COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

March 11, 2016
City of Houston
Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD)
601 Sawyer, 4th Floor
Houston, TX 77007
(832) 394-6183

This Notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about Tuesday, March 29, 2016 the City of Houston’s Housing and Community Development Department will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of the following funds:

HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds authorized by Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (NAHA), in accordance with Section 288 (42 U.S.C. 4852), to undertake a project known as:

Project Title: Paddock at Sunnyside
Location: 4410 Reed Road, Houston, Texas 77051

Purpose of project: New construction of a 216-unit affordable housing complex for seniors in Sunnyside. This project will include land acquisition as well as demolition/removal of a small abandoned structure on the far northwestern corner of the subject property.

Noise levels for the northern boundary of the subject property have been calculated at 71.4 decibels (dB), which according to HUD regulations found at 24 CFR 51 is Normally Unacceptable, hence interior noise levels at the complex will need to be under 45 dB as determined by an acoustical engineer or architect. In addition, all applicable federal, state, and local requirements governing lead (paint and pipes) and asbestos must be followed and any needed testing performed in the removal of the structure. While these substances are not expected to pose any Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs) for the Paddock at Sunnyside upon completion as a residential property as long as properly removed, requirements must be followed during demolition to ensure worker safety and proper handling of the substances.

All of the aforementioned requirements, which shall be included in the contract, must be followed as a condition of this project receiving federal funding. Failure to follow said requirements places this project at risk of HUD liability, whose penalties include but are not limited to payback of federal funds.

Grant No. & Amount: M-01-MC-48-0206.........$10.00; M-07-MC-48-0206.........$58,019.78; M-14-MC-48-0206.....$489,822.59; M-15-MC-48-0206.....$3,452,147.63
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Houston has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the above address and is available for public examination or copying weekdays 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the City of Houston, Housing and Community Development Department, ATTN: Environmental Review Officer, 601 Sawyer, 4th Floor, Houston, Texas 77007. All comments received by the close of business on Monday, March 28, 2016 will be considered by the City of Houston prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Houston certifies to HUD that Sylvester Turner, in his capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of Houston to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Houston certification received by the close of business on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of Houston approved by HUD; (b) the City of Houston, as Responsible Entity, has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1301 Fannin Street, Suite 2200, Houston, Texas 77002. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Sylvester Turner, Mayor
City of Houston