

The Honorable Vincent Gray  
Ward 7 Councilmember  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 406  
Washington, DC 20004

2/14/2020

Dear Councilmember Gray:

Re: The Pennsylvania Avenue East Economic Development Committee budget request for funding to establish a Pennsylvania Avenue East Main Street Organization

Our committee consists of residents from neighboring Pennsylvania Avenue East communities Dupont Park, Fairfax Village, Fort Davis, Hillcrest, Penn Branch and Randle Highlands, and as your constituents, we hereby submit a request for you to submit a budget line item in the 2021 DC Government Budget to establish a Pennsylvania Avenue East Main Street Organization.

We make this request because Pennsylvania Avenue East of the River, has not kept pace with the rest of the city specifically Pennsylvania Avenue West of the River. DC Income and Property Tax paying residents who live along the Pennsylvania Avenue East Corridor are entitled to equal or similar amenities enjoyed by DC residents in other areas of the city. The District of Columbia has experienced a revitalization that has been evident in many parts of the city; however, the once vibrant stretch of Pennsylvania Avenue East of the River, has not kept pace with the rest of the city.

There is a need for a Pennsylvania Avenue East Main Street Organization to coordinate the revitalization of this portion of America's Main Street in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital adopted by the Council of the District of Columbia on December 19, 2006 which sets the framework for the growth of the Pennsylvania Avenue Corridor under the Far Northeast & Southeast Area Element. This organization is also needed to coordinate a comprehensive revitalization as outlined in the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Land Development Plan approved by the City Council (Small Area Development Plan a supplement to the Comprehensive Plan) dated January 2008, a product of an 18-month public planning process initiated in September 2006 by the Office of Planning, in collaboration with residents, community stakeholders, and District government agencies.

Both of these plans indicate that the current range of uses along the Pennsylvania Avenue East corridor do not mesh with the expressed needs of the community, nor do they provide the range of goods and services specified by the residents during this and earlier public input processes. Fourteen years later, Pennsylvania Avenue SE West of the River has benefited from economic development in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan, but the residents who live along the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor East of the River are still waiting for change. We therefore request that you include funding for a Pennsylvania Avenue East Main Street Organization in your 2021 DC Government Budget.

Sincerely,

/s/

Stephen Downing

Chair, Pennsylvania Avenue East Economic Development Committee

**From:** Babatunde Oloyede <boloyede@mhcdo.org>

**Date:** February 14, 2020 at 2:55:05 PM EST

**To:** "Sheila E. Bunn (sbunn@dccouncil.us)" <sbunn@dccouncil.us>

**Cc:** David Retland <nretland@hotmail.com>, "Christopher Earley (BoD)" <cearleybod@mhcdo.org>

**Subject:** FY21 Budget Requests

Ms. Bunn:

Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, Inc. (MHCDO) humbly submits the following budget requests (see attached) to Ward 7 Councilmember, Vincent Gray, for consideration to include in the District of Columbia's FY21 Budget. Included parenthetically, is the source of the request.

Housing Budget Requests:

1. Adjust the maximum Schedule H credit from \$1,000 to \$1,500 and change the income requirements to follow 80% AMI levels instead of a set \$40K income so that it focuses on families and not individuals. (Deanwood Civic Association)
2. Place a two-year freeze on property tax increases. (Deanwood Civic Association)
3. \$5M development fund for long standing East of the River community development organizations to create for-sale homes (pre EAHP, DC4ME, DC Open Doors, and HPAP) for DC employees and Ward 7 residents earning 120% AMI or less. (MHCDO)
4. \$1.5M added to DHCD's budget to support long standing East of the River community development organizations to support housing counseling services targeted to increase homeownership for Ward 7 and 8 residents. (MHCDO)
5. \$3.5M to fund community based human element programs to support DCHA residents affected by the repositioning of DCHA's portfolio with a particular focus on Wards 7 and 8 properties. Service providers must have a physical presence in proximity to the areas served. (MHCDO)

Economic Development Budget Requests:

1. \$200K to DSLBD fund the operations for a Pennsylvania Avenue Main Streets. (MHCDO, DPCA)
2. \$4M to DMPED to fund long standing East of the River community development organizations to create culinary training centers and culinary co-working spaces that provide technical assistance. (MHCDO)
3. \$1M to fund a DMPED Fletcher Johnson Caretaker grant to maintain, secure, and activate the site for community use, prior to redevelopment. Caretaker should be long standing community-based organization with a proven track record of providing diverse programming. (MHCDO)
4. \$100K to fund a DMPED feasibility study for the Fletcher Johnson. Significant consideration given to community development organization with a strong history/expertise in economic development. (MHCDO)
5. \$1.5M grant to fund individual neighborhood branding efforts in Wards 7 and 8 e.g. neighborhood signage (similar to signage used on Capitol Hill, Shaw, Adams Morgan). Community based organizations possessing capacity, financial resources, and physical presence in proximity to target neighborhood is optimal. (Penn Branch, Randall Highlands, Dupont Park, and Hillcrest Civic Associations)

Health Budget Requests:

1. \$2M in capital grants funding through the Departments of Health and Human Services and Behavioral Health to support facility improvements to long standing community based nonprofit organizations located East of the River. Funds designated to create/install/update life safety systems, satisfy American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, and quality of life improvement repairs. (MHCDO)

Education Budget Requests:

1. \$200K for HD Woodson to expand its STEM academy, Computer Science Academy, and AP courses. (Deanwood Civic Association)
2. \$300K for HD Woodson to add showers to its home and visitor outdoor locker rooms. (Deanwood Civic Association)

Thank you in advance for your assistance,

Sincerely,

Babatunde Oloyede  
Marshall Heights Community Development Organization  
President & CEO  
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