

Resolution releasing funds for the City-Wide Housing RENEW Program.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City is experiencing middle and upper class flight, aging housing stock, crime and perception of crime issues, concentrations of poverty resulting in a high demand for social services, and a shrinking proportion of the tax base compared to the surrounding cities and unincorporated townships; and

WHEREAS, all of this is documented in the City's Comprehensive Plan, Neighborhood Plans, the TID #7 and TID #14 Project Plans, the UW Extension Report: *Challenging Trends Facing Housing in La Crosse*, the City/County Housing Task Force Report and Recommendations and the most recent work by the La Crosse Neighborhood Revitalization Commission (strategic action plan) which all focus on improving the City's overall housing stock and implementing neighborhood improvement strategies in priority areas; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of La Crosse deems that protection and improvement of the City's neighborhoods and housing stock is critical to maintaining a healthy and sustainable community and has created a successful and award winning housing program known as the Replacement Housing Program (Affordable Housing Program);and

WHEREAS, the Housing RENEW Program and Guidelines (market rate) were approved by the Common Council in Resolution 2001-03-042; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 Capital Improvement Budget approved \$350,000 to be used for the Housing RENEW Program throughout the City of La Crosse.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA CROSSE that it hereby appropriates \$350,000 from the Reserve Fund to fund the City Wide Housing RENEW Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the allocated funds may be used for all related costs for this program including but not limited to property acquisition, clearance, asbestos removal, landfill tipping fees, site preparation, site improvements, boulevard trees and sidewalks adjacent to the sites, surveys, title work, legal costs, construction material cost, engineering and architectural services, and contractor payments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance is hereby authorized to create a separate revolving special revenue fund entitled "City-Wide Housing RENEW Program" using the guidelines from the existing "Housing RENEW Program & Guidelines" adopted by the Council in 2001.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Housing Rehabilitation Review Board has oversight of the administration of the City Wide Housing RENEW Program including but not limited to acquisition of property, sale of property, the governance of the revenues and expenditures of the program, etc...

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that revenue generated from this program be placed in said fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that should any project under this program occur within a tax increment financing district, if applicable (i.e. project in a TID project plan), all associated revenues and expenditures must be recorded in the appropriate tax increment financing district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Planning & Development, Director of Finance and Purchase, and all other Departments are hereby authorized to take any and all steps necessary to effectuate this resolution.