

**CITY OF BUFFALO URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

REMOTE MEETING VIA WEBEX CONFERENCE CALL

MEETING DATE: December 17, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Byron Brown, BURA Chairman
Council President Darius Pridgen
Brendan R. Mehaffy, BURA Vice Chairman
Commissioner Donna Estrich
Timothy Ball, Corporation Counsel
Council Member Joseph Golombek
Council Member Christopher Scanlon

SECRETARY: Scott C. Billman

OTHERS PRESENT: Yvonne McCray, BURA Director of Housing, Jenna Bichler, BURA Director of Operations, Tracy Cooley BURA Deputy Director of FCA, Jessica Brown Director of Administration & Finance, Dana Harris, Harold Cardwell, Maria Melchiorre, Tony Chestnut, Leslie Vishwanath, Pam Walker-Jarmon, Evelyn Rodriguez

1. Mr. Mehaffy called the meeting to order at 9:36 am.
2. Council President Pridgen made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the November 19, 2020 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Estrich and carried unanimously.

Let the record reflect that Mr. Ball, Corporation Counsel was unable to virtually attend the meeting until 9:50 am due to technical issues connecting to the meeting via WebEx.

3. CARES ACT FUNDING

3a. AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BUFFALO AND THE CITY OF BUFFALO URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY FOR CDBG-CV PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Agency Members approved a request to enter into an agreement with the City of Buffalo for administration and management by BURA of the federally funded Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 (CDBG-CV) and Emergency Solutions Grant COVID-19 (ESG-CV) program. The City of Buffalo Common Council approved the Substantial Amendment to the City of Buffalo 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan on December 8th, 2020, authorizing the City to execute all agreements and related documents to carry out the projects identified in the amendment and approving the Subrecipient Agreement for CDBG-CV and ESG-CV Program Funds and Administration for BURA. The execution of the Subrecipient Agreement is subject to the negotiation and finalization of said Agreement with City of Buffalo Corporation Counsel.

Motion made by Commissioner Estrich to approve Item 3a, seconded by Council President Pridgen and carried unanimously.

3b. APPROVAL FOR THE CITY OF BUFFALO URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY TO CONTRACT WITH PARTNERS FOR THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND EVICTION PREVENTION SYSTEM

Agency Members approved a request from the City of Buffalo and Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency's Rental Assistance and Eviction Prevention System to improve the process to help resident's access services and needs. An innovative Central Intake System will be funded to help direct residents to the services that best

meet their needs. This will be accomplished by partnering with 211 WNY, which already provides confidential linkages to health and human services 24-hours a day, 365-days a year. Both tenants and homeowners facing a housing crisis will benefit from this single point of entry. The Central Intake System will answer and field calls from residents, assess needs and program eligibility, and make referrals to the appropriate service providers. The Central Intake System will allow the city to address HUD's goal of eliminating the duplication of services and benefits. The Rental Assistance and Eviction Prevention System will assist low-income households with up to six months of rental assistance and utility payments. Case Managers will work with each participant to develop a housing stability plan designed to help the household recover from the impacts of Covid-19. To track the long-term impact of these funds on housing stability, all applicants will be entered into the Homeless Management Information System. This will be a collaborative effort that includes the Homeless Alliance of Western New York (the regional Continuum of Care), Erie County DSS, and various legal service providers. BURA will contract with 211 WNY, the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Human Services Center of WNY, Belmont Housing Resources, Catholic Charities, Restoration Society Inc., and the Center for Elder Law & Justice. The contracts will be fee for service contracts that will remain in place until the assigned program funds are extinguished, for a maximum of 1 year. If funds remain available or BURA and OSP decide to allocate additional funds to this program, the contracts may be extended for one additional year, provided that individual contract performance goals were met. BURA and the City will work collaboratively with OSP and adjust the program as necessary to ensure maximum impact.

Motion made by Commissioner Estrich to approve Item 3b, seconded by Council Member Scanlon and carried unanimously.

3c. APPROVAL FOR THE CITY OF BUFFALO URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY AND THE CITY OF BUFFALO TO MANAGE THE HUD OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND HEALTHY HOMES LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION GRANT FUND

Agency members approved the City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning (OSP) and the City of Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency accepting a Lead Hazard Reduction award and enter into agreements with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to remediate lead hazards, build local contractor capacity, educate property owners and train city staff to support lead-based paint hazard remediation. The grant was awarded to the City of Buffalo after a competitive process and is part of the Administration's ongoing commitment to lead poisoning prevention. The total award is \$2,023,602.00 to be expended over 42 months. The award will serve to remediate approximately 110 units concentrated in four high risk census tracts comprising two of the City's Planning Neighborhoods -- census tracts 61 and 171 in the City's Upper West Side neighborhood and 37 and 38 in Schiller Park. The Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency (BURA) is designated in the grant as a Subrecipient to manage the majority of funds (\$1,853,594.64) and integrate the deployment of these funds with other available federal housing rehabilitation funds. Referrals to the program will come from owners cited by code enforcement as well as outreach efforts by the Department of Permit and Inspection Services. Community based housing organizations, working under existing CPI contracts with BURA, will support the intake and eligibility assessment process. Belmont Housing Resources, working under its existing Rehabilitation Program Administration contract with BURA, will manage the majority of tasks associated with property remediation, including risk assessment, construction contractor procurement, oversight of the construction work and lead clearance. The average lead hazard reduction expenditure, per unit, will be \$12,000.

In addition to direct support for remediation, approximately \$100,000 has been set aside to support efforts to recruit and retain qualified firms to perform remediation work as well as to train property owners on lead safe work practices. Other funds will support the training of code enforcement officers as well as outreach and education in the target communities.

Motion made by Council President Pridgen to approve Item 3c, seconded by Commissioner Estrich and carried unanimously.

4. OTHER

4a. DESIGNATED DEVELOPER FEE POLICY

BURA General Counsel Scott Billman gave an overview of the Policy to the Board.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5a. UPDATE ON THE INCREMENTAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE IN THE MASTEN PARK AND COLD SPRINGS NEIGHBORHOOD.

Associate Planner Crystal Middleton provided an update to the Board.

5b FINANCIAL CONTROL OF AGENCIES FISCAL UPDATE

Tracy Cooley, Deputy Director of FCA provided a fiscal update to the Board.

- 6.** There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Brown made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Ball and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.

DocuSigned by:

Scott C. Billman

Scott C. Billman, BURA Secretary

Reported By: Risë Geller