

**METROPOLITAN & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

DATE: March 1, 2021

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:55 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members- Participated Electronically

Maggie Lewis, Chair
Zach Adamson
Paul Annee
Josh Bain
Ali Brown
Jared Evans
La Keisha Jackson
Kristin Jones
Jessica McCormick
Brian Mowery
Keith Potts
David Ray
Leroy Robinson

Absent Members

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 90, 2021 - approves the amounts, locations, and programmatic operation of certain projects to be funded from the Community Development Grant Funds

“Do Pass”

Vote: 7-2-4

PROPOSAL NO. 106, 2021 - adds a new Chapter 812 to temporarily limit charges and fees during the COVID-19 pandemic

“Do Pass”

Vote: 9-3

PROPOSAL NO. 110, 2021 - reappoints Nora Spitznogle to the City Market Corporation Board of Directors

“Do Pass”

Vote: 12-0

PROPOSAL NO. 111, 2021 - reappoints Jason Dudich to the City Market Corporation Board of Directors

“Do Pass”

Vote: 12-0

PROPOSAL NO. 112, 2021 - reappoints Portia Bailey-Bernard to the City Market Corporation Board of Directors

“Do Pass”

Vote: 12-0

PROPOSAL NO. 113, 2021 - reappoints Barney Levensgood to the City Market Corporation Board of Directors

“Do Pass”

Vote: 12-0

PROPOSAL NO. 114, 2021 - reappoints Michael Solari to the City Market Corporation Board of Directors

“Do Pass”

Vote: 12-0

METROPOLITAN & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Metropolitan and Economic Development Committee of the City-County Council met on Monday, March 1, 2021. Chair Maggie Lewis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present. Zach Adamson, Josh Bain, Ali Brown, Jared Evans, La Keisha Jackson, Kristin Jones, Jessica McCormick, Keith Potts, David Ray, and Leroy Robinson. Councillors Annee and Mowery joined shortly thereafter. Representing Council staff was General Counsel, Toae Kim.

Chair Lewis asked for consent to hear Proposal Nos. 110-114, 2021 together. Consent was given.

PROPOSAL NO. 110, 2021 - reappoints Nora Spitznogle to the City Market Corporation Board of Directors

PROPOSAL NO. 111, 2021 - reappoints Jason Dudich to the City Market Corporation Board of Directors

PROPOSAL NO. 112, 2021 - reappoints Portia Bailey-Bernard to the City Market Corporation Board of Directors

PROPOSAL NO. 113, 2021 - reappoints Barney Levensgood to the City Market Corporation Board of Directors

PROPOSAL NO. 114, 2021 - reappoints Michael Solari to the City Market Corporation Board of Directors

All the reappointments were present to answer questions. Chair Lewis stated that the attendance records for the reappointments have been great.

Councillor Annee asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor for Proposal No. 111, 2021.

Councillor Jackson moved, seconded by Councillor Adamson, to send Proposal Nos. 110-114, 2021 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 12-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 90, 2021 - approves the amounts, locations, and programmatic operation of certain projects to be funded from the Community Development Grant Funds

Scarlett Martin, Director, and Jennie Fults, Administrator of Community Investments, Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD), gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached as Exhibit A), making the following key points:

- The Consolidated Plan also serves as the application for federal entitlement grant programs.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- Approximately \$9 million
- No more than 15% of the funds can be used for public service activities.

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

- Approximately \$4.1 million annually. Used to expand the availability of decent, affordable housing for individuals earning 80% or below the median family income (MFI).

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

- Approx. \$809,000 annually. Used to provide supportive services, homelessness prevention, operating support to area shelters, and Rapid Re-Housing Programs.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

- Approx. \$1.5 million annually. Used to provide housing assistance and supportive services to persons with HIV/AIDS.

Lift Indy Program

- Awarded to areas showing strong market potential, neighborhood vision, and community support.
- DMD allocates roughly **\$4M** in CDBG/HOME funds over three years for the purposes of:
 - Homeownership
 - Rental Housing
 - Economic Development
 - Creative Placemaking
 - Infrastructure Improvements

Ms. Fults stated that DMD can only fund projects that meet the consolidated plan goals.

- Funds were awarded through open, competitive processes that included applications for funding, requests for qualifications, and requests for proposals.
- All funding decisions were made by city and community stakeholders

Councillor Annee asked if there are any plans to distribute funds to the county's suburbs and its perimeters. Ms. Fults stated that they are proposing to fund the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center, which will help provide technical assistance and capacity training to various organizations throughout the county. She added that DMD staff offers free training to organizations to apply for grants and be eligible to receive funding. Councillor Annee asked if any promotional materials are passed out to inform organizations of funding availability. Ms. Fults stated that they have an email distribution list and they can add any organization that wishes to be added.

