



City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Roxann Wedegartner
Mayor

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Minutes of CDBG PUBLIC HEARING
May 11, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.
Remote, Via WebEx

Call to Order at 12:02 p.m. by Lindsay Rowe

Attending:

Lindsay Rowe, Community Development Administrator, City of Greenfield
MJ Adams, Director of Economic and Community Development, City of Greenfield
Robin Fordham, Grant Program Assistant, City of Greenfield
Bob Williford, Commission on Disability Access, City of Greenfield

Rowe stated the purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comment on:

revising the City's 2018 Community Development Block Grant program for Commercial Improvements to allow grants for ADA improvements under \$15,000. The current program design makes assistance of any amount a loan with the following forgiveness terms: "from years 8 – 15, the amount due back to the City will be prorated down to the final 50% of the loan."

Rowe provided overview of the current commercial improvements program, which provides funding up to \$45,000 for façade improvements – major repair, signs, and architectural barrier removal. Recent projects have shown that many businesses are not interested in this program when the amount is small and awarded as a loan. Changing to a grant system for projects under \$15,000 would create an easier process for ADA updates, leading to more businesses undertaking such changes and thereby increasing the number of accessible properties/businesses.

Rowe invited public comment.

Williford expressed his support for the change. Williford noted that the Commission on Disability Access has recently been discussing using the City's Handicapped Parking Fund for something similar, but this seems like a better mechanism for funding these improvements.

Rowe noted that the program requires a 25% match from property owner.

Hearing no further public comment, Rowe closed the hearing at 12:09 p.m.