

ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL
Committee Report
Council Meeting of February 5, 2009

TO: The Honorable Jeff Danner, Chair, and Members of City Council

FROM: Housing Services Committee: Leslie Curran, Council Vice-Chair, Herb Polson, Councilmember, Karl Nurse, Committee Vice Chair, Jeff Danner, Council Chair, Wengay Newton, Councilmember, Bill Dudley, Councilmember

RE: **Housing Services Committee Meeting of January 29, 2009**

New Business:

Request to Amend the City's Energy Efficiency Program (Tom de Yampert)

Mr. de Yampert discussed the City's current Energy Efficiency Program and that they were implemented to provide services to households in Childs Park and Bartlett Park. Mr. de Yampert discussed with a representative of Progress Energy, the audits that will be performed and advised what a homeowner can do to lower utility costs (thermostat settings, tank-less water heaters, etc.) and what innovations are coming in terms of new water heater technology (heat pump) which will save up to 50% of energy costs to operate a water heater. Mr. de Yampert also requested that assistance provided from \$1 to \$3,000 be in the form of a grant and assistance of \$3,001 to \$15,000 would continue to be in the form of a forgiven or amortized loan.

Action: Moved to forward Resolution to full Council for approval.

Update of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (Housing Staff)

Mr. Johnson began the update by discussing that Administration received notification from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on January 19, 2009, that the City's application submitted for funding was approved and that a Grant Agreement should be forthcoming within the next two-weeks, or by late February. Deputy Mayor Metz advised that City Council has already approved a resolution that authorizes a supplemental appropriation for the amount to be received and for the Mayor to sign the Agreement when it arrives. The amount of proposed funding was discussed and how soon staff would be able to begin acquisitions of properties.

Tom de Yampert, Housing Finance Manager, discussed that the RFQ that was addressed was for the selection of general contractors which should be done within a week at the Mayor's discretion. The scope of work is ready for implementation and as soon as homes are identified by Real Estate and the owners have agreed to sell, we will go out and do our due diligence and will integrate Progress Energy Efficiency Standards in the rehabilitation of the home. Stephanie Lampe advised that general contractors have until February 3, 2009 to submit their bids, and that the review will occur after February 3, 2009. The RFQ for non-profit agencies to provide housing for households at or below 50% or median income will be ready in mid February and will request a priority of multi-family rental

housing. It was discussed that the minimum reserve for households at or below 50% of median income may be increased based upon the response that is received.

A request was asked for an update of the current stimulus package that is being worked on by Congress. Mr. Johnson responded that approximately \$4.2 billion in additional NSP funds is in the stimulus package that should result in approximately \$12 million in additional funding to come to the City next year. The package has \$1 billion in additional Community Development Block Grant and \$1.5 billion in additional HOME Investment Partnership Act funding, which should result in the City's allocation of HOME being approximately \$2.2 million. Mr. de Yampert discussed that YouthBuild and Homeless Programs should receive additional funding, and that it was passed by the House and will move to the Senate next week.

Action: No action taken.

Status of Multi-Family housing developments (Stephanie Lampe)

Ms. Lampe discussed the chart/spreadsheet which shows funding available for multi-family developments. She discussed that the information was to let the Committee know that the Special Session in Tallahassee we were concerned as to how much of the SHIP funds we may or may not be able to use for the pending Booker Creek project and how to advertise the 30-day amendment to the Consolidated Plan. We were told by the State that we are not to encumber more than was allocated to the City by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. A 30-day notice will appear in the newspaper and an Amendment of the Consolidated Plan will take place on March 19, 2009, to allocate the additional funding from HOME in the form of an Amendment and a Pre-Award of HOME program funds.

The Committee asked about the status of the Lakewood Property, the amount of funding that has been disbursed and what has been held back. Mr. Johnson provided an update of the progress and that all funds expended to date have been for hard costs for the construction of the facility, and that soft cost will be paid at the end of construction. Staff has been advised that all work on the project should be completed by the end of February.

Staff was asked to inquire about the type of access that will be provided through the security gates at the complex and to report on that information at the next meeting.

Ms. Lampe provided an update that the Columbian should be closing on February 12, 2009.

Mr. Johnson provided information on the City's Annual Evaluation from HUD which reflected that staff displayed sound leadership and carried out our HUD funded programs in a commendable manner. The report closed by saying that the City has the capacity to continue to carry out its HUD funded programs. Mr. Johnson also advised that the City has met its HUD Timeliness Requirement and currently stands at 1.04:1.

The Committee Chair asked that staff bring a report to the next meeting of the properties that are being reviewed for the NSP.

Action: No action taken.

Follow-up (information only)

Provide a list of projects that are under development, or scheduled for redevelopment.
Provide spreadsheet of funding available for the production of multi-family developments.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting – The next meeting of the Housing Services Committee is under discussion to be held on February 26, 2009.

Topics:

Update on the NSP and other topics to be determined as they become available.

Committee Members

Leslie Curran, Chair

Karl Nurse, Vice-Chair

Herb Polson, Councilmember

Jeff Danner, Council Chair

Bill Dudley, Councilmember

Wengay Newton, Alternate