

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

DATE: August 9, 2010

GRANTEE NAME: Millcreek Township
c/o Erie County Department of Planning

ADDRESS: Erie County Department of Planning, Room 111
Erie County Court House
140 West 6th Street
Erie, PA 16501

TELEPHONE: (814) 451-6016

To All Interested Agencies, Groups and Persons:

On or about August 31, 2010, the County of Erie, on behalf of Millcreek Township, will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following project:

Project Name: Highland Park Neighborhood Improvement Project

Project Number: (B-10-MC-42-01097)

Project Information: CDBG funds in the amount of approximately \$200,000 will provide for improvements to Highland Park and adjacent areas in Millcreek Township. Highland Park is a boulevard located on West 22nd Street (north and south) between Evanston Avenue and Lowell Avenue. The park is approximately 2 acres in size and was established as a neighborhood park in 1978. It is one of 14 such parks in the Township. The park has no amenities other than a scattering of trees. The streets surrounding the park are in disrepair and there are no curbs or sidewalks.

The proposed park/neighborhood improvements will consist of the following:

- reconstruction of West 22nd Street (north and south) from Lowell Avenue to Evanston Avenue,
- reconstruction of Lowell Avenue and Evanston Avenue, West 22nd Street to West 23rd Street,
- construction of curbs and sidewalks around the park,
- construction of ADA accessible curb-cut ramps at corners of the park,
- placement of picnic tables, benches and trash receptacles inside the park

The overall improvements will enhance the appearance of the neighborhood. Specifically, street reconstruction will improve safety and travel convenience; curbing around the park will prohibit cars from pulling into the park as well as assist with drainage; the 5- foot wide sidewalks encircling the park, including curb-cut ramps at corners, will provide ease of access for pedestrians including those in wheelchairs; and park benches, trash receptacles and picnic tables will make the park more user friendly.

Funding of the project will address the following two Community Development Needs – *Recreation*: Improvement of Parks, and *Infrastructure*: Street/Sidewalk Improvements, as identified in the Township's Five Year Strategic Plan.

The proposed project is categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the project which documents the environmental determination is on file and available for review at the Erie County Department of Planning, weekdays from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may provide written and/or oral comments on the ERR to the Erie County Department of Planning at the above listed address and phone number. All comments received by August 30, 2010 will be considered by the ECDP prior to authorizing the submission of a Request for Release of Funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

Millcreek Township certifies to HUD that Joseph S. Kujawa, in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, 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 Millcreek Township to use CDBG Program funds as stated above.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and Millcreek Township's certification for a period of eighteen 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:

- ❖ the certification was not, in fact, executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of Millcreek Township approved by the HUD; or
- ❖ the Township omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58;
- ❖ the Township committed funds or incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or
- ❖ another federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with required procedures (24 CFR Part 58), and may be addressed to the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development, Pittsburgh Area Office- Mid-Atlantic, Moorhead Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburg, PA 15222.

Joseph S. Kujawa, Chairman
Millcreek Township Supervisors