

**City of Cleveland Heights
Citizens Advisory Committee
September 1, 2015
Executive Conference Room, Cleveland Heights City Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeffrey Bendix	Marian Morton
David Benson	Donalene Poduska
Vetella Camper	Amanda Shaffer
Kim DeNero-Ackroyd	Kéba Sylla
Cory Farmer	Steve Titchenal
Jonathan Goldman	Sarah West
Christine Henry	George Witherspoon
Allison McCallum	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Douglas Dykes (exc.)	Parker Zabell (exc.)
Carol Roe (exc.)	

STAFF PRESENT

Nancy McLaughlin

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Allison McCallum called the meeting to order. Secretary Amanda Shaffer called the roll; a quorum was present.

MINUTES

Minutes from the August 4, 2015 and August 11, 2015 meetings were approved as corrected.

STAFF REPORT

Nancy McLaughlin reviewed the financial statement noting that there were no unusual expenditures. She noted that an invoice for Street Resurfacing of approximately \$125,000 was paid in the past week. This expenditure will bring us closer to meeting our timeliness goal on October 31. Nancy has some concerns that we may not meet that goal due to two loan payoffs made this summer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Allison McCallum reminded members of the two requests for reprogramming that were presented during the Public Hearings in August. The first, from Home Repair Resource Center, was a request to broaden the scope of their Senior Hot Water Tank program to allow grants for other repairs that are necessary for seniors to remain safely in their homes. The new program would be called the Senior Home Stability Grant and would cover 50% of the cost of critical repairs up to a maximum of \$1000. The critical repairs will include water heater replacement as well as flat or low-slope roof replacement on a main dwelling structure and other repairs that, if left unaddressed will create a threat to occupant health and safety. Amanda Shaffer reported that the subcommittee recommended approval of the request. CAC agreed by a vote of 13-0.

The second request was from FutureHeights which asked that the \$5000 originally allocated to Neighborhood Mini-Grants be reprogrammed to their personnel line. The organization determined that finding projects that would be CDBG eligible would be difficult. They also hired a full-time community capacity builder rather than part-time and the funds would be better used for personnel costs. Keba Sylla reported that the subcommittee recommended the reprogramming of funds. CAC agreed by a vote of 12-0-1. The abstention was due to that member being a member of the FutureHeights board.

Allison McCallum asked that the subcommittees present their reports.

Finance and Other Subcommittee Report

Committee members: Keba Sylla (Chair); Jeff Bendix (Vice Chair) and David Benson

Year 42	Request	Interviewer (s)	Comm. Recom.	Vote (s)
CDBG Ad	\$153,100	Jeff Bendix	\$153,100 (full)	3
Fair Housing	\$12750	Jeff Bendix	12,750	3
Clev. Ten. Org	\$7,000	David Benson	\$7,000	3
Hts. Congress	\$10,000	David Benson	\$0	3
Future Hts.	\$46,000	Keba Sylla	\$43,000	3
Streets	\$224,980	Keba Sylla	224,980 (full)	3
Water Line	\$325,000	Keba Sylla	325,000 (full)	3

CDBG Administration

Funding request: \$140,350 + \$12,750 for fair housing activities

Recommendation: \$153,100 (Full)

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations and guidelines require that an entitlement community receiving CDGB funds provide administration for the general management of the funds, oversight and coordination of recipients, and regulatory reporting. The request for \$140,350 includes salaries and operating costs for CDBG administration. Health care costs for staff have risen and the Year 42 budget includes a cost of living increase. The sub-committee continues to be impressed with the outstanding professional administration of the block grant programs. The CDBG administration-funding request is an appropriate and necessary expense for the program and is completely reliant on CDBG dollars. The subcommittee unanimously recommends full funding of the CDBG Administration request.

Fair housing activities are a HUD requirement for CDGB funding. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing identifies areas that need to be addressed. The \$12,750 request for 2016 would be to conduct 10 citywide audits and 5 audits in the Hillcrest area. The subcommittee unanimously recommends full funding of the Fair Housing Activities 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 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. CTO has requested \$7,000 from CDBG for Year 42. This amount is approximately 9.7% of the CTO's program budget and is for personnel services only.

