

**City of Cleveland Heights  
Citizens Advisory Committee  
September 5, 2017  
Council Chambers, Cleveland Heights City Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Benson	Allison McCallum
Vetella Camper	Gretchen Mettler
Kim Denero-Ackroyd	Marian Morton
Bradley Eckert	T. Nadas
Dawn Ellis	Stephen Titchenal
Cory Farmer	Margaret Vanderbilt
Jonathan Goldman	Sarah West
Gail Larson	Parker Zabell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Christine Henry (exc.)	Menachem Lubling (exc.)
Robin Koslen (exc.)	Donalene Poduska (exc.)

STAFF PRESENT

Brian Iorio

GUESTS PRESENT

Karen Knittel, Cleveland Heights

CALL TO ORDER

Stephen Titchenal, Chair, called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Cory Farmer called the roll. A quorum was present.

MINUTES

Minutes from the August 8, 2017 meeting were approved as amended. Minutes from the August 15, 2017 meeting were approved as presented.

STAFF REPORTS

Brian Iorio reviewed the financial statement noting that there were no unusual expenditures. Mr. Iorio noted that as invoices begin to come in for the Year 43 subrecipients, purchase orders will be created and funds will begin to be encumbered.

Mr. Iorio discussed a memo that was sent to all members of the Committee describing the eligible uses of admin funds. The memo also discussed the ineligible portions of FutureHeights' Community Development Program application.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Stephen Titchenal asked that the subcommittees present their reports.

**Finance And Other Subcommittee Report**

Committee members: T. Nadas (Chair); Jon Goldman (Vice Chair); Donalene Poduska, Menachem Lubling, Gretchen Mettler (Committee Members)

Year 44	Request	Committee's Recommendations
CDBG Admin.	\$162,830	\$162,830 (full)
Fair Housing	\$8,500	\$8,500 (full)
GIS	\$45,950	\$22,975 (partial)
Cleve. Ten. Org.	\$7,000	\$7,000 (full)
Hts. Comm. Congress	\$6,000	\$6,000 (full)
Future Hts. Comm. Capacity	\$48,000	\$48,000 (full)
Future Hts. Ec. Dev.	\$58,000	\$0 (none)

**CDBG Administration**

Funding request: \$162,830  
 Recommendation: \$162,830 (Full)

The Department of HUD regulations and guidelines require that an entitlement community receiving CDBG funds provide administration for the general management of the funds, oversight and coordination of recipients, and regulatory reporting. The request of \$162,830 includes salaries and operating

costs, including indirect costs, for CDBG administration. The subcommittee continues to be impressed with the outstanding professional administration of the block grant program. The request is larger than usual for several reasons, such as last year's budget optimism creating a shortfall, an additional payroll this year, and changes in personnel. Yet it is an appropriate and necessary expense for the program and is completely reliant on CDBG dollars. The subcommittee supports the full funding request of \$162,830 of the CDBG Administration.

### **Fair Housing Activities**

Funding request: \$8,500

Recommendation: \$8,500 (Full)

Fair Housing Activities are a HUD requirement for CDBG funding. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing identifies areas that need to be addressed. The \$8,500 request for 2018 (Year 44) would be to conduct 10 citywide audits. The subcommittee supports the full funding request of \$8,500 of the Fair Housing Program.

### **Geographic Information System (GIS)**

Funding request: \$45,950

Recommendation: \$22,975 (Partial)

The City of Cleveland Heights seeks to renew the GIS software (license) and support 50% of the salary of a full-time GIS Analyst. The software and staff person is needed to manage volumes of data, which will be used to support various city programs and activities. Effective management of such data, will encourage synergy between City departments and its partners. The City has hired a GIS analyst halfway through year 43 and as such does not yet have any concrete outcomes to share. However the subcommittee recognizes that the technology will not only serve the city and the community, but will also create efficiencies and operational cost savings and needs seed money to realize this goal.

The subcommittee is encouraged and supports the City's GIS initiative and recommends to fund half the request in the amount of \$22,975.. The subcommittee also recommends that unused funds from year 43 be rolled over to cover the remaining portion of the request.

