



September 29, 2016

Sarah Owens
Michael Livingston
585 Winter St. NE #715
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Ms. Owens and Mr. Livingston:

The City appreciates your interest and comments to the 2015-2016 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). As mentioned in your submitted comments, this report is a requirement by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide the community with the City's accomplishments related to the expenditure of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership funding.

During the 2015-2016 program year the City provided approximately \$3.9 million to local organizations for services including job creation, homeless case management, monthly rental assistance, and other programs for low and moderate income households. It is the partnership with organizations providing these services that help the City meet the goals outlined in the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

Staff attend meetings and discussions related to housing and homeless needs in the community throughout the year. Information from these meetings and discussions is shared with the Community Services and Housing Commission and aids in the review of funding applications for the upcoming year. The CSHC has representation from two local social service agencies and currently has a vacancy for a member from the Salem Housing Authority's Housing Advisory Committee. These agencies help keep staff informed of possible activities or groups that may have an alignment with the goals of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and provide an opportunity to learn more about the needs of the community and potential partnerships.

Your comments reference that the CAPER gives a false impression of the City's efforts to consult, collaborate, and coordinate with others in the community to address local housing and homeless problems. It is correct that the report generally references these efforts without going into specific detail as to when, where, and how this collaboration has occurred, and to what result. While the format of the CAPER does not allow for an itemization and summary of each effort to collaborate, etc., there is room to be more specific. To provide more information to the community, in the future we will add more specific detail where we are able to, and identify who Staff has consulted and collaborated with and the subject of those efforts.

There are many instances where the Staff from the City's various departments collaborate and coordinate with each other, and with external agencies and service providers, but if these efforts do not involve the expenditure of CDBG or HOME funds, reporting on them is outside the scope and purpose of the CAPER. Conversely, as mentioned in your comments there are instances where there are missed opportunities due to silos and lack of collaboration, such as the Affordable Housing Committee and Housing Choices Advisory Committee.

By not speaking to these other efforts, where collaboration either has or has not occurred, the report does fail to give a holistic picture of what is, or is not, going on throughout the community to address affordable housing and homelessness. However, unless these opportunities are related to the expenditure of CDBG and HOME funds, they are outside of the reporting requirements of the CAPER. That said, there is certainly opportunity to examine how these funds can be better used to eliminate these silos, and focus on better coordination between service providers.

Staff has historically viewed these documents in light of the intended audience of federal reviewers in compliance with our requirements to provide information on the expenditure of our federal funds. That does not mean that cannot also include, where we are able, information that would be more meaningful to the community. Staff will work to improve collaboration and communication internally and with the community, and will make efforts to replace generalizations with more specific language in the future.

Regarding the 2016 Point in Time (PIT) Count for Marion and Polk Counties, as of today the final results have not been published. The Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency is the lead agency for the PIT and is a member of the 28 county Regional Continuum of Care (ROCC). The ROCC compiles PIT information from all 28 counties and releases the results from each county. Once the report is published, Staff can post a web link that provides information regarding the current homeless population and how that information is gathered.

If you are interested in participating in the 2017 Homeless Count, an organizational meeting is currently scheduled for October 7th at 9am. The location of the meeting has not yet been determined, however you can contact the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency and they can provide additional information to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'KRISTIN RETHERFORD', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kristin Retherford, Director
Urban Development Department