

**City of Hollywood  
Community Development Advisory Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2020**

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*The Community Development Advisory Board Meeting conducted a Virtual Advisory Board Meeting at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, September 9th using Communications Media Technology (“CMT”). Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-69 pertaining to conducting local government meetings while under the public health emergency related to the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). In accordance with this order and due to a prohibition on public access to City Hall because of the risk to public health, the City will be holding the meeting virtually.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The City of Hollywood, Florida, held a virtual Community Development Advisory Board Meeting on September 9, 2020 via WebEx. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Marty Shuham, at 6:36 P.M.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

**Present:**

Phil de Souza  
Kelly Edwards  
Joann Fullington Reese  
Ana Kairis  
Jennifer Luciani  
Siobhan McLaughlin  
David Rosa  
Marty Shuham  
Amber Yeisley

**Absent:**

Milana Walter

**STAFF:**

Donna Biederman, Staff Liaison  
Anthony Grisby, Community Development Manager

**PUBLIC:**

**3. New Business:**

➤ Cares Activities Updates

Mr. Shuham turned the meeting over to Anthony Grisby.

Mr. Grisby reviewed the Cares funding allocations:

- Micro Enterprise lending
- Food Pantries

- Case Management Job Referral Placement

Mr. Grisby explained the details of the services to be provided. Mr. Grisby updated the board with the funding amounts received and spent as well as new funding allocations and number of applicants and residents served. He recognized Donna Biederman and Barbara Lawson for their work with the Eviction Prevention Rent Assistance Program.

Mr. Grisby went on to explain in addition to Rent Assistance, an allowance was made for mortgage assistance. However, if there are no applicants for mortgage assistance, the money will be used for rent assistance.

Mr. Grisby further explained that the state money could be used to pay by the SHIP funds that were used, in the beginning, to begin the rental assistance program.

Mr. Grisby went on to give the status of the money allocated to the two food pantries, CEC and LES. To assist in the effort to get residents meals that are needed, the city started using the Sun Shuttle to deliver meals to families that could not get to the food pantries.

In addition to the food pantries, Mr. Grisby said that the City of Hollywood was doing drive-through food distributions.

Regarding Micro-Enterprise lending, Mr. Grisby spoke about how the Community Marketing and Economic department was accepting applications from small businesses, identified as a business with less than five employees, including the owner, for \$5,000 loans for operating costs. The process is lengthy due to all of the regulations, but they are hoping to assist with about 95 businesses.

The Miscellaneous funds have yet to be unassigned, Mr. Grisby said.

Mr. Grisby informed the board about new funding that was anticipated to be received. From Broward County, there would be \$1.2M earmarked for an eviction prevention program. They have raised the amount of assist each resident can apply for from \$5,000 or three months to a maximum of \$10,000 or six months of assistance.

Mr. Grisby further explained that the State of Florida was giving the city a second round of Cares funds and would be limited to residential for rent or mortgage assistance.

Mr. Grisby explained to the board the hesitation with working with mortgage assistance. When dealing with federal funds, there is language regarding duplication of benefits. This means that the applicant will have to certify that they have not received assistance from any other source for the same thing they received assistance for from Hollywood. If it is found they the applicant fraudulently signed that agreement, it is put on the City to try to recover that

money, which can also be costly. Mr. Grisby concluded his summary and opened up to the board for questions.

Mr. Shuham asked for clarification on the use of the funds that were discussed at the last meeting and Mr. Grisby explained the breakdown to his satisfaction.

Ms. McLaughlin asked for an explanation of how the rental assistance money is being disbursed, specifically if the landlords were getting assistance because they are also in need of assistance to cover their expenses.

Mr. Grisby explained that the landlord will receive money if their tenant qualifies for the program. The checks is then cut directly to the landlord. The landlord receives the money on behalf of the tenant.

Mr. Shuham asked Mr. Grisby how the remainder of the money available was going to be utilized.

Mr. Grisby explained that with the CARES funds, it needed to be a COVID-related hardship. While it can be used broadly, tying that use of the money to a COVID caused hardship was difficult. He further explained that while it is very easy to get behind, it is difficult to get caught up once you are behind. And primarily, tenants are the biggest concern right now because of the homeless issue.

