

1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

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IN RE: FOR INTRODUCTION - AN
ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON
TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)
PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)
PROGRAM FOR THE FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN,
ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE,
AND ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING
JANUARY 1, 2020.

HELD: APRIL 7, 2020

LOCATION:

VIA ZOOM

MARIA McCOOL

OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER, RPR

1 MR. GAUGHAN: All right. I'd like
2 to call this public hearing to order. Roll
3 call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

7 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

8 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Thank you.

14 Mrs. Reed?

15 MS. REED: The purpose of said
16 public hearing is to hear testimony and discuss
17 the following:

18 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 4, 2020
19 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
20 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL
21 NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
22 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
23 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
24 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
25 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)

1 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)
2 PROGRAM FOR THE FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN,
3 ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE,
4 AND ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING
5 JANUARY 1, 2020.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: So we have all the
7 Council people here. We also have with us
8 Mary-Pat Ward who is the Executive Director of
9 the Office of Economic and Community
10 Development. So, Mary-Pat, how are you doing?

11 MS. WARD: Hi, how are you? Good
12 evening.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Good. Good evening.
14 And we also have the Deputy Director of the
15 Office of Economic and Community Development,
16 Tom Preambo. So as Mrs. Reed said, the purpose
17 of this public hearing is to hear comment from
18 the public on our Action Plan.

19 We did advertise in the newspaper to
20 ask the public for any comment to be sent to
21 our office and to be included in tonight's
22 meeting.

23 And just for the record, there was
24 no public comment received. So what I would
25 like to do now is turn it over to Mary-Pat Ward

1 who is also accompanied by Sean Gallagher who
2 is the Solicitor for OECD. Hi, Sean.

3 ATTY. GALLAGHER: Good evening.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: I believe we have you
5 said Mary-Pat, a consultant for OECD. Who is
6 that person?

7 MS. WARD: Yes, it is Dave Jordan.
8 He is from Urban Design Ventures, LLC, which is
9 the consultant that we have been working with
10 diligently in regards to the documents and the
11 requests before you this evening.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay, great. And I
13 think I see Dave. Dave, is that you there on
14 the --

15 MR. JORDAN: Yes, I'm here.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Great. Thank
17 you. Okay, I think we can get started.
18 Mary-Pat, I'll turn it over to you if you want
19 to make your presentation along with
20 Mr. Preambo. And then we'll go through and see
21 if there's any questions. Thank you.

22 MS. WARD: Sounds great. Good
23 evening. My name is Mary-Pat Ward. And I am
24 the Executive Director of the City of
25 Scranton's Office of Economic and Community

1 Development, better known as OECD.

2 I am virtually present this evening
3 with my Deputy Director, Tom Preambo,
4 Solicitor, Sean Gallagher and consultant David
5 Jordan of Urban Design Ventures, LLC regarding
6 the City's housing and urban development Five
7 Year Consolidated Plan, 2020 Action Plan and
8 the Analysis to Impediments to Fair Housing
9 Choice.

10 Many people ask what is the purpose
11 of OECD? And simply put, it is to help people.
12 And there are a variety of ways that the City
13 of Scranton through OECD can help with federal
14 funding we receive each year. So here we go.

15 Every five years OECD on behalf of
16 the City of Scranton embarks on creating an
17 updated Five Year Consolidated Plan that lays
18 out overarching goals and objectives as it
19 relates to HUD funding including housing,
20 homelessness, community development, economic
21 development, administrative planning and
22 management strategies, goals and objectives.
23 So that is a mouthful. I could understand
24 that.

25 These goals and objectives are

1 crafted in a variety of ways. Through our
2 consultants at Urban Design Ventures, LLC, we
3 created a survey that was available online as
4 well as the ability to fill out a paper survey
5 and send it in.

6 Our consultants also spoke with City
7 administrators, some of our fellow
8 Councilpersons, City employees as well as other
9 government agencies, non-profits and other
10 community stakeholders regarding the needs of
11 our City.

