

ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL

Consent Agenda

Meeting of June 18, 2009

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

SUBJECT: A resolution certifying, under the Enterprise Zone Community Contribution Tax Credit Program, that the Centurion Faith Ministries, Inc. project to purchase, renovate, furnish and equip a 4,000 sq. ft. community resource center building located within St. Petersburg's Enterprise Zone at 1663 1st Ave. South, acquire and improve fifty (50) single family dwellings in the Midtown and Childs Park neighborhoods in order to provide temporary housing for low-income families and solicit contributions to assist in completing the improvement(s), is consistent with local plans and regulations; and providing an effective date.

EXPLANATION: Under Florida Statute 220.183, the Enterprise Zone Community Contribution Tax Credit Program, corporations that donate cash, real property, goods and inventory and other physical resources deemed acceptable by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development (OTTED) to an approved "community development project" may receive a tax credit of up to 50% of the value of the donation.

Centurion Faith Ministries, Inc. was founded in early 2009 to help families living in Midtown, Childs Park and other targeted areas of St. Petersburg, establish direction and purpose by providing practical training, faith based encouragement, resources and a support network as they move toward accomplishing measurable goals.

Centurion Faith Ministries is a non-profit corporation affiliated with community development efforts as identified in Florida Statute 220.183, Community Improvement Act of 1980. Centurion Faith Ministries is seeking to purchase, furnish and equip a 4,000 sq. ft. community resource center located within St. Petersburg's Enterprise Zone at 1663 1st Ave. South, which will provide research, resources and training for local families and working space for other community-based organizations that join together primarily to meet the community development needs of Midtown, Childs Park and other targeted areas of St. Petersburg.

Centurion Faith Ministries is also seeking to acquire and improve fifty (50) single family dwellings, wherein low income, homeless or inadequately housed families may dwell rent free for three to six months, while learning and implementing habits that will ensure measurable daily progress toward making a turn-around in their lives. The project is further described in Exhibit A.

In order for Centurion Faith Ministries to obtain project approval from OTTED as a community development project, the following criteria must be met:

1. The project must have an eligible sponsor. Centurion Faith Ministries, Inc., as a non-profit corporation providing housing for low-income persons, is an eligible sponsor.

2. The project must occur in an eligible area, such as an Enterprise Zone or a Front Porch Community. Centurion Faith Ministries' project is located within the City of St. Petersburg's Enterprise Zone.
3. A resolution from the local government in which the project is located, which states that the project is consistent with local plans and regulations must accompany a project application.

Approval of the attached Resolution will allow Centurion Faith Ministries, Inc. to complete and submit an application to the State of Florida's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to establish a Community Development Project.

RECOMMENDATION: The Administration recommends adoption of the attached resolution certifying, under the Enterprise Zone Community Contribution Tax Credit Program, that the Centurion Faith Ministries, Inc. project to purchase, renovate, furnish and equip a 4,000 sq. ft. community resource center building located within St. Petersburg's Enterprise Zone at 1663 1st Ave. South, acquire and improve fifty (50) single family dwellings in the Midtown and Childs Park neighborhoods in order to provide temporary housing for low-income families and solicit contributions to assist in completing the improvement(s), is consistent with local plans and regulations; and providing an effective date.

COST/FUNDING/ASSESSMENT INFORMATION: N/A

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A, Resolution

APPROVALS:

Administrative:

R. Murcott 6-9-09 DJ

Budget:

N/A

Legal:

RSS



Centurion Faith Ministries, Inc.
"We're here to start something."

1663 – 1st Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Fl. 33712

Monday, May 11, 2009

Centurion Faith Ministries, Inc. – Proposal for Midtown Development
"Raising the community standards of Midtown by faith and by force."

Project Description

Centurion Faith Ministries, Inc. (Centurion), a non-profit organization has opened a 4,000 square foot, family and ministry resource center in the Midtown area of St. Petersburg, Florida.

(The ministry logo was placed on the face of our facility using Photoshop software. The image is being presented to convey our vision.)



