

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

125 East Avenue
P.O. Box 5125
Norwalk, CT 06856

TO: MEMBERS, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL

FROM: JOHN KYDES, CHAIRMAN

DATE: MAY 27, 2022

RE: MEETING NOTICE

The next scheduled meeting of the Economic and Community Development Committee of the Common Council will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 7:00pm. To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at www.norwalkct.org/meetings.



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Maritza Alvarado at malvarado@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 2ND, 7:00PM
AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2022 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT PROGRAM

<https://www.norwalkct.org/1709/Neighborhood-Assistance-Act-Tax-Credit-P>

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2022-2023 CDBG ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

<https://www.norwalkct.org/1412/Community-Development-Block-Grant>

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of May 5, 2022 Meeting.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. PLANNING AND ZONING

- 1. Review of the Industrial Zone Study.

B. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

- 1. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute all documents to renew the contract for Marketing Services between the City of Norwalk and Dorenborg Kallenbach Advertising, LLC for one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000).

ACCT: 01-37-80 5258

C. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute a contract for Landscaping Services between the City of Norwalk and Meticulous Landscaping not to exceed one hundred and eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000) every year for the next 3 years.

ACCT: 0923-3720-5777-C0806

ACCT: 0922-3710-5777-C0703

ACCT: 01-37-20-5258

D. REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

- 1. Advance the submitted applications to the Common Council for their approval at the June 14, 2022 Common Council meeting for their inclusion in the 2022 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act program.

2. Advance the final CDBG PY48 Annual Action Plan (AAP) to the Common Council for its approval and to authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents associated with the submission of the PY48 AAP to HUD and all documents consistent with the approved PY48 AAP.

III. OLD BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.

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**CITY OF NORWALK
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
VIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS
MAY 5, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: John Kydes, Chair; Thomas Keegan; Lisa Shanahan;
Barbara Smyth; Darlene Young

STAFF: Garrett Bolella, Assistant Director of Transportation and Mobility;
Sabrina Church, Director of Business Development and Tourism;
Steven Kleppin, Director of Planning and Zoning;
Jessica Vonashek, Chief of Economic and Community
Development; Mike Yeosock, Principal Engineer

OTHERS: Brian Bidoli, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency; Bruce Beinfeld
and Matt Edvardsen, Spinnaker

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kydes called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those present are indicated above.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Kydes reviewed the procedure for public participation. No members of the public wished to comment this evening.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of the Minutes of April 7, 2022 Meeting.

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 5 – delete the incomplete sentence.

Correct the spelling of Mr. Travers' name throughout.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**
**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. SHANAHAN)**

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. PLANNING AND ZONING

1. Review of the Industrial Zone Study.

Mr. Kleppin presented the Industrial Zone Study. He said this was a recommendation that came out of the 2019 Study.

Ms. Young expressed concern about a lot of things that are allowed in South Norwalk. She added that the area deserves more public eyes on it.

Mr. Livingston commended Mr. Kleppin for all of his work. He asked if a traffic study was done in the Chestnut Street area. He said that he knows trucks have a hard time navigating that area. Mr. Kleppin said they looked at a couple of options where the trucks would not have to go through the neighborhood streets.

Ms. Young asked Mr. Kleppin how he expects South Norwalk to look like. She said this is an issue. It needs to be brought to the public, in addition to this evening's public hearing. Mr. Livingston said there are enough questions being raised that they need to look at this more carefully.

Mr. Kleppin presented a chart highlighting the uses currently allowed and proposed. A discussion took place about contractor yards and commercial vehicles. Mr. Kleppin explained that under the new regulations, existing contractor yards would be non-conforming. He gave examples of contractor yards in South Norwalk and specifically on Chestnut Street.

Mr. Kleppin said this item can be kept open until June. He reviewed the approval steps.

In response to Ms. Young's question, Mr. Kleppin said the moratorium ends in June, but the Commission extended it to September.

Mr. Kydes said there were a lot of open-ended questions and that he believes good can come out of this plan. He advised Committee members to reach out to Mr. Kleppin. Ms. Young suggested that Committee members take a ride around the area to get a different perspective. Mr. Kydes agreed.

PUBLIC HEARING ON POCD, CITYWIDE PLAN AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE INDUSTRIAL ZONES STUDY.

Mr. Kydes reviewed the procedures for the public hearing,

Public hearing comments are not verbatim and represent a summarization of statements unless otherwise noted.

Ms. Diane Lauricella commended Mr. Kleppin, the staff and Ms. Vonashek and this committee for this long-awaited effort. She suggested not closing out the public hearing, because there are additional pieces of information that could be helpful. She said that some of the people on the Common Council do not know her history with the Department of Environmental Protection.

Ms. Lauricella encouraged the Committee members to make sure people do not think the industrial use is a bad use. In addition, she said she wanted to be sure the I-1 and I-2 uses were not a threat. She said they would not be threat as long as there was enforcement from the City. Ms. Lauricella said she spent a lot of time with businesses in South Norwalk.

Ms. Lauricella said they need to be sure the illegal contractor yards are shut down. She thanked Mr. Kleppin and others for listening to her regarding Perry Avenue. She said there is more work to be done. She said the pile contains a human carcinogenic in a residential area.

Ms. Lauricella said the MLK Corridor was supposed to be an industrial area. She asked if the Chamber of Commerce or Ms. Church look for clean industrial uses.

Ms. Lauricella encouraged all to contact her since she has professional experience in manufacturing.

Mr. Bryan Meek suggested stopping the traffic study. He said that a few months ago, the State Senate voted to move on the daylight savings time, which will change the analysis.

Mr. Keith Brown said that most of the issues he was going to bring up were already discussed and discussed with Mr. Kleppin. She said the area has had six different studies. He said he knows what is going on in the neighborhood.

Mr. Brown said if they encourage more industrial uses, more residents will disappear. He suggested changing Industrial -2 to include the lightest industrial use and no parking garages for industrial vehicles.

Ms. Diane Cece said that she has been looking at this Study for a long time. She asked Mr. Kleppin if he could post the presentation on the website. She agreed with hitting the pause button. She noted that some of the items will go before Mr. Kleppin and he will not have the legal authority to deny the item. She applauded those who worked on reducing the size of the parcels, but not enough was done to reduce objectionable uses.

Ms. Cece said the justification should not be based on the presence of existing businesses. She asked the Committee or staff to provide their rationale for approval. She said there has been a lot of debate over building height in Norwalk. She also suggested paying attention to front and side yardage.

Ms. Cece said that Mr. Kleppin said that some of the businesses were required in the community to serve the community. She asked if their activity served the region. Ms. Cece agreed with others that a traffic analysis needed to be done.

Residents were encouraged to send their feedback to Mr. Kydes.

No other members of the public wished to comment and the public hearing was closed.

Ms. Young thanked Mr. Kleppin and said she knew this was not easy. She said she appreciated his time and patience.

B. TRANSPORTATION, PARKING, AND MOBILITY

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE AN ON-CALL CONTRACT WITH FUSS & O'NEILL, INC. FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000.00.**

ACCOUNT NO. 0921 4120 5777 C0232

0917 4021 5777 C0562

0918 4021 5777 C0562

0919 4021 5777 C0562

0921 4120 5777 C0562

0922 4120 5777 C0581

0918 4021 5777 C0598

0920 4120 5777 C0598

0921 4120 5777 C0598

0918 4021 5777 C0599

0921 4120 5777 C0648

0920 4120 5777 C0649

0921 4120 5777 C0649

0922 4120 5777 C0649

0922 3750 5777 C0774

0921 3750 5777 C0775

0922 3750 5777 C0777

0921 4095 5777 C0782

0921 4095 5777 C0783

133710-5796-AEC01

133710-5796-AEC02

133710-5796-AEC03

133710-5796-AEC18

133710-5796-AEC22

Mr. Bolella reviewed the item and described the scope of work that will be done by the consultant.

Mr. Keegan asked about the school start time. Mr. Bolella explained that he understood the Board of Education requested adding that to the contract. It will be funded by the Board of Education. This will be a traffic study on the revised start time.

Mr. Keegan asked if it was prudent to do this since they are going to undertake a major school construction project. Mr. Bolella said the consultants will rely on historical data, which will be for the entire Citywide network.

Mr. Yeosock explained that a few years ago, the bell time study was done and they moved the bell time last year, but it was a disaster. It was called off, but they want to do this again. The Board of Education put the money away for this traffic study.