### **Cleveland Tenants Organization**

Funding request: \$7,000  
Recommendation: \$7,000 (Full)

The Cleveland Tenants Organization (CTO) provides critical services to Cleveland Heights residents. The organization informs tenants and also landlords of their rights and duties in rental housing by means of face-to-face and phone counseling, email communication, and workshop presentations. Their services focus on remedies under local, state, and Federal landlord/tenant laws. CTO also resolves disputes for both landlords and tenants.

In the 44th year of CDBG, the CTO anticipates serving up to 400 Cleveland Heights residents, 62.5% of who are designated as "Low and Moderate Income." CTO is critical to the preservation and maintenance of Cleveland Heights housing stock and the creating of housing opportunities in the city. Ensuring and informing citizens of their rights is critical to head-off discrimination and disparate treatment. CTO has demonstrated that they continue to provide a critical service to both landlords and tenants within the Cleveland Heights community and throughout the greater Cleveland area. CTO has requested \$7,000 from CDBG for Year 44. The subcommittee supports the full funding request of CTO.

### **Heights Community Congress (HCC)**

Funding request: \$6,000  
Recommendation: \$6,000 (Partial)

HCC is an advocate of social justice, a monitor of fair housing, and a facilitator for building community. Throughout the nation we are experiencing hostile racial discrimination. HCC is aware of the importance to provide activities that allow residents opportunities to examine issues they are dealing with and in settings that permit all viewpoints to be expressed.

There has been an increase in participation in programs as HCC has worked with other agencies, such as the CH-UH Libraries, Ensemble and Dobama theaters, and Oxford Community gardens. This year a number of people have become concerned about Educational Redlining. The use of 3 social media seems to be working as shown by people who had never been involved prior are being reached. New faces are welcomed, and they have increased interactive programs because of interest of attendees.

HCC is unique for our community as it helps to "promote an increase the diversity and vitality of neighborhoods" (part of City's Goal I, Objective B). Education in diversity is another fair housing activity.

HCC kept its request at last year's allocation since the letter received from the city explained that the funding for Year 44 was unsure. We appreciate the consideration and also support HCC's Diversity Program in helping with fair housing. The subcommittee recommends full funding of \$6,000 for HCC's Diversity Program.

### **FutureHeights (FH) Community Capacity Building**

Funding request:                 \$48,000  
Recommendation:                \$48,000 (Full)

FutureHeights has as its goal the increased vitality of cohesive, strong, and actionable neighborhoods. It recognizes that Cleveland Heights's vitality continues to be challenged due to shifting demographics, the lingering effects of the housing crises, unemployment, increased poverty, decrease in home ownership with a shift to renting, and a misconception of increases in crime. FH sees Cleveland Heights as a prime contributor to the region's cultural intellectual scene, with thriving local businesses, attractive neighborhoods, strong connections with neighboring communities, and with strongly engaged citizens. FH is focusing on the assets of each neighborhood, through building up the leadership of individual neighborhoods so as to strengthen the entire city.

FH has initiated capacity building through facilitating the development of and strengthening of neighborhood groups, assisting these groups in developing neighborhood plans, prioritizing related issues, and identifying and supporting neighborhood leaders. This is done through organizing workshops, issue related gatherings, and responding to requests for assistance. FH has been very effective in engaging expert volunteers and academic research groups to supplement its small but productive staff. They are continuing to develop and apply tools to evaluate the effectiveness of their activities and measure outcomes.

The subcommittee supports FH Community Capacity Building in the amount of \$48,000 for CDBG Year 44.

## **FutureHeights (FH) Economic Development**

Funding request: \$58,000

Recommendation: \$0

FutureHeights has developed an additional program to complement its traditional work. It would also complement the city's new development department. It is in the planning stage of becoming a community development corporation to work with the city development departments in reversing disinvestment in commercial and residential neighborhoods and face the challenges of recent years by increasing the community's tax base. It plans to concentrate on several 4 commercial districts and the neighborhoods around them: Lee/Meadowbrook, Coventry/North Coventry, Cain Park/Severance, and Noble/Randolph.

These efforts must occur through continued monitoring and coordination of neighborhood and commercial development activities for which the organization is well equipped to partner with the city. FH has already had meetings with the new city departments which have been organizing themselves. It needs an additional staff member to direct the work. FH is also in a position to apply for and receive grants for which the city is not eligible and is preparing to do so. It needs seed money to get started and will continue to apply for grants from smaller family foundations since the Cleveland Foundation is directing its efforts to the city of Cleveland. FH is the appropriate and experienced organization that is needed to fulfill the needs of a nonprofit community development corporation.