In the 42nd year of CDBG, the CTO anticipates serving up to 500 Cleveland Heights residents, 60% of who are designated as "Low and Moderate Income." Apartment and house rentals continue to trend upward in Northeast Ohio due to the lingering effects of the foreclosure crisis creating ever-increasing need for the services of CTO. 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. The subcommittee recognizes the evidence of services rendered by CTO and wishes Cleveland Heights to remain a priority for the organization and unanimously recommends full funding.

Heights Community Congress (HCC)

Funding request: \$10,000

Recommendation: \$0

HCC can be a vital resource to the City of Cleveland Heights and to the landscape for addressing issues surrounding diversity. Although HCC has embraced new leadership the organization's overall strategy continues to be more reactive and less visionary. HCC's request for the Year 42 budget includes the funding of 3 programs. The subcommittee supports the overall mission of HCC, but would like HCC to develop and embrace strategies that are proactive and forward thinking. In addition, and of extreme importance, HCC must provide a plan of action – once they have gathered and analyzed the data for which they will, and have obtained. Finally, The Committee felt Heights Congress was vague and did not convince the interviewer on how they will plan to do better in their future presentation of the program. Therefore, the subcommittee unanimously recommends not funding the request.

FutureHeights (FH)

Funding request: \$46,000

Recommendation: \$43,000

FutureHeights understands the vitality of cohesive, strong and actionable neighborhoods. Over the last several years, Cleveland Heights vitality continues to be challenged because of shifting demographics, the housing crises, unemployment, etc. FH envisions Cleveland Heights as the core of the region's cultural and intellectual scene, with thriving local business, attractive neighborhoods, strong connections with neighboring communities, and a deeply engaged citizenry. FH wants to focus on the assets of each neighborhood, and build up leadership in each individual neighborhood to strengthen the entire City.

For year 42, FH will continue to focus on the capacity building for Cleveland Heights which will include facilitating the development of and strengthening of neighborhood groups, empowering these groups to create assessments of their areas, assisting the City and neighborhood groups in developing neighborhood plans, and assisting the neighborhoods to improve their physical and social

environments. The program will be administered by a full time Community Builder. This full time staff member will focus on executing the program components outlined above. The community builder will coordinate volunteers, partner with existing neighborhood groups in the target areas, such as Noble Neighbors and Cain Park Neighborhood Association, and work with neighborhood leaders to create new groups in areas that are not currently organized. FH will partner with the City of Cleveland Heights, Coventry Village SID, Cedar Lee SID, Cedar Taylor Merchants Association, CH-UH City School District, neighborhood institutions, residents, business owners, property owners and other stakeholders. The organizer will use the FH office as a home base and make use of other community facilities as needed. FH will contract with consultants to assist in providing training workshops to neighborhood leaders. FH will draw from national resources, such as www.abcdinstitute.org to manage a process of asset-based community development that is the right fit for our community. However, the committee felt that they failed to explain the role of outside consultants and their mini-grant program; therefore, the committee recommends funding the Future Heights at \$43,000.

Street Rehabilitation

Funding request: \$224,980

Recommendation: \$224,980 (Full)

The City is seeking CDBG funding pavement improvements of 5 streets in 2016: Here are the places where the work will take place: Hampshire Lane- Mayfield to Lancashire, Hampshire Road- Coventry to Hampshire Lane' Lancashire Road- Coventry to Hampshire Lane, Lancashire Road- Hampshire Lane To Euclid Heights BLVD and Glenmont Road- Mayfield Road to City Line.

Cleveland Heights continues to expand the use of the chip/seal program, the lower cost method for extending the life of roads, while strategically using the 2" "mill and fill" or full depth resurfacing. The expected life span of a chip/seal road is 7-10 years compared to 15-20 for a road that is fully resurfaced. Experience in the City thus far shows that chip/seal roads need very few repairs due to cracks or pot holes in the first 3 or more years, compared to the annual repairs needed on fully resurfaced roads. Though the chip/seal is more cost-effective, the approach can only be applied to roads that have a sufficient level of integrity based on the results of a core sampling procedure. Director Mannarino continues to impress this subcommittee with his willingness to explore methods for extending the life cycle of our City's streets, through quality methods.