Ms. Smyth said that Mr. Meek brought a question she was wondering about. She asked if the time change will be taken into consideration. Mr. Livingston said he would not count on that going through, but it is a good question. Mr. Yeosock said they could discuss this question with the consultants.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE AN ON-CALL CONTRACT WITH VANASSE HANGEN BRUSTLIN, INC. FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED**

\$400,000.00.

ACCOUNT NO.

0921 4120 5777 C0232

0917 4021 5777 C0562

0918 4021 5777 C0562

0919 4021 5777 C0562

0921 4120 5777 C0562

0922 4120 5777 C0581

0918 4021 5777 C0598

0920 4120 5777 C0598

0921 4120 5777 C0598

0918 4021 5777 C0599

0921 4120 5777 C0648

0920 4120 5777 C0649

0921 4120 5777 C0649

0922 4120 5777 C0649

0922 3750 5777 C0774

0921 3750 5777 C0775

0922 3750 5777 C0777

0921 4095 5777 C0782

0921 4095 5777 C0783

133710-5796-AEC01

133710-5796-AEC02

133710-5796-AEC03

133710-5796-AEC18
133710-5796-AEC22

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE AN ON-CALL CONTRACT WITH WSP USA INC. FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000.00.**

Account No.

0921 4120 5777 C0232
0917 4021 5777 C0562
0918 4021 5777 C0562
0919 4021 5777 C0562
0921 4120 5777 C0562
0922 4120 5777 C0581
0918 4021 5777 C0598
0920 4120 5777 C0598
0921 4120 5777 C0598
0918 4021 5777 C0599
0921 4120 5777 C0648
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0922 3750 5777 C0774
0921 3750 5777 C0775
0922 3750 5777 C0777
0921 4095 5777 C0782
0921 4095 5777 C0783
133710-5796-AEC01
133710-5796-AEC02
133710-5796-AEC03
133710-5796-AEC18
133710-5796-AEC22

**** MOTON PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH FITZGERALD & HALLIDAY, INC. (DBA FHI STUDIO) FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN TO EXAMINE THE IMPACTS ON TRAFFIC AND**

ROADS DUE TO PROPOSED CHANGES IN SCHOOL BELL TIME SCHEDULES FOR A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$31,375. THE FUNDING FOR THIS WORK TO BE PROVIDED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Mr. Yeosock reviewed the item. He said a few years ago, the Board of Education proposed moving the start time, but the traffic study was not done due to Covid. They would like to look at this again by having a traffic study done. The traffic study will be paid for with their funds.

Mr. Kydes asked what spending \$32,000 will solve. Ms. Young asked where the funds were coming from. Mr. Yeosock said the Board of Education put the money away for the traffic study. Mr. Yeosock said if this passes, the Board of Education will probably look to implement it in a year or so. Ms. Shanahan said this traffic study needs to be done, if the Board of Education wants to move the start time.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. KEEGAN)**

6. Update on parking in Norwalk over the past 5 years including violations and the courtesy card program.

Mr. Kydes explained that it came to the attention of this Committee that there has been an increase in traffic violations.

Mr. Emery presented an overview of the courtesy card program. He explained they looked into the enforcement program as a whole. They also walked the streets and talked to the business owners and their customers to get a feel for what was going on. He said they wanted to hear from those people directly.

Mr. Emery shared data from the last five years. He noted that the courtesy citations are for expired meters only. He said they are seeing a bit of a compliance issue here and across the country. He said they research how to get people to pay, rather than having to issue citations.

Mr. Kydes said he sees Enforcement Officers giving out tickets in an aggressive fashion and would like to see the courtesy citation program expanded. Mr. Emery said they are looking at was to use current technology to make it fair. He said he is about a week away from his evaluation from the parking enforcement program.

Mr. Kydes said he looks forward to the update.

City of Norwalk
Economic and Community Development Committee
Regular Meeting
May 5, 2022
Via Telecommunications
Page 8

C. REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SONO TOD II, LLC, OVER A 46,107 SQ. FT. PORTION OF 30 MONROE STREET FOR PURPOSES OF DUE DILIGENCE INVESTIGATION CONCERNING SAID REALTY, AND ALL OTHER AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS NECESSARY AND INCIDENTAL TO THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH SAID LICENSE AGREEMENT IS GRANTED.**

Mr. Bidoli referenced a memo in the meeting packet and gave an architectural overview of the project. He explained they are looking to get approval at the conceptual level. He reviewed the funding sources. Mr. Bidoli said they did an initial financial analysis and the economic benefit to the City in year eight will be about \$878,000. This project is in an enterprise zone.

Mr. Bidoli reviewed the parking plan. He said he has been working with the developer to secure the purchase price. He reviewed the grant considerations and said it is a reimbursable program.

Mr. Edwardsen reviewed other projects developed by Spinnaker and he reviewed this project.

Mr. Beinfeld said he has been involved in this project for about 10 years and presented site plans. He explained that across the road way from the project will be an outside plaza. They are trying to get a brewery to go into the adjoining space as an anchor. If they get the brewery, they will want a space for food trucks.

Mr. Beinfeld explained there will be three levels of parking to accommodate this project. The townhouses will face Henry Street. He reviewed the amenities that will be available for the residents. The idea is to make this a very vital area of South Norwalk. The developer/architect were responsible for the courtyard at the Ironworks building, which added to the vitality of the neighborhood.

Mr. Livingston expressed concern that they do not fall into the same situation that took place with the PoKo project.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE CITY AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY STAFF TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS OF A LAND DISPOSITION AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH SONO TOD II, LLC (“DEVELOPER”) CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF A 46,107 SQ. FT. PORTION OF 30 MONROE STREET (“CITY PARCEL”) FROM THE CITY TO THE DEVELOPER, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CERTAIN SITE BEING THE CITY PARCEL COMBINED WITH CERTAIN PARCELS IDENTIFIED IN THE NORWALK TAX ASSESSORS LAND RECORDS AS M/B/L 2/55/6, 2/55/7 AND 2/55/22 OWNED BY THE DEVELOPER, AND TO PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF THE KEY TERMS PRESENTED IN THE SONO TOD II IDA TERM SHEET.**

Mr. Bidoli explained this is a follow up project, where they reconcile the details.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

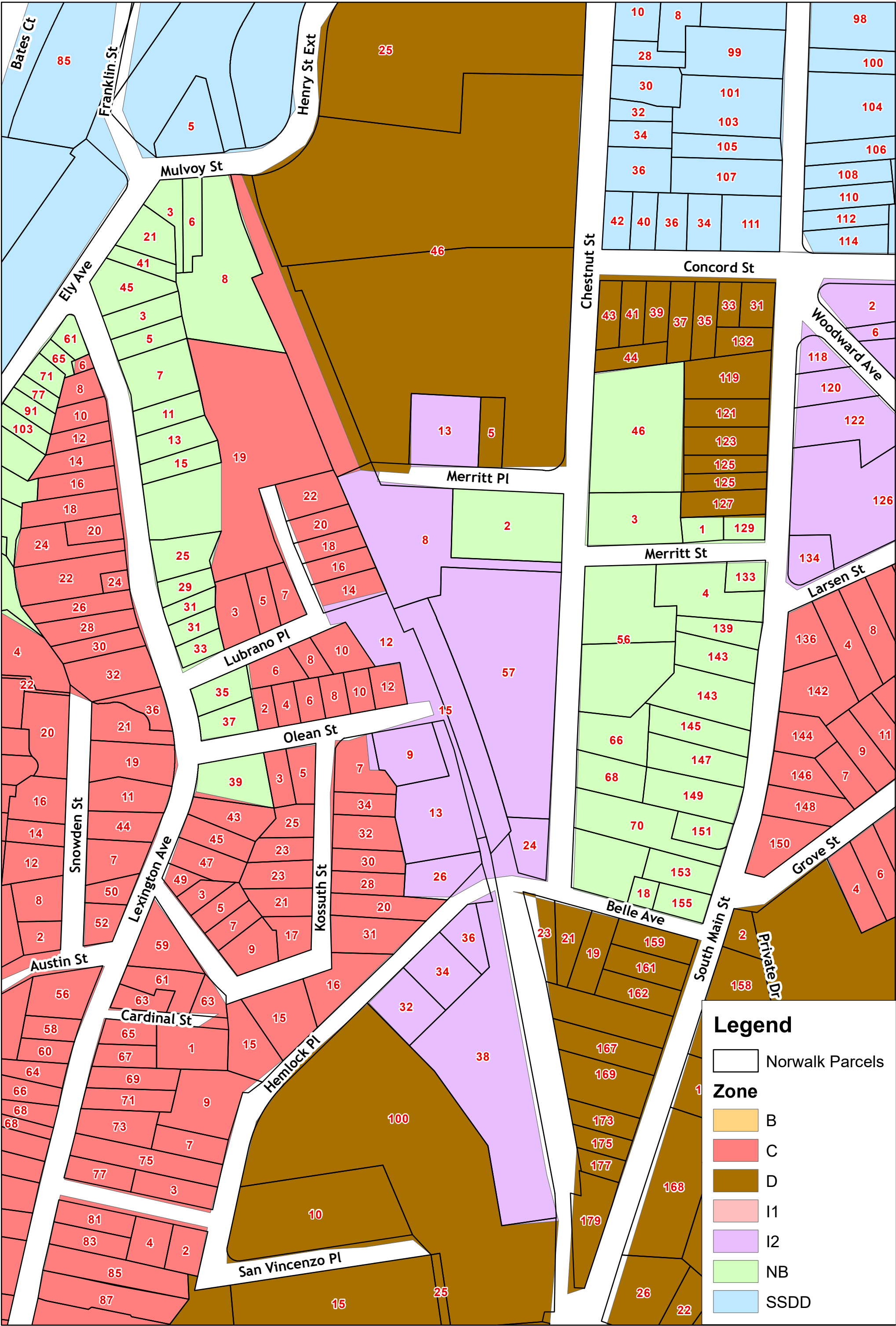
**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

