

### SECTION G

Public Participation Plan & Consultation

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

#### I. Introduction

The City of Somerville annually receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD), which it administers through the Somerville Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. The primary purpose of these formula grant programs is to develop viable communities through the provision of decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons. As a recipient of these entitlement program funds, the City is required to produce the following documents:

- 1. **Consolidated Plan:** A five-year plan that documents Somerville's housing and community development needs, outlines strategies to address those needs, and identifies proposed program accomplishments.
- 2. **Annual Action Plan:** An annual plan that describes specific CDBG-, HOME- and ESG funded projects that will be undertaken over the course of the upcoming fiscal year.
- 3. Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER): An annual report that evaluates the use of CDBG, HOME and ESG funds.

This Citizen Participation Plan has been developed to provide citizens and other interested parties with opportunities to participate in an advisory role in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the CDBG, HOME and ESG programs which primarily benefit Somerville's low- and moderate-income residents and to review and comment on each of the documents listed above.

#### II. Public Hearing Process

- 1. Frequency. The City will hold a minimum of two public hearings annually, at different times during the consolidated plan process to obtain citizen input on proposed programs and projects.
- 2. <u>Location</u>. Hearings will be held in areas of the City where CDBG funds are proposed to be used, specifically in neighborhoods of predominantly low- and moderate-income citizens as defined by the most recent U.S. census data.
- 3. <u>Outreach</u>. Public meeting notices will be published in both English and Spanish two weeks prior to the date of the hearing in general circulation publications within the City.
  - Translations of the public meeting notice in Haitian Creole and Portuguese, in addition to English and Spanish, will be published on the City's cable wheel.
  - Meetings will be posted in English on the City's website.
  - Fliers of the meeting will be posted and distributed in the following locations throughout the City:
    - Mailing to all public service agencies with a request that the fliers be translated, if possible, into languages other than Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole or English, if this is appropriate for their constituency.
    - All branches of the Public Library
    - Front hall of City Hall
    - The Mayor's office
    - OSPCD front desk

- Other locations as deemed appropriate
- 4. <u>Accessibility.</u> All hearing/meeting locations will be handicapped accessible. Meetings will be advertised in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole (and other languages as appropriate). All ads, notices and fliers will include a TTY phone number and contact information to arrange for special accessibility requirements.
- 5. <u>Information Provided</u>. At the first public hearing after the City receives information on the amount of assistance it expects to receive from HUD (including grant funds and program income), the City will provide this information to the public. Generally, at each hearing the following information is to be provided:
  - Amount of assistance received from HUD annually (grants & program income);
  - The range of activities that may be under-taken using these funds, including the estimated amount that will benefit persons of low- and moderate-income;
  - The areas of the City where activities may be under-taken;
  - A description of the projects programs and services that are underway using currently available funds; and,
  - Copies of the most recently published consolidated plan; performance report; and other relevant documents (NRSA plans etc.)

#### III. Notification to Public Housing Authority

The City will provide information on a regular basis to the Somerville Housing Authority about consolidated plan activities related to its developments and surrounding communities so that the housing authority can:

- Make this information available at the annual public hearing required under the Comprehensive Grant program.
- Encourage participation among residents in the process of developing and implementing the consolidated plan.

## IV. Citizen Comment on the Consolidated Plan / Amendments, and Performance Reports

- 1. <u>Notification</u>. The City will publish notification of the availability of the proposed Consolidated Plan in a newspaper of general circulation and on the City website giving citizens not less than 30 days for the Consolidated Plan and Amendments and not less than 15 days for the Performance Report to comment. This notice will include:
  - The date on which the plan will be available and the date by which comments must be received;
  - The name of the person and/or agency where comments should be directed;
     and,
  - The form that comments should take (written, email, fax etc.).
- 2. <u>Location</u>. The City will make the plan available at the following location for a period of not less than 30 days so that citizens may comment on the plan:
  - All branches of the public library;
  - Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development;
  - By email or parcel post as requested; and,
  - On the City website.
- 3. <u>Consideration of Comments.</u> All comments or views of Citizens received in writing, or orally at the public hearings will be considered in preparing the final consolidated plan.

#### V. Criteria for Amendments to the Consolidated Plan

A deletion or addition of an activity, source of income or objective will constitutes a substantial change in the consolidated plan.

#### VI. Availability to the Public

The final Consolidated Plan and amendments and the final performance report will be made available to the public at the following locations and by the following means:

- All branches of the public library;
- Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development;
- By email or parcel post as requested; and,
- On the City website.

