



HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

A quarterly newsletter for Housing and Community Development

HOUSING MASTER PLAN

The City of Mesa is in the process of updating its Housing Master Plan, a 10-year guide for City planning decisions, prioritizing and balancing demands for all levels of housing demand, identifying the needs of low and moderate-income households and providing a framework for evaluating future projects. The first phase, which involved data gathering and research, was presented to City Council Nov. 30. Among the findings:



- Over the next ten years, Mesa is expected to grow by 72,389 persons, requiring the construction of another 27,000 housing units.
- The City should continue to promote a mix of housing for all income levels and housing preferences
- There is a need for affordable units in Mesa, estimated to be more than 25,000 units. Despite Mesa's best efforts to address affordable housing issues, current investments and funding are falling short of eliminating the problem.
- Homeownership rates have declined to unprecedented levels. Efforts should be initiated to increase homeownership and the affordability of owning a home.

The second phase involves getting input from the public and various stakeholders to develop recommendations for housing policy to be carried out over the next 10 years. This process will begin in February. A report is expected to City Council by the fall. This is the first update to the Housing Master Plan since 2004. The goal is to establish it as City policy and include it as part of the Mesa General Plan.

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS

The First Substantial Amendment to the Fiscal Year 17/18 Annual Action Plan was approved by City Council on Nov. 20. It allocated \$250,000 to Pepper Place Apartments, an additional \$125,000 to the Downtown Façade program due to increased participants, an additional \$150,000 to Eagles Park to cover items cut from the project due budget constraints, and an additional \$100,000 to the Downtown Library to make HVAC changes due to the new Learning Center. It also allocated \$668,717 of HOME funds for Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) activities and \$586,085 for homeownership activities.

The Second Substantial Amendment to the Fiscal Year 17/18 Annual Action Plan is currently in the public comment period. It ends Jan. 23 and will go before City Council for approval on Feb. 5. The amendment reallocates \$600,000 of CDBG funds from the Senior Center renovation to construction of Eagles Park. The reallocation was due to the delays in the Senior Center renovation. However, additional CDBG funding from Fiscal Year 18/19 will be allocated to the Senior Center to ensure its completion in December 2018.

HUD AND HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING

The City of Mesa will hold a series of public meetings to consider potential projects and review funding requests received from City departments and non-profit organizations for its Program Year 2018-19 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Human Services programs.

Online applications will be accepted until Jan. 23 at 6 p.m. Presentations will be made to the Housing and Community Development Advisory Board Feb. 6 and 7 at 5:30 p.m. at Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St., Room 170. City Council's Community and Cultural Development Committee will then hold a public hearing to review and make funding recommendations. City Council will review and make final funding recommendations at a Study Session. Details of those meetings are still to be determined.

A 30-day public comment period for the Annual Action Plan will take place from March 26 to April 23. A public hearing will take place during this time April 9 at 5 p.m. at Fire Station 201, 360 E. 1st St. City Council is expected to vote on the plan at its May 7 meeting. The Annual Action Plan will be submitted to HUD after HUD has presented a final funding award.

Funding for the CDBG, HOME and ESG programs is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is used for housing and community development activities that primarily benefit low and moderate-income persons and assist in the prevention or elimination of slum or blighting influences. Funding for the Human Services programs comes from the City's General Fund and the ABC: A Better Community program consisting of donations from the public made through their utility bill payments.

For more information, visit www.mesaaz.gov/housing and click on the links for "Funding Schedules & Information" followed by "FY 2018/19 Funding Schedule."

EL RANCHO PHASE TWO

A grand opening ceremony was held Nov. 7 for El Rancho Del Sol, or El Rancho Phase II, 701 E. Main St. El Rancho has 47 units of affordable housing, including 26 two-bedroom, 11 three-bedroom and 10 four-bedroom units. The complex is fully leased. El Rancho also has commercial space, which is occupied by We Cycle, Local First and Garden Pool. The City contributed \$300,000 in HOME funding for the \$14.9 million project. Two of the apartment units are designated for HOME recipients.