12 Many know my story of homelessness
13 here in Scranton 15 years ago as a young single
14 mother of a toddler daughter seeking a better
15 life. This community lifted me up in my time
16 of need. And I am forever grateful for that.
17 I was able to put down roots, graduate with a
18 degree and create a life for myself and my
19 daughter here in Scranton.

20 And I am in the unique position of
21 being a recipient of many of the public
22 services that we support through the, you know,
23 our federal funding many years ago, working in
24 direct services with a local non-profit for
25 over eight years and having a true

1 understanding of unique economic needs of our
2 community and now leading a city department
3 whose job it is to help people and lift them up
4 like the community lifted me up.

5 I share this because it is important
6 that City Council, City Administration, our
7 residents and community stakeholders understand
8 that it takes all of us to make this community
9 better. And no decision is made
10 single-handedly but through a team effort.

11 Before City Council this evening is
12 a draft of the 2020 Action Plan that includes a
13 summarization of agencies, non-profits and
14 others who are seeking funding to help make
15 this community stronger and better in a variety
16 of ways, especially in the world we live in
17 right this very moment.

18 These programs and projects will be
19 vital in the City's recovery once we get on the
20 other side of this. OECD engaged a Citizen's
21 Advisory Committee who generously donated their
22 time to put forth the recommendations before
23 you this evening. We are forever grateful to
24 this team of residents that so very much care
25 for this City.

1 We encourage everyone to read over
2 the documents discussed this evening and ask
3 questions. And I will have my Deputy Director
4 Tom Preambo speak briefly to the survey and
5 Citizen's Advisory Committee.

6 We encourage City Council,
7 residents, and community stakeholders to ask
8 questions and provide feedback in the next week
9 regarding the Five Year Consolidated Plan and
10 our 2020 Action Plan.

11 Thank you for giving us the
12 opportunity to come before you this evening.
13 Tom, over to you.

14 MR. PREAMBO: Thank you, Executive
15 Director Ward. First, I would like to
16 acknowledge the Citizen's Advisory Committee
17 members that were so instrumental in selecting
18 the activities for the 2020 Action Plan and the
19 goals for the Five Year Consolidated Plan.

20 The committee is made up of seven
21 members. Their names are Nell O'Boyle, Alex
22 Molfetas, Christian Budney, Bryan Loftus, Rev.
23 Rebecca Barnes, Aja Wenton and Kathleen Madzin.

24 These individuals each provided well
25 over nine hours of their time as a volunteer

1 over the last eight months to assist the City
2 of Scranton in creating these documents.

3 Our committee reviewed the data from
4 the resident survey that was collected between
5 August 8th of last year to January 2nd of this
6 year with 85 -- or, excuse me, 585 respondents.

7 Following the survey -- following
8 the review of the survey, the committee
9 selected each activity and funded the amounts
10 that are currently in the 2020 proposed Action
11 Plan in front of you tonight.

12 Careful consideration was given to
13 remove absolutely any bias outcomes and to be
14 sure that the selections married up with the
15 survey data priorities that were provided by
16 the participants in the resident survey.

17 For all of their work and the time
18 that they dedicated to this process and working
19 with the OECD staff, we are very grateful for
20 their time and their efforts that they put
21 forward. So with that, I'd like to turn it
22 over to Dave Jordan. Dave is our consultant
23 from Urban Design Ventures. Dave?

24 MR. JORDAN: Thank you, Tom. Good
25 evening, everyone.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Jordan --

2 MR. JORDAN: Yes.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm sorry. I don't
4 know. Is anyone else hearing the feedback? I
5 think it might have something to do with your
6 microphone or when you're talking it's a ton of
7 feedback there.

8 MR. JORDAN: We had a issue the last
9 day or so with it being a little scratchy. Is
10 it better now?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: No, not really. It's
12 still really -- it's hard to hear you.

13 MR. JORDAN: Sorry, I don't know
14 what to do about it. The speaker is built into
15 my laptop.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: That's okay. I don't
17 want to skip over you. But I can't really hear
18 anything you're saying. So -- Mary-Pat, does
19 he have anything really important to offer?
20 And I feel bad. I don't want to skip over you;
21 but I can't -- it's really hard to hear him.

