



City of Mount Rainier
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CITY MANAGER REPORT
MAY 7, 2013

GRANTS MANAGEMENT

All reporting requirements for Maryland Neighborhood Revitalization Programs (i.e., Community Legacy), State Bond Bill (i.e., the Civic Center expenditures), The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention have been met.

The city received \$40,000 from Maryland Energy Administration for energy efficiency upgrades for City Hall.

At least five city residents are participating in the Maryland Energy Grant through the municipal collaboration project which includes but is not limited to upgrades to appliances, home energy audits, etc.

TRAININGS

The city participated in the Local Government Insurance Trust annual renewal workshop in Hanover Maryland. The Loss Control Survey was completed which will result in a reduction of the city's premium for approximately \$1,500-3,000. The survey summarizes the city's efforts to respond to recommendations regarding employee safety and reducing the city's risk exposure.

The city manager and the MRTV staff in conjunction with Joe's Movement Emporium staff conducted a student shadowing experience for 5 after school program participants. This was part of the city's projects to complete Maryland Municipal League's Banner City and Town requirements. The students interviewed the city manager, the assistant city manager, the finance director and learned about camera operation, and producing a television show. The event was taped and will air on the city's cable channels in the near future.

REDEVELOPMENT/ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County (RDA) has closed on the Circle Café property. They have reached an agreement with Metro Development on the Singer

Building to do a quick claim deed (i.e., a re-assignment of the property without having to go to foreclosure). This means that once all legal issues are satisfied with the lien holder, the property will convert to the RDA. The former Pawn Shop is scheduled for foreclosure auction on May 26, 2013. The RDA is scheduled to bid at the auction.

MEETINGS

The Assistant City Manager met with CDBG of Prince George's County concerning on-going projects. Program Year 36 includes the Façade program, PY 37 includes the infrastructure projects (repairing trip and fall hazards throughout the city). A contractor has been identified for the trip hazards and repairing of the Otis Street Alley was to begin today however inclement weather prevented the commencement of this project.

- Bike racks have arrived and the Assistant City Manager has worked with the Green Team for placement.
- Assistant City Manager Jackson also met with State Highway Administration about the Safe Route to School Grant at Thomas Stone Elementary to widen the sidewalk and install crosswalks.
- Meetings were also held with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in an attempt to get funding for Pave Drain Projects at the city's intersection.
- Departmental Environmental Resources is in the planning phase of installation of storm drain inlets on the properties on 32nd Street.
- DER has also been contacted about the storm drain project on Rainer Avenue. After five years, the plans have finally been approved.
- The former bidder on the RFP for the 3200 block of Rhode Island Avenue (Dr. Fadul) is still showing interest in development in Mount Rainier.
- City staff and city council met with county representatives concerning the TIF District projections relative to the 3200 Block of Rhode Island Avenue Development.
- The City Manager has had numerous consultations with the city attorneys regarding the Land Distribution Agreement with Streetsense and Neighborhood Development Corporation,
- The City Manager has had numerous consultations with the city attorneys regarding legislation related to banning the sale of synthetic drugs, personnel policy manual revisions, trash dumpster revisions to the *Mount Rainer Code*, and revisions to the Commercial District Management Authority, Chapter 7A of the Mount Rainer Code – all of which are scheduled to have a first reading at the Mayor and Council meeting on May 7, 2013.

CODE ENFORCMEENT

Investment in the city is on an all- time high! At one point during the last decade there were at least 60 vacant properties in the city at one time. From the most recent reports from code enforcement officials, there are now 27 vacant properties within the city. The manager rode through the city, and for the first time in many months, most of the critical areas were in compliance.

The former Odd and Even Thrift Store has been sold. The owner anticipates a restaurant at this location. Much of the investment may be partially due to the anticipation of development in the city, and recent events that have attracted potential buyers/investors:

- Art Lives Here Project – this improved the facades and window treatments of various commercial buildings (e.g., The Circle Deli); Hands on Barber was the recipient of an award to repair the fence next to the barber shop.
- Better Block Project – this brought hundreds of folks to the Mount Rainier Community;
- 5K Run – also brought in many locals and visitors to participate in the activity;
- The annual Homes Tour – this was another successful event that showcases the larger lots and beautiful home in Mount Rainier.
- The Belmont legacy Art Exhibition brought in approximately 1,000 visitors to the city over the course of a three-day weekend May 3,4, and 5th at the Artist Apartments.
- The Farmer’s Market opened on May 5, 2013.

The Department of Public Works and the Mount Rainier Police Department are to be congratulated on their support and additional work that was completed in support of these activities.

END OF REPORT