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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Development – Conduct public hearing and adopt RESOLUTION authorizing allocation and appropriation of Community Development Block Grant funds.

Expenditure: $ 928,529

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of Community Development Director that City Council:
1. Conduct a public hearing and consider public input; and
2. Cancel Cravens Avenue ADA Sidewalk Improvement Project (601617-13) and transfer funds in the amount of $100,000 to the 2016-17 project (l 135); and
3. Transfer funds from 2015-16 in the amount of $153,620 to the 2016 -17 project (l 135) and
4. Adopt a RESOLUTION authorizing the allocation and appropriation of 2016- 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds as follows:
   • Sidewalk Repair for handicap accessibility  $928,529

Funding
Estimated funding of $928,529 will be available from the 2016-17 Community Development Block Grant Fund.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The City of Torrance, as part of the Los Angeles Community Development Commission (LACDC) CDBG program has a total of $928,529 available in CDBG funding for use in eligible projects for 2016-17. That amount includes the 2016-17 allocation of $674,909, the unused portion of the allocation from 2015-16 in the amount of $153,620 as well as $100,000 from the cancelled Cravens Avenue ADA project. 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 given the opportunity to comment on the proposed projects and then funding must be allocated to projects meeting the CDBG program objectives by way of a council resolution.

CDBG funds must be used to benefit primarily low and very low income persons. While a portion of the funds can be used for social services, the main focus of the program is on actual physical improvements, such as street improvements, housing rehabilitation or parks and community centers. The income objectives are often met by linking improvements to specific census tracts having a concentration of more than 50% low income residents. This
is not possible in Torrance, as we have no census tracts meeting the income criteria. However, we can meet the criteria by focusing on improvements that target populations that are presumed to meet the income criteria, such as seniors or handicapped persons.

As in previous years, we are proposing a project that meets the national objective of assisting low income populations by providing handicapped accessibility through the removal of architectural barriers, specifically, by improving sidewalks that make it difficult or impossible for those with handicaps to exercise free passage. By using our CDBG grant funds for these projects we are able to free up General Fund dollars that can then be used for other needs in the City.

There is one project submitted for consideration in the 2016-17 program year for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG):

- Sidewalk repair for handicap accessibility – 135

  $928,529

  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 continues the work of previous sidewalk repair projects and will address the accessibility issues by going a step beyond our current ramping and grinding program by removing the barriers, fixing the underlying cause of the uplift and replacing the sidewalk.

The proposed project will allow us to make full use of our CDBG allocation for 2016-17, and will be flexible enough to accept additional funds, should there be unexpended funds left from previous year’s projects. This is noted in the Resolution, allowing us to make certain adjustments without having to hold an additional public hearing.

After an opportunity for public comments, a resolution must be adopted, approving the allocation of our CDBG funds for the project submitted to the Council, as well as an appropriation of the funds to the project budget.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFERY W. GIBSON
Community Development Director

By
Linda Cessna
Deputy Community Development Director

CONCUR:

Jeff W. Gibson
Community Development Director

Mary Aridano
LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachments: A) Funding Allocation Resolution
             B) Mayor’s Script (Limited Distribution)
RESOLUTION NO. 2016-3

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING THE CITY’S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

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 2016-2017; and

WHEREAS, the City has a 2016 allocation of $674,909 in CDBG funds and has an identified project that is eligible to use CDBG dollars; and

WHEREAS, the City will cancel the Cravens Avenue ADA Sidewalk Improvement Project (601617-13) and transfer the funds in the amount of $100,000 to the 2016 project; and

WHEREAS, the City will transfer the unused portion of the 2015-16 allocation in the amount of $153,620 into the 2016 project, 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 amount allocated for the 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 project or due to reprogramming of excess funds from previous project years;

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

1. Approves the Allocation and appropriation of its available Community Development Block Grant funds for the following purposes:

   Sidewalk repair for handicap accessibility $928,529

2. Authorizes the City Manager to submit the City’s Program Planning Summary for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 to the County of Los Angeles, reflecting the funding allocations set forth in this resolution; and

3. Authorizes the City Manager or his designee to execute the contractual and related documents required for the implementation of the identified projects.

INTRODUCED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 26th day of January, 2016.

Mayor Patrick J. Furey

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

By Patrick Q. Sullivan
Assistant City Attorney

01-26-16 CDBG Resolution.doc

ATTEST:
Rebecca Poirier, MMC
City Clerk