

Community Development Citizen Advisory Committee (CDCAC) Meeting
Wednesday January 3, 2018
2100 Clarendon Blvd – Courthouse Plaza
Azalea Room

Members Present: Zachary Butler, Kenneth Robinson, Lara Malakoff, Larry Withers, Rosemary Leffler, Steven Gallagher, Larry Withers, Tim Denning

Staff Present: Caitlin Jones, Jennifer Daniels

Members of the Public: Fikru Abebe, Aleksandr Belinskiy

Tim Denning, CDCAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

1. *Public Comment*

Aleksandr Belinskiy commented that the County needs to implement a Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, in accordance with requirements from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Mr. Belinskiy also commented that CDCAC should have greater representation from low-income neighborhoods, in particular the neighborhood of Westover.

2. *FY 2019 Annual Action Plan Public Hearing*

A public hearing on the FY 2019 Annual Action Plan was held to solicit feedback on the needs of low- and moderate-income households in Arlington County. The Annual Action Plan is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) required document that describes federal grant allocations, objectives, activities, and performance measures for goals identified in the 5-Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2016-2020 related to affordable housing, homelessness, community development, citizen participation and institutional structure.

Fikru Abebe, representing the ECDC Enterprise Development Group (EDG), was the only member of the public present. Mr. Abebe commented that it is increasingly difficult for Arlington's low-income individuals to access to capital to start small businesses and that wages for lower income earners are generally stagnant. He also commented that it would be helpful to have a better understanding of the 7.5% of Arlingtonians that are currently living in poverty – more specifically, where are they and what are their needs. Mr. Abebe noted that EDG is interested in playing a greater role in changing the lives of those living in poverty.

3. *Approval of Minutes*

The minutes from the September 6, 2017 CDCAC meeting were approved unanimously.

4. *FY 2019 CD Fund Budget Recommendations*

County Staff reviewed FY 2019 Community Development Fund budget recommendations and asked for direction from CDCAC. Staff explained that due to a recent suspension of the ADU buyback program, CDBG program income will be considerably lower than previously projected. In the past, program income has allowed the County to allocate around \$100,000 more in public service funds than the County is able to allocate in FY 2019. Therefore, staff had to make some tough funding decisions for FY 2019. Staff walked CDCAC members through the changes, and members were generally supportive of the funding adjustments.

Given that the County Manger's budget recommendations had not yet been released, CDCAC did not feel comfortable making a recommendation of support for the Community Development Fund budget. CDCAC will consider recommending support for the FY 2019 budget at the March meeting, once budget recommendations have been released.

5. *Chair's Report:*

Tim Denning reported that he participated in liaison meeting with Libby Garvey and other Commission representatives. At the meeting, Tim discussed pressures related to the Federal budget and the tough decisions that CDCAC and ultimately the Board will have to make related to grant funding for CD Fund subrecipients. Ms. Garvey was interested in finding a solution if Federal funding is reduced or eliminated.

6. *Staff Report:*

Jennifer Daniels reported that the County is embarking on regional assessment of fair housing (AFH), a process required by HUD, which will detail how the County is going to assess fair housing regionally and locally.

7. *Member Reports:*

No member reports

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm. Next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30pm at 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Room 311.