The subcommittee supports an FH Community Development Program in the amount of \$48,000 for CDBG Year 44.

\*Note, after speaking with Brian Iorio and receiving his guidance that we cannot fund this activity under the administrative budget, the subcommittee is altering the recommendation to \$0. We hope to see Brian and Future Heights collaborate for next year with a more specific ask around their economic development activities.

## **Commercial Areas Subcommittee Report**

Committee Members: Dawn Ellis (Chair), Meg Vanderbilt (Vice Chair), Parker Zabell, Allison McCallum

Meeting date and Committee Members present: 30 August 2017 – all members present

YR (44) Applicants	Request	Interviewer(s)	Recommendation	Vote (yes, no, abstain)
City Economic Development Programs	\$314,763	Parker Zabell, Allison McCallum, Meg Vanderbilt	\$314,763	YES: 4 of 4
Cedar Taylor Development Association	\$20,000	Meg Vanderbilt, Dawn Ellis	\$20,000	YES: 4 of 4
Department of Public Works	\$289,754	Parker Zabell, Allison McCallum	\$289,754	YES: 4 of 4
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$624,517</b>			

**Name of Applicant:** City of Cleveland Heights – Economic Development Programs

**Amount of Request:** \$314,763  
 \$75,000 Storefront Renovation Program  
 \$35,114 Operating Expenses  
 \$104,649 Personnel  
 64,803 Economic Development Director  
 39,846 Business Development Manager  
 \$100,000 Commercial Revolving Loan

**Recommendation:** \$314,763

**Report of Vote:** All 4 members agreed and voted yes on this recommendation

**Short description of the request:** The City’s request is for staffing and funds to continue successful economic development programs that CDBG funds have invested in over the past number of years. The Commercial Loan and Storefront Renovation programs generate much needed improvements in our commercial districts as well as private investment in our city by requiring matching funds from participants. The subcommittee strongly believes that it is important to leverage

dollars already invested and perpetuate a cycle of improvements created by these programs in the City.

**Rationale for committee recommendation:** Investment in economic development has been a long-time core value of CDGB fund allocation. Professional staff is an essential component for well-run programs, new business generation, and maintaining the success of our existing businesses all of which would be supported through the Year 44 funding.

The City continues to demonstrate good oversight with the Storefront and Loan programs and endeavors to work with building owners on larger projects rather than the tenants, so that investments remain in the city even if a business should leave or close. The most recent commercial loan approved in 2017 is for the Boss Dog Brewery for \$200,000, which is scheduled to close in the next few weeks. The scale of this project has the ability to make an immediate transformative impact on the surrounding neighborhood. Over the last 5 years, there have been 13 open loans in the city portfolio with 1 default, 4 paid in full, and 8 current with a total outstanding principal balance of \$1.2M, but this is the first new loan since 2013. Currently there are two open storefront projects, expected to close in 2017 or early 2018: Eddie's Discount Building (2223 Noble Road) and the former Tavern Company/Subway Building (2234-2260 Lee Road). Both projects will likely use a full \$25,000 rebate and the Tavern Company/Subway building project may potentially use a \$100,000 loan. In addition there are 3 potential projects that are currently being pursued, with the business owners having expressed an interest in further communication and engagement. The subcommittee sees tremendous value in the economic development programs the city offers and supports the strategic expansion of program staffing to make an even greater impact in the city.

<b>Name of Applicant:</b>	<b>Cedar Taylor Development Association (CTDA)</b>
<b>Amount of Request:</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
<b>Report of Vote:</b>	<b>All 4 members agreed and voted yes on this recommendation</b>

