



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

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City of Newton, Massachusetts
Department of Planning and Development
1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Barney S. Heath
Director

December 21, 2017

TO: Interested Individuals, Groups, and Agencies
FR: Rachel Powers, Community Development Programs Manager
RE: Notice of Environmental Review Findings and Intent to Request the Release of Funds

The City of Newton, on behalf of its Housing and Community Development Program, part of the Planning and Development Department, has completed an environmental review record for the following project that is proposed for funding with CDBG and HOME funds:

Project Title:	236 Auburn Street/CAN-DO
For the Purpose Of:	Mortgage buydown, partial demolition, relocation and historic restoration of a nineteenth century house and the new construction of a two-family modular duplex to create 3 units of affordable rental housing for low-to-moderate income families; and the new construction of a modular five bedroom congregate house for adults with severe disabilities. The historic single family home will front on Auburn Street, with the duplex unit located directly behind the historic house, and the congregate facility located at the rear of the lot.
Location:	236 Auburn Street, Newton, MA
Estimated CDBG Funding:	\$1,020,000
Estimated HOME Funding:	\$447,900
Estimated non-HUD Funding:	\$2,087,695

On December 21, 2017, the City drafted a combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact on the Environment and Intent to Request Release of Funds for this project. Enclosed is a copy of the combined notice. Please post this notice in a public location. Written comments will be accepted by the City of Newton Planning and Development Department until 5 p.m. on January 8, 2018. The City of Newton will then submit the notice to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which will accept public comment for fifteen days following the submission date.

Questions or comments related to the environmental review process and record may be directed to this office by mail or fax or via e-mail at rpowers@newtonma.gov.

Enclosure

**LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

December 21, 2017
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459
617-796-1125

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Newton.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about January 9, 2018 the City of Newton will submit a request to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of *Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)* funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and *HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)* Funds under Title II of the Cranston Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended, to undertake a project known as:

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For the Purpose Of:	Mortgage buydown, partial demolition, relocation and historic restoration of a nineteenth century house and the new construction of a two-family modular duplex to create 3 units of affordable rental housing for low-to-moderate income families; and the new construction of a modular five bedroom congregate house for adults with severe disabilities. The historic single family home will front on Auburn Street, with the duplex unit located directly behind the historic house, and the congregate facility located at the rear of the lot.
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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Newton has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at City of Newton, Planning Department, Housing and Community Development Program, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton MA 02459 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:30 A.M to 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Newton Housing and Community Development Program. All comments received by January 8, 2018 will be considered by the City of Newton prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing. Comments should be directed to:

Rachel Powers, Community Development Programs Manager
Newton Housing and Community Development Program
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459-1449
Email:rpowers@newtonma.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Newton certifies to HUD that Barney Heath in his capacity as Director of the Department of Planning and Development consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Newton to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Newton certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Newton; (b) the City of Newton has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD at Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02222. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Rachel Powers
Community Development Programs Manager