With firm agreement as to the high importance of street improvements/maintenance and the appreciation of Director Mannarino's approach for extending the life of our streets the subcommittee unanimously recommends full funding.

Water Line Rehab

Funding request: \$325,000

Recommendation: \$325,000 (Full)

The FY42 request will fund the water main replacement on North Coventry (City Line to Mayfield Road). The subcommittee unanimously recommends full funding.

Commercial Areas Subcommittee Report

Committee Members: Parker Zabell (Chair), Jonathan Goldman (Vice Chair), Vetella Camper, Cory Farmer

Meeting date and Committee Members present: 8.25.15 – all members present

YR (42) Applicants	Request	Interviewer(s)	Recommendation	Vote
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)		(yes, no, or abstain)
City Economic Development Programs	\$60,000	Full Committee	\$60,000	4-0
Cedar Taylor Development Association	\$30,000	Parker, John, Cory	\$15,000 (\$10,000 plus \$5,000 if matched)	4-0
Total	\$90,000		\$75,000	

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

Amount of Request: \$20,000 – Storefront Renovation Program Coordinator
\$40,000 – Economic Development Director or Consultant
\$60,000 - Total

Recommendation: \$60,000

Short description of the request: The City’s request is strictly for staffing to implement the economic development programs that CAC has already invested in over the past number of years. Both programs are currently sufficiently funded for potential projects in 2016, but require staff to implement and expand the reach of each program. The current balance of the Storefront Program is approximately \$265,000, and the Commercial Loan Program is \$538,000. Both programs are healthy and generate much needed improvements in our commercial districts as well as private investment in our city by requiring matching funds from participants. It is important to retain sufficient balances in each program so that new loans can be created and perpetuate the cycle of improvements created by these programs in the City. The storefront program was also recently modified to allow loans up to \$100,000 which allows for larger projects. The current loan portfolio contains 8 commercial revolving loans with an outstanding balance of \$1,344,110 and 6 storefront loans with an outstanding balance of \$80,642. These programs also generate program income year over year and for next year, the anticipated program income is \$111,000.

Rationale for committee recommendation: The subcommittee sees great value in the economic programs the city offers and would love to see the expansion of

these programs to make an even greater impact in the city. Staff is an essential component to run these programs well and get new business. An economic development director/consultant is definitely required to bring in new business or make a greater impact with our existing businesses to expand the reach of the Commercial Loan Program. This is especially evident since no new commercial loans were created last year. The City is also showing good oversight with the programs and is working with the building owners, opposed to just the tenants, on larger projects so the investment will remain in the city even if the business goes away one day.

Report of Vote: Unanimous Approval.

Name of Applicant: Cedar Taylor Development Association

Amount of Request: \$30,000

Recommendation: \$15,000 (\$10,000, plus \$5,000 if matched)

Short description of the request: The Cedar Taylor Development Association requested \$30,000 to continue the implementation of the Streetscape Improvement Plan they began planning for 2 years ago. The first wave of improvements are now installed and the District has come alive with banners, planters, bike racks, and benches. All CDBG funds have been used to implement the streetscape plan. There are no salaries or other overhead expenses. The board is all donating time and energy. They successfully created a commercial district, complete with branding and an identity, where none existed before. With additional funding, the CTDA would like to add holiday lighting and public art to the district in addition to filling in with more planters, bike racks, and benches where needed. Other possible uses of the funds could be to provide for better plowing of the sidewalks, which severely limited foot traffic during the winter storms.

Rationale for committee recommendation: The subcommittee is very impressed with the continued growth of the CTDA. Last year CAC challenged them to increase membership and raise funds and they answered the call. Their membership is now over 30% of businesses in the district with 24 paying members (out of an estimated 65) who each contributed a minimum of \$100, and they raised \$6000 (\$1000 more than required to receive CDBG matching funds). The subcommittee wants to capitalize on the momentum of CTDA and reward them for following through with their plan. With unlimited funds the subcommittee would recommend funding the full \$30,000 request because we know it would be money well spent, but understanding the overall CDBG budget

will be tight, we recommend funding \$10,000 with an additional \$5000 available if they can provide \$5000 in matching donations.