#### VII. Technical Assistance

The City will provide technical assistance to citizens, public agencies and other interested parties in providing technical assistance in developing proposals for funding under any of the programs covered by the Consolidated Plan.

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# PUBLIC HEARING

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## 6:00 PM Wednesday, April 25, 2012

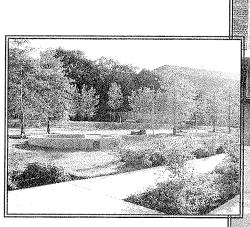
Ralph & Jenny Center
9 New Washington Street, Somerville MA

For more information contact the Office of Strategic Planning and Community

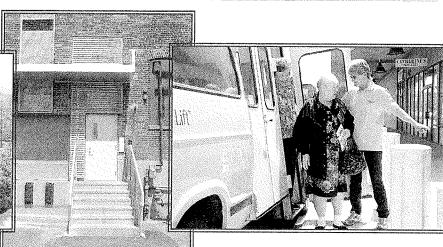
Development at (617) 625-6600 ext 2500

Accommodation for persons with disabilities are available by contacting Carlene

Campbell at (617)-625-6600 ext 2615



Edward Leathers Park



Joy Street Studios Storefront Improvement

Public Service Door2Door Transportation

Public Hearing 2012-2013 Action Plan April 25, 2012

**Dan Federico** – Welcome to the public hearing for the Action Plan. My name is Dan Federico, Director of Administration and Finance. I'm here tonight with Jayne Gulla, Director of Administration and Finance, Michael Glavin, Executive Director of OSPCD, Arn Franzen, Director of Parks and Open Space, and Dana LeWinter, Housing Division. Tonight's Agenda, Going to have an overview of the Action Plan, 2011-2012 Activities & Accomplishments, any public comments.

We're going into the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the 5 year Consolidated Plan. What our Consolidated Plan is a planning document building on a participatory process at the lowest levels, an application for federal funds under HUD's formula grant programs. It's a strategy to be followed in carrying out HUD programs and it's an Action Plan that provides the basis for assessing performance. It states the goal of this document and these HUD funds is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low-and moderate-income persons. What we do as part of our One Year Action Plan is plan and budget for HUD CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds for each year guided by the needs and priorities set in the 5 year Consolidated Plan. This chart shows you starting back in 2005 what our funding levels have been. In 2005 our total funding was a little over \$4 million. We're expecting a reduction in CDBG and HOME funds for the FY2013. This chart shows the low to moderate income population based on our last census information.

**Dana LeWinter** – For the housing division of OSPCD we have 6 goals.

- 1. Maintain and improve existing housing stock
- 2. Create new affordable housing
- 3. Increase affordability of rental housing
- 4. Increase affordable homeownership
- 5. Prevent and end homelessness
- 6. Remove barriers to housing.

To accomplish these goals we work with various programs. The Lead Hazard Abatement program we received \$8.6 million over seven years and we abated over 580 homes and 29 units received lead abatement in the past year. Under the home rehab program we assisted 25 homeowners, 16 units rehabbed, and replaced 5 heating systems. Under the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program we assisted 37 low-income young adults, 13 low income households, and assisted 38 households to move into permanent housing. In the Homeowner Assistance program we helped 26 households with closing cost assistance, 2 households received down payment assistance and 1 household purchased affordable homes through inclusionary housing programs. In our efforts to reduce and prevent homelessness we work with various agencies. We were able to provide 115 emergency shelter beds, 31 transitional housing units, 154 permanent housing units. We also provide funding for rental assistance. We receive roughly \$2 million annually for housing and services. The current year we received \$2.23 million from HPRP & CO. We

have various housing development projects. We completed Phase 1 of the St. Polycarp Village, which is now fully rented out. We moved to Phase 2 and construction will start in the spring. Another housing project is Capen Court. There is 95 affordable senior housing rental units that were developed by the Somerville Housing Authority. It was fully occupied in 2010 and solar electric panels plan to be installed in 2011. We have the 75 Cross Street project, which has 8 units of rental housing for formerly homeless individuals and families. The future projects is the Assembly Square project, that will provide 400 housing units total, 50 affordable units and is expected to be completed in 2013. Another future project is the Max Pac project that will have 199 units total, 25 affordable units (1 affordable homeownership), 174 affordable rental units, and this is also expected to be completed in 2013.

