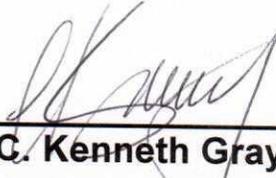




RECEIVED  
17 FEB -6 AM 11:37  
AMESBURY CITY CLERK

## CITY OF AMESBURY IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN

SPONSORED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
C. Kenneth Gray, Mayor

BILL No. 2017-016

A Resolution to support the City's application for the Fiscal Year 2017 Community Development Block Grant program.

**Summary:** A Resolution to support the following:

- The development of an application to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, by the City of Amesbury. CDBG funds are available through competitive grants to municipalities for affordable housing projects, social services, economic development, and public facilities that benefit low and moderate income persons. The FY 2017 grant round will involve an application seeking an estimated \$600,000 for City of Amesbury programs commensurate with the Community Development Plan. Further the program will continue the success of the Housing Rehabilitation program and Social Services targeting low and moderate income households in a manner consistent with the FY 2015, and FY 2016 programs.

**Be it Resolved by the City Council of the City of Amesbury assembled and by the authority of the same, considers this matter as follows:**

**WHEREAS**, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was enacted, and signed into law by President Gerald Ford, as the centerpiece of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDBG program has as its primary objective "... the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income;" and

**WHEREAS**, the CDBG program has considerable flexibility to allow communities to carry out activities that are tailored to their unique affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization needs; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout its 30-year history, the CDBG program has been a partnership among the federal, state and local governments, business, and the nonprofit sector which carry out activities that improve the lives and neighborhoods of low and moderate income families; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is proud to be one of the few communities in the State that has a housing stock which contains more than 10% units defined as affordable by the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, low and moderate income residents within Amesbury face an aging housing stock and require the assistance, such as CDBG, to sustain a viable and safe home through programs such as Housing Rehabilitation; and

**WHEREAS**, social services provide opportunities for low and moderate income residents of Amesbury who face the challenge of limited resources that CDBG can address; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Amesbury has worked with neighboring communities on regional programs for FY 2015, and FY 2016 the City now finds that an individual application will greatly benefit the specific and unique needs of the residents of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Amesbury through their City Council has adopted the required Community Development Strategy on January 13, 2015; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it Resolved that the City Council does hereby respectfully concur with the Mayor and recommends to support the development of a FY 2017 CDBG City of Amesbury application for the purpose of seeking funds for Housing Rehabilitation and Social Services.

Witness my hand and seal for the City of Amesbury this \_\_\_\_\_ day of February, 2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bonnijo Kitchin, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Kenneth Gray, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# Amesbury

Mayor C. Kenneth Gray

Office of the Mayor  
City Hall, 62 Friend Street  
Amesbury, MA 01913-2884

(978) 388-8121  
Fax: (978) 388-6727  
mayorgray@amesburyma.gov

February 6, 2017

Christian Scorzoni  
City Council President  
62 Friend Street  
Amesbury, MA 01930

Dear President Scorzoni,

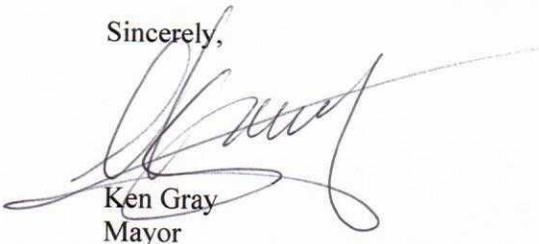
Last year, the City applied for its second application for the Community Development Block Program joining the Town of Merrimac with a successful CDBG application of \$967,000. The FY 2016 program will provide services such as a Housing Rehabilitation program, the Pettengill House, Inc. Program, which will provide emergency assistance for eligible Amesbury residents, and funding to Our Neighbors Table for the meals program. Each of these projects will directly benefit low and moderate income Amesbury and Merrimac residents.

As we move to a third year the need to focus on City issues is evident. As explained in the attached correspondence from William Scott, Amesbury Community and Economic Development Director, for the next application FY 2017, the City will apply for funding as an individual community. The OCED, through a consultant, will manage the FY 2016 grant, and write the FY 2017 application.

