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Sent: Wed, May 6, 2020 3:22 pm

Subject: [arlington] Emergency CDBG money allocation for Arlington residents, virus related

Amendment for Additional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds.

Comment period ends May 6, 2020 at 4 PM

Letter and comment to CDBG Subcommittee with respect to CDBG Funding Enabled by the CARES Act (COVID-19 Relief)

May 6, 2020

To: Diane Mahon, Chair, Dan Dunn, Vice Chair, Select Board
Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager
Jennifer Raitt, Planning Director
Appointed Subcommittee Members:
Christopher Potter
Toni Sacco
Sarah Lee
Erin Zwirko

May 4, 2020

Dear Madam Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the plan for spending the CARES Act funding. It should be noted that there has not been proper opportunity for community input, noting the fact that you voted already on the allocation of this funding on May 4 although the comment period has not yet ended. Comments period ends at 4:00 p.m. today, May 6. Does that mean that you are not in full compliance with HUD rules for public participation?

In my letter of April 14 I wrote that I hoped that the suggested rental assistance together with the recommended business assistance would be implemented with due transparency and inclusion of public participation in development of guidelines. Obviously that has not been the case.

That aside I thank you for rejecting the inappropriate suggestion of the Planning Director that rental assistance could be provided to residents wealthy enough to afford \$4,000 monthly rents. Your limitation of these funds to low income tenants is very necessary

Also, with respect to the Funds to be Reprogrammed and, specifically, regarding the DPW Curb Ramp Program I suggested that you consider safety improvements for Chestnut Manor Residents currently under discussion by Jo Anne Preston and the Chief of Police. Despite the hazard to the low income senior population there as exemplified by a recent pedestrian fatality you chose to ignore that instead referring the matter to the Transportation Advisory Committee although you must be aware that would significantly delay resolution of that urgent problem.

However, regardless of your decision to essentially disregard the safety of Chestnut Manor residents it is outrageous that the CDBG moneys could be designated for use at this time for the ongoing standard DPW Curb Ramp Program rather than to alleviate Covid-19 related suffering in Arlington. I would like to register my strong objection if the Ramp Program has been approved in your final vote. As you know from the letter you received from federal authorities, the CARES ACT, Public Law 116-136 is designed "to respond to the growing effects of this historic health crisis." Hopefully you are aware of the needs of Arlington residents occurring from the viral emergency such as the dire need for food and other expenses of the impoverished and those stricken with COVID-19.

Please include my letter with comments invited for submission prior to May 6 at 4:00 p.m. and to be included in the submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Thank you for your kind attention,

Patricia Baron Worden
Former member and Chair, Arlington Housing Authority
Town Meeting member