Centurion proposes to provide research, resources, training, and (as needed) working space for organizations that join together primarily to meet the community development needs of Midtown, but not excluding other low-income areas of St. Pete, such as Child's Park.

This project helps families to establish direction and purpose. It provides families with practical training, faith based encouragement, resources, and a support network as they move toward accomplishing goals.

The purpose of this plan is to accomplish the following objectives:

- To purchase, improve, furnish, and equip the community resource center building.
- To acquire, improve, and provide 50 single family dwellings, wherein low income, homeless, or inadequately housed families may dwell rent free for 3 to 6 months, while learning and implementing habits that will ensure measurable daily progress toward making a turn-around, in their lives.

- To promote an estimated 100 new entrepreneurial opportunities in Midtown, beginning immediately, and achieved by December 2013.
- To provide 2-5 full-time job opportunities within the newly established businesses, by December 2013.
- To recruit, support, encourage and persuade new families (from local and abroad) to purchase and move into homes within the Midtown community.

Types of donations sought

- I. Cash contributions
- II. Building improvement materials
 - A. Improvement materials for the center.
 - B. Improvement materials (as needed) for 50 homes.
- III. Office furnishing and equipment
- IV. Residential Properties: Donations from banks/ Additional cash to purchase Midtown properties.

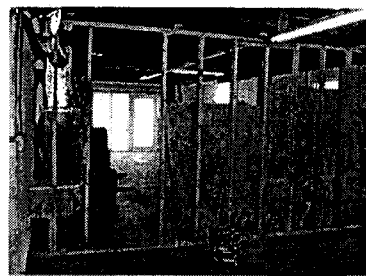
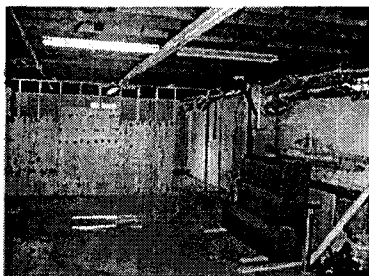
Uses for Donations

I. Cash Contributions:

Acquisition of Resource Center Building

II. Building improvement materials:

A. To improve the resource center building, which is nearly 70% completed, except for a 1,300 square foot, unfinished area that is to be used as a training and resource room. Centurion will pay all permit and labor cost associated with completing this area.

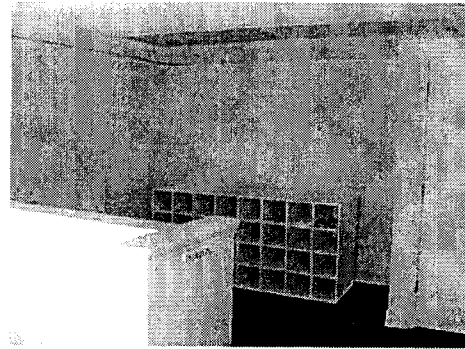


B. Materials (as needed) to improve to 50 properties received either through donation or purchase.

Due to the urgent need for safe housing for families with children, Centurion will seek only to acquire properties needing minimal repairs and improvements, and will pay the cost of labor, and permits associated with making each property a safe and desirable habitat.

Office furnishing and equipment:

The resource center has a total of 6 offices. The office photographed below, is set aside for organizations to use as an “as needed” satellite office. It is to be equipped with an industrial sized printer, computer and telephone.

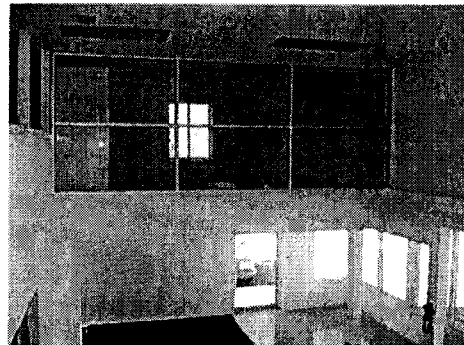
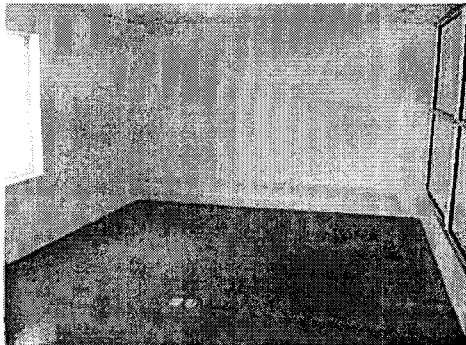


Centurion will pay the cost of keeping it stocked with the software, resource information, office supplies, and materials for organizations to use and fulfill marketing, sales, and management needs.