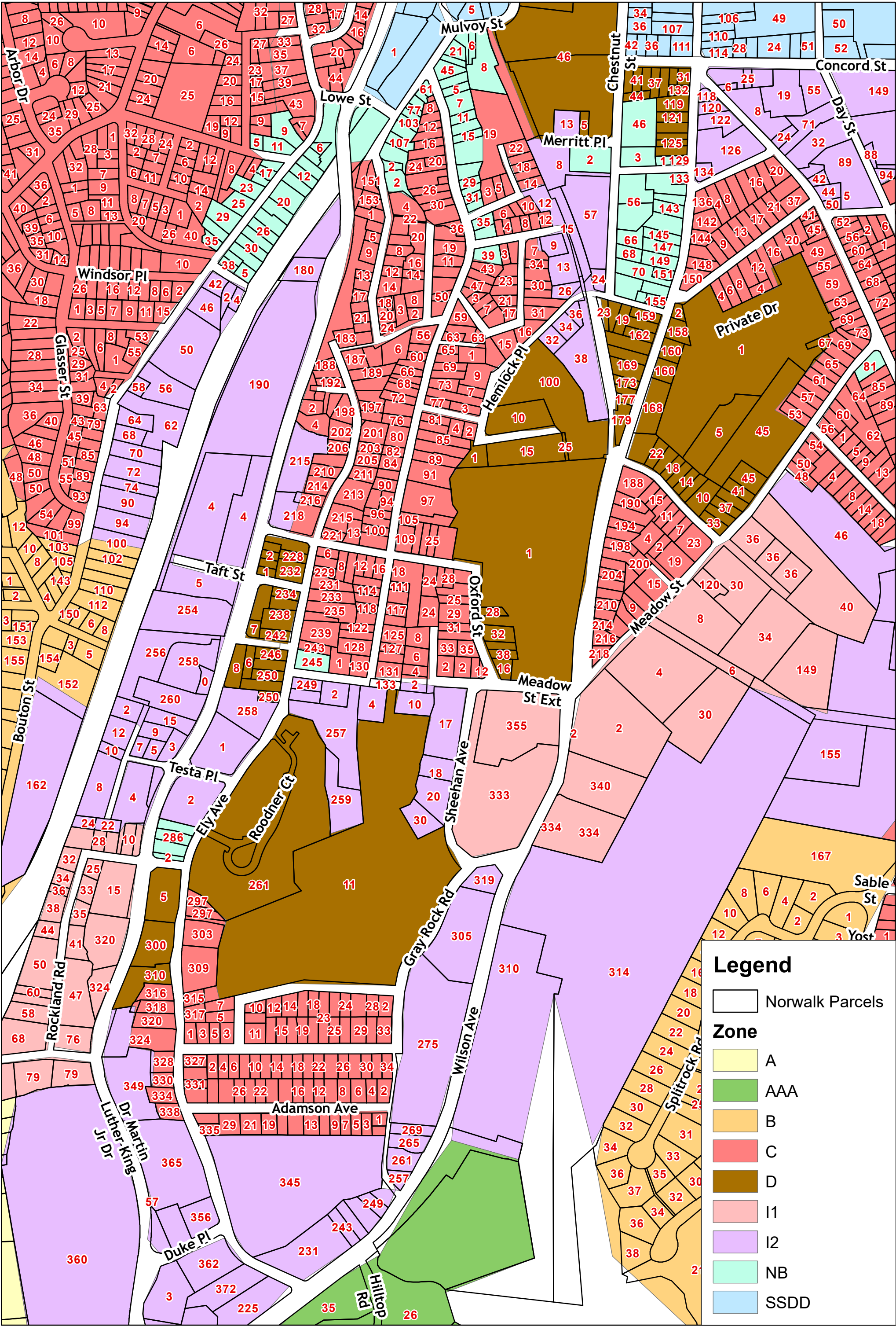
Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services



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1 inch = 150 feet



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1 inch = 400 feet

TO: Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee of the Common Council

FROM: Staff of the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency

RE: 2022 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program (NAA)

DATE: May 24, 2022

The Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Program (NAA) provides a corporation business tax credit to businesses who make cash contributions to qualifying community programs conducted by tax exempt or municipal agencies. The tax credit earned is equal to 60% of a business' approved contribution to specific programs or 100% in the case of certain energy conservation programs.

On behalf of the City of Norwalk, the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency announced the 2022 open application period and collected applications. Norwalk Redevelopment Agency received 20 applications from 19 organizations for Connecticut's 2022 NAA program. Accompanying this memo is an electronic binder showcasing the NAA applications. Please note:

- This is not a Norwalk grants program, nor are any funds controlled by the City of Norwalk involved.
- The City's role is one of acknowledging the existence of the non-profits, their proposed services to the community, and their stated needs to the state and corporate seekers of tax credit opportunities.
- Application review and award of tax credits is carried out by Connecticut Department of Revenue Services.

Under statute, the non-profit, tax-exempt organizations with 501(c)3 status must be referred by the local legislative body following a public hearing which will be held at the beginning of the June 2, 2022 Economic and Community Development Committee meeting. Note: Applicants will not give presentations on their NAA applications. Following the public hearing, the Committee is asked to advance to the Common Council any or all of the following applications received. The full applications are posted here: <https://www.norwalkct.org/1709/Neighborhood-Assistance-Act-Tax-Credit-P>

REQUESTED ACTION:

1. Advance the submitted applications to the Common Council for their approval at the June 14, 2022 Common Council meeting for their inclusion in the 2022 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act program.

CT Department of Revenue Services Neighborhood Assistant Act (NAA) 2022 Applications submitted to Norwalk

Organization	Program Title	Amount Requested	Credit % Requested
Americares Free Clinics. Inc.	Providing free high quality health care to low-income uninsured community residents.	\$100,000.00	60%
Connecticut Radio Information System (CRIS)	Audio Accessibility for People who are Blind or Print Challenged	\$5,000.00	60%
Domestic Violence Crisis Center	Housing & Financial Advocacy	\$20,000.00	60%
Elderhouse, Inc.	Meals for Seniors	\$10,000.00	60%
Family & Children's Agency	ASPIRE after school program	\$100,000.00	60%
Friends of the Norwalk River Valley Trail	Trail Design -- Glover to Grist Mill to Old Belden Hill	\$22,000.00	60%
Grassroots Tennis No 1 -- Facilities Improve	Youth Center Facility Improvements & Upgrades	\$25,000.00	60%
Grassroots Tennis No 2 -- Window AC Upgrade	Window AC Upgrades for Energy Efficiency	\$6,000.00	100%
Human Services Council, Inc.	Energy Efficient Improvement to Air Handler and AC Unit	\$20,965.00	100%
Jr Achievement of Greater Ffld County	Junior Achievement's Financial Literacy & Work Readiness Programs	\$45,000.00	60%
Malta House, Inc.	Residential Program	\$50,000.00	60%
Mutual Housing Association of Southwestern CT Inc., dba CT Housing Partners	Woodward Cliffs (Woodward Avenue) Capital Needs	\$38,500.00	60%
NICE INC (Norwalk International Cultural Exchange)	NICE Festival	\$25,000.00	60%
Norwalk Congregate Homes for the Elderly, Inc., dba Broad River Homes	Heating Systems Modernization	\$50,000.00	100%
Riverbrook Regional YMCA	Race 4 Chase Youth Triathlon Program	\$25,000.00	60%
STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way	Smart Home Technology for Norwalk Group Homes Serving Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)	\$24,800.00	100%
The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk	Re-powering the Research Vessel (R/V) Spirit of the Sound	\$150,000.00	100%
The Open Door Shelter, dba Open Doors	Employment Services	\$70,000.00	60%
Under One Roof Inc.	The Marvin for Seniors (The Marvin)	\$82,000.00	100%
Youth Business Initiative	Youth Workforce Readiness & Development Program	\$30,000.00	60%

THE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

125 East Avenue
P.O. Box 5125
Norwalk, CT 06856

**TO: MEMBERS, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE OF THE NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL**

FROM: NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY STAFF

DATE: MAY 25, 2022

RE: CDBG PY48 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

PY48 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN (AAP) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Due to a delay in the release of funding allocation by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, this year's public comment period will coincide with the Annual Action Plan (AAP) approval process. The public comment period of May 25 – June 24, 2022 will present any comments received at the June 28, 2022 Common Council meeting for consideration. A public hearing will be held on June 2, 2022 at the ECD Committee meeting.