Kevin Smith and Alex Quintana are the most active members of the board and both show pride of ownership in the district. Both have successfully utilized the City's economic development programs to renovate property they own in the district and show how various programs CDBG funds intersect to have a greater positive impact in the City. On a walk through the district with Kevin, the subcommittee was impressed with his care for the neighborhood, checking on the newly installed planters along the way and often bending down to pick up trash. The continued support for the CTDA with CDBG funds would help sustain the investment already made in the area.

Report of Vote: Unanimous Approval.

Neighborhood Activities Subcommittee Report

Committee members: Marian Morton (chair); Steve Titchenal (vice-chair), Christine Henry, Donalene Poduska, Carol Roe, Sarah West, George Witherspoon

Meeting date: 8. 24. 2015 All members present except Carol Roe

YR (42) Applicants	Request	Interviewer(s)	Recommendations	Vote (yes, no, or abstain)
Office on Aging	\$45,000	Donalene	\$30,000	6-0
Ctr. for Families and Children: Pinpoint	\$20,000	George	\$20,000	6-0
Heights Emergency Food Center	\$11,000	Donalene	\$11,000	6-0
Family Connections	\$30,000	Chris	\$30,000	4-2
Open Doors	\$20,000	Chris and Marian	\$10,000	4-2

Hts. Youth Club	\$64,684	Carol	\$50,000	6-0
Start Right Food Program	\$5,000	Steve and Sarah	\$5,000	6-0
Gesher	\$35,000	Sarah and Marian	\$5,000	6-0
Lake Erie Ink	\$12,560	Steve	\$6,780	6-0
Community Diversion Program	\$10,000	George	\$3,000	6-0

OFFICE ON AGING

Request \$45,000

Recommendation \$30,000

For nearly 30 years, the Cleveland Heights Office on Aging has provided social-work services to Cleveland Heights residents over 60 and their families. These services help seniors to be comfortable, safe, and independent in their homes. Services include information regarding health care benefits, legal assistance, Meals on Wheels, housing, and transportation. In 2014 they handled 13 emergency referrals. In Year 40 (2014) 475 unduplicated persons received services. The social workers document client visits and phone calls. Their records indicate the number of OOA services each receives or, when referred to another agency, which services that agency provided to the resident. The application includes a summary of how the residents were served in 2014. The request is for salaries of the two remaining social workers, each working 20 hours a week. They have been able to streamline their processes and also to handle the incoming need increase in a very efficient manner. (One makes \$19.60 per hour; the other, \$17.40.)

There is value in this program, and it should be funded to continue.

The subcommittee recommends \$30,000 because there is \$15,000 in rollover funds available for the coming year. However, the subcommittee would like to see in next year's request specific demographic data about those who use the service and a more specific outcomes assessment of the program.

CENTER FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN: PINPOINT

Request \$20,000

Recommendation \$ 20,000

The goals of the Pinpoint program are to interdict anti-social behavior in students at early stages before it becomes irreversible. Based upon recommendations from school social workers, suspended students are referred to the Center for Families and Children for specialized instruction while away from school. The program serves an important function in the community, especially since it can connect families and children with the services provided by the Center for Families and Children.

HEIGHTS EMERGENCY FOOD CENTER

Request \$11,000

Recommendation \$11,000

The Food Center began in October 1981 with under 10 families; they are in the same location (rent-free). In Year 40 (2014) they served 932 unduplicated Cleveland Heights persons, distributing a three-day "healthy" food supply, including needed staples, once a month. The number of individuals increased, yet the number of families decreased. Thus there is an increase in family size. The Center is staffed by dedicated volunteers, including the Executive Director. The new board president has re-assigned some duties to others in order to ease the duties of the executive director.

There is a slight increase in operating expenses due to anticipated cost increases, such as supplies/printing/postage having increased at a greater rate and maintenance costs for aging refrigeration equipment having increased.

