

Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and
Notice of Intent to Request a Release of Funds

Publication Date: April 12, 2020
Responsible Entity: City of Portsmouth, VA
Address: 801 Crawford Street
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704
Telephone: 757-393-8836

Request for Release of Funds

On or about April 28, 2020, the City of Portsmouth will submit a request to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Richmond Field Office for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 for the following projects:

Mt. Hermon Park - reconstruction of a 70,617 square foot neighborhood park at 901 Florida Ave. The project includes demolition and reconstruction in the same footprint of a 96 foot by 52 foot basketball court, reconstruction in the same footprint of a 6 space parking lot, moving a play structure, adding storm pipes and site grading to support positive drainage, adding sidewalks, fencing, and completing ADA improvements, approximate cost \$450,000.

Playground Equipment – installation of playground equipment at 2 public housing developments including Dale Homes 2300 Columbus Ave. and Swanson Homes 1746 South St. The equipment consists of a variety of play equipment covering up to about 5,000 sq. ft. It will be anchored in the ground at depths of 18 inches to four feet depending on weight requirements. All equipment is galvanized steel dipped in powder coat. The ground will be covered in engineered wood fiber compacted to 12 inches, approximate cost \$62,000.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The City of Portsmouth has determined that the projects 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).

Other Projects

In addition to the projects noted above, on or about the above referenced date, the City of Portsmouth will submit a request to HUD for the release of CDBG funds to undertake the following projects which are Categorically Excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from NEPA requirements:

City Park Bridges – 5 Cpl J. M. Williams Avenue. Remove and replace 3 pedestrian bridges. The pedestrian bridges include a two 7 foot wide by 42 foot long bridges and one 8 foot wide by 42 foot long bridge. The replacement bridges will be the same size and in the same footprint, approximate cost \$200,000.

CDBG Home Repair Program – use of funds to assist with rehabilitation and accessibility assistance to qualified homeowners City-wide, approximate cost \$125,000.

Record Availability

Additional project information is contained in the ERR. The ERR will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by US mail. Please submit your request by US mail to the City of Portsmouth Planning Department, 801 Crawford St., Portsmouth, VA 23704, attn.: Community Development Manager or by email to crimerj@portsmouthva.gov. The ERR can be accessed online at <https://www.portsmouthva.gov/395/Community-Planning-Development-Program>.

Public Comments

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with the City of Portsmouth's determinations or wishing to comment on the projects may submit written comments to the City of Portsmouth Planning Department, 801 Crawford Street, 4th Floor, Portsmouth, VA 23704, attn.: Mr. Jeffrey Crimer. All comments received by April 27 2020, will be considered by the City of Portsmouth prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

Release of Funds

The City of Portsmouth certifies to HUD that Dr. L. Pettis Patton, in her capacity as the City Manager 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 Portsmouth to use program funds.

Objections to Release of Funds

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Portsmouth's certification received by May 15, 2020 or for a period of 15 days following 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 or his designee as approved by HUD; (b) the City 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 project have committed funds, incurred costs, or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; (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 via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD Richmond Field Office at robin.wilder@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD Richmond at robin.wilder@hud.gov to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Dr. L. Pettis Patton
City Manager