



NOTICE TO PUBLIC

City of Lubbock's Community Development has identified a conflict of interest between Assistant City Manager, Bill Howerton and his board service on Guadalupe-Parkway Sommerville Center Board of Directors. A request for an exception to this conflict of interest will be submitted to Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Community Development Services Board will conduct two public hearings at its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1625 13th Street. One public hearing to discuss reallocation of unspent funds and one public hearing to discuss the conflict of interest. CDSB will make a recommendation to city council regarding both issues. A thirty day comment period for citizens to express any concerns will begin on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. and end on April 27, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. City Council will vote to consider submitting the conflict of interest exception request to HUD on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.

HUD Regulations at 24 CFR Part 570.611 Section (b) states that no persons described in paragraph (c) of this section who exercise or have exercised any functions or responsibilities with respect to activities assisted with CDBG funds or who are in a position to participate in a decision making process or gain inside information with regard to these activities, may obtain a financial interest or benefit from CDBG-assisted activity, or have an interest in any contract, subcontract or agreement with respect thereto or the proceeds thereunder, either for themselves or those with whom they have family or business ties, during their tenure or for one year thereafter. Section (c) states that this applies to any employee, agent, consultant, officer, or elected official or appointed official of the participating jurisdiction (the City of Lubbock).

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has informally determined that there is a Conflict of Interest regarding the following:

The Community Development and Services Board (CDSB) will consider a request of financial assistance for Guadalupe-Parkway Sommerville Center's renovation project from the Community Development Department. Bill Howerton has served in the capacity of Assistant City Manager since June 2014 and currently oversees the Community Development Department which receives CDBG federal funding. Since January 2015, Mr. Howerton has served on the Board of Directors of the Guadalupe-Parkway Sommerville Centers. In 2016, he was appointed Board Chair. Although Mr. Howerton does not receive a salary or any other compensation from the CDBG Program or from Guadalupe-Parkway Sommerville Centers, he is in a position to gain inside information regarding the allocation procedure and in a position of authority over the Community Development Department.

HUD may grant an exception to the conflict upon request on a case by case basis. The Community Development Department is requesting an exception to the Conflict of Interest regulation be granted by HUD.

Contact Information:
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The public hearing is available to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance, please contact Community Development, 775-2296, or write to P.O. Box 2000, Lubbock, Texas, 79457, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.