



Neighborhood Update for LAN

March 2009

Item #1: CDBG Stimulus Money to the City of Lawrence.

The City of Lawrence has been awarded \$216,798 in additional CDBG funds from the recent stimulus package. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been highlighting job creation and retention as well as economic development in their vision, so it is unclear at this point what the role of Public Service allocations will be. There will likely be a request for applications for these additional funds and with that will be a quick turnaround deadline.

Item #2: Rental Registration update.

On February 17 Brian Jimenez, Code Enforcement Manager, presented the updated Rental Registration proposal to the City Commission. The City Commission saw value and merit to the request, but they questioned several elements in the proposal, including accuracy of staffing level estimates as well as the associated funding required for the staffing level.

The City Commission mentioned a possible amendment to the proposal to require licensing to all rental property, but only conduct inspections on a complaint based system.

Jimenez is currently working on a memo to bring back to the City Commission, possibly as early as the meeting on March 24th answering their questions and concerns regarding the updated proposal.

Item #3: At Large positions open for Community Development Advisory Committee

The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) has two at large positions currently available. The functions of this board include recommendation of allocations of CDBG and HOME funds, and review of Housing Code and Environmental Code appeals. The board is made up of representation from low-moderate income areas of Lawrence, as well as at-large positions from other parts of the community. The positions available are at-large community positions.

Term: Three year terms, expiring December 1 or the corresponding year.

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 5:30pm to 7:00pm, City Commission Room, First Floor, City Hall

At large Positions available: 2

For additional information or to express interest in either advisory board opening, please contact Margene Swarts at 785-832-3117.

Item #4: CDBG/HOME Deliberations underway.

The Community Development Advisory Board (CDAC) has begun deliberations for the 2009 CDBG/HOME grant year. Deliberations will continue until April, and the Public Meeting will be on April 23rd, 2009. The timeline for deliberations for the additional CDBG funds awarded to the City of Lawrence is yet to be determined.

Interested citizens can sign up to receive notification updates for various City services, events, and information, including advisory board information for Community Commission on Homelessness (CCH) and Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) notifications, at <http://www.lawrenceks.org/subscriptions>.

All information listed can be found at the City of Lawrence website:

www.lawrenceks.org

The Neighborhood Update is produced for LAN during the first week of every month to keep members updated on neighborhood oriented issues via communication directly from the City of Lawrence. For any additional information please contact Danelle Dresslar by phone at 785-832-3108, email ddresslar@ci.lawrence.ks.us, or at Planning and Development Services Community Development Division; 1 Riverfront Plaza; Level 1, Suite 110; PO Box 708; Lawrence, KS 66044. Comments are always welcome.