



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

September 6, 2013

To the Honorable, the Common Council
of the City of Milwaukee

Honorable Members of the Common Council:

I am vetoing File Number 130325, a resolution relative to the establishment of the Year 2014 Funding Allocation Plan.

I am exercising my veto authority for the following reason:

The resolution, as amended at the July 9, 2013 Common Council's Community and Economic Development Committee and approved at the September 4, 2013 meeting of the Milwaukee Common Council, decreases the proposed funding for the 2014 Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Allocation category titled "Proposed CITY CDBG Allocation by \$1,000,000 from \$6,351,150 to \$5,351,150." The decrease is too much.

We simply cannot afford to shift a total of \$1,000,000 from the City's allocation to other efforts, no matter how laudable, when we are faced with declining state revenues, a state imposed levy limit, continued contributions to the City's employee pension plan and the imminent need to address vacant and foreclosed properties.

The effort to tackle the fallout from the foreclosure crisis will take millions of dollars of levy supported operating funds as well as capital investments to demolish and rehab properties, to maintain and reinvest in vacant lots and improved properties and to employ Milwaukee residents to undertake the work.

Since 2011, the Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] City allocation has declined by more than \$2.3 million, or more than 22%. In 2012, the City's levy supported budget absorbed approximately \$1 million in previously funded CDBG activity. In 2014, tax levy funded support for land management, previously funded through CDBG, is projected to be more than \$2.6 million.

Given our fiscal restraints, I cannot accept the \$1 million cut to the City's CDBG allocation. I did, and continue to support, the amendment offered by Alderman Murphy at the July 23, 2013 Common Council meeting.

That amendment funded the BMA/Milwaukee Promise at \$300,000 and "Be the Change" at \$100,000. The amendment returned a total of \$600,000 to the City's 2014 CDBG allocation. I encourage you to take up and pass that amendment. If the Council adopts this amendment, the City will still need to adjust to a \$600,000 total reduction to its Funding Allocation Plan allocation, relative to 2013.

Based on our current fiscal realities, I believe the \$1 million reduction to the City's 2014 CDBG allocation is not in order and I ask that you sustain my veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Barrett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Barrett
Mayor