**Dan Federico** – Penny Snyder oversees Public Service and Emergency Shelter Grants, she is not here tonight so I will be speaking on her behalf. It is approximately 15% of the CDBG funds. These funds are intended to benefit low and moderate income persons and families in the City of Somerville. This year we expect to advertise for the RFP in March and due back in April. There are 6 public service goals:

- 1. To create opportunities for residents to improve their economic, social, and political situation
- 2. Provide children with the best opportunities for to live healthy and productive lives
- 3. Create education and leadership opportunities for youth to become involved in the community
- 4. Provide comprehensive programs for low income individuals and families who are having difficulty meeting their basic needs
- 5. Prevent and address homelessness by providing interpersonal and systematic supports to undermine the causes of homelessness
- 6. Provide services to support the elderly and persons with disabilities.

At the end of this presentation we hope to hear from you about how to use these CDBG funds. The accomplishments for Public Services:

- 8 non-profit agencies were funded to assist low income residents access necessary services and connect with resources available in the community to participation more fully in the community
- o 4 non-profit agencies are focusing their efforts on improving options for young children
- o 11 non-profit agencies are serving youth and are involving them in the community
- o 5 non-profit agencies are providing emergency assistance for residents to help them meet their basic needs
- o 2 non-profit agencies are serving the needs of the elderly and disabled residents of the City of Somerville

During these challenging economic times, CDBG funds and ESG funds must be used very prudently. CDBG funds are critical part of enhancing programs to go on and

continue to do more with those services. We hope to hear from you tonight on how you would like to use these funds.

**Arn Franzen** - I'm the Director of Parks and Open Space and I will be talking about the goals and accomplishments within that department and Transportation & Infrastructure. The goals for the Parks and Open Space are:

- 1. Renovate existing parks and open spaces to improve condition of Somerville's recreational areas and ensure attractive, safe, and accessible public lands.
- 2. Acquire more land to expand Somerville's total open space acreage and ensure access to open space in every neighborhood
- 3. Analyze and improve ADA access to parks and open space, as part of ongoing ADA compliance
- 4. Increase tree canopy and green spaces to promote urban health and sustainability, and reduce the heat island effect
- 5. Increase Off-Lease Recreational Area (OLRA) opportunities throughout the City
- 6. Create Green Performance Standards to raise the bar for sustainable design and building practices in City parks and open space
- 7. Craft a City Brownfield acquisition strategy, with a goal of future Brownfield conversion to parks and open space
- 8. Improve accountability and set departmental vision through a series of strategic planning documents

This slide shows CDBG park projects completed or under design and construction. Albion Park was completed in Fall 2009. We got an award for that park. It's the highest award that you could get for a park. Grimmon's Park was also completed in Fall 2009, which is a great park. Completed Hodgkins Park in Fall 2011, great playground with interacting sand. Has a new ball field that we renovated and will be opening this summer. We completed the New Washington OLRA park in Fall 2011. Construction is expected to by complete in Spring 2012 for Morse-Kelly Park and Dickerman Park. North Street park has been postponed and Quincy Street Park is slated to begin construction Spring 2012.

Hayes Morrison is the Director of Transportation & Infrastructure and she can't be here tonight, so I'm going to run through the goals and accomplishments. The goals for Transportation & Infrastructure:

- 1. Improve rail transit service to improve connectivity throughout the region for residents and business
- 2. Improve bus service within Somerville and connecting to surrounding communities
- 3. Enhance streetscape, road and intersections to increase vitality in identified commercial districts
- 4. Reduce barriers dividing neighborhoods and districts in Somerville
- 5. Improve pedestrian and bicycle accessibility in the City to support active transportation alternatives
- 6. Improve infrastructure to comply with ADA requirements
- 7. Increase Somerville's role in regional transportation planning and improvements
- 8. Improve basic utilities within Somerville

These are some of the accomplishments for the Transportation & Infrastructure:

- **Lower Broadway**, those plans are 75% complete. Were having a public hearing on March 3<sup>rd</sup> for the renovation of Lower Broadway
- **Inner Belt** this area is a preferred location for the Green Line. We have a consult on board to develop the master plan
- Assembly Square Just got \$50 million for MBTA orange line station and that project is going out to bid in March. We have a 100% design of the Mystic River Path.
- **Regional Planning** We have a seat on the Metropolitan Planning Organization, which is an agency that oversees transportation in the area. The green line extension is in conceptual design and the City has been working with MIT on some projects.
- **Bicycling & Walking** We continue to work with the Bicycle Committee, Shape Up Somerville and recently the State Trails Committee to develop tie Somerville with other trails. Last year we completed 10+ miles of bike lanes and sharrows and the Community Path is at 25 % design.

