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City Clerk



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

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By City Clerk at 3:14 pm, May 23, 2016

City of Newton, Massachusetts

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

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(617) 796-1120
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(617) 796-1142
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(617) 796-1089
www.newtonma.gov

James Freas
Interim Director

May 23, 2016

Ms. Nathalie Jean
Town of Framingham
Department of Planning and Economic Development
150 Concord Street, Room B2
Framingham, MA 01702

Dear Nathalie:

Enclosed is the completed and signed Environmental Review Clearance Form for Tribune Apartments.

I have also enclosed the Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI/RROF) and Memo for Interested Individuals. A copy of this notice needs to be posted at Town Hall, Framingham Library and the Tribune Apartments for the duration of the 10-day comment period (May 23, 2016 – June 6, 2016). The notice should also be sent to other interested parties such as the Town Planner, local historic commission, local officials etc. Please have each location date stamp and initial the NOI/RROF as proof of posting and document your transmission to other interested parties (copy of email, etc.).

As required by HUD regulations, I have also sent a copy of the notice the EPA Regional Administrator, MA DEP Administrator and Martha Curran, HUD Boston's Environmental Field Officer. I've also enclosed the memorandum I am sending out to these agencies with the NOI.

Once the comment period ends the project owner will need to sign the Request for Release of Funds and Certification form and submit to me for final submission of the RROF to HUD.

Feel free to contact me by telephone or email if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Liz Valenta

Cc: James Freas, Interim Director City of Newton Planning and Development Department
Cory Fellows, Preservation of Affordable Housing, Inc.

Enclosures



Setti D. Warren
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May 23, 2016

TO: Interested Individuals, Groups, and Agencies
FR: Liz Valenta, Housing Program Manager
RE: Notice of Environmental Review Findings

The City of Newton, on behalf of the WestMetro Consortium, has completed an environmental review record for the following project that is proposed for funding with HOME funds:

Project Title: Tribune Apartments
For the Purpose Of: Moderate rehabilitation of occupied 53-unit elderly housing development. All units are affordable and assisted by a Section 8 contract.
Location: 46 Irving Street, Framingham, MA 01702
Estimated HOME Funding: \$179,022.89 from the WestMetro HOME Consortium
Estimated non-HUD Funding: \$40,917,774

On May 23, 2016, the City drafted a combined Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI/RROF) for this project. Enclosed is a copy of the combined notice. Written comments will be accepted by the City of Newton Planning and Development Department until 5 p.m. on June 6, 2016. The City 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 via e-mail at evalenta@newtonma.gov.

Enclosure

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

May 23, 2016

City of Newton, Planning and Development Department
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton MA 02459-1449
(617) 796-1145

On or about **June 6, 2016** 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 **HOME Investment Partnership Program** funds under Title II of the **Cranston Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990**, as amended, to undertake a project known as:

Project Title:	Tribune Apartments
For the Purpose Of:	Moderate rehabilitation of occupied 53-unit elderly housing development. All units are affordable and assisted by a Section 8 contract.
Location:	46 Irving Street, Framingham, MA
Estimated HOME Funding:	\$179,022.89
Estimated non-HUD Funding:	\$14,535,000

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at both the City of Newton Planning and Development Department, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton MA 02459; Contact Liz Valenta 617-796-1145 or Town of Framingham, 150 Concord St., Suite B3 Framingham, MA 01702; Contact Nathalie Jean (508) 532-5457 and may be examined or copied weekdays from 9:00 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. All comments received by June 6, 2016 will be considered prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing. Comments should be directed to: Liz Valenta, Planning and Development Department

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Newton certifies to HUD that James Freas in his capacity as Acting Director 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.