



"Community Partnership for Action"
P.O. Box 33702
Laughlin, Nevada 89028

October 22, 2024

Jamie Sorenson, Director
Clark County Social Service
1600 Pinto Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Subject: Community Development Advisory Committee

Dear Mr. Sorenson,

In response to an e-mail sent by you to the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) members dated October 8, 2024, this letter serves to express our opposition to your proposal to kill off the CDAC and take away our community's voice in determining Federal Grant allocations in Clark County.

Since 1982, the CDAC has served as a grass roots citizens advisory group comprised of volunteers from each of Clark County's 19 town advisory boards and citizens advisory councils. Committee members are devoted to understanding the needs of low-to-moderate income neighborhoods within their own communities as well as the needs throughout the County, both rural and urban.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), in particular, has been administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to America's urban counties and cities since 1974. Under 24 CFR570.431, entitlement counties and cities must develop a detailed citizens participation plan. Clark County's citizens participation plan, the CDAC, has been a nation model since its inception for its inclusion and representation.

Every five years, CDAC meetings offer the opportunity for CDBG applicants to provide presentations with Q and A and host site visits on bus tours. CDAC members see firsthand proposed capital projects that will benefit their communities serving the low income and special needs populations. Their knowledge and experience are immeasurable.

Since 1999, Community Resources Management (CRM) has enjoyed a unique relationship with the County's Finance Department, whereby CRM has entered into Five-Year Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs) with HUD for pre-approval of federal CDBG funds over the course of a five-year period. This has been a welcomed endeavor by HUD as County Finance fronts the money needed to begin capital projects sooner and be repaid through HUD reimbursements as projects get off the ground and completed.

If projects go over-budget or are under-funded, such projects are provided automatic and necessary funding from the next adopted Five-Year CIP before any new capital projects are recommended to the Board of County Commissioners. CDAC members have always understood that approved projects will not be scrapped or eliminated due to cost overruns or shortage of funds from a current CIP.

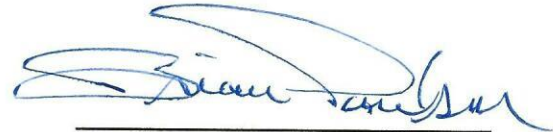
It is baffling why the County is considering the elimination of CDAC, despite its overwhelming success as exemplary grassroots advisory group for the Board of Commissioners, without adequate time for responses from the TABS/CACs or from the CDAC itself. In addition to TAB/CAC representation, each commissioner also appoints two (2) at large representatives to the CDAC. Together, the 36-member CDAC and TABs/CACs may offer any improvements to the CDBG application and deliberation/recommendations process. Perhaps a CDAC customer survey could be conducted as in years' past to better improve the process. Unfortunately, this opportunity will be lost if TABs/CACs cannot be heard. And once CDAC is gone, Clark County will have lost an integral and instrumental grassroots voice for its low/moderate income residents, particularly from its rural communities.

The LEDC is hopeful the Board of County Commissioners will continue to believe in CDAC's value and historic engagement to serve our rural and urban community development needs.

Sincerely,



Martin Knauss
President



Dr. Brian Paulson
Government Affairs

CC: Board of County Commissioners
Kevin, Schiller
Karen Michelin
Kent Colangco
Kathleen Hoss, Chair, LTAB
Pamela Walker, Vice-Chair, LTAB
Fred Doten, LTAB
Kathy Ochs, LTAB
Herman Walker, LTAB