

# **CITY COMMISSION**

## **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

June 4, 2019

6:30 p.m.

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**PRESENT:** Commissioners Chilton, Estrop, O'Neill, Rue and President Copeland. City Manager Heck and Community Development Director Meadows.

**GUEST:** Kali Lawrence, Executive Director, Promise Neighborhood.

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### **HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS:**

Topics discussed at the work session held on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, were:

1. Community Development Director Meadows and Promise Neighborhood Executive Director Lawrence reviewed the application process for the Choice Neighborhood Planning and Action Grant. The City of Springfield, Promise Neighborhood, and the Springfield Metropolitan Housing Authority are working together to submit a grant application directed to communities with distressed housing within distressed neighborhoods. The grant is awarded based on need and must include a public housing property owned by the housing authority. The Sherman-Murray Family Development was chosen and is located within the neighborhood areas identified on the map (see attached). The grant may award up to \$1.5 million for urban planning.

Mrs. Meadows explained the importance of receiving a Choice Neighborhood Planning and Action Grant to be eligible for a larger Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant.

Ms. Lawrence spoke on the partnerships involved with the grant application. Promise Neighborhood conducted meetings over 30 stakeholder resident groups to discuss their needs and get feedback. Two larger community gatherings were also held. There are three key components including housing; neighborhood access to safety, food, education and employment; and the people.

Springfield is a small city compared to those who have received the Choice Neighborhood Planning Grants, but the partners working on the application feel it is a good time to try.

Mr. Rue asked when a city the size of Springfield had received this type of grant. Mrs. Meadows stated that there have not been recipients similar in

size to Springfield; Louisville, Kentucky, was the closest in size. Ms. Lawrence stated that a city in Massachusetts may have been closest in size, and added that materials used in previous successful applications are being reviewed for Springfield's application.

Dr. Estrop asked if the Department of Housing and Urban Development's funding had been authorized by Congress. Mrs. Meadows replied that Congress allocated about \$300 million for implementation grants and planning grants. Dr. Estrop also asked if support from local members of Congress would be helpful. Mrs. Meadows stated Senator Brown's office has been supportive but letters of recommendation not required for the application.

Mrs. Chilton asked how the Housing Consortium relates to the grant. Mrs. Meadows stated a previous application in 2017 generated the local dialog on housing with the Housing Consortium which then funded 50 percent of the Engaged Neighborhood Plan.

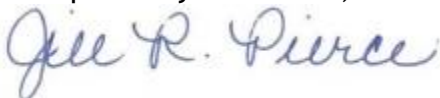
Ms. Lawrence stated the previous application for this grant was very close to receiving award. The collaboration group learned from the previous experience and hope to be more successful with this application.

2. City Manager Heck thanked city staff for working on a new solution for broadcasting the City Commission meetings on Facebook Live. The same video feed from the government access Channel 5 will simulcast on Facebook Live with better video and audio.
3. On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mrs. Chilton, the meeting adjourned.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue and Mr. Copeland.  
Yeas 5, Nays 0.

Adj. 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill R. Pierce  
Clerk of the City Commission



Housing · People · Neighborhood

## CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD FACT SHEET

RFP -- April. Submission Deadline -- June 10, 2019

### Choice Neighborhood Description

- HUD grant program created to address the poverty that was exacerbated by the Great Recession.
- Builds on the successes of the HOPE VI housing revitalization program of the 1990s, but with a broader goal of changing entire neighborhoods.

### Goals of Choice Neighborhoods

- **Housing:** Create mixed-income and mixed-use developments in place of what were often outdated and unsafe project-based public housing.
- **People:** Provide educational opportunities from pre-K to adulthood, including after school programs for kids of all ages and job training programs for adults. Ensure health resources in the community are available and accessible to all residents.
- **Neighborhood:** Encourage reinvestment where there has been disinvestment. Provide amenities and assets for residents, such as commercial activity and basic necessities such as grocery stores, adequate schools, and neighborhood safety, as well as safe and satisfactory transit systems and streetscapes.

### Funding

- **Planning Grant:** up to **\$1.5 million** awarded for initial planning and preparation. Used for study, to more specifically define the area for investment, and to draw attention and recruit investors.
- **Implementation Grant:** after two years with the planning grant, cities may apply for up to **\$30 million**, awarded mostly for housing redevelopment as a part of larger reinvestment by city, state, and other stakeholders.
- Most large cities leverage **about \$250-300 million** in additional funds for their Choice Neighborhood projects, which goes to everything from demolition funds and rehabilitation loans for homeowners to building playgrounds and new community centers.

### Next Steps

- Community Gathering on June 3, 2019 at the Central Community Center, 102 W. High St.
- Grant due on June 10, 2019
- Notification to be determined

