



Department of City Development

City Plan Commission
Neighborhood Improvement
Development Corporation
Redevelopment Authority

Rocky Marcoux
Commissioner

Martha L. Brown
Deputy Commissioner

December 10, 2010

Members of the Community and Economic Development Committee
City Hall, Room 205

Dear Committee members:

I am writing regarding file no. 100606, regarding a request for a Development Fund grant to the Council for the Spanish Speaking (CSS) to fund repairs at its Hillview Building.

Since this matter was last discussed by the Committee, the Department has referred CSS to two agencies that specialize in financing development activity undertaken by non-profit agencies (LISC-Milwaukee and Forward Community Investment). However, CSS does not wish to assume any more debt on the building, and thus found these sources to be infeasible for the project.

Subsequently, CSS obtained a \$40,000 grant from Milwaukee County's Community Development Block Grant allocation to pay approximately one-third of the cost of the project.

To the greatest extent possible, we urge CED to preserve Development Fund resources for activities that meet the guidelines adopted by the Council for Development Fund expenditures in sect. 304-31, Milwaukee Code of Ordinances. The ordinance specifies that the Development Fund is restricted to providing grants or loans to projects that result in tax base growth, involve job training, and fund infrastructure work, environmental testing and brownfield remediation. Should the CED Committee wish to make a grant from the Development Fund for this project, we would recommend that the amount not exceed the \$40,000 provided by Milwaukee County.

Sincerely,

Martha L. Brown
Deputy Commissioner