22 MS. WARD: What we could do really,
23 we just wanted to introduce to our, you know,
24 to our Councilpersons our consultant here, Dave
25 Jordan and let you know that we absolutely will

1 be able to in the next week before it's up for
2 vote -- able to provided answers to any of the
3 questions you may have and community
4 stakeholders. So it was just letting you all
5 know that he's here and that we're here for
6 you.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you so
8 much. And, I'm sorry, Mr. Jordan. I don't
9 want to skip over you. But it is -- I can hear
10 that feedback. Okay. Anything else from Mr.
11 Preambo or Mrs. Ward?

12 MR. PREAMBO: Not at this time,
13 Councilman Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay, so now what I'd
15 like to do since we have some time left is just
16 go around the room here and see if any
17 Councilpeople have questions. So I'll start
18 off with Dr. Rothchild who is the Chairwoman
19 for Economic and Community Development. Do you
20 have any questions, Dr. Rothchild?

21 DR. ROTHCHILD: I don't at this
22 time. Like I mentioned last week, I felt like
23 it was really well put together plan. And I,
24 you know, appreciated all the goals that were
25 in there. I felt like everything was

1 reasonable.

2 You know, I'm still reviewing all of
3 it obviously. It's a large document. As
4 questions come up I'm happy to direct them to
5 Mary-Pat -- or Mrs. Ward. And I know that she
6 e-mailed me, and I think I got back kind of
7 late and we missed each other. So perhaps we
8 can connect another time this week.

9 MS. WARD: Absolutely.

10 DR. ROTHCHILD: Great. Thank you.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Great. Thank you, Dr.
12 Rothchild. Councilman McAndrew, do you have
13 any comments or any questions?

14 MR. MCANDREW: I don't have any
15 questions at this time. But I'm excited to see
16 the plan get moving. And I also need to read
17 through the whole plan and maybe have a couple
18 questions after that.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Great. Thank
20 you. Councilman Donahue, any questions or
21 comments?

22 MR. DONAHUE: Just a comment real
23 quick. I just want to thank Mary-Pat and Tom
24 and the consultant for all the hard work
25 that -- and Sean for all the hard work that's

1 gone into this. I was the OECD Chair at the
2 beginning of this process back in August.

3 Mary-Pat involved and Tom involved
4 me every step of the way and I really
5 appreciated that. It was great how things were
6 done my first year on Council. So I really do
7 appreciate that. Thank you.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Great. Thank you.
9 And, Councilman Schuster, do you have any
10 comments or any questions?

11 MR. SCHUSTER: No. I have no
12 questions or comments at this time.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. I have a
14 few comments and questions. The first question
15 would be, could you just explain, you know, in
16 the past timeline-wise, Council has always
17 voted on this it seems like a lot earlier.

18 And then there had to be -- it was a
19 different process it seemed like. So could you
20 just talk about the difference now and how the
21 funding is coming in from the federal
22 government and what has changed?

23 MS. WARD: Sure. So on the federal
24 government end there hasn't really been a big
25 change. We decided to make a little bit of a

1 change. It's very hard for non-profits to be
2 or agencies in general doing public service
3 work or anyone planning on doing a project to
4 have to put information into an application and
5 then not hear for what feels like a millennia
6 while this process ensues.

7 So it was really important having
8 the ability to invest in a consultant this time
9 around and using the rich history of OECD and
10 my team including obviously the indispensable
11 Tom Preambo to work out a new system that would
12 work best for all of us.

13 So for OECD, for City Council and
14 especially for our residents and our community
15 stakeholders in regards to being able to apply
16 and then seeing that process move as opposed to
17 just sitting there for a long time. And so we
18 really hope as we continue to move forward and
19 there's even a chance to move it even a little
20 bit forward that the process is less and more
21 conducive to helping.

22 So that's why it looks a little bit
23 different this year, especially for the fact,
24 you know, for instance, we may not see -- we
25 hear about what allocations we receive. But we

1 don't actually see that money until the fall.

