

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF SUMTER)
)
CITY OF SUMTER)

RESOLUTION NO. 502
Support for CDBG Funding

WHEREAS, the City of Sumter has been an Entitlement City and has received Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds since 1994; and

WHEREAS, during the first few years after Entitlement designation, the City received more than \$600,000 annually for several years to operate programs to benefit low-to-moderate income citizens and improve neighborhoods in the City of Sumter; and

WHEREAS, although the City of Sumter's CDBG allocations have been decreased by 41 percent since 1994 due to a combination of reduced funding and new program participants, the City has continued to use this funding to maximize benefits to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sumter utilizes its CDBG funds for infrastructure improvements; youth employment, down payment and closing costs assistance for new housing development, housing rehabilitation, historic preservation (in Downtown Conservation District), water and sewer line improvements, drainage improvements, commercial and residential demolition of unsightly properties, and improvements to City parks in an effort to improve the overall quality of life its citizen (*see attachment for detailed list of CDBG projects and programs*); and

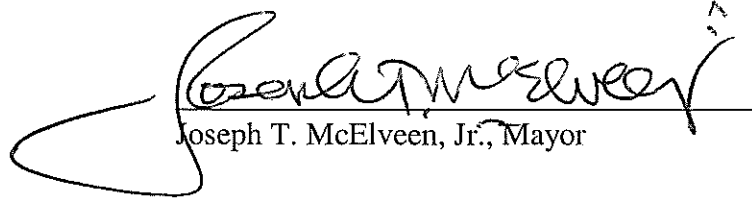
WHEREAS, CDBG funding is more important than ever to ensure the revitalization of our neighborhoods and our efforts to preserve and grow our tax base, and the loss of this funding would severely impact Sumter's most vulnerable neighborhoods and citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we the members of Sumter City Council, do hereby urge Congress to reconsider any further cuts to the CDBG Program, as it is one of the most important federal investments to our City. The City of Sumter already faces a severely constrained budget and the further reduction or loss of CDBG funding would make it extremely difficult to meet some of the most critical needs in our community.

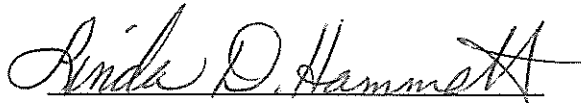
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**ADOPTED BY SUMTER CITY COUNCIL, DULY ASSEMBLED THIS 15TH DAY
OF FEBRUARY, 2011.**


Joseph T. McElveen, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:


Linda D. Hammett, City Clerk

Attachment to Resolution No. 502

CDBG PROJECTS/PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN BY THE CITY OF SUMTER

1. Housing Rehabilitation—since 1994, the City of Sumter has provided housing rehabilitation for more than 200 low-to-moderate income homeowners. During this same period, the City leveraged CDBG funds for an additional \$500,000 from the State Housing Trust Fund to supplement the City's CDBG funds for repairs.
2. Demolition— Since commencement of its Demolition Program in 2002, the City of Sumter has used CDBG funds to assist in the demolition of 299 residential structures and 19 commercial buildings to aid in the prevention or elimination of slum and blight.
3. Street Paving and Drainage – There are always ongoing paving and drainage requirements in low-to-moderate income areas. The City of Sumter has used CDBG funds to conduct several major paving and drainage projects throughout the City to help bring a better quality of life to its citizens and to allow access to public utilities for low-moderate-income areas.
4. Youth Employment Program – The City of Sumter has utilized CDBG funds to provide employment (through a special partnership with local businesses) for approximately 50 to 55 high school students (from low-to-moderate income families) annually during the summer months. Many of these students are hired on a full-time basis at the completion of the program.
5. Historic Preservation—The City of Sumter administers a partnership with businesses and property owners with its Façade Grant Program which provides funds to repair facades of buildings in the downtown business district. Since the inception of the current Façade Grant program which began in 2002, the City used \$400,000 in CDBG funds to leverage more than \$13,000,000 in private investment for the renovation of buildings in the downtown historic district.
6. Public Facilities—The City of Sumter has upgraded several public parks and recreational facilities in low-to-moderate income areas within the city limits using CDBG funds. Some of the projects conducted were: repaving parking lots, building a walking trail, resurfacing a basketball court, and installing new equipment.
7. Fair Housing—the City conducts an annual meeting to educate and expose City residents, especially renters and low-income residents, to Fair Housing information. Each year more than 50 citizens attend the event.

8. Wateree Aids Task Force—CDBG funds have provided prescriptions, utility, rent, mortgage and educational assistance to more than 40 HIV/AIDS low-to-moderate income persons within the City Limits from 2008 to 2010.

9. United Ministries Housing Rehabilitation — In 2010, this agency used volunteers to do minor rehabilitation projects on three owner- occupied homes for low-to-moderate income citizens within the city limits. The City of Sumter provided CDBG funds for the materials needed for rehabilitation.