**Short description of the request:** The Cedar Taylor Development Association requested \$20,000 in Year 44 to continue the implementation of the Streetscape Improvement Plan they began planning for 3 years ago. The CTDA has successfully created a commercial district, complete with branding and an identity, where none existed before. The first two waves of improvements are now installed and the area has come alive with 15 banners, 16 planters, 5 bike racks, and 4 benches. All CDBG funds received have been used to implement

and maintain the streetscape plan, with no salary or other overhead expenses. The CTDA has obtained cash donations from 26 of the 52 storefronts and the board and other volunteers donate time and energy planning, planting flowers, and cleaning up the neighborhood. In 2016/2017 the planters were planted with over \$1,000 worth of flowers contributed as a donation from Bremec Garden Centers. The Year 44 request would fund the refurbishing and purchase of trash receptacles and decorative street lighting as shown in the Streetscape Improvement Plan (see attached). The cost per unit of the unifying streetscape items are: \$7500 for the trash can refurbish and replacement, \$8000 (\$800 per tree) for lighting and \$4,500 for planting and landscape needs. The CTDA also continues to reach out to the city of University Heights to increase collaboration on, and funding for improvements to the neighborhood.

**Rationale for committee recommendation:** The subcommittee is extremely impressed with the continued growth of the CTDA. They have leveraged the CDBG investment by raising funds through donations, grants and volunteer services.

Their membership is now almost 50% of businesses in the district with 26 paying members out of an estimated 52 storefronts. The subcommittee recommends that we encourage their continued success and capitalize on their momentum by remaining committed to the completion of the Streetscape Improvement Plan for 3 years. The subcommittee wholeheartedly recommends funding the full \$20,000 request.

Businesses in the district have successfully utilized the City's economic development programs to renovate property demonstrating how multiple programs funded by CDBG monies intersect for a positive impact in our city. While work remains to be done in this commercial area, the subcommittee believes that the continued support for the CTDA with CDBG funds would help sustain and grow the initial investments made by the city.

<b>Name of Applicant:</b>	<b>City of Cleveland Heights, Department of Public Works</b>
<b>Amount of Request:</b>	<b>\$289,754</b>
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>\$289,754</b>
<b>Report of Vote:</b>	<b>All 4 members agreed and voted yes on this recommendation</b>

**Short description of the request:** The City of Cleveland Heights' traffic signal infrastructure needs to be updated. The City has developed a traffic signal replacement program that will connect the City's traffic signal system with a fiber optic infrastructure that can be controlled by a central control room located at City Hall. As part of this Mayfield Road Signalization Project, a signal at the intersection of Mayfield and Eddington Roads is slated to be installed. The

cost for this particular proposed signal will not be covered by ODOT and the City is requesting CDBG funds to cover this cost in addition to the City's required 20% contribution for 3 other CDBG eligible signals.

**Rationale for committee recommendation:** The Mayfield Road Signalization Project helps address the City's goal of maintaining safe, functional and healthy neighborhoods, including the continual upgrading of vital infrastructure. It encompasses the replacement of all the traffic signals and curb ramps along the Mayfield Road Corridor, a major thoroughfare in Cleveland Heights. Immediate benefits of this system include reduced traffic time (commute time from Eddington Road to Warrensville Center Road will drop from its current time of 16 minutes to about 8 minutes), fewer accidents and improved air quality from the reduction of idling cars. In addition, the fiber-optics required for the project allow greater control of signals for emergency situations and set the stage for future tech corridor capabilities. The proposed new ADA compliant curbs will offer increased safety and accessibility for pedestrians.

**Neighborhood Activities Subcommittee Report**

**Subcommittee Members:** Christine Henry (Chair) , Sarah West (Vice Chair), Marian Morton, Bradley Eckert, Robin Koslen, Cory Farmer

**Meeting Date:** August 31, 2017

**Members Present:** Cory Farmer, Christine Henry, Marian Morton, Sarah West, Bradley Eckert, Robin Koslen

Applicant	Request	Interviewer(s)	Recommendation	Vote (Yes-No-Abstain)
Family Connections	\$30,000	Brad Eckert	\$20,000	6-0-0
Gesher	\$28,000	Chris Henry	\$5,000	6-0-0
Heights Emergency Food Center	\$19,910	Brad Eckert Marian Morton	\$19,910	6-0-0
Heights Youth Club	\$35,000	Chris Henry	\$35,000	6-0-0

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Interviewer(s)</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Vote (Yes-No-Abstain)</b>
Lake Erie Ink	\$12,128	Robin Koslen	\$12,128	6-0-0
Office On Aging	\$25,000	Sarah West	\$25,000	6-0-0
Open Doors Academy	\$35,000	Per committee discussion	\$20,000	6-0-0
Start Right CDC	\$10,000	Cory Farmer	\$10,000	6-0-0

## **FAMILY CONNECTIONS**

### **REQUEST \$30,000 RE COMMENDATION \$20,000**

For 35 years, Family Connections has provided a broad array of services to Cleveland Heights children and their families. The Family School Connection program, which has been in place for eight years, is focused on the transition of children and families to kindergarten, which can be especially difficult for children with no pre-school experience.