2 And so it's a long time to be
3 waiting on that. And so we're trying to move
4 in the right direction.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Great. That
6 makes sense. Thank you so much. One of the --

7 MR. DONAHUE: Councilman Gaughan,
8 just -- Councilman Gaughan, just if I could
9 just for an example, when we approved the last
10 Action Plan, we did that in October of '18, I
11 believe. The money that was awarded then
12 didn't actually get into the applicant's hand
13 until October of '19. So they waited a whole
14 year after we approved it.

15 So this gives us a little more time
16 to review, you know, the applicants -- the
17 applications that are coming in and move
18 forward with that. So I just wanted to point
19 that out.

20 MS. WARD: Thank you.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Great. Thank
22 you. One of the projects that I had an
23 interest in was the design and construction of
24 new public sidewalks with ADA ramps,
25 streetscape and lighting improvements within

1 areas of the City of Scranton. And it looks
2 like you're proposing \$255,465.

3 Do you have any idea yet where --
4 what areas of the City you're going to target
5 in terms of that funding?

6 MS. WARD: So let's -- we're going
7 to -- we're going to have Tom step in for this.
8 This is our Deputy Director. This is really
9 where he helps me in regards to some of this
10 work, especially in regards to infrastructure.
11 So take it away, Tom. That would be great.

12 MR. PREAMBO: Thank you. Thank you,
13 Mary-Pat. And thank you Councilman Gaughan for
14 that question. Obviously the eligibility for
15 that criteria, that project to take place would
16 be in a low to moderate income area. So it
17 isn't specific to site selection at this point
18 in time.

19 That is an ongoing process within
20 our office and within the administration.
21 Hopefully we will have something soon when we
22 get beyond this crisis that we're in right now.
23 And we can move forward into something maybe as
24 early as the fall or next spring.

25 But it isn't site specific yet with

1 the one exception that it must be done in a low
2 to moderate income area to meet the national
3 objective.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. One
5 of the other things that stuck out to me was
6 the neighborhood police patrol. And the years
7 that I have been on Council, that's always been
8 funded. And the City put in for \$275,202.

9 And the amount that you ended up
10 being proposed was zero dollars. So can you
11 just explain the -- you know, what happened
12 there?

13 MS. WARD: Sure. Absolutely. So
14 that -- the money that is requested each year
15 is really based on a projection of the patrols
16 that will be out on the street, if you will.
17 Unfortunately, in the last several years
18 because of the eligibility through HUD, it only
19 pays for certain aspects, obviously our low to
20 mod areas.

21 But also in regards to the money
22 that we're able to spend down towards that
23 project in this instance NPP. So for us as we
24 are seeing a little bit of buildup of that
25 money, it became imperative that we don't want

1 to set up a very vital, vital and important
2 project for failure where you would look at
3 something like recapture of funds.

4 And so in this instance as we
5 hopefully have a more invigorated force with,
6 you know, a new, you know, new entry-level
7 testing, etc., and getting more patrols out, we
8 want to provide a gap year.

9 They have more than enough money for
10 this coming year and even beyond. And so we
11 just wanted to provide them a time to play a
12 little bit of catchup. And I'd rather see us
13 be protective than have to be reactive and have
14 either that money recaptured or us have to
15 enter remediation with HUD, you know, to see
16 that money spent down.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. I'm glad to
18 hear that. Thank you for that answer. And the
19 one -- I usually have this question every year;
20 and I know that you might not have the
21 information on you. So but if you could
22 provide that at some date if you don't have it
23 readily available.

24 But the project with the demolition
25 of hazardous structures, the City wanted to --

1 wanted \$400,000. And what you had proposed was
2 \$225,000. So would you be able to provide
3 Council tonight or some time in the near future
4 how much funding is -- the City currently has
5 for the demolition of hazardous structures?

6 Because I know over the last several
7 years we have always, you know, approved a
8 significant amount of money for that. So how
9 much money do we currently have in there,
10 number one. Number two, how many houses have
11 been demolished with federal money in the last
12 two or three years?

13 And I don't know if you would be
14 able to talk about the strategy or maybe we
15 would ask the City officials that. But I'm
16 curious as to the strategy. I know it would
17 have to be done in low to moderate income
18 areas, but what is the strategy on how you go
19 about choosing those houses that will be
20 demolished?

