

Annual Plan Response to Public Comments:

Public Comments:

The City received two e-mails and a formal letter on April 10th from West Mesa Community Development Corporation (WMCDC). The e-mails were sent by Joe Shipley a board member of WMCDC and the letter was sent by Susan Schuller, President of the WMCDC Board and was signed by the board members.

In summary, both the letter and the e-mails (attached) asked the City to reconsider the funding recommendation for WMCDC as they have been a long time partner in the City of Mesa providing services to help stabilize neighborhoods, promote business development and upgraded parks. What was not funded this year was:

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|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Code Compliance (voluntary) | \$100,000 |
| Safety Education/Crime Prevention | \$10,000 |

WMCDC feels these are valuable activities and being provided by a non-profit verse the City better helps build community engagement.

City Response:

While all activities are valuable in our community, there is a limited amount of federal funding. Federal requirements are also in place which caps funding on specific activity types. The proposed application from WMCDC would have been designated a “Public Service” activity since there is no enforcement capabilities. The “Public Service” activity has already reached the 15% maximum cap. An increase in funding was recommended in the City’s Code Compliance program for the voluntary code compliance services. This service provides a formal Code Enforcement effort which complies with HUD regulations as a “Code Enforcement” activity.

The application process outlined by the City of Mesa starts in October of the prior year and through technical reviews of the applications and presentations to the Housing and Community Development Board, each application is given a final rating for funding. These applications are then reviewed by the Community and Cultural Development Council Sub-committee (CCD) for final recommendations to City Council. The final funding recommendations were approved by City Council on February 27, 2014. This is an open and competitive process that exceeds HUD regulations for public participations. Unfortunately, the above applications score did not rank high enough to be funded based on the federal funding allocation, nor received a modification in funding recommendations from the CCD or City Council.