



City of Mount Rainier
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CITY MANAGER REPORT
March 6, 2012

Grants Management

It is official: The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and Maryland Department of Planning posted today on its website that the City of Mount Rainier has received Sustainable Communities Designation. This designation means that the city has identified a local area in need of revitalization and has created a comprehensive strategy to encourage and guide local investment. The comprehensive Sustainable Community strategy aims to increase economic, transportation and housing choices as well as the quality of the local environment.

Receiving this designation is significant because this is a threshold requirement for the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Community Legacy Program and the Neighborhood Business Works financing programs. Projects in designated areas are also eligible for additional program incentives and benefits such as the following:

- Sidewalk Retrofit Program – Maryland Department of Transportation
- Job Creation Tax Credits – Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development
- Sustainable Communities Tax Credit (formerly for the Maryland Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit)

For additional information, please copy and paste the link below in your browser:

<http://www.mdhousing.org/Website/About/PublicInfo/NewsEvents/NewsDetail.aspx?newsID=350>

More good news: The City has been awarded \$25,000 from the Community Legacy Program for its application for its Green Initiative Bike Share Program. This award compliments the city's environmental efforts and will go a long way towards reaching our goal for receiving certification under the Sustainable Maryland Certified program. The management team is working right now to get companies to submit price estimates for the implementing bicycle stations in the downtown.

The Prince George's County Summer Youth Enrichment Program for 2012 is now accepting applications for youth. The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, March 23, 2012. Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Be a Prince George's County resident
- Be between the ages of 15 and 19 at the start of the program
- Be eligible to work in the United States
- Have an active email address

Because many eligible youth do not have active email addresses or have access to the Internet, the city's StreetCorp Grant Program Team have set up a way to assist these youth. The team has set up Saturday, March 17th, 2012 from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm at the Mount Rainier Christian Church, 4000 33rd & Bunker Hill Rd, Mount Rainier, MD 20712 Office: 301-864-3869 to work with any youth who need assistance with the application process. For more information please contact a Streetcorp Team member at grants@mountrainierpd.org.

Pre-Bid Conference Meeting – RFP for Development of 3200 Rhode Island Avenue

The pre-bid conference with potential responders to the city's recently released RFP for the development of the 3200 block of Rhode Island Avenue was very well attended. Eight developers attended this event with another two developers indicating their interest but inability to attend the meeting. One significant factor was that two requests were made to the city to consider extending the RFP submission date until May 30, 2012. It was stated that potential developers feel more comfortable and better proposals are more likely with a 120 days response time as opposed to 90 days which is considered a relatively short window with which to respond. This request has been placed on the March 6, 2012 agenda for the council to formerly vote to approve.

Funding requests to the City Council not previously allocated in the FY 2012 Budget

The city has received two requests for funding. One is in partnership with the Mount Rainier Business Association for support of the upcoming Better Block project scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 2012. Funding is requested in the amount of \$4,000 and is scheduled for a vote by the council at the March 6, 2012 regular meeting.

Another request is in the amount of \$7,500 for a conservancy project sponsored by Gateway CDC for plantings on Rhode island Avenue to bring vibrancy to vacant blighted properties and create an artistic statement at the entry way into the city.

Fiscal Year 2013 Proposed Budget

The city manager and the chief financial officer presents the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget to the Council at the March 6, 2012 meeting. The proposed budget recommends a hiring freeze, eliminating two (2) Full Time Equivalent positions, and proposes no COLA's or merit increases for the existing personnel force. This was a very difficult decision for the manager and finance

director. The council of course has the option of imposing a tax increase or depleting the reserve fund.

Meetings

Meetings were held with representatives of Senator Ben Cardin's office to discuss funding needs to complete the Civic Center Project. Construction drawings are being developed by the Architect.

An upcoming meeting is scheduled with Congresswoman Donna Edwards focusing on the same discussion.

Gateway CDC in conjunction with County Councilmember Will Campos hosted a stakeholder's breakfast. Attendees included Congressman Van Hollen, Congresswoman Edwards, County Executive Rushern Baker, and the Route 1 Arts District communities and the Port Town Communities. Gateway CDC had a PowerPoint presentation talking about their 15 year history and accomplishments and addressed the audience about upcoming projects with the City of Mount Rainier and the Mount Rainier Business Association as partners for the Better Block Project and the Conservancy Project.