



KINGSPORT HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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April 26, 2012

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
471 7th Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20410

Re: 2012 HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant Application

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Kingsport Housing & Redevelopment Authority has focused on the redevelopment of the Midtown neighborhood for nearly a decade. This includes support for V.O. Dobbins Center and the Academic Village.

Internally we have presented a strategic plan to our Board of Directors, and recently completed a planning session together with the Board and a meeting with residents. As a result we have solidified the plans for the Robert E. Lee Apartments and the Midtown neighborhood.

We have collaborated with the City and other key stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the *Downtown Redevelopment District* and participated in the *Model City Coalition* effort to revitalize the original John Nolen plan for the City of Kingsport in which the Transformation Neighborhood is located.

The Robert E. Lee Apartments are a public housing community on 6 acres. It is the largest concentration of distressed housing in Midtown. At 72 years old, it suffers the ills of public housing developed at that time, exacerbated by failing soils and building settling. A Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant will allow us to develop specific plans for revitalizing the Lee Apartment and creating the partnerships and activities to transform the Midtown neighborhood into a community of choice.

To this end we have organized the support of 32 organizations that have committed \$892,000 in cash support and over \$200,000 of in-kind support for this planning effort. The Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority will add cash support of \$100,000 for planning studies and capacity building to the total of cash support of \$992,000. These commitments are described detail in Attachment 16 of the application.

We appreciate your consideration of our application and ask for your support for this timely and worthwhile effort. We anticipate that, when completed, the Midtown Transformation Plan will build on existing efforts in the neighborhood and have an even greater impact on the future of downtown Kingsport.

Sincerely yours,

Terry W. Cunningham
Executive Director

Attachment



KINGSPORT HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SHALL NOT DISCRIMINATE BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, SEX, RELIGION, FAMILIAL STATUS, DISABILITY, HANDICAP OR NATIONAL ORIGIN IN THE LEASING, RENTAL OR OTHER DISPOSITION OF HOUSING.

Attachment to Letter of Support

CASH CONTRIBUTION FOR 2012 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GRANT

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Studies - Environmental | \$ 10,000 |
| Studies – Survey and Topo | \$ 10,000 |
| Studies - Geotechnical | \$ 10,000 |
| Market Studies – housing, commercial, office space | \$ 10,000 |
| Application Fees (grants and LIHTC) | \$ 20,000 |
| Training | \$ |
| Evaluation | \$ 30,000 |
| Consulting | \$ 10,000 |
| TOTAL | \$ 100,000 |