



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 10, 2007

Council Session

Item C3

Proclamation "Community Development Week" April 9 - 14, 1007

Staff Contact: Mayor Margaret Hornady

Council Agenda Memo

From: Joni Kuzma, Development Specialist

Council Meeting: April 10, 2005

Subject: Proclamation “Community Development Week”
April 9-14, 2007

Item #'s: C-3

Presenter(s): Joni Kuzma, Development Specialist

Background

Since 1969, Community Development in Grand Island has worked to provide Nebraskans with safe, affordable and accessible housing and infrastructure, quality jobs and investment through financing of new and expanding business, and community programs that impact social, economic, and cultural norms.

Community Development has accessed a variety of funds for program development including the Community Development Block Grant, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, the Community Redevelopment Authority, federal and state agencies, state and local foundations, Economic Development and Non-economic Development Re-use funds, and community partners.

In 1981, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) instituted a CDBG program and in 1986, the National Community Development Association initiated National Community Development Week to remind Congress of the importance of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This reminder is more important today than at any other time in history. CDBG funding has experienced federal budget cuts every year for the past five years, as well as proposed restructuring that will not benefit rural communities.

As the CDBG program manager for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development encourages Nebraska communities to celebrate Community Development Week through a variety of activities to increase public awareness and educate residents about services and facilities provided in each community. In conjunction with other activities throughout the state, the City is proclaiming April 9-14 as Community Development Week in Grand Island.

Discussion

This proclamation represents acknowledgement of the value of the CDBG program to Grand Island. Significant Community Development Block Grants received by the City in the past three years include:

- Community Revitalization grant for Down Payment Assistance and Owner-occupied Rehabilitation - *\$296,113*
- Homelessness and Homeless Housing Planning Grant - Homeless Housing
- Study and Hope Harbor Feasibility Study completed in 2006 - *\$39,530*
- Speculative Building construction at Platte Valley Industrial Park - *\$254,000*
- Standard Iron construction and job creation - *\$250,000*
- Rehabilitation Grant - completed in 2005, rehabilitation grant which resulted in the rehabilitation of eleven (11) homes in Grand Island - *\$270,400*
- Senior Center Rehabilitation & Expansion grant - completed in 2005 - *\$350,000*

Down payment assistance, owner-occupied rehab programs, and economic development grants result in economically proven benefits to the community. CDBG programs increase the property tax base, improve property values, and create jobs for low-income residents. The CDBG program reports that for every \$1.00 of CDBG money invested in a community, \$6.85 is spent privately. Grand Island is fortunate to have received continued Block Grant funding.

SEE ATTACHED PROCLAMATION

THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Grand Island
State of Nebraska

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Nebraska's communities are the foundation for providing a high quality of life for its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island has demonstrated a dedication to the economic, social, and cultural growth in this community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island has actively supported community development activities, including a first-time homebuyer down payment assistance program; owner-occupied rehabilitation program; public works projects, including the Grand Generation Center expansion and renovation; and partnering with community organizations in development of quality programs that serve children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Margaret Hornady, Mayor of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, do hereby proclaim the week of April 9-14, 2007 as

“COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK”

in the City of Grand Island, and encourage all citizens of Grand Island to support community development activities this week and throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Grand Island to be affixed this tenth day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

Margaret Hornady, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk