



MEMORANDUM

TO: Lorie Mertens-Black

FROM: The Cormac Group, LLP

DATE: August 19, 2014

RE: Year to Date Report

CC:

INTRODUCTION

Over the past year The Cormac Group (TCG) has assisted the City of Hollywood on multiple federal issues. We have worked on issues identifying new grant opportunities and also expanding Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Cormac Group has been looking at various funding opportunities, through multiple grants that we have brought to the attention of the City. Some of these include TIGER, and SAFER grants and also the 2014 TAP program.

We work with the Cities' Congressional delegation on almost a daily basis furthering the agenda of the City of Hollywood here in Washington, DC. Below you will find a detailed report of all the work The Cormac Group has done, to date, on behalf of the City of Hollywood.

FEDERAL GRANTS

The Cormac Group assisted the city in identifying three grants within DHS, HUD and DOT as well as securing Congressional support for the Cities' Safe Routes to School Project.

The first was SAFER grant program, specifically the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program. The purpose of the AFG Program is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The Grant Programs Directorate administers the Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grants as part of the AFG Program. FP&S grants are offered to support projects in two activities: 1. Activities designed to reach high-risk target groups and mitigate the incidence of death and injuries caused by fire and fire-related hazards ("Fire Prevention and Safety Activity") 2. Projects aimed at improving firefighter safety, health and wellness through

research and development that reduces firefighter fatalities and injuries (“Firefighter Safety Research and Development Activity”)

The Cormac Group also made the city aware of the latest round of TIGER discretionary funding which like the previous rounds, this year’s TIGER Discretionary Grants were for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and were awarded on a competitive basis for projects that have a significant impact on the nation. TIGER received a large boost in funding in FY14 — the omnibus spending package approved in January for the fiscal year included a \$126 million or 27 percent increase in funding over FY13 sequestration levels. In addition to capital grants, DOT now has the flexibility to award up to \$35 million in planning grants. This represents the first time since FY10 that TIGER planning grants have been available.

Despite the funding increase, the demand for grants far outweighs the available funding. During the previous five rounds of grants, DOT has received over 5,300 applications requesting more than \$115 billion in funding for transportation infrastructure projects.

In the beginning of the year, HUD expanded on their Choice Neighborhood Funding Grant Program using FY2014 unobligated dollars. Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants support the development of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans which, when implemented, are expected to achieve the following three core goals:

- **Housing:** Replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood.
- **People:** Improve educational outcomes and inter-generational mobility for youth and supports delivered directly to youth and their families.
- **Neighborhood:** Create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activity, that are important to families’ choices about their community.

To achieve these core goals, communities must develop and implement a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, or Transformation Plan. These funds could be used to help develop downtown Hollywood’s Residential and Commercial center without the utilization of CDBG funds.

The final project that the Cormac Group assisted the City with in the past few months was securing a letter of support from Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz for the Cities’ efforts to obtain Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding for the Colbert Elementary “Safe Routes To School” Sidewalk Project. Working with both Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz and Senator Bill Nelson’s offices TCG was able to secure a letter of support from the Congresswoman as well as a number of phone calls from Senator Nelson’s Chief of Staff, Pete Mitchell, on behalf of this program for Hollywood.

MOVING FORWARD

The Cormac Group will continue to monitor any newly released grants that may be beneficial to the City of Hollywood in the upcoming months. As in the past ten years The Cormac Group will be on call to assist the City of Hollywood at any time.