This organization has always impressed CAC by its careful budgeting, and yet the volunteer staff makes sure that they meet the needs of the people using the Center.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Request: \$30,000

Recommendation \$30,000

Family Connections has been providing parenting support and educational opportunities for families with children from birth to six years old for over 30 years. It offers year-round free and low cost programs and services with an emphasis on early literacy, parenting support, and school readiness. Services include library-based early literacy playrooms, site-based family support

playrooms, and school and home-based programs that support early family literacy and school success. It has a presence in each elementary school in the CH-UH district. It also works with students and families who have emigrated from other countries – there is a pocket of Nepalese in the Noble neighborhood.

This request is for \$30,000 to support services provided at the six Cleveland Heights elementary schools.

Recent data shows that only 31% of students in the CH-UH district in grades K-3 are reading at grade level. These are the students that Family Connections targets, strongly emphasizing parental involvement. Success is measured through evaluation surveys, pre- and post-testing, consulting with each child's teacher, and home visit assessments. Last year 82% of the students Family Connections worked with were on track for reading based on their spring evaluation scores.

The organization also has a location in Shaker Heights, and serves families and children from across Greater Cleveland. The organizational budget is just over \$1.2 million. The budget for the Family Connections program is \$273,000, or 24% of the total budget. The strong emphasis on parenting and family involvement in the schools is critical, and clearly makes a difference in children's school success.

OPEN DOORS ACADEMY

Request: \$20,000

Recommendation \$10,000

The mission of Open Doors Academy is the following: "ODA protects, inspires, nurtures and challenge adolescents to reach their full potential." ODA is the only program in Northeast Ohio that offers a year-round, 7-year continuum of academic, social and emotional support for students and their families from middle school through high school graduation and beyond. Starting in 1998 as a drop-in program for middle schoolers in a Cleveland Heights church, the program now operates in 10 middle schools and 14 high schools in Greater Cleveland, and serves over 350 students. About 90% of the students come from moderately low- to extremely low-income households. In 2014 over 40 students were served at Monticello

Middle School and St. Paul's Episcopal Church (which serves Roxboro Middle School students). In 2016 the goal is to serve over 80 students at these sites.

ODA is a research- based, data-driven organization, boasting a 100% high school graduation rate for students who have been with the program for three years. A continued goal is that 95% of youth who participate in a minimum of three consecutive years of ODA programming will also complete a minimum of two years in a post-secondary placement or secured employment.

Programming consists of college and career prep planning, global social education, civic leadership, summer programs, and service learning.

ODA maintains that it differs from other similar programs in its structured curriculum, where students are held accountable for their decisions and behavior, and for its emphasis on required parent involvement. Workshops are offered for parents that feature financial literacy, discussion on living with teens, and college readiness.

One of ODA's challenges is student retention, which will be a big focus going forward. ODA is also focused on growth, looking towards having a presence in 20 middle schools by 2020.

ODA has \$2.3 million dollar budget overall. This request is for \$20,000 to pay for staffing and materials at Monticello Middle School and St. Paul's Church. ODA is increasing its emphasis on individual donations, and is continually searching for additional funding sources.

Open Doors Academy is a quality program that has proven over and over its ability to deliver academic and enrichment programs to Cleveland Heights youth that make a difference in their lives. It has the staff and capacity to raise funds professionally and effectively. Nevertheless, it is fitting that we support its Cleveland Heights presence.

HEIGHTS YOUTH CLUB

Request: \$64,684

Recommendation \$50,000

The Heights Youth Club addresses a need of the community by providing support services to youth from low to moderate income families. The mission is

to provide a positive and safe environment for youth to learn and develop skills related to education and personal growth. The agency utilizes Project Learn as well as daily, mandatory homework preparation sessions to assist with promotion and graduation rates within the CH/UH school district. While the program does duplicate in some ways services being provided by some other agencies, such duplication may be necessary given the needs of the community.

The club utilizes data in an effective manner to evaluate the program and has demonstrated favorable outcomes. The club is working with the school district to facilitate the participation of high school students who will be located farther from the club for the next two years during the high school's reconstruction. The club is also looking at expanding its outreach in the faith-based community to recruit additional volunteers. This would also enhance its relationship with the nearby community.