SAVE THE FAMILY COMMUNITY CONFERENCE CENTER

Construction of Save the Family's Community Conference Center, 129 E. University Drive, began last May and it will officially be opening within the next few weeks. The 2,424 square-foot facility is designed for use by non-profit organizations, municipalities and community groups to hold board meetings, community trainings, etc. Among its features:

- Two conference rooms with the capacity to be combined as one large meeting space with audio/visual and teleconferencing capacity. The north conference room, with capacity for 37, opens to an exterior patio. The south conference room has a capacity of 44.
- A catering/warming kitchen
- Two ancillary offices

Funding for the community conference center is from a CDBG grant from the City of Mesa.



NONPROFIT PARTNER PROFILE: PAZ DE CRISTO

Paz de Cristo, founded by St. Timothy Church in Mesa in 1988 as an interfaith "major outreach project" averages more than 7,000 visits each month to its facility at 424 W. Broadway Road. While many of their guests make multiple visits, they average 600 newcomers each month. Most of these visits are for food. The evening meal service and food box distribution provides more than 50,000 meals every month to the homeless, the unemployed, the working poor and senior citizens.



Paz, which receives Human Services funding from the City of Mesa, has several empowerment programs for its guests. Their Jobs Program offered each Tuesday and Thursday is staffed to assist in job preparation, resume writing and one-on-one support. They also provide numerous other essentials to get a job including showers and haircuts, bus tickets, clothes for interviews, birth certificates and vouchers for Arizona ID's.



GREAT EMPLOYEES

EMILY GRECO, Housing & Community Development Program Assistant, was a huge support with the completion of the first phase of the Housing Master Plan. This plan is a ten-year guide used to identify, evaluate and prioritize the needs of the low and moderate-income households regarding affordable housing. Emily saw the first phase of the project from start to finish and provided her support coordinating countless hours of communication, meetings, transcription and presentations. With Emily's dedication, the Division was able to adhere to deadlines and finalize phase one of the plan.

JENNI HALE, Housing & Community Development Administrative Support Assistant I, has been updating the ZoomGrants program. This program gives subrecipients the ability to submit requests for program funding. Jenni is working with ZoomGrants representatives and staff to make the application process more automated and streamlined. Applicants will be able to reference documents critical to the application process and submit their final proposals all within one central program. The automation of the application process will also save a significant amount of staff time as well.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS/EVENTS

MON., JAN. 22. CITY COUNCIL.

5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

TUES., JAN. 23. POINT IN TIME

HOMELESS STREET COUNT. 5am-Noon.

SAT., JAN. 27. 18TH ANNUAL

HISTORIC HOME TOUR. 10am-4pm.

SAT., JAN. 27. 2018 ANNUAL

REGIONAL UNITY WALK. 4:30pm-7pm. Tempe Beach Park.

THUR., FEB. 1. RESIDENT ADVISORY

BOARD. 10am. Mesa City Plaza, Room 250 Large, 20 E. Main St.

THUR., FEB. 1. HOUSING AND

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD. 6pm. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., FEB. 5. CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm.

Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

TUES., FEB. 6. MAYOR'S STATE OF

THE CITY BREAKFAST. 7am-9am. Mesa Convention Center, 263 N. Center St.

TUES., FEB. 6. HOUSING AND

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD. Special meeting regarding HUD and Human Services funding. 5:30pm. Mesa City Plaza, Room 170, 20 E. Main St.

WED., FEB. 7. HOUSING AND

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD. Special meeting regarding HUD and Human Services funding. 5:30pm. Mesa City Plaza, Room 170, 20 E. Main St.

SAT., FEB. 10. HOUSEHOLD

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT. 8am-Noon. East Mesa Service Center, 6935 E. Decatur St.

MON., FEB. 26. CITY COUNCIL.

5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

THUR., MARCH 1. HOUSING AND

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD. 6pm. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., MARCH 5. CITY COUNCIL

5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

MON., MARCH 19. CITY COUNCIL.

5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

SAT., MARCH 22. FALCON FIELD

AIRPORT OPEN HOUSE. 9am-2pm. Falcon Field Airport, 4636 E. Fighter Aces Drive

THUR., MARCH 29. HOUSING

SERVICES GOVERNING BOARD. 7:30am. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

CONTACT:

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

480-644-3536 | housing.info@mesaaz.gov | Hours 7am-6pm Monday-Thursday