



TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: July 2, 2013

TITLE: Public Hearing to Consider the Adoption of a Resolution Approving an
Amendment to the Northwest–Progresso-Flagler Heights Community
Redevelopment Plan – Motion to Defer Public Hearing to August 20, 2013

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission hold a Public Hearing to amend the Northwest–Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Plan to include two new improvement projects and activities consisting of a Community Policing Innovation Program, a Wireless Security Camera System, and a Public Wi-Fi System. Following the Public Hearing it is recommended that the City Commission adopt a Resolution approving the Plan amendment and authorize that the amendment is sent to the Broward County Commission for consideration.

Background

The redevelopment plan for the Northwest–Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Area (NPF CRA) was created in 1995 and amended in 2001. The original plan and the subsequent amendment created a workable development program that identified certain projects and initiatives that could be implemented within a 30-year span. This workable program identified various community redevelopment programs and strategies forming the essential physical improvement and project plans for the NPF CRA. This includes Neighborhood Housing Improvement Programs, Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvement Programs, Sistrunk Corridor Improvement Programs, Northwest Commercial Revitalization Improvement Programs, Flagler Village RAC Area improvement Programs and Targeted Project Areas.

These programs and projects provide upgrades to infrastructure to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood area of the NPF CRA and provide improvements to the business and commercial sectors of the NPF CRA that will provide infrastructure support and improved environmental conditions needed to foster thriving small business and compatible commerce in the NPF CRA. Under Section 5 of the Community Redevelopment Plan it states that “Other projects and activities may be identified after public consultation in conjunction with the annual budget preparation process of the CRA

and the City.”

Procedurally, amending the CRA redevelopment plan consists of three basic steps, as outlined in Section 163.361, Florida Statutes and summarized below:

- Step 1 - The Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency shall recommend to the City Commission that the amendment(s) be made to the Redevelopment Plan. (anticipated on June 18, 2013)
- Step2-The City Commission shall hold a public hearing on the proposed plan amendment. Mail notice to each taxing authority which levies ad valorem taxes on taxable real property contained within the geographic boundaries of the redevelopment area must be provided at least 15 days before the public hearing, and newspaper notice in a publication having a general circulation in the area of operation of the agency, shall be provided at least 10 days before the public hearing. (anticipated on October 2013)
- Step 3 – The redevelopment plan amendment must be reviewed and approved by Broward County. (anticipated for October 2013)

Proposed Plan Amendments

The amendment consists of three new projects proposed to be included in the Community Redevelopment Plan:

Community Policing Innovation Program I: The Fort Lauderdale Police Department has stepped up enforcement efforts within the district since the completion of the NE 6th Street/Sistrunk streetscape enhancement project. It is recommended that these community policing strategies continue as long as NPF CRA funds are available and until sunset of the trust fund in 2025. Some of the activities that are being supported under this initiative include opening a police substation for enhanced security in the heart of the Midtown Business District.

Wireless Surveillance Camera System: Community Policing Innovation strategies will be further enhanced by the installation of a Wireless Surveillance Camera System that utilizes the latest technology to aid crime prevention activities in the redevelopment district. The surveillance cameras are proposed to be installed on the light poles or private property throughout the redevelopment area.

Public Wi-Fi System: A wireless area local network or Wi-Fi is being proposed to provide a unique public digital amenity which will aid our efforts to promote the redevelopment district as a great place to live and operate a business. A public Wi-Fi system will also provide the opportunity to continuously inform residents and visitors on a platform like Channel 78. A public Wi-Fi system may also be used as a business recruitment and job creation tool for companies looking to expand and relocate to the NPF CRA district.

The estimated one time cost of incorporating these new projects and activities into the redevelopment plan is approximately \$378,000 which would be funded through the NPF

CRA Redevelopment Trust Fund. The annual expense for Community Policing Innovation strategies are estimated at \$20,000, at this time. The annual expense for surveillance cameras and Wi-Fi are yet to be determined. As of March 30, 2013, the NPF CRA has an uncommitted project balance of \$2,409,063. Additionally, as of March 30, 2013 the following balances are available in the 2004 NPF CRA Bonds:

- Fund 320 (2004A Tax Increment Revenue Non-Alternative Minimum Tax) - \$732,785
- Fund 322 (2004B Tax Increment Revenue Alternative Minimum Tax) - \$1,131,146

The 2004A bond proceeds may be utilized for the surveillance camera and public Wi-Fi if spent prior to September 30, 2013.

Request to Defer Public Hearing – August 20, 2013

The legal advertisement to conduct a Public Hearing and Adopt a Resolution has been advertised for July 2, 2013. However, notice was not given to the taxing districts within the prescribed notice period in accordance with the Florida Statutes; therefore the public hearing will be deferred until August 20, 2013.

Resource Impact:

No Resource Impact at this time.

Related CAM: 13-0740

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Florida Statutes Chapter 163.361

Exhibit 2 – Financial Projection for NPF CRA FY 2014-2025

Exhibit 3 – Notice of Public Hearing

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