PY48 FUNDS AVAILABLE AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The City's CDBG amount available for funding is \$1,008,611. This number is comprised of \$848,611 of 2022-2023 entitlement funding and \$160,000 of anticipated program income. The allocation is \$61,389 less than anticipated funding listed in the NOFA and \$35,863 less than the prior year allocation. The proposed the funding allocations reflects the reduced allocation.

Below is a project summary of funding allocations recommends by the ECD Committee and included in the Annual Action Plan. CDBG program planning and administration will continue to operate according to the 20% formula as prescribed by HUD. All public service activities are capped at 15% of the allocation. All drafts of the PY48 AAP are available online at <https://www.norwalkct.org/1412/Community-Development-Block-Grant>.

Project	Organization	Program/Project	Request	Actual Funding
Public Services	East Norwalk Library	Cultural/Educational Community Fair Expansion	\$ 11,500.00	\$9,008.33
	HELP	College Prep Program	\$ 14,000.00	\$10,966.67
	Open Door Shelter	Employment First - Job Training Program	\$ 35,000.00	\$27,416.66
	Person to Person	Critical Needs Assistance Program	\$ 50,000.00	\$39,166.66
	Rowan Center	Crisis Counseling and Community Advocacy	\$ 25,000.00	\$19,583.33
	Wheel it Forward	Medical Equipment Lending Program	\$ 15,000.00	\$11,750.00
	YBI inc.	Youth Business Course	\$ 12,000.00	\$9,400.00
	Subtotal		\$ 162,500.00	\$ 127,291.65
Public Facilities	Carver Center	Fence Repair and Basketball Court Resurfacing	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
	Domestic Violence Crisis Center	HVAC Replacement	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 32,000.00
	Norwalk Redevelopment Agency	City Neighborhoods Projects	\$ 88,550.00	\$ 40,647.15
	Subtotal		\$ 185,550.00	\$ 137,647.15
Housing	Home Front	Critical Home Repairs	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
	Keystone House	St. John Street Kitchen	\$ 22,950.00	\$ 22,950.00
	Norwalk Housing Authority	Leroy Downs - Underground Electric	\$ 57,000.00	\$ 57,000.00
	Subtotal		\$ 99,950.00	\$ 99,950.00

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- Advance the final CDBG PY48 Annual Action Plan (AAP) to the Common Council for its approval and to authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents associated with the submission of the PY48 AAP to HUD and all documents consistent with the approved PY48 AAP.

Links

A direct link to the updated PY48 Annual Action plan is provided below.

<https://www.norwalkct.org/DocumentCenter/View/27161/DRAFT-Norwalk-PY48-FY-2022-AAP>



2022 Annual Action Plan

DRAFT

Norwalk Redevelopment Agency
3 Belden Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850

Annual Action Plan
2022

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Executive Summary

AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

The City of Norwalk's program year 2022 Annual Action Plan (PY 2022 AAP) is required each year by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the City to receive federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. These funds help to provide for affordable housing and community development initiatives benefitting primarily low- and moderate-income (LMI) households in Norwalk.

Annually, the City develops its AAP which describes the uses of federal resources and the program year goals and specific activities that will be carried out address the priority needs identified in the Strategic Plan. This PY 2022 AAP is the third planning year of the 5-Year Consolidated Plan (2020 -2024 Con Plan) for the City's CDBG program.

In PY 2022, the City of Norwalk anticipates receiving \$848,611 from CDBG entitlement funds and \$160,000 from program income for a total of \$1,008,611 that will help facilitate the execution of the plan's strategies and activities. Assuming the same allocation for the two remaining years, the City will receive \$1,697,222 in additional CDBG entitlement funding for the remainder of the con plan. The City also estimates \$160,000 in additional program income over the two remaining years.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

The City of Norwalk has developed its strategic plan based on an analysis of the data presented in the 5-Year Con Plan and an extensive community participation and consultation process. Through these efforts, the City has identified four priority needs with associated goals to address those needs. The priority needs with associated goals include:

Priority Need: Increase high quality and affordable housing

- Residential rehabilitation

Priority Need: Modernize public facilities and infrastructure

- Public facility rehabilitation
- Improve public infrastructure: modern & safe

Priority Need: Increase in available social services

- Basic services

- Health & mental health services
- Employment training
- Housing services

Priority Need: Expand economic opportunities

- Economic development: technical assistance

In PY 2022, the City will focus on all four priority needs. For more details, please refer to AP-20 for a summary of goals, objectives, and outcomes in the AAP.

3. Evaluation of past performance

The City, with other public, private and non-profit community housing providers and non-housing service agencies have made significant contributions to provide safe, decent and affordable housing, a suitable living environment and economic opportunities especially for low- to moderate-income households in the community. However, improvements to public facilities and infrastructure, vital public services for LMI, and affordable housing remain some of the most prolific needs facing Norwalk, as documented by the current Consolidated Plan and Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

The summary of past performance reported below was taken from the City's most recently completed CAPER completed for PY 2020:

Affordable Housing: The City assisted a total of 67 households through Residential Housing Rehabilitation programs. Activities included housing rehab activities at supportive housing sites with Open Door Shelter, rehab of senior housing units at the Norwalk Housing Authority's Ludlow Village Senior Housing and minor housing repair and energy efficiency improvements throughout the City.

Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements: The City made improvements to neighborhood facilities that had a low/mod citywide benefit to 86,935 persons. These improvements were for a new boiler system at the Carver Foundation facility, and park improvements at Ryan Park and Washington Park. There were 13 LMI persons who benefitted from improvements to public facilities that served persons with a disability. This activity was the Keystone House Elmcrest Terrace Group Home Bathroom Renovation. Another 65 LMI persons benefitted from improvements at the Domestic Violence Crisis Center Norwalk Safe House which saw new flooring in bathrooms, kitchens and bedrooms.

Public Services: The City supported public services that improved the quality of life of residents. Basic services benefitted 1,124 LMI persons throughout the City. These activities included homeless prevention programs, senior services, youth services, substance abuse services and food banks. Mental health services benefitted 428 LMI persons and services were provided by the Domestic Violence Crisis Center. The City funded the Open Door Shelter Smilow Life Center Jobs Training Program which provided 154 LMI persons with employment training.

Economic Development: The City assisted an estimated 20 business with technical assistance in the North Water Street area. This assistance was provided as part of the Walkbridge Mitigation planning and information project, which is also part of Norwalk's City Neighborhood's initiative to revitalize the area. The City also provided funding to the Maritime Aquarium for job retention and to keep the facility open to the public.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The City of Norwalk is engaged in ongoing efforts to coordinate among its network agencies and nonprofit organizations that deliver housing, community and economic development services to the community. As the administrators of HUD's CDBG program, the City's Norwalk Redevelopment Agency has open lines of communication with the City's many nonprofit and social service agencies, which are also given opportunities to participate in the planning process. These community stakeholders help provide input that shaped the priority needs and strategies to address the needs identified in the City's plan. See below for a summary of details on the City's citizen participation efforts:

Public Comment Period – A draft of the 2022 AAP Plan was placed on the City of Norwalk's Website, at the NRA office and various public locations for 30 days beginning May 25, 2022 to June 24, 2022.

Public Hearing – The Economic and Community Development Committee, formally known as the Economic and Community Development Committee, held a public hearing on the draft 2022 AAP on June 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM to obtain comments on the draft plan.

Full details of the City's citizen participation outreach efforts are available in AP-12 Citizen Participation.

5. Summary of public comments

Full details of the City's citizen participation outreach efforts are available in AP-12 Citizen Participation.