Mr. Shuham asked if Mr. Grisby wanted to introduce new programs or expand on the current programs.

Mr. Grisby explained that he wanted to continue with the same programs. Additionally, the language regarding the new funds does not have income limitations like specified in the earlier programs. The program can now be expanded to the people they couldn't assist in the past because of the income limitations, but are still impacted by COVID.

Mr. Shuham asked if the food pantries were good on funding.

Mr. Grisby said that he felt that the food pantry's funding was sufficient, for the time being.

Ms. Reese asked if Mr. Grisby had reached out to the Broward Outreach Center to see if they know of any homeless families that were displaced by COVID that could use this assistance.

Mr. Grisby said that no he had not; however, only because they learned of this new money last week and only received the guidelines today that indicates the money could be used for the homeless. He further said that it would be under the same conditions, up to \$10,000 or six months of assistance. The family would need to be in a position to sustain or find other assistance after first, double security and three months of rent were paid.

Ms. Reese commented that she hoped that the people would be able to remain in a stable situation, not assisted and then out in six months.

Mr. Grisby said that given the limits and deadline of this money, this was not necessarily funding for stability. The agreements say that we can fund non-profits with the intention of assisting with residential assistance. If we were to want to use it in other capacities for example food pantries,, we would have to get permission from the county and they would research if this was a duplication of services, which with food pantries it is. Mr. Grisby further commented that he was unsure about the use of the money for hotel/motels.

Ms. McLaughlin asked if the funds could be spent on getting WiFi in homes where children are distance learning and can't connect because it isn't available.

Mr. Grisby said that it is a possibility, but again, time constraints on getting the agreements in place could be difficult. Utility assistance is available under this program. However, if cannot pay water because that is paid to the city. The focus has been on electric and gas. Internet is only considered when it is necessary for the tenant who is working from home and is a necessity.

Mr. Rosa asked if the funds could be used for first-time homebuyers.

Mr. Grisby said that it possibly could be used if it can be proved that the future homeowner couldn't close on their loan because of a COVID-related hardship. In order to move forward, a program would have to be written then submitted to the county for approval. Deadlines are so tight it would be time-restricted.

Mr. Rosa commented on Ms. McLaughlin's question regarding WiFi for distance learning and if funds would be used to assist e-learning sites with accommodating more customers.

Mr. Grisby said this discussion was only for the money that was stated for the residential assistance. There was other money given to the city to be used in other capacities, such as facilities improvement and economic development. There are other departments in the city that are tackling other COVID-related issues within the city.

Mr. Shuham asked if Mr. Grisby is seeking action from the board.

Mr. Grisby said no it was not necessary. He wanted to inform the board on the use of the money that was coming in because he needed to present a new agreement that would be made with the non-profit at a budget meeting.

Mr. Shuham asked if it was an accounting budget meeting.

Mr. Grisby indicated it was a City Budget Meeting on September 24, 2020.

Mr. Shuham asked that Mr. Grisby forward copies of the information that is presented in a public forum to the all board members to keep them up-to-date between meetings.

**4. Old Business:**

None

**5. Member Comments:**

Mr. Shuham encouraged the board members if they had any other ideas, or saw anything that other cities were doing, that they believed would benefit the City of Hollywood, to send communication to Ms. Biederman and she would send it out to the other members.

Mr. Grisby said that this funding is all new and he would welcome any and all ideas from the board.

Ms. Reese commented on Mr. Grisby's comments to reach out to the other non-profits to see if they could use further funding for use of the services in which this money is slated to be used. She further requested that Mr. Grisby reach out to The Center for Independent Living.

**6. Staff Comments:**

Ms. Biederman commented that Mr. Grisby has been very proactive with reaching out to the clients that may have fallen out of our program due to the restrictions and was able to direct them to other non-profit agencies to assist them.

**7. Adjournment:**

*\*\*A motion was made by Ana Kairis to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM and was seconded by Kelly Edwards. The motion passed unanimously. \*\**