

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

PLANO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1520 K AVENUE, SUITE 250

April 29, 2008

ITEM NO.	EXPLANATION	ACTION TAKEN
	5:30 p.m. - Dinner - Planning Conference Room 2E	
	6:00 p.m. - Regular Meeting - Planning Conference Room 2E	
1	Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance	
2	Approval of Minutes for January 29, February 5, February 12, February 19, February 26, March 4, and March 14, 2008, Meetings	
3	Comments of Public Interest: This portion of the meeting is to allow the public to speak on items of interest or concern. It is not for the purpose of speaking on items that are on the current agenda. The Commission may not discuss these items, but factual or policy information may be provided in response to the comments, and the Commission may choose to place the item on a future agenda. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, with a maximum time limit of fifteen (15) minutes for this portion of the meeting. Speakers will be notified when speaking time has expired.	
4	Review of 2005-09 City of Plano Consolidated Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice	
5	Review of Homeward Bound: A Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Collin County and Collin County 2007 Annual "Point in Time" Homeless Count.	
6	Review and Comment on 2008 Consolidated Grant Applications, Instructions, Commission Evaluation, and Staff Evaluation forms	
7	Discussion and Direction on Commissioner Visits to Grant Applicants	
8	Items for Future Agendas	

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Plano Municipal Center is wheelchair accessible. A sloped curb entry is available at the main entrance facing Municipal Avenue, with specially marked parking spaces nearby. Access and special parking are also available on the north side of the building. Requests for sign interpreters or special services must be received forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting time by calling the Planning Department at (972) 941-7151.

CITY OF PLANO
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

April 29, 2008

Agenda Item No. 4

**Review of 2005-09 City of Plano Consolidated Plan and
Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice**

DESCRIPTION:

The City of Plano City Council adopted a Consolidated Plan for 2005-2009 on November 22, 2004. This is a review of that plan as information for the Commission.

REMARKS:

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2005, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development required the City of Plano to prepare a consolidated plan outlining goals and objectives for the proposed use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds. The City hired BBC Research and Consulting to complete its first five-year consolidated plan. The City will need to complete a new five-year plan in the 2009 grant year to develop goals and objectives for the 2010-2014 grant years in compliance with the HUD requirements.

The Strategic Plan Summary provides the basis for funding recommendations to the Council on an annual basis. The City reports twice annually to HUD on conformance with the Consolidated Plan:

1. By May 15, the City sends its annual Action Plan to HUD reporting the proposed expenditures of entitlement funds as approved by Council. This report specifies the manner in which each funded program meets one or more Consolidated Plan goals and ties into the federal regulatory requirements. This document is prepared by staff based on the Community Relations Commission's recommendations and is approved by the City Council, typically in April.
2. By September 30, the City provides a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) to HUD. This document reports the accomplishments of the jurisdiction throughout the most recent 12-month grant year (July 1-June 30). All accomplishments are reported in terms of compliance with the Consolidated Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

No action required. For information only.

CITY OF PLANO
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

April 29, 2008

Agenda Item No. 5

Review of Homeward Bound: A Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Collin County and Collin County 2007 Annual "Point in Time" Homeless Count.

DESCRIPTION:

The City of Plano adopted the plan, Homeward Bound: A Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Collin County, in 2004. This is a review of that plan, its history, and implementation as information for the Commission.

HISTORY:

In 2001, President Bush reactivated the Interagency Council on Homelessness, originally established in 1987, to better coordinate the efforts of 18 federal agencies in addressing the needs of homeless persons. The Interagency Council issued a call for cities and counties throughout the U.S. to develop 10-year plans to end homelessness. Responding to that call, in 2004, the City of Plano sought to coordinate the construction of a plan to end chronic homelessness in Collin County.

Under the direction of the City, a task force was birthed to establish a county-wide plan. The first meeting of the Homeward Bound task force was held in July 2004 at the Plano Municipal Building with the goal of determining the number of homeless individuals in Collin County. Attendees included representatives from various Collin County non-profit agencies, school districts, and cities. Between August and September of 2004, the task force developed and distributed a homeless needs assessment survey for Collin County. In October 2004, task force members began setting goals and drafting "Homeward Bound, a County-Wide Plan to End Chronic Homelessness." The plan was approved by the City of Plano City Council in December 2004, and distributed to other task force members for formal approval. A copy of the plan is included as a separate attachment.