6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them

All comments and views were accepted. Comments outside the scope of the plan were not addressed.

7. Summary

In summary, the PY 2022 Annual Action Plan has been developed with community input and reflect the needs of the City.

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)

1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

Describe the agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	NORWALK	Norwalk Redevelopment Agency

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The City of Norwalk has designated the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency (Agency) as the administrator and sole sub-recipient of Norwalk's annual entitlement of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The Agency has a mission to improve the physical economic and social environment of the Norwalk Community by serving as the primary governmental organization dedicated to promoting commercial development, to preserving and improving the City's housing stock and to securing and administering the resources required to carry out these goals. As administrator of the CDBG program, the Agency is responsible for overall program management, coordination, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the program.

The Agency is responsible for the implementation of the City's urban renewal/redevelopment and economic activities; for ensuring all program activities are carried out in a timely manner consistent with grant conditions, State and Federal regulations; for acting as contact between the CDBG program and other City Departments, Federal and State agencies and the general public; for seeking out and applying for other funding sources to help leverage funds; for monitoring all activities for timely implementation; for preparing certificates of consistency for Norwalk social service providers; for compiling and submitting grant reports; for supervising personnel; for initiating and obtaining approvals for program and budget amendments; for processing payment request; and for ensuring that appropriate program and financial records are maintained. The Agency works with the Mayor and Common Council for appropriate program approval, as stated in the Citizen Participation Plan.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Norwalk Redevelopment Agency
3 Belden Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850
bbidolli@norwalkct.org
(203)854-7810

AP-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)

1. Introduction

The City of Norwalk developed an outreach effort to maximize input from a large cross-section of stakeholders for the Consolidated Plan process. The outreach effort included published meeting notices, public meetings, stakeholder meetings, and a web survey conducted in both English and Spanish. Several housing, social service agencies, and other organizations serving the City of Norwalk were consulted during the development of this plan. Participants included affordable housing providers, neighborhood organizations, homeless and social service providers, and city staff members. This input helped to identify the priority housing and community development needs of the 5-year Strategic Plan of the Consolidated Plan, and the goals to address these needs. This PY 2022 Annual Action Plan's goals and activities are developed to with the input of citizens and community stakeholders to further address the needs identified in the Consolidated Plan.

Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(l))

As noted above, the City of Norwalk's outreach effort to reach its large network of stakeholders included public meetings, stakeholder meetings, published meeting notices, and a web survey conducted in both English and Spanish. This included housing providers, social service agencies, and other organizations serving the City of Norwalk that were consulted during the development of the Consolidated Plan. Participants included affordable housing providers, neighborhood organizations, homeless and social service providers, and city staff members.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

The City of Norwalk continues to commit significant resources to the planning and implementation of efforts to prevent and end homelessness. The Norwalk/Fairfield County Continuum of Care (CoC), known as the Opening Doors Fairfield County (ODFC) serves the communities of Norwalk, Weston, Wilton, Westport, Darien, Brookfield, Redding, Ridgefield, Sherman Newtown and New Canaan. The City will coordinate with the local CoC ODFC for efforts on homelessness.

Based on a Collective Impact Model, ODFC uses the goals and objectives set forth by the Federal Opening Doors strategic plan as a common agenda that embodies five major themes:

- 1) Increased leadership, collaboration, and civic engagement;
- 2) Increased access to stable and affordable housing;

- 3) Increase economic security;
- 4) Improved health and housing stability; and
- 5) Retool the homeless crisis response system.

Shared metrics established by federal legislation are in place to measure ODFC's success and includes the reduction in length and time people are homeless; rate at which people return to homelessness; reduction in first time homelessness; and overall reduction of people who are homeless. ODFC is structured by a governing body of experts and key cross-sector participants who directly and indirectly work with this population.

The efforts of ODFC are embedded in the working committees supported by dedicated staff from two agencies that keep members on tasks and committee's work plans on schedule. Referred to as the "Backbone Organizations." Supportive Housing Works and the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness strategically partner to provide ongoing facilitation, technology and communication support required for a working collaboration.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS

The Norwalk/Fairfield County Continuum of Care (CoC) works with the Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH) to ensure alignment between the CoC's strategic goals and the uses of Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG). Homeless housing assistance and service providers within the Norwalk/Fairfield County CoC are eligible to submit competitive grant applications to the State of ESG. None of the jurisdictions in the Norwalk/Fairfield County CoC are ESG entitlement communities. Stakeholders feel that Norwalk/Fairfield County CoC is not directly consulted by the State on how ESG should be allocated or distributed. The CoC is working to increase coordination with the DOH by acting as a quality control agent when an agency within the Norwalk/Fairfield County CoC receives ESG from the State. In this role the CoC collects project performance reports and ensures the project maintains compliance with ESG requirements. Furthermore, the DOH has attended Norwalk/Fairfield County CoC Meetings.

The Norwalk/Fairfield County CoC has designated the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) as the lead homeless management information systems (HMIS) organization. The CoC has an HMIS Policy and Procedures Manual which requires the lead organization to input data accurately and in a timely manner.

2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Norwalk Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	St. Vincent's Behavioral Health Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services - Housing Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	Norwalk International Cultural Exchange (NICE INC)
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.
6	Agency/Group/Organization	Norwalk Public Schools
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Education Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.
7	Agency/Group/Organization	Norwalk Transit District
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.
8	Agency/Group/Organization	ODYSSEY FAMILY EXECUTIVE CENTER OF SOUTH NORWALK, INC.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Market Analysis

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.
9	Agency/Group/Organization	Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.
10	Agency/Group/Organization	ACTION FOR BRIDGEPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.
11	Agency/Group/Organization	CT-503 CoC, Opening Doors of Fairfield County
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.
12	Agency/Group/Organization	FAMILY & CHILDREN'S AGENCY
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.
13	Agency/Group/Organization	Norwalk Health Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.
14	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Norwalk - Building & Code Enforcement Department
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.
15	Agency/Group/Organization	Riverbrook Regional YMCA
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Services-Education
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.

16	Agency/Group/Organization	NAACP
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.
17	Agency/Group/Organization	CITY OF NORWALK - MAYOR'S OFFICE
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Attended stakeholder meetings.

Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

All entities were considered for consultation.

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Opening Doors Fairfield County	The homelessness strategy was developed in consultation with Opening Doors Fairfield County, the lead agency for the regional CoC.
Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice	Norwalk Redevelopment Agency	Barriers to affordable housing opportunities from the AI were included in the Consolidated Plan.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.100(4), the City of Norwalk will notify adjacent units of local government of the non-housing community development needs included in its Consolidated Plan. Norwalk will continue to interact with public entities at all levels to ensure coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the Plan and thereby maximize the benefits of the City's housing and community development activities for the residents being served.

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

The City of Norwalk is engaged in ongoing efforts to coordinate among its network agencies and nonprofit organizations that deliver housing, community and economic development services to the community. As the administrators of HUD's CDBG program, the City's Norwalk Redevelopment Agency has open lines of communication with the City's many nonprofit and social service agencies, which are also given opportunities to participate in the planning process. These community stakeholders help provide input that shaped the priority needs and strategies to address the needs identified in the City's plan.

Norwalk Redevelopment Agency staff also attempt on an ongoing basis to encourage participation by all citizens with special emphasis on persons of low- to moderate-incomes and those with special needs to participate in the planning process. See below for a summary of details on the City's citizen participation efforts:

Public Comment Period – A draft of the 2022 AAP Plan was placed on electronic display through the City of Norwalk's Website and various public locations for 30 days beginning May 25, 2022 to June 24, 2022. The AAP was distributed in hard copy to the Main and South Norwalk branch libraries, the Norwalk Housing Authority, the South Norwalk Community Center, the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency office and Norwalk City Hall.

Public Hearing – The Economic and Community Development Committee held a public hearing on the draft 2022 AAP on June 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM to obtain comments on the draft plan.

Other Dates: The Economic and Community Development Committee will advance the draft 2022 AAP to the Common Council on June 2, 2022 for approval. On June 28, 2022 the Common Council will approve the Mayoral signing of the 2022 AAP for HUD submission.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL
1	Public Review Period	Non-targeted/broad community	A draft of the PY 2022 AAP Plan was placed on the City Website and various public locations for 30 days beginning May 25, 2022 to June 24, 2022. Comments could be sent to the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency office at the contact listed in the PR-05 of this plan.	All comments are accepted. At the conclusion of the public comment period the City will consider and summarize all comments.	All comments are accepted.	N/A
2	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community Common Council	The Economic and Community Development Committee held a public hearing on the draft 2022 AAP on June 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM to obtain comments on the draft plan.	All comments are accepted. At the conclusion of the public hearing the City will consider and summarize all comments.	All comments are accepted.	N/A

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

The following table provides an overview of the City of Norwalk's CDBG allocation for PY 2022, the expected amount for the remaining two (2) years of the Consolidated Plan, and other funding that will help facilitate the execution of the plan's activities.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 3				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	848,611	160,000	0	1,008,611	1,857,222	The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency will use CDBG funds to increase high quality affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, modernize public facilities and infrastructure, and increase available social services to residents of Norwalk. Expected amount available is 2x more years of the annual allocation and anticipated program income over the two year period.

