



TO: City Council
FROM: Niagara Falls Community Development
DATE: April 25, 2018
RE: **City Council Agenda Item:**
Community Development Programs - CDBG Action Plan Amendments for Slum and Blight Prevention and Elimination

The conclusion of several Community Development projects has made remaining, unspent Community Development Block Grant funding originally earmarked for those projects available to be programmed to other eligible activities. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that these unspent federal funds be expended in a timely fashion.

The Department of Community Development therefore seeks to make these funds available for several projects, each of which is eligible for CDBG funding under the HUD National Objective of preventing or eliminating slums or blight:

- 1.) **Strategic Code Enforcement/Housing Court Costs.** \$35,000 in CDBG funds will be used to provide interim assistance to targeted code enforcement activities. This will take place through improvement of the technology used to track housing court violations, execute legal notices/fines, and present legal complaints to the Niagara Falls City Court. When the funds are expended on a site-specific project, they will be restricted to use in CDBG-eligible areas of the City.
- 2.) **Improvement of Public Spaces/Place-Making.** \$65,000 in CDBG funds will be used to create or improve public facilities, and/or to provide interim assistance to the city's upkeep of public spaces, which can include streets, sidewalks, parks, playgrounds, and publicly owned utilities.
- 3.) **Renovation of Vacant Spaces.** \$100,000 in CDBG funds will be dedicated to the renovation costs associated with vacant buildings. These can include direct rehabilitation costs and the evaluation and reduction of lead-based paint hazards, as well as deferred loans and grants to city residents for these purposes.

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	Available	Revised	Change
2015 Police Substation	\$300.00	\$0	(\$300.00)
2016 Small Business Advocate	\$4,000.00	\$0	(\$4,000.00)
2015 NHS Home Counseling Program	\$18,750.00	\$0	(\$18,750.00)
2013 Unprogrammed Public Services	\$10,000.00	\$0	(\$10,000.00)
2014 Unprogrammed Public Services	\$48,980.00	\$0	(\$48,500.00)
2012 Unprogrammed Public Works	\$2450.00	\$0	(\$2450.00)
2015 Unprogrammed Infrastructure Improvements	\$80,000	\$0	(\$80,000)
Strategic Code Enforcement/Housing Court Costs	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Improvement of Public Spaces/Place-Making	\$0	\$64,000	\$64,000
Renovation of Vacant Spaces	\$0	\$75,000	\$75,000

This action expends no general or casino fund dollars. Will the Council vote to approve the proposal presented herein and to authorize the Mayor to execute any documents necessary to effectuate the same?

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A. Dyster, Mayor

Nicholas Melson, City Administrator

Seth A. Piccirillo
Director of Community Development