assistance program that their tenant applied for. However, the funding that is currently being used, expires on December 30<sup>th</sup>. With the new program, CDBG-CV3, the guidelines have not been established. And learning from past experience, all the regulations need to be thoroughly reviewed before going forward with a program.

Ms. Laughlin asked for clarification about pre-paying with current funds.

Mr. De Souza asked about increased admin funds.

Mr. Grisby said that we never have enough admin. Some other departments have offered to assist with this program, but it is difficult if it is outside their normal duties. Volunteers have offered to assist; however, there are privacy issues when dealing with individual's personal information.

Ms. Luciani said that she appreciated seeing the breakdown of all the funding allocations.

Ms. McLaughlin still offered her services to assist with processing rental assistance applications.

Mr. Grisby addressed Ms. McLaughlin's question about the hunger issue. He said that they continue to assist the food pantries as they can to fight this growing problem. However, it is more than a money issue; it is a capacity issue, an endurance issue, and an organizational issue.

Mr. Rosa commented on the non-existent youth programming. There doesn't seem to be any programs in the works regarding the problems facing the youth. Is there any funding that can be utilized in this capacity?

Mr. Grisby said that many of the organizations that are currently receiving assistance are working within community centers to assist children and there have been marked improvements in grades. However, the distancing requirements make it harder and harder to reach these children. Most of the programs were one-on-one assistance. While these agencies are recalibrating their programs to be virtual, it lacks the personalized attention.

Mr. Rosa asked specifically about funding agencies to work with the youth in the emotional and social impacts of the pandemic.

Mr. Grisby said that in March, presentations would be made from organizations that could provide that. The current CARES funding could not be used in that capacity.

*\*\*Note: No written comments were submitted to the board.*

Mr. de Souza closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

**4. Old Business:**

None

**5. Member Comments:**

Ms. Walter wanted to express her appreciation of all the hard work during these unprecedented hard times.

**6. Staff Comments:**

Ms. Biederman expressed her appreciation to the board for volunteering for the drive-thru food distribution and their offers to volunteer to assist with the rental assistance program. She further commented that the Hollywood Jaycees reached out to provide Thanksgiving turkeys and baskets for these needy families.

Mr. Grisby wanted to add that during the school closures, City Parks and Rec department provided learning pods. Since the schools are re-opened, those learning pods have been discontinued. They are currently still working with sewer connections, but the application is now online. The CEC on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup>, will be having a baby supply giveaway. The CEC is having a toy giveaway on the 19<sup>th</sup>, from infants to 17 years of age.

**7. Adjournment:**

*\*\*Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. was made by Amber Yeisley and seconded by Milana Walter. Motion carried unanimously. \*\**