

Council Meeting of
January 10, 2012

PUBLIC HEARING

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Development – Adopt RESOLUTION authorizing allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funds.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council conduct a public hearing, consider public input and adopt a **RESOLUTION** authorizing the allocation of 2012 Community Development Block Grant funds with the Federal Housing and Urban Development as follows:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. City-wide Sidewalk Repair for handicap accessibility | \$534,847 |
| 2. Downtown Sidewalk Repair for handicap accessibility | \$100,000 |

Funding: Estimated \$634,847 in CDBG funds to be made available for 2012 projects

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The City of Torrance, as a part of the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission (LACDC) CDBG program, has a 2012 allocation of \$621,800 in CDBG funding available for use in projects plus an additional \$13,047 of unallocated funds from 2011-12. Our allocation for 2012-13 has been reduced substantially by the Federal Government from our 2011 allocation of over \$900,000. While there may be additional changes based on further actions by the Federal Government, any such change will be covered by flexibility built into our proposed projects.

As a first step in the process of beginning the program year, projects eligible for CDBG funding and able to be completed within the program year have been identified. The public must be afforded the opportunity to comment on these projects and then funding must be allocated to specific projects meeting the CDBG program objectives by way of Council resolution.

CDBG funds must be used to benefit primarily low and very low income persons. There are a number of ways in which this may be accomplished, but the major focus of the program is actual physical improvements, such as street improvements, housing rehabilitation, parks or community centers. These income objectives are often met by linking improvements to specific census tracts having a concentration of more than 50%

low income residents. For the City of Torrance, this is not possible, as we have no census tracts meeting the program criteria. We can, however, focus on populations who are presumed to meet the income levels, such as seniors or handicapped persons.

For this reason, we are proposing projects that meet the national objective of assisting low income populations through projects providing handicap accessibility by removing architectural barriers. By using our CDBG grant for these projects rather than General Fund dollars, we will be able to undertake projects that we would otherwise not be able to while freeing up general fund dollars for other uses.

After looking at those projects that could be completed within the program year and that would meet the national objectives, thus qualifying to use CDBG funds, staff has formulated a list of projects for consideration. The projects include, in order of priority:

1. Sidewalk repair for handicap accessibility \$534,847

Throughout the City there are areas of sidewalk that are either raised or are simply non-existent, causing a barrier to those using the sidewalks with mobility impairments. This project will address these accessibility issues by going a step beyond our current ramping and grinding program and will remove the barriers, fixing the underlying cause of the uplift and replacing the sidewalk.

2. Downtown sidewalk repair for handicap accessibility \$100,000

This project will address the same sidewalk accessibility as the City wide project, but will focus on a specific area of the Downtown and will be undertaken in conjunction with a larger project funded by a grant. CDBG funds will provide the matching funds required by the grant.

It should be noted that the Downtown project has initially requested \$100,000, however, due to the strict standards of eligibility for the funding, some of the improvements may not be eligible for use of CDBG funding. If it is determined that certain costs cannot be charged to CDBG, those costs will move to the grant funding and the excess CDBG funds will be shifted to the City-wide Sidewalk repair project. Because of the flexibility built into the proposed projects, this change can easily be accommodated, and is noted in the Resolution, allowing us to make any adjustments without having to hold an additional public hearing.

While we approved a project for general program administration last year, due to changes anticipated from the Federal Government in the percentage of the CDBG grant allocated to program administration, we have been advised by the LACDC not to create a separate administration program, but to allocate any administrative costs directly to the project that they are supporting.

The proposed projects will allow us to make use of our full CDBG allocation for 2011-2012 and will provide a funding source for needed improvements outside of the General Fund. In addition, these projects are all able to be completed within the allotted time frame for expenditure of CDBG funds.

After an opportunity for public comments, a resolution must be adopted, approving the allocation of our CDBG funds for the projects selected by the Council.

Respectfully Submitted,

JEFFERY W. GIBSON
Community Development Director

By 
Linda Cessna
Deputy Community Development Director

CONCUR:


Jeffery W. Gibson
Community Development Director


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment:

A) Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING THE CITY'S
REVISED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Torrance will participate in the Los Angeles Urban County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for fiscal year 2012-2013; and

WHEREAS, the City has a 2012 allocation of \$621,800 in CDBG funds plus \$13,047 in unallocated 2011 funds and has a list of identified projects from various departments that are eligible to use CDBG dollars; and

WHEREAS, the City has published information and held a public hearing to solicit comments and suggestions from the community for the use of these funds; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that the dollar amounts allocated for each project may change, either due to additional cuts to the CDBG program budget at the federal level, which will result in corresponding cuts to the various projects, or due to certain elements of the Downtown sidewalk repair project being deemed ineligible for CDBG funding, which will result in additional funding being programmed from the Downtown sidewalk repair project into the General sidewalk repair project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Torrance hereby:

Approves the Allocation of its available Community Development Block Grant funds for the following purposes:

General sidewalk repair for handicap accessibility	\$534,847
Downtown sidewalk repair for handicap accessibility	\$100,000; and

Authorizes the City Manager to take the following actions:

Submit the City's revised Program Planning Summary for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 to the County of Los Angeles, reflecting the funding allocations set forth in this resolution;

Execute the contractual and related documents required for the implementation of the identified projects;

Reduce and reallocate the dollar amounts presently allocated for both sidewalk repair projects, in the event that there are additional cuts in the CDBG program budget at the federal level; and

Reallocate up to \$25,000 from the Downtown sidewalk repair project to the General sidewalk repair project, in the event that certain elements of the Downtown sidewalk repair project are determined to be ineligible for CDBG funding.

INTRODUCED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of January, 2012.

Mayor Frank Scotto

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JOHN L. FELLOWS III, City Attorney

ATTEST:

By _____
John L. Fellows III

Sue Herbers, CMC, City Clerk