



*City of Mount Rainier*  
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## **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2013**

### **Grants Management**

During the months of July and August, the following grants were submitted on behalf of the city:

- Community Legacy Grant requesting \$125,000 for the build out of the Bio-retention cell on Buchanan Street;
- Department of Natural Resources Open Space requesting \$287,000 for the purchase of the vacant lot at 33<sup>rd</sup> and Perry Streets, and for the restoration of the playground equipment at Richardson Park;
- Prince George's County Tree ReLeaf Program requesting \$10,000 for the installation of approximately 50 new street trees to preserve the city's tree canopy;
- Maryland Energy Administration Grant requesting \$50,000 for energy efficiency upgrades to the city's municipal buildings;

The Façade Improvement Program Grant through Prince George's County is underway and should be completed within the next few months.

There are on-going projects for street repairs through prior CDBG funding in the amount of \$320,666. These funds primarily funded new handicapped ramps, street, curb and critical trip hazards on sidewalks throughout the city.

The city received notification of approval from the Maryland Department of General Services for \$75,000 for the Bond Bill supporting the Civic Center Project. Next week, managers are meeting with Jill Schick of Schick and Goldstein, architects for the project, to review a wood and chipboard physical model of the Mount Rainier Civic Center design build. We are hopeful that a presentation will be made to the council at the work session on September 17, 2013. A PDF of the design is attached to this report.

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The city is not included in the FY 2013 or FY 2014 appropriation for CDBG funding. This is the result of requesting to opt out of the county appropriation funding through this program. The City will have to re-submit an application requesting to be included in the FY 2015 appropriations. It should be noted here that HUD has final approval on these requests and not Prince George's County.

The City was denied the application submitted by council to ATHA for the Way-finding Signature and Walking Tour for the Commercial District.

### **Code Enforcement/Property Tax Liens**

As a result of the diligence of the code enforcement officers, the city manager requested and the city received approximately \$22,000 in property tax liens. Another \$11,000 has been requested during the months of July and August for court judgments, code abatements, and failure of some property owners to pay vacant building registration fees.

The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County was successful in the purchase of the former Circle Café and the former Pawn Shop in the 3300 block of Rhode Island Avenue. The Authority is currently pursuing purchase of the Singer Building and is working with the attorney of the lien holder and has applied for funding through the Smart Growth Impact Fund to help with purchase costs. The Authority has also requested referrals for hazardous removal firms to consult on the removal of the bird feces in the Singer Building.

### **Conferences/Meetings**

Chief of Police and the City Manager have been invited to attend the Symposium on the Future of Local Government Police Services at the ICMA Conference in Boston, MA on September 20, 2013. As a result of the invitation both the city manager and chief will attend.

A summary of meetings attended follow:

- County Officials met with municipalities concerning revised language for use of all Call-a-Bus vehicles; the city will be eligible for another bus next fiscal year;
- I-Net executive committee meetings and Comcast Negotiations Team meetings concerning the renewal of the Comcast Franchise Agreement;
- Community Task Force Meeting with volunteer residents and Councilmember Tarlau concerning city efforts to assist citizens in crisis situations.
- Various meetings with citizens, staff, attorneys

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**Finance Department**

The finance department has been preparing for the fiscal audit of financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2013. Treasurer Manjani issued a RFP for firms to apply and the city received three (3) proposals. A summary of these proposals is being prepared by the Treasurer and that report will be issued separately.

**Other projects**

In case you have not noticed, City Hall has a brand new look. The windows and trim, as well as the handrails have all been painted and restored back to the original color and condition. This has not been done since the erection of the facility in 1992.

**3200 Block of Rhode Island Avenue Development**

The City issued a RFQ at the request of council for proposals from potential Bond Counsels to consult on the Tax Incremental District and other financing options for the 3200 block of Rhode Island Avenue Development. Streetsense issued a final design of the project which was approved by the MUTC committee who in turn recommended approval by the Mayor and Council. Prince George's County has set up a meeting with the council, staff, and county Officials, to discuss this matter, including project financing based on the latest pro forma data provided by Streetsense.

**END OF REPORT**