



City of Mount Rainier

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CITY MANAGER REPORT MARCH 3, 2009

Grant Funding

The city has solicited funds from several sources totaling 7 grants exceeding \$6 million dollars. Three of the grants were submitted by the Mount Rainier Police Department and a description of the applications can be found within the Chief's March 2009 report. Three grants were submitted by city hall. The six grants were submitted to the Maryland Department of Energy via the stimulus package to the Governor O'Malley. One request has been submitted to Congressman Van Hollen for Rhode Island Avenue development and removal of blight. A full description of the City hall submissions can be found attached to this report or separately under the Government tab and Reports and Documents link on the city's website www.mountrainiermd.org. This was a great accomplishment by the entire management staff as there was only a 3-4 day turnaround to submit these applications.

Market/Feasibility Studies

All proposals for this area have been received and reviewed. The most comprehensive proposal was submitted by PES Solutions in conjunction with Green Door, the group that is conducting the studies in the District of Columbia. Assistant Manager Michael Jackson has a meeting scheduled with this group March 4, 2009.

Fiscal Year 2010 Budget

Management staff is in the process of finalizing the Fiscal Year 2010 budget presentation on March 9, 2009 which will be done at a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council. Public advertisements will begin to appear in the Thursday, March 5, 2009 edition of the *Port Towns Gazette*.

Razing of the Bass Property

The city is still waiting for disconnect letters from all the utility companies so that it can proceed with permits to raze the property on Rhode Island Avenue.

Letters of Support

Support Letters of Speed Camera Legislation and Community Legacy Funding were sent to the Honorable Victor Ramirez, Delegate and Neighborhood Revitalization Program Department of Housing and Community Development respectively.

3409 Rhode Island Avenue Library/Community Center Project

Two meetings were held with community leaders concerning this project. There was lively discussion about the exterior design and the second meeting focused on a “wish list” of components to be included in the interior of the building. The city manager is currently working on required documents that must be submitted to Maryland Department of Planning/Maryland Historical Trust as required by the Bond Bill Legislation. Minutes have been forwarded to the architects and construction team.

MML Award of Excellence

The theme this year is Honoring ‘Green’ cities and towns programs. An application was submitted highlighting the Mount Rainier Police Station green building.

Mount Rainier Police Station Project

Many of you will recall the problems that occurred with the construction of this facility which resulted in a temporary occupancy permit issued by the Department of Environmental Resources. One of the grants submitted to the Maryland Department of Energy is requesting assistance to correct these problems. Additionally, a representative from the County has contacted both DER and the city to ascertain how they may be of assistance.

Interest in Leasing Redevelopment Authority Property

Two persons have expressed interest in leasing the single family home on 34th Street and the commercial building on Rhode Island Avenue. They were referred to the property manager for both properties.

Business Occupancy Licenses

Businesses have been provided with Business Occupancy License Applications for 2009 and approximately 60% have paid the required fees in a timely manner. The problem with the applications this year is that most of the businesses are not able to comply with the recently passed legislation requiring that each business submit proof of their exterior sign approval from Prince George’s County. The City is working with the County and each business to ensure compliance.

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Meetings/Trainings

The City Manager and Assistant City Manager have meetings scheduled with CDBG to discuss the bridge repairs, and a mandatory training with the Community Legacy program this week and on March 18, 2009 respectively.

New Businesses

Three new businesses have joined the City's ranks – Lloyd's Florist on 34th Street, a variety store/boutique located 3412 Rhode Island Avenue, and Global Salon also located in the 3400 block Rhode Island Avenue.

Property Liens

A total of \$47,000 in property liens have been requested and submitted to the Department of Assessment and Taxation in January and February for vacant building fees, court judgments, and code violation abatements. This week, approximately \$5,000 was collected and forwarded to the city.

Board of License Commissioners

A significant amount of staff time was expended towards challenging the transfer of the liquor license from K-Food Mart to a new applicant. The time was about evenly spent on meetings with the applicant, consultation with staff at the liquor board, informing the council and conferring with city attorneys, and drafting correspondence to the board. The request for the transfer was eventually withdrawn due to lack of support from the city for off sale of beer during the week and on Sundays.

MUTC Support

Management staff hosted the meeting with the committee to review signage proposals for the variety store on Rhode Island Avenue which has received preliminary approval. Once the other requirements for the sign have been met, the committee will review and approve. The free standing bulletin board was approved and Ruth Sandy in the public works department is researching the city's credit delivery options. Minutes were drafted by the city manager and submitted to the committee.