



# CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS

2000 MARBURY DRIVE  
DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MARYLAND 20747-2399

TELEPHONE: (301) 336-1402  
FAX: (301) 350-3660

JAMES L. WALLS, JR.  
MAYOR

COMMISSIONERS  
WILLIE E. CALHOUN

EDITH R. ROBBINS-WORTHY

EDDIE L. MARTIN

LEE COLLINS

Mr. Steve Proctor  
G.S. Proctor & Associates, Inc.  
14408 Old Mill Road, Suite 201  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

January 8, 2007

Dear Mr. Proctor:

Per our conversation, the City of District Heights is in need of the support of our County Council representative, Councilman Samuel Dean in order to receive a modification of the project scope and time extension for the use of CDBG Funds (PY-29, PY-30, & PY-31) for the City's Facade Restoration and Infrastructure Improvement Project. Our original intent was to use these funds for acquisition of properties in the commercial area; however, we were not able to accumulate enough funds to purchase all of the properties in the commercial area, and therefore, submitted a request to the Community Planning Division to modify the scope of the project to a Facade Restoration and Infrastructure Improvement Project.

We would appreciate if you would discuss the following points of interests with Councilman Dean and the members of the Transportation, Housing, and Environment Committee:

**We have been notified that we may be in jeopardy of losing \$400,000 in CDBG funds because we have not spent the funds. However, the City is anxiously waiting to spend the funds on the Facade Restoration and Infrastructure Improvement Project. The City only needs approval of the modified scope and an extension in time from the County in order to precede using CDBG funds. If the City loses the \$400,000 of CDBG funds, the entire project will be in jeopardy.**

We have been working closely with the Community Planning Division, Ms. Linda Kruelle to make sure that we are providing and exchanging pertinent information on the project in order to maintain CDBG guidelines. A large portion of the CDBG funds will be used mainly for infrastructure improvement in the 6000-6300 blocks of Marlboro Pike. We will secure a contract for Architectural/Engineering services to complete the design and construction phase in January 2007.

Infrastructure improvement will include, but is not limited to:


- \* Milling and overlaying of existing parking lot, installation and upgrade of lighting, and minor landscaping etc.
- \* General Contractor's Fees
- \* Material
- \* Equipment
- \* Labor
- \* Insurance/Bonding

Marlboro Pike, the "gateway" to the City, currently projects a distressed image of the City due to its partially vacant and dilapidated commercial strip, which is having an adverse affect on the commercial business district.

The Facade Restoration and Infrastructure Improvement Project will accomplish the goals of:

- \* Retain and increase job opportunities
- \* Increase economic activity and promote business retention and growth
- \* Delineate physical blight and deterioration of the Commercial Business District
- \* Establish Design Standards and guidelines that improve the overall visual quality of the commercial corridor and creates a uniform/consistent look while allowing some flexibility for individual property owners.
- \* Enhance pedestrian environment and safety while providing streetscape amenities that are durable, vandal resistant, low maintenance and cost effective.

I thank you in advance for your immediate attention to this matter. Time is of the essence because it is very likely that our CDBG funding status may be discussed at the January 16, 2007 County Council meeting.

Sincerely,  
  
Lee Collins  
Commissioner