Family Connections has placed a part-time family liaison in all seven elementary schools throughout the Cleveland Heights-University Heights system, working directly with teachers and administrators to identify children that may need additional support and resources to achieve literacy benchmarks throughout the first year of school. The Family School Connection program seeks to assist those individuals with activities that engage both families and children through five specific outreach components: Kindergarten Kickoff, ABC's of Kindergarten, Kindergarten Discovery, Bridge to First Grade, and Parent Activities with Students. In addition to working with students after school in the elementary schools, each of the participating children in the program participate in home visits twice per month. These visits are individualized educational opportunities for the family liaison to work with the child and family on literacy enrichment and promoting activities families can complete together to assist the child's education.

Hoping to continue their work in advancing literacy promotion and building strong family support for children in the CH-UH district, Family Connections

requests funding for the family liaison staff at the six specific Cleveland Heights elementary schools.

**GESHER, A Benefit and Resource Center**

**REQUEST \$28,000 RECOMMENDATION \$5000**

Gesher was founded in 2013 to help low income Cleveland families access much needed support by eliminating cultural barriers to accessing and applying for assistance programs that target financial hardship. Aimed in part at the Cleveland Jewish community, its activities focus on providing all who seek services with trained benefit counselors who can advise about local, state and federal benefits for which they are eligible. These benefits include WIC (Women, Infant and Children), senior citizen health programs, HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program), utility assistance, Medicaid eligibility, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), and weatherization programs. In 2016 Gesher served 302 unduplicated clients, 135 of whom live in Cleveland Heights. As many clients make multiple visits and include family members, the total duplicated visits in 2016 was 1208, of which 540 were Cleveland Heights residents. From January to June of this year 558 clients from Cleveland Heights were served. Gesher has three offices, two in South Euclid and one most recently inside Cleveland Chesed Center (a kosher food bank) in Cleveland Heights at 1898 S. Taylor.

Recently a director of job development position was added, for a total of four full and part time staff. The funds requested here will allow Gesher to increase staff time and add a case worker in order to help more seniors with one-on-one support for health care, prescription drug payment assistance, and mental health referrals, and to expand WIC hours from once a week to two times per week to accommodate an additional 100 appointments per month. Most of Gesher's clients come via word of mouth, though the organization also places brochures in WIC offices, shopping center stores, and other places frequented by its target audiences. It also continually updates and promotes its website. Of these, advertising in WIC offices yields the greatest number of new clients. Gesher's total annual operating budget is \$180,000. Gesher is aware of CAC's concerns about servicing non-Jews and residents of Cleveland Heights, and continues to work on how to draw those populations in to its programs.

**HEIGHTS EMERGENCY FOOD CENTER**

**REQUEST \$19,910 RECOMMENDATION \$19,910**

Founded in 1981, the center is Cleveland Heights' oldest food pantry and serves the city's neediest residents. It is open four days or evenings every week and provides applicants with a three days' supply of food once a month. Its staff, including its new executive director Debby Shewitz, are all volunteers – with a core group of 12-15 people.

The center had a slight decrease in applicant visits in 2016, and although Ms. Shewitz anticipates an increase in 2017, the center's request for 2018 is slightly smaller than its 2017 request.

CAC funds help pay the rent at Disciples Christian Church, the center's home since its beginnings. Most of the center's funding comes from the federal government, channeled through the Food Bank and the Hunger Network. Other donors include churches and Jewish congregations, school classes, individuals, and various groups, including the United States Postal Service. These funds are supplemented by the center's own reserve account to purchase food for clients.

The center will face a major challenge in 2018: the church will be replaced by a smaller building. The congregation, however, has promised HEFC that it will always have a place somewhere on this historic site. According to Ms. Shewitz, "we will not close ... no matter what."