**Dan Federico** on behalf of the Director of Economic Development. I'm going to talk about the goals for Economic & Community Development. As you can see we have 5 goals:

- 1. Encourage investment and development in underutilized areas of the City
- 2. Build a partnership between City government and community organizations to encourage participation in economic development initiatives
- 3. Enhance vitality of existing commercial districts through support of existing businesses and attraction of others to support a healthy business mix
- 4. Increase local job opportunities
- 5. Enhance ability of Somerville residents to compete for local jobs.

Accomplishments in the last couple of years:

- We have worked on 27 storefront improvements.
- Another major accomplishment is getting the funding and construction started on Assembly Square Drive which will be completed in Summer 2012.
- Union Square Main Streets and East Somerville Main Streets are major community partners. Union Square and East Somerville Main Streets are partners to help foster Economic activity and connecting local businesses to the municipal government. With them we have business workshops and storefront improvements program and retail best practices program.
- We also working on a Union Square Transportation Study and we will be kicking off a Boynton Yards Transportation Study.
- Other major accomplishments, we worked hard with the community to develop new zoning for Broadway, which is from Winter Hill all the way down to Sullivan Square. It copies and repeats some of the activities that

- happened in the Union Square Boynton Yards rezoning. Were encouraging greener buildings and pedestrian friendly, mix use activity.
- We have a relatively new program called Best Retail Practices; we had 11 local businesses that went through that program. It's a series of workshops that we hold twice a year and one on one consulting with a retail consult to help store owners on the Market.
- We worked very closely with Broadway Streetscape, which will be under construction later this year.

I will be speaking on behalf of George Proakis, head of the Historic Preservation activities. The goals are:

- 1. Highlight Somerville's unique assets to its residents and visitors, generating pride & economic activity.
- 2. Create and implement programs that encourage the improvement of historically significant resources
- 3. Ensure that City policies, regulations, and procedures support the maintenance of historically significant resources
- 4. Stabilize neighborhoods & individual character
- 5. Document historically and architecturally significant resources

We do a lot of historic neighborhood walking tours and events; we worked really hard on the restoration of Milk Row Cemetery. We work on the expansion of Union Square and Mt. Vernon Historic Districts. We study the properties of Union Square and we begin engineering study on the Prospect Hill Tower.

**Dan Federico** – This slide shows how our funds were distributed and allocated. Now we would like to open up for questions, before I do I would like to thank you for coming. If you ask questions, please state your name.

**Dan Federico** – If you want to submit comments, you can submit it to via email at jgulla@somervillema.gov or if you want to send a letter you can send it to:

**OSPCD** 

Attn: Jayne Gulla 93 Highland Ave Somerville, MA 02143

Our public comment period is open from April 26<sup>th</sup> through May 18<sup>th</sup> 2012. We will be drafting the One Year Action Plan, after this on May 9<sup>th</sup>, we will present our One Year Action Plan and take comments and questions. It will be submitted to the Board of Alderman on May 10, 2012 and pending their approval the final plan will be submitted to HUD on June 8, 2012.



## PUBLIC HEARING

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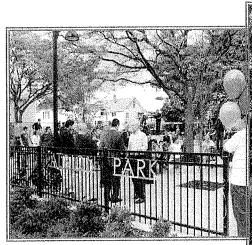
### 6:00 PM Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Ralph & Jenny Center
9 New Washington Street, Somerville MA

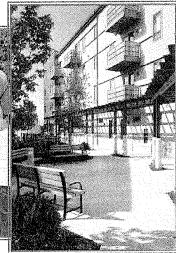
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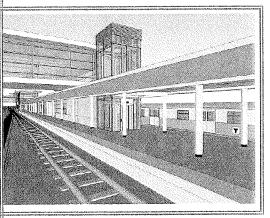
Written comments will be accepted up to Thursday, May 18, 2012 @ 4:30 p.m., to the attention of Jayne Gulla at the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD), 93
Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143 or email to jgulla@somervillema.gov



Albion Park



St. Polycarp Rental
Phase 1:



Assembly Square Station

### SECTION H

Place Holder - City Certifications (to be submitted with the HUD application)