



CITY OF BRUNSWICK

601 Gloucester Street * Post Office Box 550 * Brunswick * Georgia * 31520-0550 * (912) 267-5500

Cosby H. Johnson, Mayor
Felicia M. Harris, Mayor Pro Tem
Kendra L. Rolle, Commissioner
Lance Sabbe, Commissioner
Gwen Atkinson-Williams, Commissioner

City Attorney
Brian D. Corry

City Manager
Regina M. McDuffie

CDBG 1st Public Needs Hearing Summary February 27, 2024

Date: February 27, 2024

Time: 10:00 am

Host: Dina Carter

Purpose: To provide the public and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with a detailed plan for utilizing its annual allocation and to gather feedback from stakeholders.

City of Brunswick Representatives Present: The Department of Neighborhood and Community Services: David Bravo, Dina Carter, Meizi Wolven

Number of Participants: 13

Participants:

Dottie Bromley: Glynn Community Crisis Center/Amity House

Leslie Hartman: Safe Harbor, Executive Director

Jeff Clark: Safe Harbor, Street Outreach Director

Jim Kielt: Golden Isles Veterans Village, Director

Vanessa Booker: Roosevelt Lawrence Community Center, Director

Shawn Williams: Coastal Outreach Soccer, Executive Director

Allen Booker: Rebuilding Together of Glynn County, Executive Director

Jean DeMello

Donna King: Senior Project Manager, Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc

Elianne Daou: Housing & Community Development Specialist, Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc

Dina began the meeting by introducing herself, David Bravo, and Meizi Wolven. She shared their contact information in the chat box and asked all the participants to introduce themselves by listing their names and organizations in the chat box. Dina requested that the participants hold off on asking questions until the end of the presentation. However, if anyone had immediate questions or comments during the presentation, Dina encouraged them to raise their hands.



CITY OF BRUNSWICK

601 Gloucester Street * Post Office Box 550 * Brunswick * Georgia * 31520-0550 * (912) 267-5500

Cosby H. Johnson, Mayor
Felicia M. Harris, Mayor Pro Tem
Kendra L. Rolle, Commissioner
Lance Sabbe, Commissioner
Gwen Atkinson-Williams, Commissioner

City Attorney
Brian D. Corry

City Manager
Regina M. McDuffie

Summary:

Dina presented the **FY 2024-2025 CDBG Action Plan**, the fifth and final year of the five-year cycle. The funding for the FY2024-2025 allocation is approximately **\$412,000** from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

Dina explained that the City of Brunswick is entitled to receive funding from the CDBG without competing with other cities. As an entitlement city, the City of Brunswick describes to the public every year how it intends to spend its annual allocation.

The finance committee will review the proposed budget, which will then be approved by the City of Brunswick Commissioners. The budget is divided into **six sections**, namely Housing Rehabilitation, Public Facilities, Public Services, Demolition, Fair Housing Education & Outreach, and Planning & Administration of the CDBG program. Dina provided a detailed introduction to each of these **six sections**.

- **Planning and administration allocation: \$45,000.**

This section covers the administrative expenses, such as salaries and equipment. It is far below the actual amount it should be allocated.

- **Housing Rehabilitation (Minor/Major Home Repair) allocation: \$219,000.**

The section is designed to assist low to moderate-income homeowners living in Brunswick with repairs needed to sustain their homes.

The Department of Neighborhood and Community aims to assist as many applicants as possible instead of using the entire allocation on one or two homes. In the fiscal year 2023-2024, the department has completed repairs on 9 homes by stretching the allocation. During a presentation, Dina shared several examples of how satisfied clients are with this program.

Dina briefly introduced the program process. For this program, the contractor will assess applicants' homes and decide which repairs are necessary.



CITY OF BRUNSWICK

601 Gloucester Street * Post Office Box 550 * Brunswick * Georgia * 31520-0550 * (912) 267-5500

Cosby H. Johnson, Mayor
Felicia M. Harris, Mayor Pro Tem
Kendra L. Rolle, Commissioner
Lance Sabbe, Commissioner
Gwen Atkinson-Williams, Commissioner

City Attorney
Brian D. Corry

City Manager
Regina M. McDuffie

- **Public Services allocation: \$60,000.**

This section is for non-profit organizations that serve low and moderate-income individuals residing in Brunswick, including seniors, children/youth, and homeless people.

Every year, 5-6 non-profit organizations receive funding. Dina encouraged organizations to join the stakeholder list to receive notifications when the grant window opens.

In addition, she emphasized the application process. Since the grant operates on a reimbursement basis, the organization must submit quarterly reports to receive the award. These reports should include information regarding the services provided and the number of people served per quarter.

Dina provided examples of non-profit organizations that have been awarded: Coastal Outreach Soccer, Foster Love Ministries, Safe Harbor, Roosevelt Lawrence Community Youth Center, Rebuilding Together of Glynn, and Golden Isles Veterans Village

- **Public Facilities allocation: \$26,000**

This section also assists non-profit organizations with any type of public infrastructure projects, such as sidewalks, fences, repaving parking lots, and water and sewage issues. Typically, one public facility is awarded each year, and the process is the same as that of Public Services.

Dina mentioned several projects, including a roof project at a senior center and a sidewalk project at Palmetto Square. The most recent project is a secure fence project for the Golden Isles Village Veterans, which is still in progress.

- **Demolition: uninhabitable allocation: \$60,000**

This section aims to remove and prevent the spread of slums and blight, such as uninhabitable properties. The Department of Neighborhood and Community addresses 4 houses or more every year.



CITY OF BRUNSWICK

601 Gloucester Street * Post Office Box 550 * Brunswick * Georgia * 31520-0550 * (912) 267-5500

Cosby H. Johnson, Mayor
Felicia M. Harris, Mayor Pro Tem
Kendra L. Rolle, Commissioner
Lance Sabbe, Commissioner
Gwen Atkinson-Williams, Commissioner

City Attorney
Brian D. Corry

City Manager
Regina M. McDuffie

For this section, applicants are required to come to the office to apply for the program. The Department of Neighborhood and Community works closely with Code Enforcement to ensure that all the necessary requirements are met. Homeowners should also be aware of the lien process. Dina showed several examples of demolished houses to provide a better understanding of the program.

- **Fair housing education and outreach allocation: \$2,000**

The Housing and Urban Department requires this section to inform people about the fair housing laws that can protect them.

Dina reiterated that the proposed budget allocation for **FY 2024-2025** is tentatively set at **\$412,000**.

Dina opened the floor for questions and comments after the completion of the presentation.

Questions and Comments:

- Mr. Jim Kielt, director of Golden Isles Veterans Village, expressed concerns about houses on G Street, adjacent to Golden Isles Veterans Village. Dina confirmed they could contact Code Enforcement, and the Demolish Program is available to the public.
- The second question was regarding the application for public services and public facilities. Dina confirmed that the online application window for this fiscal year (between February 12th and 26th) has closed, but it will reopen at the beginning of next year for FY2025-2026. Also, the Department of Neighborhood and Community will post the application window on the website.

Before finishing the meeting, Dina emphasized **the following points**:

- The Department of Neighborhood and Community encourages more comments and feedback so that can share with commissioners. Also, all the stakeholders are welcome to join the commissioner's meetings to address their concerns and comments.



CITY OF BRUNSWICK

601 Gloucester Street * Post Office Box 550 * Brunswick * Georgia * 31520-0550 * (912) 267-5500

Cosby H. Johnson, Mayor
Felicia M. Harris, Mayor Pro Tem
Kendra L. Rolle, Commissioner
Lance Sabbe, Commissioner
Gwen Atkinson-Williams, Commissioner

City Attorney
Brian D. Corry

City Manager
Regina M. McDuffie

- The Department of Neighborhood and Community will host the second public hearing and notify the stakeholders by email. The budget will be approved at this meeting.
- Dina suggested that stakeholders visit the website, which contains a lot of useful information, such as the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). This report can give them an idea of how the city of Brunswick spends the CDBG funding and what it plans to do with it.
- The recording of this public hearing will be posted on the City of Brunswick's website.

Adjournment: at about 10:45 am