

## Agenda Report

March 16, 2015

**TO:** City of Pasadena as Successor Agency to the Pasadena Community Development Commission

**THROUGH:** Economic Development and Technology Committee (March 2, 2015)

**FROM:** William K. Huang, Director of Housing and Career Services

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING: SUBMISSION OF PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY ANNUAL PLAN (2015) TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City of Pasadena as Successor Agency to the Pasadena Community Development Commission (the "City"), after a public hearing:

- (1) Find that the action proposed herein is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) as it will not have a potentially significant environmental effect and therefore falls under the "general rule" exemption; and
- (2) Approve the City's Public Housing Agency Annual Plan (2015) and authorize the City Manager to execute any and all documents regarding its submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The submittal to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") of the Public Housing Agency Annual Plan FY 2015 ("PHA Plan 2015") is a requirement for the continued operation of the City's federally funded rent subsidy programs which have a current budget totaling \$16 million. The PHA Plan 2015 provides details about the agency's rental assistance programs and services; its operations and management; program participants and their concerns; strategy for handling operational issues; and needs for the upcoming fiscal year.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The rental assistance programs administered by the Housing and Career Services Department of the City of Pasadena ("City") consist of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program, the Shelter Plus Care Program, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS. These programs provide affordable housing to approximately 1,542 very low and low-income households. This represents assistance for approximately three percent of the households residing within the City of Pasadena. For the current fiscal year 2015, the total federal appropriation for the rental assistance programs is \$16 million, including \$13 million appropriated for the Section 8 HCV Program and \$3 million for the other programs indicated above.

In 1998, HUD enacted the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act that called for the creation of a public housing agency annual plan (PHA Plan). The purpose of the PHA Plan is to provide for more flexible use of Federal assistance by public housing agencies (PHAs); facilitate mixed income communities; decrease concentrations of poverty; increase accountability and reward effective management of PHAs; and create incentives and economic opportunities for residents assisted. The City has approved and submitted its PHA Plans annually beginning in 1999 to present. In addition, the City's Five-Year PHA Plans were approved and submitted in 2000, 2005, 2009 and 2014.

The public input solicited in the formation of the PHA Plans over the years has consistently informed the City that its rental assistance programs should support, as the agency's main focus, the provision of adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free from discrimination.

## **PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY ANNUAL PLAN 2015**

The City's PHA Plan 2015 provides details about the agency's rental assistance programs and services; its operations and management; program participants and their concerns; strategy for handling operational issues; and needs for the upcoming fiscal year. The PHA Annual Plan 2015 has no significant revision since the last Annual Plan submission.

## **PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS**

The PHA Plan 2015 was reviewed by the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) at its meeting of January 6, 2015. The RAB, which is comprised of Section 8 HCV Program participants, recommended that the PHA Plan 2015 be approved by the City. The PHA Plan 2015 was presented for information only to the Northwest Commission on February 19, 2015.

Copies of the PHA Plan 2015 have been made available to the general public at all public libraries and five community centers (Jackie Robinson Center, Pasadena Senior Center, Villa-Parke Community Neighborhood Center, Victory Park Center, and El Centro de Accion Social) for a minimum forty-five day public review and comment period from January 8, 2015 through March 16, 2015, as required by HUD. Public notices of the review and comment period, and the City Successor Agency public hearing, were placed in the Pasadena Journal News on January 1, 2015. No comments have been received to date.

### **COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

The PHA Plan 2015 advance Policy HE-3.6 in the City's Housing Element (2014-2021):  
Rental Assistance: Support the provision of rental assistance for residents earning lower incomes, including persons with special needs consistent with City preference and priority categories and fair housing law.

The PHA Plan 2015 is also in agreement with the following City-approved program plans and documents:

- Rental Assistance Program Administrative Plan (2015)
- Shelter Plus Care (S+C) Action Plan
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Action Plan
- HOME Annual Action Plan (2014-2015)
- Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2010-2015)
- Rental Assistance Program Policies & Procedures

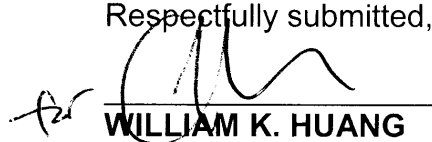
### **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

The action proposed herein consists of the continuation of ongoing programs to provide housing assistance to certain low income populations in the City, and will not result in any changes that may have any environmental effect. The action proposed herein is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) as it will not have a potentially significant environmental effect and therefore falls under the "general rule" exemption.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Submission of the PHA Plan 2015 to HUD will ensure compliance with HUD-stipulated regulations for the City's receipt of federal funds in excess of \$16 million to administer and provide rental subsidies. The City's Rental Assistance Programs provide an average \$638 in financial subsidy per month toward the rental of dwelling units by approximately 1,542 very low and low-income households which include 408 children and youth.

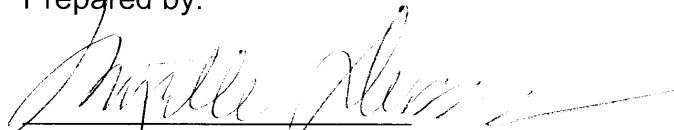
Respectfully submitted,



**WILLIAM K. HUANG**

Director of Housing and Career Services

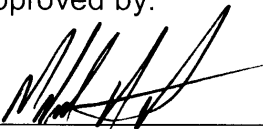
Prepared by:



**MYRTLE DUNSON**

Housing Assistance Officer

Approved by:



**MICHAEL J. BECK**

City Manager

Attachment: Public Housing Agency Annual Plan (2015)