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

The City awards a portion of its annual CDBG allocation as grants to local organizations through a competitive process and recommends applicants provide matching funds, \$2/\$1 match for public service programs and a \$1/\$1 match for all other programs. Organizations in receipt of these grants receive support from an array of public and private sources to provide high quality and innovative programming in service of the community. The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency (Agency) works strategically so that federal funds attract additional funding and spur private development to meet the needs of the community.

HUD awarded a \$30 million Choice Neighborhood Implementation grant to the Norwalk Housing Authority and the Agency in 2014. This transformational project will leverage approximately \$120 million dollars from private, federal and state resources, which consists of approximately \$95 million in housing resources, over \$8 million for Critical Community Investments and about \$16.4 million for the delivery of social services. Funding sources for Critical Community Investments include CDBG, private developers, the City of Norwalk's Capital Budget, the State of Connecticut Departments of Transportation and Housing and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority. The Choice Neighborhood Initiative project will rebuild the outdated 136-unit Washington Village public housing development into a new 273-unit mixed income preserving and creating additional affordable housing, preserve multi-family housing in the area, and improve Ryan Park, the South Norwalk Community Center, walkability through the Complete Streets initiative, residential façades and public safety. It will position the neighborhood to build a better future for current residents and welcome new households and businesses interested in bringing new vitality to the area.

In April of 2022 the City of Norwalk received a \$6 million Community Challenge grant for infrastructure and housing improvements targeting a low-mod census tract, focused around the South Norwalk Train Station. Infrastructure improvements will focus on general connectivity and transit oriented development, as well as complete streets and public safety improvements. An anticipated 50 residential units will benefit from façade improvements of predominantly low-mod income units. The City has also received \$3 million in DECD funding for community based improvements focusing on what is call the MLK Corridor, a predominantly low-mod income area. Release of the program is anticipated in the summer of 2022 and will facilitate the installation of public art, public safety improvements and façade improvements of residential and commercial structures.

If appropriate, describe publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs

identified in the plan

N/A

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Public facility rehabilitation	2020	2024	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs		Modernize public facilities and infrastructure	CDBG: \$127,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 200 Persons Assisted
2	Improve public infrastructure: modern & safe	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development		Modernize public facilities and infrastructure	CDBG: \$362,647.15	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5500 Persons Assisted
3	Basic services	2020	2024	Affordable Housing Public Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development		Increase in available social services	CDBG: \$30,730.53	Public Services activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1500 persons
4	Health & mental health services	2020	2024	Non-Homeless Special Needs		Increase in available social services	CDBG: \$61,333.33	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 300 Persons Assisted
5	Employment training	2020	2024	Non-Housing Community Development		Increase in available social services	CDBG: \$77,783.33	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 60 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
6	Housing services	2020	2024	Affordable Housing Public Housing		Increase in available social services	CDBG: \$69,166.33	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 20 Households Assisted
7	Residential rehabilitation	2020	2024	Affordable Housing		Increase high quality and affordable housing	CDBG: \$279,950	Rental units rehabilitated: 10 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 20 Household Housing Unit

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Public facility rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Fund public facility improvements that benefit low- and moderate-income households and persons with special needs. Activities may include neighborhood facilities (03E), Parks, Recreational Facilities 03F and Other Public Improvements (03Z).
2	Goal Name	Improve public infrastructure: modern & safe
	Goal Description	Fund non-housing community development proposals that eliminate threats to public health and safety. Inclusive of flood drainage improvements (03I), water/sewer improvements (03J), street improvements (03K), sidewalks (03L)
3	Goal Name	Basic services
	Goal Description	Basic services include Youth Services 05D, Child Care Services 05L, and other services (05Z).
4	Goal Name	Health & mental health services
	Goal Description	Health & mental health services include substance abuse services (05F), services for battered and abused spouses (05G), Health Services 05M, services for abused and neglected children (05N), and mental health services (05O).

5	Goal Name	Employment training
	Goal Description	Assistance to increase self-sufficiency, including literacy, independent living skills, resume writing, job coaching, "how to get and keep a job" training, or training students in a particular field on skill when there is no tie to a specific position or business. CDBG Matrix Code: 05H
6	Goal Name	Housing services
	Goal Description	Housing services include housing information (05X), fair housing activities (05J), subsistence payments (05Q), security deposits (05T), and housing counseling (05U).
7	Goal Name	Residential rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Residential rehabilitation extends the useful life of existing affordable housing through weatherization, repair, and rehabilitation programs. The goal is inclusive of single- and multi-unit residential rehab CDBG Matrix Codes 14A and 14B, respectively and housing rehab administration (14H)

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The following projects were selected to be funded by CDBG for PY 2022.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	CDBG: Administration
2	CDBG: Public Services
3	CDBG: Public Facilities & Infrastructure
4	CDBG: Housing Programs

Table 7 - Project Information

Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs

The majority of Norwalk's projects, including public service, housing, public facility, and public infrastructure activities, are selected through a competitive process. All CDBG projects and programs funded in 2022 were chosen because they address the high priority needs identified through the Needs Assessment of the City's Consolidated Plan. Projects selected for CDBG funding were prioritized on efficient utilization of non-CDBG funds and ability to serve the largest number of beneficiaries.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	CDBG: Administration
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Residential rehabilitation Public facility rehabilitation Improve public infrastructure: modern & safe Basic services Health & mental health services Employment training Housing Services
	Needs Addressed	Increase in available social services Modernize public facilities and infrastructure Expand economic opportunities Expand economic opportunities
	Funding	CDBG: \$201,722
	Description	CDBG funds will be used to cover costs associated with the administration of the City's CDBG Program for the 2022 program year.
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A. Admin activities to support CDBG projects.
	Location Description	Admin of the CDBG program citywide.
	Planned Activities	See description. HUD Matrix Code: 21A
2	Project Name	CDBG: Public Services
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Basic services Health & mental health services Employment training Housing Services

	Needs Addressed	Increase in available social services
	Funding	CDBG: \$127,291.65
	Description	The City will allocate CDBG funds towards basic public services, health and mental health services, employment training and housing services and assist LMI individuals and households.
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Public Services activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 10,350 persons
	Location Description	Public services to eligible persons and households to be provided citywide.
	Planned Activities	Planned activities for public services are: East Norwalk Library (05Z): \$9,008.33 HELP, College Edge Program (05Z): \$110,966.67 Open Door Shelter, Employment Services Program (05H): \$27,416.66 Person to Person, Critical Needs Assistance Program (05Q): \$39,166.66 Rowan Center, Crisis Counseling & Community Advocacy (05G): \$19,583.33 Wheel it Forward, Medical Equipment Lending (05M): \$11,750 YBI Inc., Youth Business Course (05H): \$9,400
3	Project Name	CDBG: Public Facilities & Infrastructure
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Public facility rehabilitation Improve public infrastructure: modern & safe
	Needs Addressed	Modernize public facilities and infrastructure
	Funding	CDBG: \$429,647.15
	Description	The City will allocate CDBG funds towards public facilities and infrastructure improvements to assist individuals and households living in LMI areas.
	Target Date	6/30/2023

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Public Facility or Infrastructure for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5,700 persons assisted Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 20 Households Assisted
	Location Description	Eligible activities citywide.
	Planned Activities	Planned public facilities and infrastructure improvement activities include: Carver Center-Fence Repair/Basketball Court Resurface (03E): \$65,000 Domestic Violence Crisis Center-HVAC Replacement (03E): \$32,000 NRA - City Neighborhoods public facilities and infrastructure improvement activities including delivery costs (City Neighborhoods) (03Z): \$332,647.15
4	Project Name	CDBG: Housing Programs
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	Residential rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Increase high quality and affordable housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$249,950
	Description	The City will allocate CDBG funds to preserve high quality and affordable housing for LMI households.
	Target Date	6/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Rental units rehabilitated: 10 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 20 Household Housing Unit
	Location Description	Eligible activities citywide.
	Planned Activities	Planned activities for housing programs include: Home Front - Critical Home Repairs (14A): \$20,000 Keystone House - St. John Street Kitchen (14B): \$22,950 NHA - Leroy Downs underground electric rehab (14B): \$57,000 NRA - Rehab Admin, Loan Admin and rehab TA (14H): \$150,000

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed

The City of Norwalk does not allocate funding based solely on geographic requirements. Individuals or households must meet income qualifications in order to receive direct assistance from activities and services in the CDBG program. For eligible activities to public facilities & infrastructure improvements as well as economic development opportunities the City will be targeting low- to moderate-income identified census tract areas in need. See below on how the City will determine these areas.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City of Norwalk does not allocate funding based solely on geographic requirements. When the project or planned activities are intended to serve individuals or households directly, those individuals or households must meet income qualifications, as well as residency requirements, in order to receive assistance from the program. In these instances, City staff and/or one of its partner agencies shall complete an in-take and eligibility status review of the applicant individual, or household, before the project/activity is initiated.

