

SEP 01 2022

Edwards,Michelle

CITY CLERK

From: Dwayne Malone <cdmfree24@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 9:56 AM
To: Crossen,Martha; Loudermilk,Cheryl; Elliott,Earl; Auler,Amy; Azar, George; DeBaun,Curtis; Boland,Tammy; Nation,Todd; Garrison,Neil; Edwards,Michelle
Cc: Bennett,Duke A
Subject: EXTERNAL -Seeking communication
Attachments: city council.docx

****External Email. - Think Before You Click** --**
Help Desk

Community Servants,

I pray this day has greeted you well. I am writing in regards to a letter (attached) that was sent out on May 17, 2021. I have yet to hear back from anyone regarding this request and the next steps that need to be taken to ensure it was heard.

I am thankful and pleased that Jonah, Inc has benefited funding from that request but was told it did not come from the American Rescue Plan. We know there is a great need to build affordable housing throughout our community. Housing is an essential need in one of the poorest counties in our state.

We have shelve ready plans that will create healthy vibrant areas throughout our community, but too often we are overlooked by this administration for these plans
These funds can be used to turn the tide against social and racial inequalities that have hampered our community since its conception.

I look forward to a response from the council in hopes of creating growing relationships to build better communities.

Thank you,

Pastor Dwayne Malone

May 17, 2021

Good day City Council Representatives:

On Thursday May 13, 2021, I came to speak to the council regarding the American Rescue Act but found out citizens could not speak on non-agenda items. I will now present those comments to you.

City Council president, members and Mayor Bennett. This letter represents Citizens of Action and Jonah, Inc. regarding the American Rescue Act funds our community will be receiving.

With no African American representation for the needs of our community, we were glad to hear councilman DeBaun request that individuals be added to the oversight committee. We am requesting that a member of Citizens of Action; or Cleytus Malone with Jonah, Inc., be allowed a seat on this committee.

Areas have been identified in-which these funds can be used according to federal guidelines. Our focus is on the negative economic impact, assisting businesses, non-profits and individuals. It was a blessing to hear councilman Elliot suggest that "quality of life funding be a top priority" and that "these funds are a once in a lifetime opportunity" he said, and we agree.

Since 2004, the Thirteenth Street Corridor Committee, now Citizens of Action, has provided plans for economic growth and development opportunities within corridor boundaries to city, county and state officials. We believe what is needed now are development site plans which will include residential, commercial, light manufacturing, medical, entertainment and social outlet needs in our community.

Our hope for these site plans is to gain traction on attracting investors and legislators to support these economic development plans in poor blight areas. We are requesting financial support of up to \$50,000 from the American Rescue Act funds to develop these site plans. This will provide us with a visual for new beginnings to create a better quality of life for individuals and families living in these areas.

One catalyst we were counting on to start new development within the corridor was the new sanctuary for First Free Will Baptist Church. This church has been a spiritual leaning post for citizens in our community for over 140 years. Due to the deterioration of the church the structure was demolished with plans and hopes to build anew in 2014.

These plans not only include a new sanctuary, but our 2nd phase would consist of a cafeteria/dining hall. This structure would allow the church to feed healthy nutritional meals in our community 5 days a week, 2 meals a day providing jobs and ensuring no one went to school, work or bed hungry again in the community. Our 3rd phase would consist of a wellness wing providing health screening, medical supplies, spiritual and mental health counseling for families and individuals in our community.

Over the years Mayor Bennett has been helpful to the church for this project, but due to the increase cost in materials due to covid-19 we must delay our plans until those cost go down. Badly in need of a church structure to call home until a new one can be constructed, we began looking at the church structure at 1100 S. 13 ½ street. This structure has been vacant for several years but easily could be renovated for \$75,000-\$100,000 into a purposeful building in our community as a church and future funeral home which we no longer own nor have in the black community.

Jonah, Inc. is a non-profit CHDO established in 1997 with the assistance of our Department of Redevelopment. Jonah oversees 38 houses in our community. As housing manager since 2010, most of these homes need maintenance overhaul's along with new appliances. We have also identified the need for more new homes and one-bedroom duplexes in our community. With a consistent waiting list of 10-15 individuals and families in need of housing we foresee the need to build approximately 20 new homes in blighted areas in our community.

Jonah Has provided a Capital Improvement list to the Department of Redevelopment and Mayor Duke Bennett for the maintenance needs of Jonah, Inc. We hope that the American Rescue Act funds in the amount of \$280,000 can be used to assist in these improvement plans for this non-profit organization.

This letter is to serve our city council members and make them aware of just some of the needs in our community with request to you and the Mayor. We also request that this letter be recorded in the records of the city council minutes.

Our prayer is that these funds will be used to help address the social and racial economic inequalities that exist in Terre Haute and Vigo County.

We hope to hear back from council members for any questions and feedback you may have.

Are we truly in this together? We pray so.

Thank you,

C. Dwayne Malone