

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PUBLIC HEARING
April 15, 2020
City of Bristol
Community Development Block Grant Program
5:00 P.M. BRISTOL CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS/WEBEX

ATTENDEES: Howard Schmelder, Tom Hick

STAFF: Dawn Leger, Grants Administrator
Justin Malley, Executive Director-BDA
Christine Cooper, Administrative Assistant

I. The Hearing was called to order by ECD Policy Committee Chairperson Howard Schmelder at 5:00 p.m.

ECD board members and staff were introduced.

Opening Remarks were read by Commissioner Schmelder:

Welcome to the second Public Hearing for the CDBG Annual Action Plan for program year 46 beginning July 1, 2020.

Each year, as part of the required public process in the CDBG consolidated and annual planning for funding allocations from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development (HUD), the City of Bristol, through the Economic and Community Development Department, holds meetings and public hearings for the purpose of announcing and discussing the ECD's recommendation of programs and funding for submission to the ECD Board, the Bristol City Council, and finally to HUD.

The allocation from HUD for Year 46 is \$669,779. The ECD Policy Committee approved and issued the proposed use of funds on March 12, 2020. This list has been published several times in the local newspapers. A Public Comment Period is open through April 30, 2020. The ECD will forward all written comments to HUD. If anyone wishes to make a comment, please state your name, the agency you represent and the address for the record. Because we are using Webex for this hearing and have no sign-in sheet, it is important that you clearly identify yourself prior to speaking. You may also email your comments to dawnleger@bristolct.gov.

Is there anyone to speak in favor of or against the allocations?

II. Public Comment on the Draft Annual Action Plan for the 2020-21 CDBG allocation.

Barbara Damon, The Prudence Crandall Center, commented that they wanted the Commission to know how much they appreciate their ongoing support and including The Prudence Crandall Center in their recommendations for funding. While home is meant to be a safe place for many others are put at increased risk. They are open and staffed 24/7. They are experiencing some unbudgeted extra costs and concerned about revenue in the future.

Christine Theborge, The Agape House, thanked the Commission for their time and support and they are pleased to be a part of the Bristol community and to be able to jump in where they are needed.

III. Five minute break.

IV. The second portion of the Hearing was called to order by Howard Schmelder at 5:15 p.m.

Opening Remarks were read by Commissioner Schmelder:

I want to welcome you to the Public Hearing for Bristol Consolidated Five-Year Plan which will run from 2020 to 2024. A draft of the plan is available on the City's website and a Public Comment period is open from March 30th to April 30th. The four goals included in the consolidated plan are:

1. To support access to decent, safe, and affordable housing for Bristol residents.
2. To support public service programs that advance community needs and focus on youth, the elderly, and special needs populations.
3. To support infrastructure and facility improvements, blight reduction, and community revitalization activities, especially in the Opportunity Zone and in low and mod areas of the City.
4. To support economic development initiatives that include job training, workforce development, ESL and GED programs.

If anyone wishes to make a comment, please state your name, the agency you represent, and the address for the record. Because we are using Webex for this hearing and have no sign-in sheet, it is important that you clearly identify yourself prior to speaking. You may also email your comments to dawnleger@bristolct.gov.

Does anyone wish to speak in favor of or against the Goals of the Five-Year Plan?

V. Public Comment on the Draft CDBG Five-Year Consolidated Plan for 2020-2024.

Laura Lamar, Komanetsky Estates, Bristol Housing Authority, said she appreciated they were being considered and had nothing to add. She added that the 5-Year Goals make perfect sense.

Christine Thebarger, The Agape House, said she feels strongly about education and the GED and work study and the youth programs which enable them to grow and develop in the community. She spoke about her clients currently in the GED program and how she feels it is beneficial to them. She also spoke about the rapid rehousing program and the manufacturing training program run by Bristol Adult Education.

No other comments were forthcoming from the Public.
The Public Hearing was closed at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper,
Recording Secretary