



Date: Thursday; September 1, 2022

TO: Mr. Troy Bell, City Manager

FR: Carolyn J. Cook - *cjcook*

RE: Reporting Period (August 1st – August 31st 2022)

Since the department's last report submission, Mr. Bell please note the following updates:

Housing Rehabilitation: During the reporting period as ascribed above, seven (7) projects were completed. For more detail, please refer below:

NO.	CASE #	TYPE OF REPAIR	PROJECT COST	FUNDING SOURCE
01	2022-08-P161	Paint & Professional Services	\$2,852	CDBG
02	2022-08-P162	Paint & Professional Services	\$2,600	CDBG
03	2022-08-P163	Roof Replacement	\$20,000	CDBG/MCSM
03	2022-08-P164	Roof Replacement	\$9,866	CDBG-CV
05	2022-08-P165	Mechanical Services	\$2,141	CDBG-CV
06	2022-08-P166	Electrical Services	\$9,150	CDBG-CV
07	2022-08-P167	Plumbing Services	\$370	CDBG-CV

Demolition: Activities are expected to continue as funding streams and eligible projects are identified.

Public Facilities: Potential projects are being reviewed. Progress shall be updated accordingly.

Report/Status/Other: CDBG, CDBG-CV and MCSM Draws are being finalized. Monthly Report submissions remain on-going involving MCSM project status and funding expenditure updates. The City received grant agreements for its next funding award from MCSM in the amount of \$112,000. Upon release of the 2023-24 RFP for MCSM funds, the city anticipates making application. The Annual Action Plan and Environmental Review Record for PY 2022-23 have been submitted and awaiting HUD finalization/approval.

Planning/Zoning/Special Projects/Outreach: Applications involving these efforts, continue to be distributed as requested. Staff continues to review and update, dated plans, ordinances and fee schedules as needed to remain current and compliant, given any mandated requirements.

Meetings: Zoom monthly meetings include: Continuum of Care (CoC), Muskegon County Lead Coalition, United Way Emergency Needs, City PPE/Inner-Office Meetings, MCSM, Fair Housing/Analysis of Impediments and HUD Team Meetings, as applicable.

Capacity Building/Outreach: The City continues its collaboration efforts to administer vaccines to its community as well as county-wide. A vaccination clinic was held at the National Night Out Against Crime with great attendance and drive participation. Stay tuned for further updates as they unfold involving these efforts.

Ring Doorbell Program “Generalized” Update:

The Muskegon Heights Smart Neighborhood Program (Ring Doorbell Program) began sometime in late January, early February of 2021. Since that time, we have signed up more than 350 potential participants in the program. As of this reporting period, the City have programmed and installed more than 150 Ring Doorbells and Chimes.

Initially, we were not sure how this program would be received. As an incentive, we offered to reimburse the early program participants; if they opted to sign up for the Ring Basic Protect Program which is a charge of \$30. This Plan allows the device owner to record and store images that they receive on their cell phones. Without the plan, all images are in real time.

Positive Impacts:

Program has been well received, not to mention we were able to relax potential cost burden off of seniors, by providing a free unit and a reimbursement of the Ring Basic Protect Program, for pilot participants.

Device allows participants to share the images they receive with other family and community members through the Ring App, adding to a sense of safety and security.

Although, sharing data is not a required component of the program, participants have been voluntary sharing images and/or allowing officers to review footage which has aided them in providing overall and further security to the community.

Participants continue to sign up for the Basic Protect Plan, although, the City is no longer offering reimbursement incentives for sign-up.

Challenges:

Participants in the program primarily have been seniors which has presented struggles given advanced technology. Obstacles range from participants not having the basic components to participate in the program, to incompatible cellphones and/or insufficient Wi-Fi which present overall connectivity issues.

Overall:

We performed follow-ups phone calls to the letters shipped out involving the Ring Basic Protect Program reimbursement and the reimbursement was not only well received, but participants were extremely grateful to the City. No complaints were received, and only one participant had questions in which we were able to address also. In all, this initiative overwhelmingly has been received well where residents continue to inquire and sign up for the program.

c: City Clerk