

**STUDY SESSION OF THE
CITY OF COSTA MESA
CITY COUNCIL
March 13, 2012**

The City Council of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in a regular Study Session on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 4:45 p.m. in Conference Room 1A of City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members Present: Mayor Eric R. Bever
Mayor Pro Tem James M. Righeimer
Council Member Wendy Leece
Council Member Stephen M. Mensinger
Council Member Gary Monahan

Council Members Absent: None

Officials Present: CEO Thomas R. Hatch
City Attorney Thomas Duarte
Economic Develop Dir/Deputy CEO Peter Naghavi
Transportation Services Manager Raja Sethuraman
Interim Development Services Director Khanh Nguyen
Mike Linares, CDBG/HOME Coordinator
Muriel Ullman, Neighborhood Improvement Manager
City Clerk Julie Folcik

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. 2012-2013 Community Development Block Grant Public Service Grant Recommendations
(00:14:55)

CDBG/HOME Coordinator Mike Linares presented the report and 3R Committee Member Andrew Smith presented the recommendations of the Public Service Grant Sub-committee. For Fiscal Year 2012-2013 the City received \$1,050,015, a decrease of approximately 14.5 percent from the

previous years' grant. Of this grant amount \$157,502 would be available for public service programs.

Mr. Smith explained the criteria and considerations used by the Public Service Grant Sub-Committee to rate the applicants and make grant recommendations. Fifteen agencies and seventeen programs applied for funding totaling \$374,890, which exceeds available funding by \$217,388. The Sub-Committee recommended funding a Homeless Outreach Worker at twenty-five hours per week with a \$35,000 grant.

Mr. Linares, Mr. Smith and Neighborhood Improvement Manager Muriel Ullman responded to questions from council members regarding the Homeless Outreach Worker, senior programs, location and type of programs the non-profit agencies were operating. Discussion took place on the use of CDBG grant funding for administrative costs rather than services.

Mayor Bever thanked the Public Service Grant Sub-Committee and staff for their hard work in developing the grant recommendations.

The City Council took no action on this item.

2. Vision for Harbor Boulevard Improvements (00:36:44)

Economic Development Director/Deputy CEO Peter Naghavi presented the report, providing an overview of improvements made over the last twenty years in the northern part of the city. Students of Orange Coast College presented an animation depicting Harbor Boulevard from Gisler to 19th Street currently, and possible improvements of crosswalks, lighting, signage, parking, parkways and medians. The cost of the improvements was estimated at \$9 million.

Mr. Naghavi reported that some projects are in process such as new monument signs, Harbor/Adams crosswalks to be completed late summer or early fall, and palm trees for the Harbor/Gisler landscaping to be completed within one year.

Council Members thanked Mr. Naghavi and the Orange Coast College students for the presentation and asked staff to consider improvements to other areas of the city as well, encourage private development, and requested that staff research parking problems in certain areas. Council Members stated support for the Harbor Boulevard improvements in the five year budget plan.

The City Council took no action on this item.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS, COMMENTS, AND SUGGESTIONS (01:28:26)

Council Member Wendy Leece asked about the Employee of the Month program and suggested considering nominations at future Study Sessions, and spoke about her recent attendance at Costa Mesa High School and Estancia High School drama programs.

Council Member Mensinger commented on reallocating CDBG funding to infrastructure rather than charities.

Mayor Bever requested an assessment of the CDBG program for the past 10 years.

ADJOURNMENT (01:31:57)

The Study Session was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa

ATTEST:

City Clerk of the City of Costa Mesa