The task force, now named the Collin County Homeless Coalition, recognized that the plan required funding, and in January 2005, the City of Plano began researching available federal funds to assist the newly established efforts. The search led the City of Plano to a relationship with the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA), the agency that coordinates the submission of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care grant for the DFW Metroplex. In December 2005, through MDHA, two Collin County agencies, LifePath Systems, and Hope's Door, submitted transitional housing proposals and were awarded a total of \$471,954 over a two year period; \$334,944 for LifePath and \$137,010 for Hope's Door.

CURRENT STATUS:

The City of Plano continues to be an active participant of the Collin County Homeless Coalition. Each year since 2005 the Coalition has performed a "Point in Time" Homeless Count. A report on the 2007 count is included as a separate attachment. Currently, the coalition is preparing an update to the county-wide plan to end chronic homelessness. Due to the strict governmental definition of chronically homeless, Collin County has few individuals that qualify as chronically homeless. Moreover, only two individuals qualified as being chronically homeless in 2007. As a result, county-wide plan is being updated by the Collin County Homeless Coalition to focus on homelessness prevention instead of the chronic homeless.

Additionally, both LifePath and Hope's Door continue to receive Continuum of Care funding through MDHA. Specifically, a total of \$408,983 in funds will be given to the two agencies for the next two years.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

No action required. For information only.

CITY OF PLANO
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

April 29, 2008

Agenda Item No. 6

**Review and Comment on 2008 Consolidated Grant Applications, Instructions,
Commission Evaluation and Staff Evaluation**

DESCRIPTION:

The Community Relations Commission will review and comment on the use of the 2008 consolidated grant applications, instructions, and evaluation tools. The Commission will consider recommendations made by applicants during the public hearing process and other revisions to the documents as may benefit the 2009 application process.

REMARKS:

Through March and April, a subcommittee of the Commission worked to revise the grant application and associated documents. The subcommittee's efforts resulted in a new concept for the applications, commissioner evaluation, and staff evaluation. At the Commission's July 10, 2007, meeting, the applications, instructions, staff evaluation tool, and commissioner evaluations were approved for use in the 2008 grant process.

Since the Commission has had one year of working with the new applications, there is an opportunity to review the documents and recommend improvements for the 2009 grant cycle. During the public hearing process there were comments from some of the agencies on how the applications might be clarified. For example, one agency suggested changing question D in Measurable Goal Section 4 to define the measurable goals as "numerical".

Based on the feedback at this meeting and from the agencies at the public hearings, staff will prepare updated documents for the Commission's review and approval at a future meeting date.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff requests the Commission provide feedback on the new applications, instructions, and evaluation tools.

CITY OF PLANO
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

April 29, 2008

Agenda Item No. 7

Discussion and Direction on Commissioner Visits to Grant Applicants

DESCRIPTION:

The Community Relations Commission will discuss annual agency visits to organizations which apply for funding through the City's consolidated grant program.

REMARKS:

In the past, Commission members have visited agencies to gain a greater understanding and first-hand knowledge of the programs considered in the grant application process. Staff is requesting that you consider the value of the agency visits and come prepared to discuss the continuation of this practice.

Staff is requesting the Commission discuss several issues regarding agency visits, including the following:

- Does the Commission wish to conduct agency visits this year? Are they beneficial to the group?
- Are oral and written reports preferred?
- Is there specific information that each Commissioner should report back on?

The following agencies were part of the 2008 grant process and may be considered for visitation, should the Commission wish to do so.

ACORN Housing
Christ United Methodist Church
Habitat for Humanity of South Collin County
Plano Housing Corporation
Assistance Center of Collin County
Assistance League of Greater Collin County
Family Outreach
God's Food Pantry
Hope's Door
Special Care and Career Services
Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas
Boys and Girls Clubs of Collin County
CASA of Collin County
Collin County Children's Advocacy Center
Communities in Schools Dallas Region
Crossroads Family Services

Plano Community Charity
AIDS Services of North Texas
Collin County Adult Clinic
Community Dental Care
Plano Children's Medical Clinic
Avenues Counseling Center
Child and Family Guidance Centers
Journey of Hope
Rape Crisis Center
Collin County Committee on Aging
Maurice Barnett Geriatric Wellness
Plano Community Home
Plano Education Foundation
Plano Housing Authority
Collin Intervention to Youth
Samaritan Inn

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff requests the Commission provide direction on these items.