Councillor Jackson asked how they identify neighborhoods for a Lift Indy project. Ms. Fults stated that for 2021 they looked at data that shows neighborhoods that will be disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Councillor Jackson asked if DMD goes to the organizations or if the organizations must come to DMD to apply for funding and if they are non-profit organizations. Ms. Fults affirmed, stating that it is a combination of partners that come together to submit applications. Councillor Jackson stated that she would like her district to be considered for 2022.

Councillor Evans stated that he does not support the proposal because most of the funds are granted to the downtown area and the near eastside.

Councillor Robinson asked how many Lift Indy projects have been done and where. Ms. Fults stated that there have been three projects: the Monon 16 area, the Old Southside Neighborhood, and the Martindale/Brightwood neighborhood.

Councillor Robinson stated that he would like DMD to work with organizations in Councillors' districts and with Councillors to help organizations receive the funding.

Councillor McCormick asked if they lose the funding if the proposal does not pass and they miss the deadline. Ms. Fults stated that they will not miss the deadline and there is time to make adjustments if needed; however, any delays in allocating funding would impact their ability to spend the funds. Councillor McCormick asked if they have time to review the proposal before the full Council votes on it. Ms. Fults stated that they are scheduled to begin the program on April 1, 2021, but they will have time to wait until the next Council meeting.

Councillor Robinson asked who creates the metrics for allocating the Lift Indy program funding. Ms. Fults stated that Lift Indy is only a portion of the financing, and DMD makes the criteria, and they look at other data such as poverty levels.

Councillor Adamson moved, seconded by Councillor Evans, to send Proposal No. 90, 2021 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-2-4. With Councillors Brown and Jackson abstaining and Councillors Annee, Bain, Evans, and Mowery casting the negative votes.

PROPOSAL NO. 106, 2021 - adds a new Chapter 812 to temporarily limit charges and fees during the COVID-19 pandemic

Councillors Potts and Barth presented the Proposal. Mackenzie Higgins, Administrator-Policy Advisor, Mayor’s Office, gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached as Exhibit B), making the following key points:

- Restaurants were forced to shift to more delivery and carryout orders since March 2020.
- Third-Party Delivery Services charge restaurants fees equivalent to 30% or more of the purchase price for promoting restaurants, processing orders, and delivery services
- Temporarily limits the maximum amount of fees Third-Party Delivery Service Providers can charge Restaurants
- 15% limit for Delivery Fees and 5% limit on all other fees
- Enforcement will be through Business and Neighborhood Services, and violations will result in a \$500 pre-payable citation

{CLERK’S NOTE: Councillor Evans left the meeting at 6:30 p.m. }

Councillor Barth stated that he spoke with restaurant owners and has received feedback supporting Proposal No.106, 2021.

Councillor Annee asked if there is a time when this temporary proposal will be undone. Councillor Barth stated that it is aligned with the health department, and when the capacity limitations go to 100% , there will be a 90-day wait.

Councillor Bain asked if they can have 100% restaurant capacity for the sunset clause, and the health order is still present. Ms. Higgins stated that once the restaurant capacity is restored to 100% , the 90-day wait will begin. Councillor Bain asked where the limit percentages for the fees come from. Councillor Barth stated that compared to other states, they found common ground that would be beneficial to the local businesses and not problematic to the third parties.

Councillor McCormick asked what would happen if a restaurant’s capacity reaches 100% and the 90-day period begins, and they go back to below capacity. Councillor Potts stated that because the Sunset Clause pertains to the 2020 Public Health order, they would have to come back and present a similar proposal.

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Councillors Adamson, Jones, and McCormick asked to be added as co-sponsors.

Chair Lewis called for public comments. The submitted comments are attached as Exhibit C.

Elise Shrock spoke in support of Proposal No. 106, 2021, on behalf of the Indiana Restaurant and Lodging Association, stating that service fees really cut into the decreased profits over the last year, adding that with the temporary capping, restaurants will benefit.

Councillor Potts moved, seconded by Councillor Adamson, to send Proposal No. 106, 2021 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 9-3, with Councillors Annee, Bain, and Mowery casting the negative votes.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Metropolitan Development Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Maggie Lewis, Chair

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