21 MS. WARD: Sure. Some answers I
22 could provide now, Councilman Gaughan. And
23 then others I will certainly come back to make
24 sure we have accurate numbers. So it's -- we
25 embarked almost over two years ago even in my

1 time upstairs when I was in the Law Department
2 in trying to spend down the money in OECD to
3 demolish, you know, those much needed
4 structures that needed to come down for a
5 variety of reasons.

6 And it is -- it's a very complicated
7 process, especially because -- and
8 understandably the protection of a homeowner or
9 a property owner in regards to interference by
10 the government.

11 And so we have to make sure that all
12 of those legal processes are gone through and
13 the availability or the ability to appeal any
14 of that that time has to go by before we can
15 actually make it active on our list.

16 We worked really hard. We had 10
17 properties that we had -- were able to
18 complete, some asbestos abatement. And we were
19 just on the verge of and actually was able to
20 demolish one of the 10 properties on the list
21 before the crisis hit. And we had to shut down
22 what is under the label of construction at this
23 point.

24 So through Governor's orders we had
25 to stop. So we were going to have 10. And

1 it's almost happening, 10 properties come down
2 throughout the City of Scranton. Some of the,
3 you know, some of those neighborhood eyesores
4 that, you know, we're all aware of.

5 That process really starts up in the
6 LIPS Department with the Housing Appeals Board
7 and then continues through that legal process.

8 So we were hoping to expend near
9 \$400,000 at the end of, you know, with those 10
10 properties. And the hope that, you know, as we
11 get used to this process and make it a better
12 process, we can invest more money but still be
13 conservative and be realistic in what we can
14 get done in a year.

15 So as far as what we've done over
16 the two to three years, I'll be able to provide
17 some feedback and exactly the, you know, down
18 to the dollars and cents, if you will. We'll
19 be able to provide that to City Council for
20 your digestion.

21 What's exciting about moving forward
22 and involving our five year con plan -- and
23 then I will put it over to Tom in case he has,
24 you know, a couple of extra thoughts, is that
25 we have added commercial properties onto our

1 list.

2 Generally we've only done
3 residential. But we feel that there is a need
4 for commercial properties to be added as long
5 as they are meeting the eligibility
6 requirements. And certainly there is strategic
7 planning involved. And the teamwork of City
8 Council and City Administration as we would
9 make any decisions about that.

10 But we are excited about that
11 prospect of being able to hopefully help,
12 especially our low to mod areas or in those
13 much needed areas of being able to take down
14 some commercial buildings if necessary.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Great. Thank
16 you, Mary-Pat. Tom, did you have anything to
17 add to that?

18 MR. PREAMBO: Sure, Councilman
19 Gaughan. Actually I just looked up the numbers
20 that we had. At the beginning of 2019 from our
21 2019 Action Plan we carried over into 2020
22 actually \$306,000. We've drawn a substantial
23 amount as Mary-Pat had mentioned. We did some
24 asbestos abatement under contract with a
25 construction company.

1 We drew down \$65,000. So we have
2 still under contract to spend \$237,000. That's
3 an active contract as of now minus the crisis
4 that we're in. And we had to suspend the
5 activity. So we will be spending \$306,000 when
6 we get back up.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you very
8 much. That's very helpful. And then the last
9 question I have, can you just speak to -- I see
10 that there's a hundred thousand dollars in the
11 Action Plan for the development of job creation
12 opportunities through the business loan program
13 site and infrastructure improvements.

14 You know, over my tenure on Council,
15 I've seen really a lot of good projects come
16 through with the use of that program. So can
17 you just kind of give us a briefing on that how
18 that program has kind of evolved over the years
19 and where we are with the success it looks
20 like?

21 MS. WARD: I would absolutely not
22 speak to that. That would be our, you know,
23 like a Tom Preambo, that has been a labor of
24 love for him for many years. And certainly
25 he's our expert on this program. And so I

1 would like Tom to speak to that, if possible.

2 MR. PREAMBO: Sure. Absolutely,
3 Director Ward. Thank you very much for that
4 question, Councilman Gaughan. I know the
5 amount looks rather low. But that would equate
6 to three full-time equivalent jobs if we were
7 able to get that money out the door at the
8 \$100,000.