The Taste of the Heights is the club's one annual benefit. Other funds are donated by BGCC. The annual benefit was moved to a different venue to reach new prospective donors. Although the club is a valuable asset to the community, our limited funds mean that we cannot fully fund this request.

START RIGHT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Request: \$5000

Recommendation \$5,000

The program serves about 100 families every month with a 3 day supply of food, using personal shoppers to help families choose from the available supply. Nutrition education in food selection is provided to every participant.

The request will help with overhead expenses for the storage and distribution of food. The facility is in the basement of an older church and is need of improvements to continue to serve its at-risk population, particularly seniors and families with young children.

GESHER

Request \$35,000

Recommendation \$5,000

This benefits referral program was established in 2013 to serve the Jewish population of Greater Cleveland. The agency's two-person staff refers clients to local, state, and federal benefits programs that include utility services, food

benefits and health care, helps clients fill out applications, and acts as their advocate. Although it duplicates some of the services provided by Cuyahoga County's 211 program, Gesher differs in that it provides in-person, hands-on assistance. Gesher estimates that by the end of 2015, it will have served 350 persons, 160 from Cleveland Heights. Its offices are in South Euclid, but Gesher also hopes to set up a food bank on Taylor Road.

Although Gesher's services are valuable and available to all, regardless of religious affiliation, according to Rabbi Adler, only about ten of its clients have been non-Jewish. When asked about broadening their client base, Rabbi Adler and Rabbi Joseph suggested that their two-person staff might be overwhelmed with more cases and/or that the benefits programs themselves should be referring more clients to Gesher.

Particularly in view of their current narrow client base, the subcommittee would like to see detailed demographic data about its clients if Gesher applies for funds next year.

LAKE ERIE INK

Request \$12,560

Recommendation \$6,780

This grant request is for support of the Ink Spot after school creative writing program at Noble Elementary to complement a program already in place at Coventry. The expectation is that 80% of those enrolled at Noble will be LMI.

The recommendation of \$6,780 continues the level of funding provided by CDBG in FY15 for the first year of this program.

COMMUNITY DIVERSION PROGRAM

Request \$10,000

Recommendation \$3,000

The goal of the Community Diversion Program is to reduce anti-social, negative, life-altering behavior in this targeted youth population. This goal falls within those of the CDBG Program. This is a relatively new program for our community, but it can have a positive and lasting effect. This program can in the future benefit from a full-time staff person and more dedicated volunteers.

Although the subcommittee believes the program serves an important need in the Cleveland Heights community, we think this year's request for funds for an "outreach" program should be much more specific. Such a program might seek out inspiring local speakers who would volunteer their time.

Preservation and Housing Subcommittee Report

Committee Members: Douglas Dykes (Chair), Amanda Shaffer (Vice Chair), Kim DeNero-Ackroyd

Meeting date and Committee Members present: Due to extenuating circumstances this committee conducted all discussion by email

YR 42 Applicants	Total Request	Individual Costs	Total Recommendations
Benjamin Rose Institute	\$25,000		\$0
Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) Operations + Programs	\$180,400		
HRRC: Operations		\$138,280	\$138,280
HRRC: Housing Counseling		\$42,120	\$42,120
Housing Preservation Office (HPO)	\$403,091		
HPO: Operations		\$258,091	\$258,091
HPO: Sewer Repair		\$20,000	\$20,000
HPO: Paint Program		\$80,000	\$80,000
HPO: Violation Repair		\$20,000	\$20,000
HPO: Nuisance Abatement		\$25,000	\$25,000
LMI Code Enforcement (HPO)	\$65,000		\$65,000
Neighborhood Relations (HPO)	\$60,000		\$60,000

Name of Applicant: Benjamin Rose Institute

Amount of Request: \$25,000

Recommendation: \$0

Short description of the request: Mary Marita, COO, presented the request for funding to replace original windows in 24 of the Benjamin Rose's Margaret Wagner senior apartments (floors four and five of property at 2375 Euclid Heights Boulevard.) While day-to-day maintenance issues are covered by rent payments, a project such as this is outside of that line item. HUD does not provide any funding for these types of capital improvements.

Rationale for committee recommendation: Applied in year 41 and 39 unsuccessfully. Goal of project is to provide attractive, energy efficient options to LMI and prospective renters. If not funded they will seek funds elsewhere and may phase the project. Apartments are at 97% occupancy and space is well maintained. It was determined that the funds would be well spent on a project of this kind, however given the limited funding environment the committee does not view this project as a top priority for CDGB funding. *The committee recommends no funding for this program.*

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

Amount of Request: \$138,280

Recommendation: \$138,280

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

- \$25,272 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).
- \$30,888 Senior Repair Program (Home Stability Matching Grant): Provides half cost of materials and installation (up to \$500) of a replacement water heater for LMI homeowners age 62 or older, or totally and permanently disabled.
- \$43,524 Project Repair: workshops and tool rental (53% CH) 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 44 years of HRRC's existence, their programs have enabled more than \$14 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 2014 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 new 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.

Rationale for committee recommendation: The HRRC Executive Director has done an exemplary job of managing a prior 20% cut to their budget and has continued to increase volunteer support and fundraising. HRRC has been selected by Social Venture Partnership as an investment organization and will be creating an action plan to create efficiencies by using software to streamline program planning and tracking, and engage in board training. They continue to demonstrate high levels of awareness of the need for services targeted toward seniors, and in addition have begun to target young and first time homeowners through social media. The committee recommends the full funding of \$98,280 for operating expenses plus \$40,000 for the three programs. *The committee recommends full funding for this program.*

Name of Applicant: Home Repair Resource Center – Housing Counseling

Amount of Request: \$42,120

Recommendation: \$42,120

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 our 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. The numbers of unduplicated Cleveland Heights persons in the application does not currently reflect "intent to buy" in Cleveland Heights and so remains low compared to the overall service numbers. The Executive Director indicated they will begin tracking this more closely to report in future.

Rationale for committee recommendation: Changes in the lending climate and the increase of home values are indicating additional need for counseling services HRRC is clear that there is no other avenue for funding at the moment if funding were not received. *The committee recommends full funding for this program.*

Name of Applicant: Housing Preservation Office

Amount of Request: \$403,091

Recommendation: \$403,091

Short description of the request:

- 258,091 HPO Operating/Staff: Salaries, benefits and operating expenses for housing office.
- \$20,000 Sewer Repair: New program for LMI homeowners backflow preventers and splash blocks to prevent water intrusion after storms
- \$80,000 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.
- \$25,000 Nuisance abatement: Pays for demolition or other abatement at nuisance properties.
 - No request in Year 42 for the 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.

Funds are requested for operating costs for HPO as well as for the Exterior Paint Grants, Violation Repair, Nuisance Abatement programs and \$20,000 for a new program that will help residents to install back flow preventers or divert their downspouts in an effort to reduce the backup of storm and/or sanitary sewers in their homes.

Rationale for committee recommendation: HPO represents continued progress on a vital city service function. Foreclosures are down and work is turning toward repairs, maintenance and new construction. Demand remains high for paint and violation programs. HPO operating funds request has held flat since

last year with staff not receiving any raises. *The committee recommends full funding for this program.*

Name of Applicant: Housing Preservation Office – LMI Code Enforcement

Amount of Request: \$65,000

Recommendation: \$65,000

Short description of the request: Comprehensive inspection of 100% LMI housing stock. The Code Enforcement program is in its seventh year.

Rationale for committee recommendation: The request has not increased from 2014 or 2015. 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. 2014 saw a total of 1,073 actions, and the 2015 is on pace to match or increase that number of inspections. *The committee recommends full funding for this important function.*

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

Name of Applicant: Housing Preservation Office – Neighborhood Relations

Amount of Request: \$60,000

Recommendation: \$60,000

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.

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 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room. The committee will make their final recommendations at that time.

Allison McCallum thanked the subcommittees for their reports.

Nancy also told CAC that the Council meeting originally scheduled for September 28 will be moved to Wednesday, September 30 due to Succot holiday. CAC's report to Council will be presented that evening. Nancy will let the committee know what time the presentation is scheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Allison McCallum, Chair

Amanda Shaffer, Secretary