### **HEIGHTS YOUTH CLUB**

#### **REQUEST \$35,000 RECOMMENDATION \$35,000**

Heights Youth Club's (HYC) mission is to provide a positive and safe environment for youth to learn and develop skills related to education, interpersonal growth, and community involvement. Its five core areas are education and career, sports, fitness and recreation, character and leadership, arts, and healthy living. HYC is under the umbrella of Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland and receives some funds from them, but operates with its own board. This request is for \$35,000 for HYC's premier program, Project Learn, a math and literacy curriculum which is incorporated into all of its programs. HYC provides one hour daily of mandatory homework help and tutoring four days per week. The goal is for each member to improve his or her academic performance and school attachment. The intended audience is HYC members – any young person aged 6-18 who resides in the Cleveland Heights and/or attends a school within the CH-UH School District. 95-100 students attend HYC daily.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland uses several measurement tools to determine outcomes, and consistently finds that students who are actively involved in the clubs increase academic achievement, have more positive relationships, are

less likely to be involved in delinquent behavior, improve attitudes toward school and engage in positive goal setting and achievement. HYC's total budget is \$323,872, of which \$129, 669 is for Project Learn. Project Learn will not be altered if full funding doesn't come through HYC will work to raise funds from other sources.

### **LAKE ERIE INK**

**REQUEST \$12,128 RECOMMENDATION \$12,128**

Lake Erie Ink has applied for CBGB funds for the Noble elementary School after school writing program. Lake Erie Ink works with 4th and 5th grade students twice a week at Noble. The organization would like to add a one day a week program so that middle school students who have begun the program in elementary school can continue participating in middle school.

Lake Erie Ink staff have created a structure and a safe place for students to attend to homework, socialize and most importantly engage in the process of writing. Participants engage in various writing genres with adult supervision, engage in all stages of the writing process and produce an anthology

There is no one typical Lake Erie Ink participant but many of the participants share some characteristics. They might be shy, creative, low, or high academic performers. The staff and volunteers at Lake Erie Ink have found that many student participants are dealing with huge personal traumas and that their writing work is a means of making sense and dealing with those problems. I was personally very impressed with the work being done there and plan to volunteer this coming year.

### **OFFICE ON AGING**

**REQUEST \$25,000 RECOMMENDATION \$25,000**

The Cleveland Heights Office on Aging serves a vulnerable population in the community, elderly and frail elderly, who may be facing multiple challenges in their lives: mental or physical health concerns, loss of a spouse or partner, difficulty navigating or accessing social programs and services, and the general loss of sociability that can come with aging if supports are not in place. The social workers mitigate the effects of some of these issues by engaging meaningfully with seniors using best practices to offer resources, problem resolution, connect seniors with services, and meet other needs of these individuals so that they can age in their home if it is in their best interest to do

so. The office also acts as a check on older adults to ensure that their living situation is safe; anything that can be done to ensure that all residents, regardless of age, are living in a healthy home is in the best interest of the city. This office is a vital component of our city government as residents continue to reside here well past retirement age.

### **OPEN DOORS ACADEMY**

**REQUEST \$20,000 RECOMMENDATION \$20,000**

Open Doors Academy (ODA) provides support services to low-and- moderate-income middle and high school students living in at-risk environments. In 2016, 77% of ODA students from Cleveland Heights were from LMI households, 90% were African American and 22% were students in an Individualized Education Plan. ODA bridges the gap between home and school and provides a network of support throughout the adolescent years. This support network impacts a child's academic performance and their overall social and emotional development. All of the activities that the ODA lists in its application directly support their goal to support the students to achieve academic success, to strengthen their personal skills and give them opportunities to see what the world has to offer. Families must commit to supporting their child if they are enrolled in ODA.

ODA uses the funds they receive from CDBG for staffing at their middle school locations, St. Paul's Episcopal Church (for Roxboro students) and Monticello Middle School. 100% of the enrolled students are Cleveland Heights residents. Given the temporary closure of Roxboro and Monticello campuses, both programming options will be provided at Wiley for the upcoming academic year. Of concern in consideration of continued funding for ODA is their recent loss of \$550,000 in grant funding from Cuyahoga County and the state.