9 Carrying over from last year, we
10 have approximately \$250,000. And as you know,
11 recently we submitted a legislative package for
12 a client for 70,000. So that's another 70,000
13 that's going out the door that you recently
14 passed that legislation for us.

15 But along with that, this has been a
16 very, very positive program for our department
17 and for the City. Over the last five years
18 since its inception, we've spent approximately
19 \$750,000. And the jobs have also saved
20 multiple employment opportunities for
21 individuals to work in Scranton.

22 One that is very close to us is
23 Delta Medix who you know they were going to
24 possibly relocate outside of the City. And one
25 of the things that helped them to decide to

1 stay in the City was this program. And now
2 they're in the City. They saved 150 jobs and
3 gave us eight more.

4 So as a result of that, you know,
5 and they're still expanding. I was just
6 speaking to them a couple of weeks ago.
7 They're still looking at hiring more people.
8 So that's a win/win.

9 So the program is very active. The
10 program is very successful. And I assure you
11 that with the money that we have being
12 appropriated at \$100,000 is enough for it to
13 keep going considering we're carrying over
14 250,000 as well.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you so
16 much. I don't have any other questions. Does
17 anyone else have anything that -- does any
18 other Council members have anything that they
19 would like to add or any other questions? No?
20 Okay. Mary-Pat, anything else from you?

21 MS. WARD: No. Thank you so much
22 again for your time this evening, you know, to
23 listen to our story a little bit and help us
24 along. I know it's a lot to take in. And
25 please, if you have any questions or feedback,

1 this is a great opportunity to provide that to
2 us, you know, before we put it all together and
3 submit it to HUD.

4 So this is our time, you know, to
5 make this -- to make this work. I really feel
6 strongly about this package, especially in
7 light of the fact and in the world into which
8 we are right now that these -- that this will
9 provide absolute vital impact for the recovery
10 of Scranton after, you know, we enter back into
11 the world again.

12 And so thanks again for all that you
13 all do. And we look forward to hearing from
14 you next week.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, you know, a
16 quick question now that you just mentioned
17 that. And I apologize if you had brought this
18 up earlier in your presentation. But when will
19 these applicants expect to receive this funding
20 and maybe these projects get up off the ground
21 and be shovel ready?

22 MS. WARD: Sure. So for us, we
23 actually for the first time in many years
24 received the acknowledgement that we were
25 getting a, you know, our allocations earlier

1 than we generally do.

2 And so we were very excited of that
3 prospect of that money coming in earlier.
4 Generally it comes in the fall. I don't know
5 into which the world we exist right now what
6 that means for these -- this specific -- these
7 specific allocations.

8 I know, you know, there's been a lot
9 of extensions and different things happening on
10 the level of federal government, everything
11 from our taxes, you know, to the stimulus
12 package coming out. But one thing HUD is
13 sticking steady and true in regards to moving
14 forward.

15 There is no extensions in regards to
16 submitting our Five Year Consolidated Plan.
17 They plan on moving things along. I think they
18 understand the benefit of getting this money,
19 you know, into our community to all of our
20 communities across the nation.

21 So we're hoping to see this, you
22 know, by the summertime would be great. But
23 that's best case scenario that we would see
24 this by the summer. And we have to remember
25 these funds are not for relief. These are

1 funds that are strategically thought out and
2 applied for each action, you know, each action
3 year.

4 And so this is to continue the good
5 work that has been taking place for many years
6 amongst our public service, you know, agencies
7 in this area amongst others.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you so
9 much. Okay. If there are no further questions
10 or comments, Mary-Pat, Tom, I want to thank you
11 and your OECD staff. You guys do a fantastic
12 job. Thank you for all that you do. And we'll
13 call this -- we will adjourn this public
14 hearing at this time.

15 And we do have 10 minutes until our
16 regular meeting. So what we will do is go into
17 our caucus now. Okay, so thank you, Tom.
18 Thank you, Mary-Pat.

19 MR. PREAMBO: Thank you.

20 MS. WARD: Thank you very much.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
5 notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy
6 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my
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