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

**FROM:** Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM, and City Manager

**DATE:** January 22, 2014

**TITLE:** Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) Program  
Amendment for 2013-2014

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission terminate Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc's., (MDEI) participation in the Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) Program and amend the 2013-2014 Annual Action Plan which would allow for the reallocation of MDEI's funding (\$114,822.48) to be divided equally between Care Resource and SunServe.

**Background**

For the past nine (9) months, MDEI has displayed fiscal instability in providing housing case management. Additionally, HOPWA clients have contacted staff and other HOPWA agencies complaining that they are unable to reach MDEI and need immediate assistance to prevent imminent homelessness. As a result of these issues, HCD staff is concerned about the fiscal solvency of MDEI and their ability to fulfill the requirements of the HOPWA Agreement.

In addition to the financial issues at MDEI, upon City staff has conducted its compliance monitoring and have identified a number of findings and MDEI is now in violation of the FY 12-13 HOPWA Participant Agreement (hereinafter "Agreements") and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) laws and regulations (See Exhibit 1).

During FY 12-13, MDEI was reimbursed all of their allocated HOPWA funds for eligible reimbursements that had proper documentation; however, the \$114,822.48 allocated for FY 13-14 has been frozen.

It is recommended that the City Commission convene a public hearing, accept public input and approve the proposed HOPWA Program Amendment to the 2012-2013 Annual Action Plan to reallocate funding in accordance with the City's 2010-2015 Consolidated Plan for the HOPWA program.

In accordance with The City of Fort Lauderdale's program amendment and substantial change policy, a 30-day public notice was placed in the Sun-Sentinel on Monday December 16, 2013. The comment period ends January 16, 2014 (see Exhibit 2); if

comments are received they will be made part of the record for this program amendment.

The City proposes to reallocate \$114,822.48 to Care Resource and SunServe to provide housing case management services to clients who were previously served by MDEI.

On December 16, 2013, the City issued MDEI with a notice of default and provided MDEI with thirty-one (31) days to remedy the default. As of January 16, 2014, the City had not received a response from MDEI.

**Resource Impact**

These are federal funds and have no impact on the general fund budget. This amendment is in accordance with HUD regulations and will allow the projects to proceed to completion.

**Strategic Connection**

This item corresponds to the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, it is included within the **Neighborhood Enhancement Cylinder of Excellence**, specifically advancing **Neighborhood Enhancement**:

- **Goal 5:** Be a community of strong, beautiful, and healthy neighborhoods.
- **Option 2:** Ensure a range of housing options for current and future neighbors.

**This item advances the Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale Vision Plan 2035: We are community.**

**FUNDS AVAILABILITY LOCATION:**

<i>Funds available as of</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER/ INDEX CODE	INDEX NAME (Program)	OBJECT CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Object Code)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Object Code)	AMOUNT
108-HP142136-8001	Minority Development and Empowerment Inc. (MDEI)	Grant Services 8001 Program Funds	\$107,310.73	\$107,310.73	\$107,310.73
108-HP142137-8001	Minority Development and Empowerment Inc. Admin. (MDEI)	Grant Services 8001 Program Funds	\$ 7,511.75	\$ 7,511.75	\$ 7,511.75
<b>AMENDMENT TOTAL ►</b>					<b>\$114,882.48</b>

**FUNDS ALLOCATED TO:**

<i>Funds available as of</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER/ INDEX CODE	INDEX NAME (Program)	OBJECT CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Object Code)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Object Code)	AMOUNT
108-HP142130-8004	Care Resource	Grant Services 8004Program Funds	\$53,655.36	\$53,655.36	\$53,655.36
108-HP142131-8004	Care Resource Admin.	Grant Services 8004Program Funds	\$3,755.88	\$3,755.88	\$3,755.88
108-HP142134-8004	SunServe	Grant Services 8004Program Funds	\$53,655.37	\$53,655.37	\$53,655.37
108-HP142135-8004	SunServe Admin.	Grant Services 8004Program Funds	\$3,755.87	\$3,755.87	\$3,755.87
<b>AMENDMENT TOTAL ►</b>					<b>\$114,882.48</b>

**Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – MDEI Violations

Exhibit 2 – Public Hearing Notice and Advertisement

Prepared by: Mario De Santis, HOPWA Coordinator  
 Department Director: Greg Brewton, Sustainable Development