



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE

April 25, 2012

Terry W. Cunningham
Executive Director
Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority
906 E. Sevier Avenue
P.O. Box 44
Kingsport, TN 37662

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

On behalf of the City of Kingsport, I am writing to demonstrate the City's firm commitment in support of the Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority's 2012 Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Planning Grant application being submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Located in northeast Tennessee, Kingsport is a city rich in history and heritage. According to several historians, Kingsport was the first professionally planned, privately financed city in twentieth century America. It is on this Model City designed by John Nolen in which we seek to revitalize the Robert E. Lee Apartments and its surrounding Midtown neighborhood.

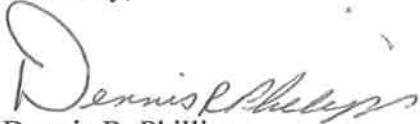
To continue to build on this cooperative momentum and to ensure that the interests of Kingsport's citizens and businesses are well-represented in the initiative, and to provide a conduit for timely and accurate information to and from Kingsport agencies, the **City of Kingsport** can fulfill a minimum **financial resource commitment of \$892,000** to support your 2012 Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Planning Grant for the Robert E. Lee Apartments housing development and surrounding Midtown neighborhood over two budget cycles.

This **commitment** for the two-year grant period will also consist of **in-kind** staff time and resources of **\$6,169** over and above the aforementioned support (refer to the attached detailed list).



Participation is envisioned in each of the activity areas described in the grant application, with a special emphasis on the civic engagement that will inform the development of the Transformation Plan. The Choice Neighborhoods Planning program is intended to forge broad-based partnerships to transform neighborhoods and create viable communities. We are enthusiastic to have this opportunity to be a part of that partnership and strongly support your 2012 Planning Grant application. We are committed to participating in the planning and implementation process and look forward to the same. We applaud your leadership and remain committed to collaborating with the Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority to provide \$892,000 in financial, and \$6,169 of in-kind support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis R. Phillips". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dennis R. Phillips

Mayor

Attachment

Attachment to Letter of Support for KHRA

CASH CONTRIBUTION FOR 2012 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING
GRANT

Department of Justice – Byrne Grant	\$160,000
<i>The City of Kingsport received an \$800,000 Department of Justice Byrne Grant award to target five Kingsport crime “hot spots.” The Lee Apartments/Midtown neighborhood is one of five targeted areas, and \$160,000 represents the amount being focused on the Transformation neighborhood.</i>	
Sullivan Street/ Clinchfield Road Intersection Improvements	\$52,000
<i>City funds have been obligated for designing improvements to the safety of intersections on Sullivan and Clinchfield Roads. Both roads intersect the Midtown Neighborhood Transformation area and the Transformation Planning team will be involved in the design discussions regarding pedestrian safety.</i>	
Development of Plans for Sullivan Street Improvements	\$320,000
<i>Sullivan Street is a major road through the Midtown neighborhood and impacts the Lee Apartments and surrounding neighbors. City funds have been obligated for full design of Phases 2 and 3 of these scheduled improvements. This project will allow for the construction of improvements to Sullivan Street for the residents of Lee Apartments and the Transformation Neighborhood. During the design phase services, the City and KHRA Transformation Planning Team will collaborate to achieve improvements that benefit the neighborhood and the City as a whole.</i>	
Planning and Studies for Cross-Town Connector (Watauga Roundabout to Sevier Avenue at Center Street)	\$20,000 concept design \$195,000 survey & design
<i>The Cross-Town Connector is in the concept design phase and \$20,000 has been set aside for a consultant, whose scope of work includes collaborating with KHRA and the Transformation Planning team. The connector is planned to run adjacent to the Lee Apartments and will facilitate better transportation options, access to downtown and other amenities for Midtown residents. Another \$195,000 has been obligated for survey and 100% design drawings. Following completion of construction when the existing Right of Way is abandoned, the City anticipates transferring the land to KHRA for its use in planning and redeveloping the Lee Apartments site. This land transfer will inform the Transformation Plan for the neighborhood and expand KHRA’s ability</i>	

to use land adjacent to the Lee Apartments for replacement housing options.

Kingsport Public Library \$70,000

The City has obligated \$70,000 for initial concept designs for an expansion and modernization of the Kingsport Public Library to better serve the neighborhood. The Transformation Planning team will contribute data to the library design regarding use and future needs to guide the library's final design. The library is located a few blocks from the Lee Apartments site and is used extensively by the Midtown neighborhood residents.

Safe Routes to School \$50,000

The City of Kingsport was awarded a Safe Routes to School grant and a portion of the funds (\$50,000 represents a portion of the overall award) will be used for planning and setting up a SRTS action plan. This plan will include data collected in the Transformation Neighborhood.

Model City Coalition \$25,000

The Model City Coalition is working on an update to the Model City Plan, with a specific focus on revitalizing the downtown area, a portion of which includes the Transformation Neighborhood. \$25,000 represents a portion of the City funds that have been obligated by the City to support the plan update. This information will be made available to the Midtown/Lee Apartments Transformation Planning team.

TOTAL: \$892,000

IN-KIND DONATION FOR 2012 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GRANT

*Staff salary estimate
(2 hours monthly x 24 months x \$19.04 (\$14 per hour X 36 percent benefits per hour x 5 staff members) \$4,569

Supplies
(paper, pencils, computer, phones, etc.) \$400

Staff Travel \$200

Meeting Space \$1,000

TOTAL **\$6,169**

* Includes staff support for the Stakeholder Planning Committee from the following City Departments: Development Services, Economic Development, Parks, Recreation and Leisure, Public Works, and Metro Transportation Planning.