

APPENDIX B.

City of Rockford
Department of Community Development
425 E State Street
Rockford, Illinois 61104
October 18, 2013

RE: 2013 Housing & Community Development 2013 Consolidated Plan Comment Period

The five-year objectives for this plan include reducing housing blight, increasing redevelopment activities and increasing the provision of quality affordable housing. The proposed 2013 projections as presented are not in alignment with the five-year plan. The following points could better align the budget with the plan.

1. Substantially reduce the \$479,645 allocation to Code Enforcement. Although an allowable use under the program, paying for positions that should be funded with the general fund does not align with the purpose of the Community Development Block Grant. Projected units of 3,455 average out to \$139 per code violation. Fifty percent of violations in the Focus areas are for weeds and grass. In census tracts with the lowest income, violations do not fix the problem, they cause board ups and abandonment of property due to lack of resources to remedy the violation.
2. Substantially increase the Demolition allocation. Only allocating for 14 demolitions for 2013 is insufficient. A minimum of 50 units should be considered. This would lower the unit cost. Combining the savings of lower unit costs and moving Code Enforcement money to the Demolition budget would provide \$624,000 for dwelling removals. With a reduction of unit costs about 80 homes annually could be demolished in the Focus areas. This combined with the State removing homes on West State Street would have a dramatic impact in the area on blight and crime.

Sincerely,

Daniel Kelly Jr.

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