The other five offices are used by Centurion to conduct its business. Centurion proposes to solicit computers, and furnishing, as needed for all offices.

Centurion will pay the cost of IT services that are necessary to construct and maintain a computer network within the facility.

An upper level conference room is to be equipped with a wall mounted computer smart board, a corporate style oval-shaped table, and seating for 10.



Centurion serves as host, while organizations hold board or general meetings at the center. Currently, organization meetings are being accommodated in the lower level of the center.

Estimate of total project cost

I. Acquisition of Family and ministry resource center building	\$750,000
II. A. Improvement materials for center	\$10,000
B. Improvement materials for 50 homes	\$240,000
III. Resource Center furnishing and equipment	\$20,000
IV. Residential Properties: (over a 3yr. period)	\$2,500,000
(A. Donations from banks / B. Additional cash for purchase)	
Total Project cost	\$3,520,000

Centurion proposes to pay half of the total estimated project cost, with the ministry's contribution increasing steadily as the project moves forward.

Total amount to be solicited: \$1,760,000 over a 3 year period.

Estimated number of jobs to be created:

Approximately 350 or more full time jobs will be created, beginning immediately and continuing through to the targeted completion date.

Estimated Completion Date of the project:

December 30th 2013

Upon completion of the project, Centurion will continue to support the growth of the families, organizations, and businesses established in Midtown.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009 - _____

A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING, UNDER THE ENTERPRISE ZONE COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM, THAT THE CENTURION FAITH MINISTRIES, INC. PROJECT TO PURCHASE, FURNISH AND EQUIP A 4,000 SQ. FT. COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER BUILDING LOCATED WITHIN ST. PETERSBURG'S ENTERPRISE ZONE AT 1663 1ST AVE. SOUTH, ACQUIRE AND IMPROVE FIFTY (50) SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS IN THE MIDTOWN AND CHILDS PARK NEIGHBORHOODS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES AND SOLICIT CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASSIST IN COMPLETING THE IMPROVEMENT(S), IS CONSISTENT WITH LOCAL PLANS AND REGULATIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Centurion Faith Ministries, Inc. is a non-profit corporation and is, therefore, defined as an eligible sponsor for community development projects under Florida Statute 220.183, Community Improvement Act of 1980; and

WHEREAS, Centurion Faith Ministries, Inc. is located within the City of St. Petersburg's Enterprise Zone; and

WHEREAS, Centurion Faith Ministries, Inc. is seeking to solicit donations to purchase a community resource center, located at 1663 1st Ave. South, to provide families with practical training, faith-based encouragement, resources and a support network as they move toward accomplishing measurable goals; and


WHEREAS, Centurion Faith Ministries, Inc. is seeking to solicit donations to acquire and improve fifty (50) single family dwellings, wherein low income, homeless or inadequately housed families may dwell rent free for three to six months, while learning and implementing habits that will ensure measurable daily progress toward making a turn-around in their lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, that the Centurion Faith Ministries, Inc. project to construct, furnish and equip a community resource center, located at 1663 1st Ave. South, and acquire and improve fifty (50) single family dwellings in the Midtown and Childs Park neighborhoods in order to provide temporary housing for low income families, and solicit contributions to assist in completing the improvement(s), is consistent with local plans and regulations.

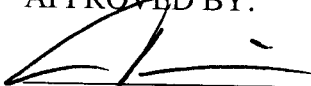
This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

APPROVED BY:



City Attorney (Designee)



Dave Goodwin, Director
Economic Development Department

By: RICHARD B. BADGLEY