ODA is a program that fills a need in our neighborhoods for accessible, structured academic and emotional support for the Cleveland Heights middle school students. Every student in our district deserves access to explore all the opportunities this world has to offer—to be given hope for their future. ODA has a proven plan and deserves our full support. In Cleveland Heights, there is no greater need than supporting our Youth. If they are engaged in a program like ODA, they have an opportunity to become independent, employed and successful in life.

### **START RIGHT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**REQUEST \$10,000 RECOMMENDATION \$10,000**

Start Right Community Development Corporation is requesting a total of

\$10,000 for its hunger relief program. Start Right’s hunger relief program provides a 3 day supply of food for over 100 households each month, in addition to providing free lunch for children for 7 weeks during summer and 6 days during Winter Break. In addition to CDBG funding, Start Right seeks funding through church donations and community contributions. Start Right CDC has lowered program costs by acquiring free and low cost food items from the Cleveland Food Bank.

While Start Right has been able to acquire food at little to no cost, the interviewer was impressed by the variety and quality of food items offered. It was clear from the turnout at the hunger relief program that the organization has effective outreach, and that there is a need for the program in the community.

The number of appliances in operation contributed to the request for CDBG funding last year, and has now become necessary for the continuation of the hunger relief program. The Fire Department has mandated electrical improvements to the building in order to decrease the likelihood of an overload fire. The cost of cleaning and recycling was previously expressed as an area of concern for Start Right, which has since been partially alleviated by the acquisition of a dumpster serviced by Cleveland Heights. The acquisition of a vacant lot across the street from the church should increase the effectiveness of the Hunger Relief program in years to come, particularly during warmer seasons. Full funding is recommended for Start Right CDC as it demonstrates a clear need for such programming within our community.

**Preservation and Housing Subcommittee Report**

**Committee Members:** Kim DeNero-Ackroyd (Chair), David Benson (Vice Chair), Vetella Camper and Gail Larson

**Meeting date and Committee Members present:** August 28 & 29--All members present

YR 44 Applicants	Total Request	Individual Costs	Total Recommendations
Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) Operations + Programs	\$177,703		
HRRC: Operations		\$137,703	\$137,703

HRRC: Housing Counseling		\$40,000	\$40,000
<b>Housing Preservation Office (HPO)</b>	\$469,200		
HPO: Operations		\$321,700	\$321,700
HPO: Short Term Loan		\$7,500	\$7,500
HPO: Paint Program		\$100,000	\$100,000
HPO: Violation Repair		\$20,000	\$20,000
HPO: Nuisance Abatement		\$20,000	\$20,000
LMI Code Enforcement (HPO)	\$60,000		\$60,000
Neighborhood Relations (HPO)	\$57,000		\$57,000

**Name of Applicant: Home Repair Resource Center – Operations and Programs**

**Amount of Request: \$137,303**

**Recommendation: \$137,303**

**Short description of the request:** HRRC Operating Expenses. Pays staff salaries and overhead for organization to run the following programs

- o \$12,085 Financial Assistance Program (FAP) ASSIST Incentive Grants Provides \$1,000 toward cost of replacing any one of four major systems (roof, heating, masonry rebuild, or exterior painting).
- o \$12,085 Senior Repair Program
- o \$17,745 Project Repair: workshops and tool rental education program for LMI and other homeowners to perform repairs to maintain home and community value

HRRC continues its mission to keep Cleveland Heights houses in good repair. In the 46 years of HRRC’s existence, their programs have enabled more than \$15 million in repairs to Cleveland Heights homes. They offer classes, a resource library, a tool-lending program and financial assistance programs, which assist LMI families and seniors on very tight budgets. HRRC funds leverage a large dollar amount of private dollars and volunteer hours. The 2016 FAP program data indicated that HRRC serves predominately African American citizens in both the deferred loan and ASSIST programs.

HRRC continues to work to create programs that reflect the needs of the community. They have determined a need for a Senior Home Stability Matching Grants to assist seniors on a fixed income and to make repairs that affect the

health and safety of the occupants of the home. HRRC offers a 90 minute consultation at a senior's home, where the Senior Repair Specialist will assess and prioritize the property's repair needs.

