



City of Mount Rainier
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CITY MANAGER REPORT
NOVEMBER 1, 2011

Grants Management

The city submitted its FY 2012 Community Legacy Application before the final deadline last week. The application included two projects, a Business Improvement District Proposal to replicate the Better Block Project that was done in April 2011 on an on-going basis, and a Shared Bicycle Program similar to the Capital Bike Program in the District.

The Assistant City Manager has been diligently working on the MainStreet Application for this round which is due on November 6, 2011.

Next week the Assistant City Manager will work on the CDBG application which is due November 14, 2011. Needless to say this has been a monumental task getting out three grant applications in a short time frame. Numerous documents, pictures, and support letters were submitted with the application including the city's Environmental Sustainability Plans and Assessment.

The manager received notification from the County that the Façade Improvement Grant had finally been signed off on and that a copy with amendments would be received by Wednesday of last week. The document has not been received. Follow-up will occur once again this week.

Public Works/Code Enforcement

Hole on 34th Street

The Department of Public Works and the division of Code Enforcement have been working on several issues including the deep hole on 34th Street. Basically, the city has been giving the run-around as to who is responsible for determining the cause and appropriate solutions. Management staff yesterday and today spoke with numerous officials at WSSC who are claiming that it is not a problem that should be handled by the agency. Yet, at a manager's meeting yesterday, public works was once again informed that a repair order had been issued for the complaint. Follow-up with WSSC is scheduled for tomorrow.

Rat Infestation on Rhode Island Avenue

State Highway Administration was observed installing steel grates below the storm drain last week to address the rodents in the 3200-3300 blocks of Rhode Island Avenue. This week however, large rats were observed on the sidewalk in broad daylight. The city has been referred to SHA Customer Care Coordinator Mike McCormick to address this issue.\

Commercial/Residential Vacant Property

Code Officer Brown solicited the assistance of Prince George's County Inspectors to help with court adjudication of both the burned property on 34th Street and the Singer Building. The County posted the house on 34th (the posting has been removed) but they assured us that they will request demolition. The Singer Building has been posted again and the inspector has asked that we give the owners 90 days to abate the conditions once again on the Notice of Violation. This time the city is pursuing abatement in court as opposed to requesting a tax lien. Readers are referred to Thursday, October 27, 2011 edition of the Gazette Newspaper for additional action the city is taking to address this issue, including a public forum on December 13, 2011 at 7:00 pm. To date, the County Executive Municipal Liaison as confirmed her attendance as well as Alonzo Washington of County Councilmember Will Campos' office.

Other Property Issues

The city successfully defended in court abatement requests for dilapidated property and removed the partially rebuilt house on 33rd Street. The property owners will be billed for the abatement that was completed by the city's Department of Public Works.

The annual Leaf Collection Schedule has been issued by the department. Please contact them at (301) 985-6582 or 83 or check the November edition of the Message and the City's website at www.mountrainiermd.org.

The city is pursuing getting the name of the WMATA Metro Station to include the City of Mount Rainier. Currently, the city of Hyattsville is in opposition to the name modification to the Metro marquee sign. Citizens in support of this effort are encouraged to write letters to the county who have already indicated their support of this effort.

It is the recommendation of management that the city also contact the Gazette to include the name of Mount Rainier. The paper's distribution for this area currently lists the Cities of Laurel, College Park, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, and the Port Towns. Mount Rainier is a significant part of the Gateway Arts District and should be including the in the headline of the newspaper.

Finance Department

The following items are a list of critical financial commitments and needs that the city will have to allocate funding from either the contingency line item or the city's reserve account prior to June 30, 2012.

- \$100,000 from the city's speed camera revenue has been authorized to replace the generator at the Mount Rainier Police Station.
- The city was notified today that \$160,000 will be required to complete this replacement
- The roof of the library will need to be replaced. We are waiting for estimates but it is estimated that it may cost upwards of \$50,000.
- The roof is leaking at both the public works garage and police station. Estimates are forthcoming.
- The facilitator for the strategic planning workshop for the council is proposing \$5,000
- The city hall suffered some damage from the earthquake. Estimates are not developed as the management team is waiting for the assessment and analysis from the engineer.
- The bricks at Star Potts Hall will have to be pointed up and also suffered some damage as a result of the Hurricane Irene. FEMA is reimbursing some expenses from the rainfall following the hurricane but not the storm or the earthquake. Apparently the County did not surpass its previous storm damage totals.
- \$100,000 for the marquee name change at WMATA
- Mold Remediation at Police Station