

**MINUTES
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
PUBLIC HEARING
JULY 31, 2018**

The City of Pharr's Community Development Council held a public hearing/meeting for the purpose of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the City of Pharr's One Year Action Plan for the 2018-2019 CDBG Program Year.

Council Members present:

Jose G. Rodriguez
Ruben Solis
Rafael Rivera
Danny Smith
Lucio Gaitan
Marco Gonzalez
Joe Hinojosa

Council Members Absent:

Sally Saucedo
Rene Cantu
Belia Garcia

Staff Present: Raul Garza, Director
Santiago Salinas, Program Manager
Sonia Barajas, Secretary

Public Present: see attached roster

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A) ROLL CALL AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE EXCUSING OF ANY ABSENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD.

Chairman Danny Smith called the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

Mr. Lucio Gaitan moved to excuse the absent members. Mr. Marco Gonzalez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

2. Public Comments:

Raul Garza, GMCD Director gave a brief description of the process of the 15-Day Comment Period and the purpose of the public hearing, being that City Commission did changes on the previous recommendations for the Action Plan 2018. City Commission reallocated the monies from Boys and Girls Club to the Jones Box Park Improvements Phase III and in the best interest of the Public, another public hearing needed to be done for citizen participation in regards to this matter. Comments were as follow:

Binda Rathore, resident of Pharr, a Nurse and Single Mom of two small children that attends the boys and girls club, spoke about the boys and girls club, she continued by saying her daughter excelled very much in her school, she asked the board to reconsider the funding for this program, The Club does an excellent job in Helping with homework, doing different activities and feeding the children.

Christian Gonzalez, member of the Boys and Girls Club for 5 years, spoke about the cutting of funds the City Commission and the Mayor made reallocating the monies to a City Department which he believes they receive reasonable amount from the city. Mr. Gonzales stated: "how can anyone take away funding from a non-profit organization that serves the youth of the community, if this continues, there might not be any help for programs such as: Home Work Help, Arts and Crafts, Computer Lab, Physical Education and much more. Those programs help the youth and teens

guiding them to become productive, responsible and caring individuals. He asked the board to convince the commission to fund this organization, a place he considers "Safe Haven" to the majority of kids who comes from different backgrounds but there all are equal, also this club is like home to more than 1,000 members ages 5-18 years old".

Alfredo Mata Jr., Boys and Girls Club Director. Mr. Mata thanked the board for the opportunity to talk. He spoke about the "cut" and the impact that will cause to the club, meaning they will have to serve less kids, it will be less programs and less supplies. Mr. Mata asked the board to please reconsider and keep funding the Boys and Girls Club. He also thanked the board for all the funds from previous years.

Maria Isabel Guevara, resident of Pharr and single mother of 5 children. Her comments were, for 11 years her kids attended the boys and girls club and is very happy how the club teach them good manners and lead them be good citizens. The club helps them in different ways, physical activities, homework and she's asking the board to please keep funding them.

Graciela de Hoyos, resident of Pharr. Ms. De Hoyos voiced her concern about the cut of the funds for the program. She said her kids have improve in school with all the programs they have, to please reconsider and keep funding the Boys and Girls Club.

3. Public Hearing:

- A) Public participation and comments concerning community needs and priorities for the development of the One Year Action Plan 2018. Comments were as follow:

Mr. Garza said, all the public comments will be consider as part of the public hearing and will forward all the comments to HUD as part of the 15-Day Comment Period, and will also forward the comments to the city council for consideration.

- B) Public participation and comments on the Substantial Amendment on the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan 2013-2017 to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Comments were as follow:

4. Administrative:

Approval of minutes for June 28, 2018 Meeting.

Mr. Rodriguez moved to approve the minutes seconded by Mr. Gaitan and when put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Adjourn:

There being no other business, Chairman Danny Smith entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Solis moved to adjourn Mr. Rivera seconded the motion and when to put to a vote, the motion carried unanimously. Public Hearing adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Danny Smith, Chairman

Ruben Solis, Secretary

CITY OF PHARR, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

CDBG PUBLIC WORKSHOP JULY 31, 2018

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