Work Session

Discussion of Proposed FY2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Projects

Recommended Council Action

None – Discussion only

Context with Key Issues

The City of Takoma Park is expected to receive an estimated \$91,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in FY20 as a pass through from Montgomery County. The CDBG program provides flexible funding for a variety of public service programs and capital projects which benefit low and moderate income populations as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Council, seeking comment on how these funds could be used for capital projects which would benefit Takoma Park's low and moderate income residents, solicited but did not receive any input from community members during a public hearing held on October 3, 2018.

City staff have recommended that the anticipated FY20 CDBG award be used for targeted neighborhood improvements in Ward 5. As proposed, funds from a variety of sources, including the CDBG set aside, would be focused on a cluster of small to mid-size garden style apartment buildings and residential buildings along Houston Court. The project would include select residential façade and streetscape improvements, energy efficiency improvements, installation of storm water management improvements, and possible public art. Given the location and nature of the proposed improvements, the project satisfies federal low and moderate income beneficiary requirements.

The Council will be asked to consider the adoption of a Resolution endorsing the proposed project on October 24.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All

Environmental Considerations

The environmental implications are unknown and will be developed as the project progresses.

Fiscal Considerations

The Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs, which administers the CDBG program on behalf of the HUD, has indicated that an estimated \$91,000 in CDBG funds will be allocated to the City in FY20. The actual grant award may vary depending upon the allocation of funding at the federal level.

Racial Equity Considerations

This Council action will primarily benefit low and moderate income residents of Wards 5, where an estimated 72% of the residents are people of color.

Attachments and Links

None

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