**Rationale for committee recommendation:** The HRRC Executive Director has continued to increase volunteer support and fundraising. The committee was impressed by her willingness to work at a salary that will be frozen for 5 years. The organization continues to recognize the need for services targeted toward seniors, and continue to increase targeting to young and first time homeowners through social media. They've proven to be committed to improving the lives of LMI people who want to own, maintain and improve their own homes. *The committee recommends full funding for this program.*

**Name of Applicant: Home Repair Resource Center – Housing Counseling**

**Amount of Request: \$40,000**

**Recommendation: \$40,000**

**Short description of the request:** HRRC's Housing Counselor continues to offer a wide variety of classes. Many lenders require these sessions, including Cleveland Heights, who requires any residents using the down payment assistance program to attend HRRC's Housing Counseling. In 2015, HRRC entered into a contract with the City to take over the management of the Down Payment Assistance Program. These funds will be funneled into the Deferred Loan Match, Incentive/Senior Grant Benefit and Senior Home Stability Grant.

**Rationale for committee recommendation:** Changes in the lending climate and the increase of home values are indicating additional need for counseling services. It is clear that HRRC has done an effective job of communicating to the community the services that they have to offer, which is evidenced by the numbers of people that they have assisted in the past year.

*The committee recommends full funding for this program.*

**Name of Applicant: Housing Preservation Office**

**Amount of Request: \$469,200**

**Recommendation: \$469,200**

**Short description of the request:**

- \$321,700 HPO Operating/Staff: Salaries, benefits and operating expenses for housing office.
- \$100,000 Paint Program: LMI owner-occupants age 62+ or disabled eligible for a grant of up to \$3500 for labor and paint. A licensed Lead Paint contractor must be used.

- \$20,000 Violation Repair: Assists senior or disabled homeowners with violation repair.
- \$20,000 Nuisance Abatement: Pays for demolition or other abatement at nuisance properties.
- \$7,500 Short-term deferred loan program (emergency loan up to \$7,500 for LMI eligible repairs, including violation correction.)

The Housing Preservation Office (HPO) offers various programs to assist Cleveland Heights homeowners and residents with violations and repairs to their homes. The HPO staff continues to be responsible for implementing the Deferred Loan and No-Interest Loan programs, funded through HOME dollars, as well as the Lead Safe program and the new County Demolition program. The CDBG-funded programs that HPO is responsible for include Exterior Paint, Violation Repair for Seniors, Short Term Deferred Loan and Nuisance Abatement.

**Rationale for committee recommendation:** HPO represents continued progress on a vital city service function. All activities are to preserve and improve the housing stock and property values in the city. Foreclosures are down and work is turning toward repairs, maintenance and new construction. Demand remains high for paint and violation programs. In the category of Nuisance Abatement, approximately 70% of costs get reimbursed in court. *The committee recommends full funding for this program.*

**Name of Applicant: Housing Preservation Office – LMI Code Enforcement**

**Amount of Request: \$60,000**

**Recommendation: \$60,000**

**Short description of the request:** Comprehensive inspection of 100% LMI housing stock.

**Rationale for committee recommendation:** The request has decreased from 2017. It is recognized that this is part of the overall program for maintenance of the housing stock and a core HUD objective and therefore recommended full funding. 2016 saw a total of 1,399 actions, which has been an increase from the past. *The committee recommends full funding for this important function.*

Please Note: The following program is funded through Public Service Activities, which is subject to a funding cap:

**Name of Applicant: Housing Preservation Office – Neighborhood Relations**

**Amount of Request: \$57,000**

**Recommendation: \$57,000**

**Short description of the request:** City representative in LMI areas addressing problems that affect the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

The Neighborhood Relations Program request is to pay a portion of the salary for a city representative to work in low/moderate areas to work on protecting the quality of life in our neighborhoods. The program coordinator attempts to prevent issues from bubbling up to where they become a problem to the entire block or neighborhood and works closely with the Police Department. In 2016, there were 7,256 total served.

**Rationale for committee recommendation:** The program continues to demonstrate efficacy through its defined process for bridging communication gaps that cannot be addressed through policing alone. The program generates income by certifying liens on properties that are assessed fees for grass cutting, excessive police calls, etc. This element of the program makes it sustainable and it increases pressure on absentee landlords and improves the desirability of neighborhoods. *The committee recommends full funding for this position.*

CAC was reminded that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room. The committee will make their final recommendations at that time.

Chairman Titchenal thanked the subcommittees for their reports.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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Stephen Titchenal, Chair

Cory Farmer, Secretary