Additionally, the City has identified public facilities and infrastructure improvement activities. In which case, the planned public improvement activities will serve a community, neighborhood or “area”. These projects (or activities) are said to have an “area-wide” benefit. Per HUD requirements, these areas must be within an eligible Census Tract, as defined by HUD-CDBG regulations, whereby the majority of the residents are at least 51% low- to moderate-income.

To determine these Tracts the City will be utilizing HUD CDBG Low Mod Income Summary Data (LMISD) from the HUD Exchange website, which has redefined the eligible tracts within the jurisdiction. The identified census block group tracts within the jurisdiction that are considered low-moderate income can be found on the HUD Exchange website at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/acs-low-mod-summary-data/>

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City anticipates to continue working on housing assistance for LMI households and has added new housing projects and goals. The City has also determined that existing housing rehab projects will be funded from available RL funds, and will prioritize these assistance projects.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	8
Non-Homeless	22
Special-Needs	0
Total	30

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	30
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	30

Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

Rental units rehabilitated: 10 Household Housing Unit

Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 20 Household Housing Unit

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA) is the principal provider of publicly assisted housing in Norwalk. NHA operates 18 public housing properties with a total of 1,034 units. All units are intended to serve low- and moderate-income households, with 698 units targeting families and 336 units targeting elderly. Additionally, NHA manages 896 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers.

Actions planned during the next year to address the needs to public housing

The NHA is currently in the process of planning the renovation of Colonial Village, a 200 affordable multifamily unit housing development which was originally built in 1952. The development is situated on 25.7 acres of which 7.6 acres are vacant. The redevelopment plan calls for a multiphase effort that when completed will have available 269 affordable units.

Using the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative grant, NHA added 21 project-based vouchers for the Washington Village Development (Soundview Landing is the name of the CNI development) under Phase II, which has now been completed. Soundview Landing has begun development of Phase III, 30 Day Street Buildings D & E. There will be picnic and playground areas with built-in grills. Also to be developed is a Community Room, Fitness Center, Club Room, EnVision Center, a Rooftop Deck and onsite parking that will be available in a garage under the buildings and in a surface lot adjacent to the buildings. Once completed, Soundview Landing will be a 273-unit mixed-income development with 136 units of replacement public housing units, and includes 24 handicap units.

Actions to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership

NHA has a Resident Advisory Board (RAB) to give residents a voice in making recommendations for the development of NHA's Five-Year Plan. Educating residents on the purpose of the RAB and how their feedback will be used to inform planning efforts can help encourage participation. There are currently 19 RAB members. Comments from RAB members and responses from NHA are publicized for transparency.

As part of CNI, NHA plays a vital role in informing residents of Washington Village their right to return to the new development with first priority through public and resident meetings along with partnering with local organizations to provide services related to education, employment, health, and wellness.

The NHA's Section 8 Homeownership program provides eligible Norwalk Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing residents with the opportunity to purchase a home with Section 8 assistance. For first time homebuyers who meet minimum employment, income and financial requirements, and with a mortgage of 20 years or longer, NHA can assist with a portion of the monthly mortgage for 15 years.

If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be

provided or other assistance

N/A. The NHA is not designated as troubled.

Discussion

N/A.

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i)

Introduction

The City of Norwalk does not directly receive Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) or Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds. These funding sources are administered through the Fairfield County Continuum of Care/Opening Doors Fairfield County (ODFC). ODFC coordinates the strategies of homeless prevention, housing, employment, advocacy and services to ensure that episodes of homelessness are rare, brief and non-recurring and that all citizens within the region have access to safe, affordable housing. There are over 150 stakeholders in the region working to end homelessness for all individuals and families in their communities.

The City will continue to support and collaborate with ODFC and homeless housing and service providers to prevent and end homelessness. The initiatives of ODFC are:

- **Ending Chronic Homelessness:** Streamlining and standardizing the housing process to minimize roadblocks for all people experiencing homelessness. A list of persons experiencing homelessness is created and updated continuously and a system of standardized tracking ensures the community's most vulnerable citizens are quickly and efficiently connected with the most appropriate housing options.
- **Project Homeless Connect:** Providing free access to comprehensive health and human services in one location, on one day each year.
- **Annual Point-in-Time Count (PIT):** Each January, Opening Doors of Fairfield County [ODFC] staff and volunteers partner with the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness [CCEH] to conduct a hands-on count of homeless residents located within the Fairfield County region. The annual Point in Time Count is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] to provide a snapshot of homelessness on a single night.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including:

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

ODFC operates the Fairfield County Coordinated Access Network (CAN), providing one point of entry for anyone experiencing a housing crisis by calling 2-1-1. A housing specialist provides referrals to service providers to prevent people from entering the homeless system. In conjunction with a continuously updated list of homeless individuals, CAN uses the Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistant Tool when providing referrals. More commonly referred to as the VI-SPDAT, the tool is an evidenced-based common assessment tool that informs the type of housing intervention needed to end homelessness. The tool assesses the health and service needs of homeless individuals and families, and

guides placements on the Housing Registry.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

There are several emergency shelters and transitional housing units available in Norwalk that help to meet the needs of the homeless in the City.

Domestic violence victims can seek emergency housing at the Domestic Violence Crisis Center's Norwalk SafeHouse which can house individuals and families. Malta House has an emergency residency program that can house single-adult females or families with children. The Family & Children's Agency has several facilities that help with transitional housing for adults and families. Shelter for the Homeless operates the Beacon III/Parkview South shelter which serves single adult males and females. Also, Open Door has several emergency shelters in Norwalk such as Chestnut Housing/Emergency Shelter, 139 South Main Street, 4 Couch Street, Norwalk Housing First, 4 Merrit Street and 137 South Main Street which are all available for all individuals or family types depending on location.

Additionally, counseling, case management, educational opportunities, job training and certification, employment assistance, and supportive housing services are offered at the nearby Smilow Life Center.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

In addition to the services described previously, ODFC provides several intervention services to ensure that individuals experiencing homeless receive stable housing. This includes Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Housing First Collaborative (HFC), and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).

The RRH program provides specific financial assistance according to need and services needed to return people experiencing homelessness to housing. The three components of rapid rehousing include assistance to find housing and placement, time limited rental assistance and case management. The CT Department of Housing funds the CT RRH Program for the Fairfield County CAN region. RRH rental assistance is also funded through HUD Continuum of Care and ESG programming. Veterans are also assisted with RRH programming. In this case, Veterans assisted with RRH are funded through the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF).

HFC immediately moves homeless individuals from the streets or shelters into their own housing units and provides time-limited case management support. This evidence-based national best practice is founded on the principle that one's first and primary need is to obtain stable housing. The Collaborative

utilizes an adapted Critical Time Intervention (CTI) model for providing time-limited case management support.

PSH provides affordable housing and holistic case management services to clients who are at repeated risk of homelessness. Clients live in affordable housing and receive holistic case management services to ensure housing stability.

Other homeless service providers, such as Family & Children's Agency, offer supportive housing programs to help formerly homeless adults learn the skills to maintain housing and independent living through individual case management, educational workshops, and other community-based activities.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.

ODFC conducts a diversion strategy to prevent households from entering a shelter by providing immediate alternate housing arrangements. Diversion assistance includes security deposits, hotel stays, car repair, and transportation costs. These services can be reach through 2-1-1.

ODFC also operates a Food, Fuel and Shelter community. This group consists of staff from governmental agencies and nonprofits involved in providing food, fuel, and shelter services to households impacted by poverty, food insecurity, and homelessness. The primary function of this group is to collaboratively identify service gaps and discuss strategies for solutions addressing homelessness.

The Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA) hosts a family self-sufficient program for their clients to achieve financial stability after leaving public housing. Services include job training, job referrals, resume development, financial literacy and management, credit counselling and repair, homeownership programs, mortgage assistance, higher education, and parenting skills. Participants who see increases in income will be able to save a portion of their rent into an escrow savings account, only to be received after graduating from the program. Participants are also eligible to participate in NHA's Section 8 Homeownership program if they meet eligibility requirements, allow HCV holders to purchase a home with Section 8 assistance. NHA can provide mortgage assistance for up to 15 years.

In addition to the services described previously, Family & Children's Agency participates in the State's Empowering People for Success Program (EPS). The program assists current and past recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) achieve self-reliance and independence. The program consists of three components: prevention services, safety net, and employment success. Prevention services provides program participants who are in jeopardy of losing TANF benefits a second chance based

on Individual Performance Contracts (IPC). Safety net provides financial assistance for up to twelve months participants who have exhausted TANF time limits and cannot receive an extension. Finally, the Employment Success Program assists clients who are receiving benefits for the first time, providing intensive support to eliminate barriers to sustained employment and identify and achieve personal goals.

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)

Introduction:

The City of Norwalk is currently in the process of updating its Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI). The following contributing factors to affordable and fair housing were identified in the most recent draft of the AI: housing cost burden, land use and zoning laws, location and type of affordable housing, lack of access to community assets, and discriminatory practices in the private sector.

Housing cost-burden is the largest barrier to affordable housing in Norwalk, and this issue is particularly disproportionate to LMI households. The City will need to continue working to provide affordable housing opportunities for LMI households. Norwalk intends to use all possible sources of funding and leverage to create and preserve affordable and fair housing.

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment

The City will continue to enforce and expand the workforce housing regulation requires that developments with twenty units or more shall provide a minimum of 10% of the total number of housing units as affordable workforce housing unit. The housing units are deed restricted to remain affordable in perpetuity. Payment in-lieu of affordable housing is offered as an alternative for developers to continue increasing the supply of affordable housing options in Norwalk. Rehabilitation and preservation of existing housing stock will be the primary method of increasing affordable housing supply and choices in Norwalk. NHA will continue to recruit landlords to participate in the Section 8 program, especially in higher opportunity areas, and convert public housing to other forms of affordable housing as necessary to maintain quality homes in the housing inventory.

Following up on improving opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents, Norwalk is also planning to increase accessibility to community assets, particularly regarding transit-oriented development (TOD). TOD efforts in growing areas and centers of employment, such as East Norwalk and along the Merritt Parkway, will increase access to jobs for LMI residents. Additionally, Wheels2U, a free on-demand shuttle service, will be assessed to improve transit options for Norwalk residents. At a grassroots level the City will work to establish neighborhood organizations in areas where they do not exist to help engage residents and local stakeholders.

To address discriminatory behavior, the City will collaborate with the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, local banks, and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority to provide education on fair housing, financial literacy, credit counseling, and foreclosure counseling for all parties involved.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The City of Norwalk has designated the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency (NRA) as the administrator of Norwalk's annual entitlement of CDBG funds. The agency has a mission to improve the physical economic and social environment of the Norwalk Community by serving as the primary governmental organization dedicated to promoting commercial development, to preserving and improving the City's housing stock and to securing and administering the resources required to carry out these goals. As administrator of the CDBG program, the agency is responsible for overall program management, coordination, monitoring, reporting and evaluation. This section provides other actions the NRA will take to address the needs of the community.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

Funding is the main obstacle to meeting underserved needs in the City of Norwalk is the general lack of funds, however the City will address this through partnerships with public service providers. The City encourages applicants to have funding for its program before they apply for CDBG funds, and CDBG funds are used to help leverage more funding streams for subrecipients.

The City of Norwalk will also continue to implement and annually assess its Language Access Plan to assist individuals with limited English proficiency. If there arises the need, the City will make available citizen participation outreach and notices in other languages.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City will continue to work on preserving the affordable housing in Norwalk through its rehab program. In PY 2022, this program will fund local housing service programs and the NRA's rehab program. The NRA rehab program is intended to help finance maintenance, repair, and renovation projects on residential properties primarily occupied by low- or moderate-income households. The fund provides a low interest loan to qualifying applicants citywide, as well as a no interest, forgivable loan for historic properties. A lead safety pamphlet is also distributed to all beneficiaries.

The City will also continue to enforce the workforce housing regulation requires that developments with twenty units or more shall provide a minimum of 10% of the total number of housing units as affordable workforce housing unit. The housing units are deed restricted to remain affordable in perpetuity. Payment in-lieu of affordable housing will be offered as an alternative for developers to continue increasing the supply of affordable housing options in Norwalk.

The City will continue to foster and maintain the affordable housing inventory through various grant programs targeted at low-mod income homeowners and occupants. The Residential Façade Improvement program funded through the before mentioned CNI award introduced several use restrictions via recorded grant agreements that will continue to be used. By providing grant assistance to low-mod

homeowners and low-mod occupied units the City is able to fund critical repairs, prevent the deterioration of low-mod housing units and neighborhoods, and increase affordability of homeownership. Typical use restrictions include income eligibility restrictions for purchase of units, maximum rent restrictions, maximum selling prices to insure affordability and income restricted rental units.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The Norwalk Health Department will continue to conduct lead poisoning prevention and control efforts through its Housing Program. The Housing Section uses trained and certified staff to conduct epidemiological investigations and lead inspections. As part of routine housing code inspections or as a result of a complaint investigation, the Health Department will also conduct lead inspections in homes where children younger than 6 years old reside and provide educational material about lead upon request. NHA and NRA will actively address lead-based paint hazards when carrying out housing rehabilitation and renovation activities, such as in South Norwalk and Wall Street. A lead safety pamphlet is also distributed to all beneficiaries of the Residential Improvement Program.

Residents with lead-based paint hazards are also provided with information on Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes program. Healthy Homes seeks to improve the well-being of children by providing families with a team of licensed and certified experts to assess homes and develop a scope of work to address housing related health hazards, such as lead based paint. Families looking to utilize the Healthy Homes program receive referrals via the NRA, which helps to expedite their application and review.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The activities planned in this PY 2022 AAP work directly to reduce the number of poverty-level families in Norwalk. Public services are targeted towards low- to moderate-income households to directly improve their quality of life, public facilities and infrastructure improvements help to revitalize low/mod income areas and invite further investments into the area and affordable housing activities such as the housing rehab program will help to maintain housing from falling into conditions that might lead to homelessness.

The City of Norwalk's poverty reducing goals, programs and policies aim to increase the incomes of City residents and reduce the number of people who are living in poverty by moving them toward self-sufficiency. Increased income makes housing more affordable by reducing housing cost burden and by increasing the number of people who can afford to purchase or rent units produced by the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative and NRA's housing rehabilitation and new construction programs. The Norwalk Housing Authority helps residents receiving housing assistance transition to independently maintaining their homes through their family self-sufficiency and educational programs. The activities identified in this plan directly work to reduce the number of poverty level families in Norwalk.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City of Norwalk will continue to collaborate with human and social service agencies and the

Continuum of Care to identify potential resources for meeting the service needs of City residents. The City will support the efforts of service agencies to obtain any available resources. The City will also continue to support and encourage the development of new affordable housing units.

Each year the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency announces a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), which outlines the application process for funding through the City's CDBG program. Through this process, potential new and existing subrecipients are informed about the eligible activities and uses of funds. Technical assistance is provided for funded programs, and through this process service providers gain a greater capacity to meet performance goals and succeed in meeting the needs of citizens in Norwalk.

Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies

As part of City Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI), a supportive services plan is being implemented to help residents attain greater self-sufficiency, maintain housing as the area undergoes changes, and bridge opportunities. Collaboration between service providers from a wide variety of sectors is necessary to successfully execute this plan. Supportive services include:

- Education services to support early childhood development through adult career advancement
- Employment services to provide individual assessments, training opportunities, and workforce readiness preparation
- Affordable health and wellness services through routine checkups, specialty service referrals, and assistance with everyday necessities (food, housewares, clothing, utilities, etc.)
- Relocation services accommodating displaced residents while their new housing is being developed

Additionally, many public service activities expanding economic opportunities and increasing access to social services through CDBG funds will efficiently leverage dollars through collaboration and referrals. These public service activities work to improve opportunities for vulnerable populations by providing necessary housing, education, and job opportunities to obtain and maintain future permanent housing.

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(I)(1,2,4)

Introduction:

This section provides the program specific requirements for the CDBG program.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	\$160,000
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	\$160,000

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	100.00%