



Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) 60 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301 Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 6:00-7:30 PM Agenda

Guest in attendance: Earl Fay – FBMS; Shane O’Brien – Brockton Planning Dept.; Vivian Rene – Old Colony YMCA; Anne Beauregard – Ward 5 City Councilor; Gene Lawton; Lynn Smith – FDNA; Susan Nicasro – Ward 4 City Councilor; Joanne Zygmunt – Brockton Resident

Staff Present: Robert Jenkins – BRA Executive Director; Emily Arpke – CDBG Program Manager; Laura Chau – LBPHC Program Manager; Zaias Andrade – HOME Housing Specialist.

Welcome: Robert Jenkins opened the public meeting at 6:07PM. Everyone present was made aware that the Consolidated Annual performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) is due on September 30th, 2018 and there is a 15-day comment period ending on September 14th, 2018. Draft version of the CAPER is available on the City of Brockton’s website and the Brockton Redevelopment Authority’s website. Copies of the draft version were sent to different recipients ranging from public services entities to city officials. This report is to present to HUD the City of Brockton’s FY2017 accomplishments.

Robert Jenkins expressed limited participation from the public during public meetings and requested suggestions that would boost citizen’s participation. Anne Beauregard stated that postcard flyers would be a good idea to hand out and place them at different locations, and banners that could be placed on school buildings and location with highest rate of traffic within the city. Shane O’Brien stated it is crucial to inform and educate the public about what the CAPER is and what is its purpose along with involvement of entities that benefits from CDBG and HOME funding. Lynn Smith stated that creating a constant contact, survey monkeys, flyers to hand out and post at downtown business meetings and local events and announcing the public meeting at these meetings and events would be a way to increase public participation.

Lynn Smith stated about an initiative taken at local meetings that could be adopted to boost participation during these public hearings. An initiative taken at a local meeting was a 7-minute participation focusing on how funds were use and the outcomes of the funding. This initiative could be adopted by requesting entities benefiting from HOME & CDBG funding to present how the funds were use and the impact of the funding. Robert Jenkins expressed

that the purpose of the CAPER meeting is for these entities to be present and report on the funding, work completion, and outcomes during the funding year. It was presented that for entities benefiting from HOME & CDBG funding, they should receive their funding upfront if they participate more often in these public hearings and those less involved would receive their funding later. Last, it was stated that sending postcards would at least result in 10% participation.

Vivian Rene was asked about his experience receiving CDBG funds and the use of the funds. Mr. Rene stated that he has been working along with the Brockton Redevelopment Authority for many years and the CDBG funding has been crucial to their programs. Funding are provided to the Crosgrove Pool and Camp Massasoit. The Crosgrove Pool was the only operational city pool until about 7 years ago when the Manning Pool was opened. The Crosgrove Pool has a great location since there is a bus line nearby and it is in one of the lowest census tracts of the city. There is a school located next door and an effort was made by recruiting staff from that area. Currently, there are 7 lifeguards that resides in that area. During the summer, they work in conjunction with Brockton Public Schools on programs for students with special disabilities. A challenge in these summer programs is the limited flexibility of schedule. Robert Jenkins questioned about maintenance of the pool and Mr. Rene reported that a group of people take care of the pool during the summer and that some interior work is needed. Last, it was stated that the Crosgrove pool is crucial for the city because it helps several individuals within the area that does not have capacity to travel and pay for the Manning Pool and that is well used with good networking opportunity and a diversity that enhances the area.

Regarding Camp Massasoit Vivian Rene reported that it is a free camp for hundred 100 kids that are in 4th and 5th grades for four weeks. These students are referred by the Brockton Public Schools guidance counselors and they must be considered as low-mod income individuals/families. Students that are enrolled in free lunch programs are targeted for this camp. This year they had 114 kids and the camp in a 2-week session of 50 kids. Usually an invite for 75 kids are sent out and 60 tends to show up.

Earl Fay from Father Bills and MainSpring representing Work Express Program stated that they receive funding for graffiti removal. Last year they removed about 150 graffities. So far, they received 99 requests from the city to remove graffities and 97 has been removed. Mr. fay stated that it is important to keep removing these graffities because it is an initiative to reintegrate the individuals from the shelter back to the community bringing them a sense of self-worth. The individuals from the shelter may have limited skills but caring for the city is a step to bring them back on the right track by being able to work, being punctual, etc. It was asked from whom they receive requests to remove graffiti, Mr. Fay reported that the requests come from the city ordinances, Board of Health, and other city departments. Also, Mr. Fay stated that when driving around and spotting a graffiti, he emails an entity within the city departments requesting permission to have the graffiti removed. This program has been funded for 3 years now with majority of its funding coming from CDBG. This program brings a persistent initiative for when graffities are being placed in certain and/or all areas, the city/local government will respond by removing them stating that such action will not be tolerated.

Lynn Smith asked where in the city does the Work express Program remove graffities and it was responded all over the city. She stated that at the Tukis Park a rock was painted in white and it became a place for tag. Mr. Fay said he'll look at it and mitigate necessary steps to have the graffities removed. Lynn Smith also stated that there is a tag at the side of the 11-15 Frederick Douglas building. There was a chained fence placed by P.K. Beauty Salon, but the fence was broken, the chain link was removed and now the place has become a camping area.

Lynn Smith stated that more focus is placed on the downtown that other areas like Campello and Montello are being left aside and Robert Jenkins responded that the Brockton Planning Department is working on the Campello Urban Revitalization Plan. Despite many challenges, Lynn Smith proposed a question on what can be done to reverse the challenges in the city. It was presented that the best that can be done is set goals, work step by step to get things done. However, with limited funding only so much can be done but all are willing to make an effort in doing what is best for the city and its residents. A challenge that was brought up regarding lack of public participation was the timing of these public hearings. Robert Jenkins proposed having an informational public hearing throughout the year with the intent to bring more public involvement.

Emily Arpke talked briefly about CDBG program stating that majority of its funding goes to public services. In FY17, a total of 11 public services were funded. Laura Chau stated that the Lead Based Paint Hazard Control Program received a grant of \$3MIL for lead removal of 143 units during the next three years with the goal of abating 12 units per quarter. Zaias Andrade stated that the HOME Program focuses primarily on down payment assistance for first time homebuyers and substantial rehabilitation. There are a few developmental projects funded by the HOME Program such as Montello Welcome II, Rehabilitation of 300 units at Chatham West, and a construction of 48 apartment units that will take place at 121 Main St.

A brief discussion was help about how surrounding towns and other states handles some challenges that the city of Brockton faces for example regarding homeless population. It was stated that some homeless population are in a not appropriate area and they should be relocated to a different area. A solution was proposed by building housing and it was reported that just housing is not enough. Some of the homeless population needs supporting housing services, first to stabilize themselves and then place them at an environment that will support them. Other challenges that was brought up was public safety in the downtown and getting the word out about certain events and public meetings. Last, it was reported that there is a bad reputation on young entrepreneurs, lack of positivity in the newspapers, and that good work is happening only behind the scenes. A way to tackle these challenges is by embracing who we are within the City of Brockton, focus on positivity, work step by step to get things done, and marketing to the surface.

The open meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM.