



**Public Hearing on the City's FY 2020-2021
Annual Action Plan and Substantial Amendments
and CARES Funding Virtual Meeting
June 1, 2020**

CHAT Questions & Responses

Comments from Commissioner Young:

I just want to thank everybody who was on the call from our community partners to the City staff who always do a wonderful job. We look forward to having these funds and programs that will assist our community in recovering from the COVID crisis and also helping us move forward and making our community just better overall. Two suggestions I would have is to make sure we are making these very important slides with this information also available to the public. So, whenever we can, let's try to have our people maybe submit an email where we can just you know email the slides after this is over with. It is a lot of information. I have been taking some notes, but I would just like to have these slides where I can make sure that I did not miss anything. I just want to say thank you to Mrs. Hawkins and Mrs. Brown and all of the other ladies down in Community and Economic Development and we appreciate your work.

Response from DCED Director, Shelena Hawkins:

We do want to let you know that the slide presentation as well as the audio of the presentation will again be posted to our website and I would like to explain the process. Once we have the expiration of our comment period which is June 8th, it is our intent no later than June 10th to submit the various plans to HUD for review and approval. HUD has advised us that they will have an expeditious turnaround with review of the substantial amendment to allow us to go to the next step which is for the City to receive its grant agreements for review and signature. Upon receipt of the grant agreements and the signature (the executed agreement) and after the completion of the environmental review for the various activities, then the city will be given the go ahead to begin the initiation of the program. So, it is my hope that no later than mid-June or certainly earlier than that, we will be able to start with implementation of our programs.

Question from Commissioner Young:

I do know that a number of businesses are awaiting the Small Business Program. Is there any way we can get an update to social media as to when we can anticipate when the program will be up and running?

Response from DCED Director, Shelena Hawkins:

I can speak to your question as it relates to the timeframe of the submittal of the documents and approval and Phyllis can provide additional information about the program. As part of the receipt of the CARES funding, we will have to wait until the comment period ends which is June 8th. Then we will have to wait until we receive approval from HUD as well as our grant agreements. So, I am anticipating that we will have navigated the various channels of approvals by mid-June. Again, HUD did not advise as to a particular timeframe but they did indicate that they are awaiting the City's submission to do their approval and expedite it through the various chains. Once HUD issues the City's grant agreements for review and execution, we will be able to officially proceed with our activities to include the Small Business Assistance Program.

Response from DCED Deputy Director, Phyllis C. Brown:

Shelena you are exactly right. Once we get the approval from HUD, we can proceed because we already have everything in place. We are just waiting on the green light from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The application itself will be available online. At that time, we will publish the link on our website as well as on social media. As I mentioned during my presentation, you will need to send me or Barbara Francis an email and put Small Business Relief Program as the subject matter of the email. I will be housing those email inquiries electronically. So, as I get specific information about webinar dates as well as when the program itself will be available online, I will be sharing that information via email as well as through our website and social media.