

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

January 14, 2014
City of Houston
Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD)
601 Sawyer, 4th Floor
Houston, TX 77007
(713) 868-8324

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

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about Thursday, January 30, 2014 City of Houston's Housing and Community Development Department, on behalf of the Houston Housing Authority, will submit a request to the Texas General Land Office (GLO), who is acting in the role of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of federal funds for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Round 2.2 (CDBG-DR) funds authorized by Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, (Public Law 110-329), enacted on September 30, 2008, as amended. These particular funds are part of a CDBG grant administered by the Texas General Land Office (GLO) for Hurricane Ike Disaster Relief. GLO will act in the stead of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and be overseen by HUD.

The funds will be utilized to undertake the following project:

Project Title: **7821 N. Shepherd**

Location: **7821 N. Shepherd, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77088**

Purpose of project: Acquisition for the purpose of constructing a 180-unit mixed-income residential community on the 8.5 acre tract of land near 7821 N. Shepherd Drive. The preliminary unit mix is 20 one-bedroom units, 84 two-bedroom units, 63 three-bedroom units, and 13 four-bedroom units. All units will serve families with incomes at or below 60% of AMI. Forty-four units (almost 25%) will be restricted to families with extremely low incomes (30% or less than AMI) with a combination of public housing units and project-based HCV units.

Houston Housing Authority has confirmed that the architects for the project at 7821 N Shepherd will be assigned to design noise mitigation measures to ensure that interior noise levels will be below 45 dB, as mandated by 24 CFR 51 for federally funded noise sensitive new construction.

GLO Contract No.: **13-181-000-7294**

Total DIDR2 Federal Funding: **\$9,500,000.00**

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 Wednesday, January 29, 2014 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 GLO, acting in the role of HUD, that Annise Parker, in her 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. GLO's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the Houston Housing Authority to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

GLO will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Houston certification received by the close of business on Friday, February 14, 2014 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 GLO; (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 GLO; 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: Texas General Land Office, 3429 Executive Center, Suite 150, Austin, Texas 78731. Potential objectors should contact GLO to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Annise Parker, Mayor
City of Houston