

RESOLUTION NO. 23- 56

APPROVAL OF PINELLAS COUNTY'S 2023-2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT; AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT THE ANNUAL ACTION PLAN TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD); AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CHAIRMAN, OR DESIGNEE, TO SIGN AND THE CLERK TO ATTEST APPLICATIONS, CERTIFICATIONS, AND HUD GRANT AGREEMENTS; AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CHAIRMAN, OR DESIGNEE, TO SIGN AND THE CLERK TO ATTEST SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE AND LAND USE RESTRICTION AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING AMENDMENTS; AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, OR DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE HOUSING PROGRAM SECURITY INSTRUMENTS, AGENCY AGREEMENTS AND LAND USE RESTRICTION AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING AMENDMENTS; AUTHORIZATION FOR THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TO SERVE AS CERTIFYING OFFICER FOR HUD ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES; AUTHORIZATION FOR THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, OR DESIGNEE, TO SIGN AND FILE NECESSARY FORMS, REPORTS, AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ANNUAL ACTION PLAN; AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON NEEDS AND PERFORMANCE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2024 TO INITIATE THE 2024-2025 ACTION PLAN PROCESS.

WHEREAS, affordable housing and community development activities are an area of need in Pinellas County and are established program objectives of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County's long-term community development goal is to develop livable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunities, principally for persons of low- and moderate-income, and to aid in the prevention and elimination of slum and blight; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program, and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program provide local governments with flexible financial assistance to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income people and aid in the elimination of slum and blight; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County and the City of Largo have formed a partnership (the “Consortium”) under the HOME Program to address affordable housing issues for low- and moderate-income households, with Pinellas County as the lead agency for the Consortium; and

WHEREAS, the Pinellas County Consortium’s FY 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan identifies objectives and priorities for housing, community revitalization, homeless, and persons with special needs to be addressed during the five years; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County’s 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan is a One-Year Plan specifying how Pinellas County will utilize CDBG and ESG funds and how the Consortium will utilize HOME funds in the fourth year to address priorities identified in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Action Plan was developed through a process which included input from citizens and agencies through community meetings, public hearings, and a competitive application process; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for Pinellas County to execute Specific Performance Agreements and Land Use Restriction Agreements with grant recipients to carry out community development projects and activities identified for funding in Pinellas County’s Annual Action Plan and to specify grant recipient’s financial and regulatory obligations; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary, at times, for Pinellas County to amend Specific Performance Agreements and Land Use Restriction Agreements resulting from project cost increases, changes in project scopes, project delays, availability of unanticipated funds, and/or other causes; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for Pinellas County to execute Agency Agreements, Land Use Restriction Agreements and other security instruments consistent with affordable housing program procedures to produce and preserve affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, HUD regulations require that site specific environmental reviews be performed for each project prior to submitting a Request for Release of Funds; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to hold a public hearing in the first quarter of 2024 at the beginning of the FY 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan process for identifying needs and reviewing past performance; and

WHEREAS, this public hearing is for information-gathering purposes only and can be held by the Housing and Community Development Department on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, in its regular session duly assembled this 18th day of July 2023, does hereby approve the Pinellas County Annual Action Plan for FY 2023-2024 in the approximate amount anticipated to be allocated to Pinellas County by HUD of \$5,018,594.00, including anticipated program income, and authorizes submittal to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman, or designee, be authorized to sign the Action Plan applications, certifications, grant agreements and the Clerk to attest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that either the Chairman or, pursuant to Section 2-62, Pinellas County Code, the County Administrator, or their designee, be authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest Specific Performance Agreements and Land Use Restriction Agreements, and amendments thereto, pursuant to these grants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notwithstanding Section 2-62, Pinellas County Code, the Chairman or the County Administrator, or their designee, be authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest amendments to Specific Performance Agreements and Land Use Restriction Agreements, increasing the amount of the grant award to subrecipients, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 or fifty percent (50%) of the grant award, whichever is greater.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator, or their designee, be authorized to execute Housing Program Security Instruments, Agency Agreements, and Land Use Restriction Agreements, and amendments thereto, pursuant to these grants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Housing and Community Development Department Director be authorized to carry out the responsibilities of certifying officer as provided in 24 C.F.R. Part 58, its related Federal authorities listed in Sections 58.5 and 58.6, as well as Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its related provisions in 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Housing and Community Development Department Director, or designee, be authorized to sign and file necessary reports, forms, and other documents related to the administration and operation of the CDBG, ESG, and HOME Programs, including the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report. The Housing and Community Development Department Director or designee shall also have authority to authorize actions and execute documentation necessary in administering mortgage and mortgage notes associated with any of the federal grants referenced herein, including but not limited to authorizing and executing mortgage modifications, accelerations, reinstatements, and assignments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Housing and Community Development Department be authorized to hold a public hearing in the first quarter of 2024 on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners to review community development and housing program performance and assess community needs.

Commissioner Justice offered the foregoing resolution and hereby moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Eggers and upon roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Long, Eggers, Flowers, Justice, Latvala, and Scott.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: Peters.

APPROVED AS TO FORM
By: Derrill McAteer
Office of the County Attorney