

Council Agenda Report

Date: April 24, 2017

Prepared and Submitted by: Oden C. Wheeler Jr.

SUBJECT: Request from Allan Nelson of Chesapeake Housing Mission

Recommendation: That Council: Approve the request from Mr. Allan Nelson that Council waive Building Permit fees for Handicap accessible ramps built for and donated to challenged residents in the City of Cambridge.

Discussion:

Recently Ms. Tripp-Jones and Mr. Allen Nelson discussed the Chesapeake Housing Missions operation in the lower four counties of the Eastern Shore which includes the City of Cambridge. Mr. Nelson presented that the organization is not for profit and their clients are referred to them based on the individual's needs by Social Services, Health Department, Emergency Works. The handicap ramps are built at no cost to the client through a wide range of donations from various organizations/companies. When constructing handicap ramps, Chesapeake Housing Mission provides the Department of Public Works with a detailed drawing, completes and pays for the appropriate building permit, and coordinates the project. Upon completion of the handicap ramp, it is inspected through our normal process and receives a certificate of occupancy. Within the last two years Chesapeake Housing Missions has constructed three handicap ramps within the City, and has plans to construct their fourth ramp on April 27, 2017.

Fiscal Impact;

The permit fee for the handicap ramps that Chesapeake Housing Mission has constructed previously is \$80.00, and MDIA's charge to provide the inspection services is \$60.00. If Council approves this recommendation, due to the limited number of inspections required, DPW staff could do the inspections, and issue the certificate of occupancy so there would be no cost incurred.



From: Allen Nelson (<mailto:anelson8@yahoo.com>)

Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 9:37 PM

To: citymanager <citymanager@choosecambridge.com>

Subject: Chesapeake Housing Mission

Good evening.

Following up on our conversation of last week I would ask you and Council consider following suit of all other jurisdictions we are operating in to wave the permit fees for the handicap accessible ramps being built within Cambridge City limits.

Chesapeake Housing Mission operates in the lower four counties of the shore helping improve quality of life for some of our more challenged residents by providing handicap accessible access to their homes. Clients are referred based on need by social services, emergency workers, health departments, etc. Once approved ramps are built with no cost to the client through a wide range of donations to CHM. CHM provides detailed drawings, obtains permits, orders materials and coordinates the project. Local groups such as our Cambridge Rotary Club will provide the labor. On the 27th of April our club will build its fourth ramp in Dorchester County.

As the Dorchester rep on CHM's board I am working to build a network of groups willing to volunteer time and to strength our list of referrals for projects. Even with donations and significantly discounted supplies quality ramps are expensive to build. So we are reaching out everywhere we can to insure we help as many people as possible. Though not huge, permit fees to use precious resources. So this is an area that all jurisdictions have so far been willing to help with.

My request is for you to consider our request and allow Executive Director Don Taylor and myself to address council. The website chesapeakehousingmission.org will provide an overview of the organization. Should you have questions, I can be reached at 410 463 1547.

Thanks much for your consideration.

Allen