

Council Agenda Report

Date: May 8, 2017

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Submitted by: Sandra Tripp-Jones, City Manager *scj*

SUBJECT: Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Community Legacy Grant Applications, and Maryland Highway Administration Safe Routes to Schools Grant Application.

Recommendation: That Council consider approving submission of grant applications for:

- A. Pine Street Area Low-Income Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation program, in the amount of \$250,000 (DHCD - CDBG);
- B. Drainage Repair in area of Housing Authority in the amount of \$275,000 (DHCD - CDBG);
- C. Façade Improvement Project in the amount of \$100,000 (DHCD Community Legacy)
- D. Sidewalk along one side of Leonard Lane in the amount of \$350,000.00 (DHCD Community Legacy);
- E. Retractable bollards for Downtown Street Closures in the amount of \$7,500 (DHCD Community Legacy); and
- F. Bayly Road Safety Improvements in the amount of \$200,000 (MD Highway Administration Safe Routes to Schools).

Discussion: City staff historically researches State funding sources available every year to help plan, design and/or construct projects within the City. Staff applies for funds from State departments such as Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The City has been very successful in securing grants from the State. Recent include pedestrian, lighting and/or street improvements along Maces Lane, Gay St., Muir St., Race St., and Maryland Avenue. The City secured 1.8 million dollars from DNR to restore the headwaters of Cambridge Creek and has another grant application for the development of a regional park. Additionally, the City purchased the two blighted properties along Rte. 50 and demolished those structures with the hopes of building a Gateway feature welcoming visitors to the City.

The City has used these funds for construction and repairs of the marina, the reconstruction of the Sailwinds wharf and the investigation and design for new sea walls along at the end of Choptank Ave. West End Ave, Willis St, and Oakley St.

In May and June, Department of Housing and Community Development grant applications are due for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Community Legacy

grants. Depending on indications of priorities in the May 8, 2017 work session on grant opportunities, staff will recommend the following applications:

Department of Housing and Community Development

CDBG Grants: Deadline: May 31, 2017

Description: funds to help strengthen Maryland's communities by expanding affordable housing opportunities, creating jobs, stabilizing neighborhoods and improving overall quality of life.

Match requirements

- None required; 25% cash match receives full application points
- For Housing Rehab project, DHCD Secretary has pledged up to \$250,000 as a 100% match to City dollars

Proposed amount

- **\$525,000 (total for two projects)**

Proposed projects

- Pine Street Area Low-Income Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation program, based on recent housing blight study, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. (\$250,000.00) – without match at this time.
- A grant for fixing drainage at the Housing Authority property. (\$275,000.00)

Community Legacy: Deadline June 8, 2017

Description: provides local governments and community development organizations with funding for essential projects aimed at strengthening communities through activities such as business retention and attraction, encouraging homeownership and commercial revitalization.

Match requirements

- None

Proposed amount

- **\$457,500 (total for three projects)**

Proposed projects

- Façade Improvement Program (FIP) The City submits requests for funding for this project an ongoing basis and usually receives funding which is evenly divided between commercial and residential properties (\$100,000).
- The installation of a sidewalk along one side of the street on Leonard Lane (\$350,000.00).
- Retractable bollards for DT – During special events, the City uses a movable barrier which requires personnel to stand by them and ensure that they are

not moved. Retractable bollards would eliminate this need as when they are raised, they will not be able to removed (\$7,500).

Maryland Highway Administration

Safe Routes to Schools: May 15, 2017

Description: Federally funded programs to enable and encourage children to safely walk, roll, or bicycle to school. Federal funds allocated to this program are reimbursable and available for infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects that benefit elementary and middle school children in grades K-8.

Match Requirements

- 20% (\$40,000 from fund balance/reserves)

Proposed Amount

- \$200,000

Proposed Project:

- Bayley Road Safety Improvements

Fiscal Impact: The financial impacts of securing grants enables the City to perform improvements that would otherwise go left undone,

Approved by: