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Memorandum

To: Supervisor and Town Board

Re: Introduction to the Community Development Block Grant Program

Date: March 16, 2018

This memorandum is prepared to provide the Town Board an introduction to the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). I believe that only a couple of the Town Board members are familiar with the program. The Town has been an active participant and beneficiary of the program in the past and it would appear the program is going to make a comeback this summer. Therefore this is a good opportunity to provide background on the program.

The CDBG program is a federal grant program of the Federal Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD). Established in 1974 the goal of the program is to develop and strengthen urban communities by providing grants for affordable housing, infrastructure improvements and social service programs. Grants awarded under the CDBG program must meet one or more of the following goals:

- Benefit Low and Moderate Income Persons
- Eliminate or prevent slums and blight
- Meet an urgent need of recent origin

Most of the grants awarded in Westchester County meet the goal of benefitting low and moderate income persons.

When the program began in Westchester County a consortium of communities was organized. Known as the Urban County Council, the CDBG program was administered by the County Planning Department on behalf of all communities in the consortium except the major cities: White Plains, New Rochelle, Yonkers and Mt. Vernon. These cities have their own CDBG programs.

The CDBG program in Westchester County was cancelled by the County government as a result of the housing litigation filed against the County by HUD. Communities in Westchester County still interested in applying for funds had to work through a New York State run CDBG program. That program is more difficult to obtain funds because communities throughout the State are competing with one another.

We are fortunate that the new Westchester County government administration would like to bring back the CDBG program and reestablish the Urban County Council. As mentioned earlier the Town of Mamaroneck has been a beneficiary of the program.

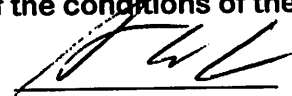
Starting in 1998 the Town has been awarded six grants for projects in the Town totaling \$1.13million. The following is a listing of the projects and the grant amounts received:

1994	Hommocks Park Apartments- Underground Utilities	\$ 350,000
1998	Streetscape Project Boston Post Road Between Larchmont Village and Richbell Rd	\$150,000
2002	Streetscape Project Washington Square	\$ 200,000
2006	Streetscape Project Boston Post Road Between Larchmont Village and Dillon Rd.	\$ 210,000
2007	Richbell Road Playground Construction	\$ 75,000
2009	Senior Center (VFW) Improvements	\$ 150,000

Eligibility for the program is in large part based upon income limits in the community. Incomes are developed based upon US Census tracts for each community. Even though there are no low and moderate income census tracts in the Town as of the last census it is still possible to receive CDBG funds. Grants can be awarded based upon the income limits of those using the facilities for which the grant is sought. For instance the grants received by the Town for the Washington Square Streetscape Project and Senior Center renovations were awarded to the Town based upon the incomes of those that were using the facilities. Income surveys are done to establish low and moderate incomes for the projects. Therefore the Town remains very interested in participating in the CDBG program.

The first step in re-starting the program is to reestablish the Urban Count Council. Communities interested in joining the Council must sign the CDBG cooperation agreement. The County will soon be sending the agreements to the consortium communities for review. One of the factors that led to the cancellation of the program was controversial language in the agreement committing a participating community to actively facilitate the construction of fair and affordable housing.

Although we have yet to see the new versions of the cooperative agreements, the housing language may no longer be an impediment to the Town re-joining the program. In the time since the program was cancelled, the Town has adopted the Model Housing Ordinance and re-zoned sections of the Town to permit commercial and or residential development. In the past we have also been given credit for our Section 8 Housing Voucher Program. The Town therefore has met many of the conditions of the agreement.



Stephen V. Altieri
Town Administrator