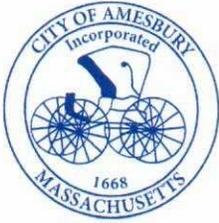
As our local economy expands and property values increase, the low and moderate income households in our community face the pressures to sustain affordability in the City. We as a community need to balance our approaches for growth with efforts such as CDBG to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to share in our current and continued success. Therefore, I respectfully request that the City Council adopt the attached resolution to support the pending CDBG application for the City of Amesbury.

Mr. Scott will be available for the meeting to answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Ken Gray  
Mayor



# Amesbury

William Scott  
Director Office of Community Development  
City Hall, 62 Friend Street  
Amesbury, MA 01913-2884

(978) 388-8110 - 313  
scottw@amesburyma.gov

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Mayor Ken Gray  
City Hall  
City of Amesbury  
62 Friend Street  
Amesbury Massachusetts 01913

Dear Mayor Gray,

The Community Development Block Program (CDBG) works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. CDBG is an important tool for helping local governments tackle serious challenges facing their communities. The CDBG program has made a difference in the lives of millions of people and their communities across the Nation.

In the FY 2015 program the City partnered with Salisbury. As a result the City obtained a regional award of \$985,922. The program has provided to both Amesbury and Salisbury services such as a Housing Rehabilitation program (12 units for Amesbury and 9 units for Salisbury), scholarship assistance to eligible Amesbury children to attend the Boy's and Girl's Club of Lower Merrimack Valley's Programs in the amount of \$55,000, and finally, the Pettengill House, Inc. Program, which will provide emergency assistance for eligible Amesbury residents from a fund of \$35,000. Each of these projects will directly benefit low and moderate income Amesbury residents.

For the FY 2016 program the City partnered with Merrimac for Housing Rehabilitation (12 units in Amesbury, and 9 units Merrimac), services from the Pettengill House with a fund of \$25,000, and meals services from Our Neighbors Table for \$45,000 for a total award of \$967,953.

In FY 2015 the City of Amesbury was considered as a CDF I community which allowed the City to apply every year. At that time Salisbury was a CDF II community and was only allowed to apply every other year. The Town of Salisbury was in the off year for FY 2015 and could not apply. However, because Amesbury can apply every year, Salisbury joined Amesbury as a regional applicant. Salisbury was able to apply for FY 2015 and with their existing CDBG office managed the grant for FY 2015.

While Salisbury joined Amesbury application for FY 2015 the Town could not apply for funds in 2016 with the City because of their CDF II status. However, Merrimac did not have a program in the prior year. Therefore the Town of Merrimac was able to jointly apply for funds with Amesbury for FY 2016.

For FY 2017 the CDF designations are no longer applicable. This provides each community with the ability to apply for individual applications. Other changes such as bonus points for regional applications are no longer evident. As the City realizes an increase in economic development there is a greater need to sustain housing and services for low and moderate income residents. Because the City was the lead applicant in two prior years we are limited to an application of \$639,000 for the FY 2017 program. Therefore we will focus the efforts on a City only application for the near maximum application.

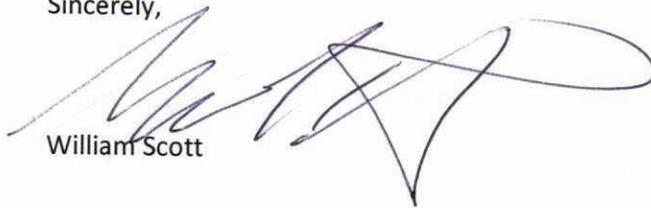
Our goal is to stay current with CDBG while creating the necessary planning tools and policy to facilitate long term and comprehensive solutions. In that regard we will be updating our Housing Production Plan, creating an ADA Transition Plan, surveying the residents on Low Mod needs, creating a regular system of communication with social service agencies, establishing other financing solutions to address needs.

In 2015 the CDBG Resolution included the adoption of the required Community Development Strategy. That language is not necessary in this resolution as the plan has a three year status with the Commonwealth Office of Housing and Community Development.

The attached Resolution will serve as an indication of support by the City Council to demonstrate a clear path toward the partnership and grant application success. A resolution enhances the competitiveness of the application.

I will make myself available for the City Council meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Scott', written over a horizontal line.

William Scott