



**CITY OF MOUNT VERNON
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
Agenda
February 17, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
(Virtual Meeting)**

*The Mount Vernon City Councilmembers will be participating
in this meeting via video/teleconference technology.*

To virtually attend the meeting, the public may:

1. **Call the conference line:** 1-888-924-9240; Access Code: 3366211 (please 'mute' your phone, if possible, to minimize distractions)
2. **Watch the meeting live on TV10:** Comcast/Xfinity Channel 10
3. **Watch the meeting live, online:**
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUob_hcQUmd4S93YkletdrA

A. Proposed Uses of CDBG-CV3 Funds (COVID Relief)

(Staff will lead a discussion: The City of Mount Vernon has been allocated CDBG-CV3 funds in the amount of \$262,227. The purpose of these Federal CARES Act Funds – Made available through the Department of Housing and Urban Development – is to provide relief for impacts experienced by the COVID-19 Pandemic.)

(required action – none)

(staff contact – Peter Donovan)

B. Development Services Committee Update

- International Code Commission (ICC) Update
- GIS Map Tools Demo

C. For the Good of the Order

- Consent Agenda Discussion
- Railroad Quiet Zones
- Equity Workshops



DATE: February 17, 2021
TO: Mayor Boudreau and City Council
FROM: Peter Donovan, Project Development Manager
SUBJECT: CDBG-CV3 FUNDING USES

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

None

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The City of Mount Vernon is a HUD CDBG grantee. The Federal CARES Act of March 2020 made available \$5 billion in CDBG Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds. Of this amount, the Department immediately allocated \$2 billion for the first round of funding. Mount Vernon's share of that \$2 billion was approximately \$225,000; of which the City provided half for small business assistance, and half for eviction prevention (rental support). The second round of federal CARES Act funding (CDBG-CV2), totaling \$1 billion, was allocated to states, not municipalities. And of the remaining \$2 billion (CDBG-CV3), the City of Mount Vernon has been allocated \$262,227. This discussion will focus on the City's proposed plan to utilize this most recent allocation for the purpose of partnering cooperatively with other government and community agencies, for the benefit and support of low to moderate income residents.

FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS:

Community Action of Skagit County (CASC) is providing motel vouchers to homeless individuals who would otherwise be unable to utilize congregate shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, CASC is assisting over 30 families in this motel shelter program. Of those families, CASC estimates that 70% are individuals/households who would typically recognize Mount Vernon as their primary city of residence. The expense of sheltering all of these Skagit families for the remainder of the winter months will be approximately \$185,000. 70% (the proportionate amount of Mount Vernon residents assisted) equates to approximately \$130,000.

The City of Burlington is currently planning a shelter project that could provide 40 additional beds for the County's homeless population. A number of those who would be served by this shelter are residents

of Mount Vernon who are experiencing homelessness. The shelter provides individual living spaces that give residents protection from the threat of the spread of the COVID-19 virus. These living spaces, called pallet shelters, or tiny homes; cost approximately \$5,000-\$7,000 each.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Council approve a plan for CDBG-CV3 funding in the amount of \$262,227; to be allocated to the following organizations:

Community Action of Skagit County: \$130,000

--\$117,000 for motel vouchers;

--\$ 13,000 for administrative costs.

This allocation would assist residents experiencing homelessness through the remaining winter months, when the City of Burlington will be closer to operating new shelter services.

City of Mount Vernon: \$132,227

--\$120,000 for pallet shelters, to be loaned to the City of Burlington;

--\$ 12,227 for administrative expenses.

ATTACHED:

None