



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Bob Kiss and City Council
FROM: Margaret Bozik, Assistant Director for Community Development
DATE: September 22, 2010
RE: Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report

The enclosed Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report describes what was accomplished with expenditures of \$2.2 million during the past fiscal year of federal funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (through the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Act and Lead Hazard Reduction programs) as well as Burlington Housing Trust Fund monies. (The Appendix to the Report is not included, but is available online.) There will be a Public Hearing on this Report – and to hear citizen comments on housing and community development needs generally – at your meeting on September 27, 2010. The Report has been posted online for public review and comment. Highlights of the Report are described below, particularly as they relate to CEDO's purpose as set forth in the City Charter:

CEDO is charged to work on behalf of the city to stimulate investment, and to attract, retain, and encourage the development of both existing and new economic enterprises. This year:

- Economic development activities supported the start-up of 30 new businesses, helped to retain/expand 18 businesses, and led to the creation of 365 new permanent FTE jobs and the retention of 485 permanent FTE jobs (plus 916 construction jobs).
- CDBG expenditures on economic development leveraged over \$46 million in private and other public investment and supported an annual increase of \$297,293 in new property taxes plus \$342,718 in rent and parking revenues and rooms, meals and sales taxes.
- Highlights include Dealer.com's decision to expand in Burlington, renting additional office space in three locations in the South End and hiring 100 new employees; the expansion of the Courtyard Burlington Harbor (with 16,000 new square feet of building space), bringing the downtown hotel's room capacity to 161 rooms and approximately 55,000 visitors to Burlington annually; Terry Precision Bicycles' decision to locate in Burlington, renting two locations in the South End totaling 10,000 square feet; and work with the Vt BioScience Alliance, Vermont Legislature, the Vermont Center for Emerging Technology and GBIC to secure \$4,000,000 in state funding for a new Seed Capital Fund for growth companies.

CEDO is charged to develop, coordinate, implement, and administer a comprehensive program to address the city's housing needs. This year:

- Predevelopment work continued on the creation of 20 affordable plus 10 market rate new rental units on the city-owned property at Browns Court and on new mixed-income apartments for 60 senior households and 40 low- and moderate-income families on the state-owned Thayer School (DMV) site on North Avenue. These projects are collectively anticipated to produce \$130,000 in new annual property tax revenues.

- Work continued at Salmon Run to preserve the affordability of 36 units and convert 25 existing market rate units to perpetually affordable units, along with \$4.8 million of associated renovation. Work also continued on the City Neighborhoods project, which includes refinancing and major rehabilitation of 61 scattered site affordable rental units in the Old North End and Winooski.
- At Wharf Lane, the city is working with HUD, the Burlington Housing Authority, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, Housing Vermont and the property owner to ensure the continued affordability of 37 units housing low-income persons with disabilities when the Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment contract (project-based subsidy) expires in March of 2011.
- With Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funding, the Champlain Housing Trust acquired and began rehab on four single-family homes in foreclosure during the program year, with anticipated resale after September 2010. NSP funding is also helping to move the Thayer School (DMV) project forward.
- Utility assistance, home sharing, home- and center-based senior services, and other housing retention assistance helped over 5,000 residents remain housed and living independently.

CEDO is charged to develop, coordinate, implement, and administer waterfront development activities other than those activities which the Planning Commission and the city council must exercise under the Vermont Planning and Development Act. This year:

- At the Moran Plant, design development documents for the renovations were completed; the project received another state Department of Environmental Conservation grant for \$100,000, which funded removal of lead paint, asbestos, a mercury spill and large amounts of hazardous debris, as well as complete cleaning of interior walls and removal of old window frames; wetlands delineation continued; and the project was approved for RITC “historic tax credits” with an approximate value of \$1.3 million.
- Construction was completed on the College Street Waterfront Access Project improvements. Designs were 50% complete and a \$3.1 million TIGER grant obtained for construction of Waterfront North Access improvements.

CEDO is charged to coordinate and facilitate citizen participation in economic and community development with community organizations, city commissions, and the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies. This year:

- As always, citizens selected through the NPAs reviewed all CDBG applications and made funding recommendations that were accepted by the Mayor and City Council.
- Citizen-generated neighborhood projects funded by CDBG and completed this year included renovations to Pomeroy and Roosevelt Parks; the Myrtle Street, Archibald and Champlain community gardens; the Bike ReCycle facility; and the Edmunds community school.

CEDO is charged to administer Community Development Block Grants and Urban Development Action grants and to manage such grants-in-aid programs in accordance with the laws and regulations pertaining thereto. This year:

- CEDO administered 26 CDBG subgrants to 20 different community nonprofit agencies and the library.
- CDBG-funded agencies provided shelter and services for over 1,900 homeless people; groceries and meals for over 5,000 residents; high quality early care and education for 119 children from working families; financial education for 152 residents; services for 352 residents with limited English proficiency; afterschool and summer programming for over 800 city youth; crisis and support services for over 200 victims of sexual assault; and access to affordable prescription medication for 29 residents.