

# CDBG AAP Draft Hearing Minutes

## Meeting Setup

- Time and Date: 6pm, 3/29/2022
- Format: Hybrid (Zoom and In-person at the Hearing Room)
- Contact: Keith Benoit at [kbenoit@northamptonma.gov](mailto:kbenoit@northamptonma.gov)
- URL for video recording and presentation slides:  
<http://archive.northamptonma.gov/WebLink/Browse.aspx?id=732093&dbid=0&repo=CityOfNorthampton>
- Staff present: Keith Benoit, Community Development Planner and Nathan Chung, Grants Administrator. Both from the Office of Planning and Sustainability
- In-person public members present: 2 people. Janna Tetreault (Community Action Pioneer Valley) and Laurie Millman (Center for New Americans)
- Online public members present: 7 people. Judith Roberts (The Literacy Project); Lisa Downing (Forbes Library); Lisa Lapierre (Community Action Pioneer Valley, Youth and Workforce Development); Megan Paik; Ryan Feyre (Reminder Publishing); Sarah Sargent (Valley Community Development); Susan Nicastro (Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County)

## Meeting Minutes Body

Keith Benoit went over presentation slides prepared for the meeting. He introduced himself as the community development planner, Nathan Chung as the grants administrator, and Wayne Feiden as the planning director. He then explained the purpose of the meeting to go over the draft plan, budget, and take comments.

Keith Benoit reviewed the agenda for the meeting and the CDBG program with its priorities such as housing, public service, and slums and blight. He explained the meeting is a part of the public participation process. He explained that the CDBG projects are justified based on various plans. Some are newer like the Resilience and Regen and ADA the plan. Some are older.

Keith Benoit went over the funding structure and budget. He explained next year's funding (2022-2023) has not been confirmed by HUD yet, so the slides are using the current year's funding, \$693,839, for next year's proposed budget.

Keith Benoit reviewed the list of projects and looked at photos of some of the proposed projects. He then explained the planned number of units, tenant income breakdown, and potential rents for the proposed Prospect Place affordable housing project.

Keith Benoit explained next steps and contact information. He opened up the floor for questions.

Nathan Chung added that assuming the funding remains the same as last year, the Office will be able to fund all proposed public service projects for the full requested amounts with some surplus funding left over. He explained that the Public Service Advisory Committee proposed giving the surplus to the Literacy Project and the Center for New Americans. The draft budget reflects this.

Judith Roberts asked for the public service slide again via Zoom chat.

Janna Tetreault, who was in person, commented on the value and efficiency of the coordinated housing approach across departments and organizations. Keith Benoit replied that the Planning Office really stressed coordinated approach to purchase land to give it to organizations like VCDC for developing smaller individual houses and larger affordable housing projects funded by sources such as CDBG and CPA.

Susan Nicastro from Big Brothers Big Sisters thanked the Office for including CHD in the funding. Susan also noted it is good to learn about important projects.

Judith Roberts from the Literacy Project thanked the City of Northampton for the support provided on behalf of the students. She noted students are focusing more on career readiness the upcoming year and the funding will be helpful.

Keith asked for any remaining comments or questions and reiterated his contact info and next steps.

**--Meeting Adjourned--**