



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

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

Barney S. Heath
Director

February 12, 2020

TO: Interested Individuals, Groups, and Agencies
FR: Tiffany Leung, Community Development Planner
RE: Notice of Intent to Request the Release of Funds

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

Project Title:	FY20 Park Pathway Installation
For the Purpose Of:	Creation of accessible paths from the park entrance to park amenities at six sites.
Locations:	Auburndale Cove, West Pine Street Countryside School, 191 Dedham Street Franklin School, 125 Derby Street Upper Falls Playground, 1146 Chestnut Street Weeks Field, 31 Locksley Road West Newton Commons, Elm Street
Estimated CDBG Funding:	\$30,500
Estimated non-HUD Funding:	\$0

The City drafted a Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds for this project. Enclosed is a copy of the 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 February 22nd, 2020. 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 tleung@newtonma.gov

Enclosure

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

February 12, 2020

Newton Housing and Community Development Program
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459-1449
(617) 796-1120

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST THE RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about February 24, 2020, the Newton Housing and Community Development Program will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the project known as:

Project Title:	FY20 Park Pathway Installation
For the Purpose Of:	Creation of accessible paths from the park entrance to park amenities at six sites.
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Estimated non-HUD Funding:	\$0

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Newton Housing and Community Development Program, Planning and Development Department, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459-1449 and may be examined or copied weekdays from 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 Newton Housing and Community Development Program, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459-1449. All comments received by February 22, 2020 will be considered by the Newton Housing and Community Development Program prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing. Comments should be directed to:

Tiffany Leung, Community Development Planner
Newton Housing and Community Development Program
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459-1449
Email: tleung@newtonma.gov

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Newton certifies to HUD that Barney Heath, in his capacity 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 Newton Housing and Community Development Program to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Newton's 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, MA; (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 Director, Office of Community Planning and Development, HUD, 10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02222-1092. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.