

PUBLIC HEARING

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF GRIFFIN, GEORGIA
February 10, 2015

(STATEMENT TO BE READ INTO RECORD BY TOUSSAINT KIRK)

The City of Griffin is a Community Development Block Grant applicant for 2015 Public Facility Grant in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00. 24 CFR Part 85, §85.36(b)(3) states in relevant part “No employee, officer or agent of a grantee or sub-grantee shall participate in the selection, or in the award or administration of a contract supported by Federal funds if a conflict of interest, real or apparent, would be involved.”

Commissioner Douglas S. Hollberg, prior to the submission of an application for the grant being considered, has publicly disclosed he, or related persons and/or entities controlled or managed by him, owns one or more tracts of real property within the 2015 CDBG Target Area and has voluntarily recused himself from any further involvement regarding the CDBG application, and, if awarded, its funding or grant administration. In addition, Commissioner has disclaimed any involvement in the process of selecting the target area for the application. The City of Griffin will petition the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, which administers the CDBG program, to issue an exception for the conflict of interest held by Commissioner Hollberg. If the exception is granted, Mr. Hollberg will continue to abstain from participating in or voting on any issue relating to the 2015 CDBG due to his conflict of interest.

CDBG projects must benefit at least 70% low-to-moderate income persons, aid in the prevention of slum and blight, and meet a community need of particular urgency, i.e. in this case, rehabilitating public water and sewer infrastructure. The 2015 Target Area has been identified through studies as one of the most blighted neighborhoods in the City of Griffin with an inordinately large percentage of housing in rental occupancy. The 2015 CDBG Target Area was selected by the Project Engineer, Public Works Department, and Community Development Department, with guidance from the City’s Grant Writing Specialist. The members of the Board of Commissioners played no role in its selection.

Georgia DCA regulations pertaining to CDBG administration require the City advertise and conduct this Public Hearing for the purpose of obtaining citizen involvement in order to complete their review of the City’s request for an exception. Persons interested in commenting upon the grant of an exception may do so at this time.

(MAP OF ZONES 7 & 8 SHOULD BE ON DISPLAY DURING HEARING.)