

2 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: ... [00:00:00] Saturday

3 morning so we really appreciate your participation in
4 this process. My name is Danielle SCHOLAR I'm the
5 Deputy Commissioner of Planning for the city of Mount
6 Vernon and today the purpose of this is basically to
7 present to you the proposed use of the 2017 Community
8 Development Block Grant Funding. So, that each of you
9 in this room, we're first going to make a
10 presentation, we're awaiting the arrival of the
11 Mayor. After the Mayor presents what we would like is
12 input. This is the citizen participation part of our
13 process and what we would like is input from each of
14 you as to what you feel and what you think the
15 proposed use of these funds should be.

16 This is a part of what we're required to
17 do for HUD in efforts (SIC) to complete the 2017
18 action plan. And as you can see, if you look in the
19 handout that you guys have, it tells you the amount
20 of funding. The amount of funding for 2017 is
21 \$1,435,000.00 approximately and the Home (SIC) Fund
22 amount is \$355,206.00. Home Funds are for the use of
23 creating affordable housing, the \$355,000.00. So,
24 again, we thank you and we are looking forward to
25 hearing your comments, thank you.

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2 DOM MCCOY: **[00:01:28]** Thank you,

3 Danielle, and again while we await the Mayor's
4 arrival when you first came in through the doors on
5 that table is a sign sheet. So, we would strongly
6 encourage you to fill in the signup sheet. As much or
7 as little information as you're comfortable with. I
8 know people are concerned, rightly so, about privacy
9 so if there is something that makes you uncomfortable
10 just leave it blank. But that's also an important
11 component.

12 HUD, Department of Housing and Urban
13 Development does like to, encourages municipalities
14 like Mount Vernon and other places to do these events
15 because they want to ensure that the public has a
16 meaningful opportunity to participate. And as
17 Danielle just cited, the city is an entitlement
18 jurisdiction. What that means is it automatically,
19 each year receives a formula based amount of money.
20 This year it's about \$1,450,000.00. It is also
21 what's called a home participating jurisdiction. So
22 it also receives formula, automatically receives, on
23 a yearly basis home funds and that's for affordable
24 housing. So, the city is well positioned.

25

2 The handouts next to the sign in sheet,
3 what you have over there, there are two documents.
4 One is the document of today's presentation. Tried to
5 keep it nice and concise so that we can really have a
6 dialogue and it's also up behind us. So, that is one
7 of the documents, that's the thinner one. And then
8 the thicker document is the actual draft annual plan
9 itself. As Danielle indicated it includes a lot of
10 information that HUD requires about the plan itself,
11 the proposed use of the funds and who that particular
12 entity is. How much they (SIC) receive, what the
13 outcomes (**INAUDIBLE**). And for an actual list, if you
14 wanted to turn to it, again, while we give it a few
15 more minutes page 30 of that thicker document
16 contains a table that you can take a look at.

17 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: **[00:04:05]** And while
18 you're looking at that again, this is your
19 opportunity as citizens to let us know what you
20 think. So, please, I encourage everybody. I know
21 public speaking is not an easy thing, however, I
22 encourage everybody to fully participate and let us
23 know what your thoughts are. Again, good morning
24 everyone. If you just walked in please make sure that
25 you sign in. At the back of the room there's a sign

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2 in sheet. Please make sure that you signed in. Thank
3 you.

4 MAYOR THOMAS: [00:06:09] Welcome
5 everybody. Thank you for not only coming to this
6 hearing, but thanks for coming on a Saturday morning.
7 I tried to get here a little earlier, but as you can
8 see my boss kind of driving me, making sure that I
9 get his stuff first. Which will always come first.
10 But I want to again thank the whole planning team for
11 pulling this together. It has been process to get to
12 this point, but just know that it's not going to be
13 without all of the reward for Mount Vernon.

14 So, I want to thank each and every one of
15 you for going through this process and just know that
16 we are about to do some really exciting things here
17 in the city of Mount Vernon. I can't thank you
18 enough. Thank the library for opening their doors to
19 host us this morning. I know that (**INAUDIBLE**)... I
20 just know that we are going to really do some great
21 things as we go through this process to allocate
22 funds to address the needs in our community. So,
23 thank you all and I'm looking forward to a great
24 hearing.

25 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Thank you, Mayor Thomas.

3 DOM MCCOY: **[00:07:20]** Thank you, Mayor
4 Thomas for that introduction and again thank you
5 for everyone for joining us this morning on a
6 Saturday. What I'm going to do, if it's okay with
7 everyone, it's a brief presentation, just going
8 to walk through that and then I know that folks
9 are anxious to share their feedback. So, for
10 those, I don't think I've met any of you in this
11 room. So, my name is Dom McCoy and I'm part of
12 the planning team along with Danielle, Sylvia who
13 are here with us today and others.

14 So, I'm going to work off of what you have
15 in your hands and the slide deck which is also
16 behind us. Danielle already talked about the
17 importance of community participation so thank
18 you for that. The comment period, and this
19 constitutes part of the comment period, is going
20 to be open until 4 p.m. on Monday, August 7th.
21 Again, the amount of funds that the city has been
22 fortunate to receive for fiscal year 2017, is
23 \$1,435,000.00. And home funds is \$355,000.00.

24 If you turn to the bottom of page 2. As I
25 indicated earlier, funding is allocated on a

1
2 formula basis each year. This is part of the plan
3 we need to submit to the Department of Housing
4 and Urban Development by August 16th. The final
5 plan. And after that, funds will get distributed
6 to the recipients and then there is a follow up
7 reporting part of the papers (SIC). So, that is
8 something that the city will need to do to follow
9 up on the allocation of the funds.

10 So, the annual plan is based, it's an
11 implementation plan. The city has in place right
12 now what is called five year consolidated plan.
13 It's available on Mount Vernon's website. And
14 what that is, is a road map for how the city
15 wants to do economic development, community
16 development and provide other services to
17 residents. So, that's a consolidated plan and
18 then the annual plan is something that is
19 submitted every year. It is more targeted. It's
20 based on how much the city is getting for that
21 particular year and how those funds are going to
22 be carried out both by the city and by outside
23 organizations. Non-profits, churches and other
24 groups.

2 So, again, if you haven't been able to take
3 a look at your plan I encourage you to do so
4 today as part of the comment period. You can
5 submit comments by email as well.

6 So, on page four, it talked about how does
7 Mount Vernon get these funds? These are formula
8 funds. These are federal funds and they are
9 distributed by U.S. Department of Housing and
10 Urban Development. I have already talked about
11 the five year consolidated plan. Mount Vernon's
12 runs from 2015 to 2019. Today's public hearing
13 is the annual action plan and then later on is
14 something that the planning staff will have to
15 undertake and that's the submitting the annual
16 report.

17 Page six is something that I encourage folks
18 to take a look at. Page six is a pie chart and
19 what that shows is the annual plan from last
20 year. So that shows, it's a breakdown of how the
21 city allocated it's resources from last year for
22 community development block grant programs
23 specifically.

24 So you will see the largest percentage of
25 funds went for program administration and

2 delivery and that is the Department of Planning,
3 Community Development and the Urban Renewal
4 Agency. Twenty-eight percent was allocated for
5 housing. And when you see housing it's not market
6 weight housing. This is housing for low and
7 moderate income residents. So... and vouchers,
8 correct. It's, so it's targeted.

9 The next largest percentage went for
10 economic development. The following up on that
11 neighborhood revitalization and then finally
12 public services. And for a list of the
13 organizations and entities that received funds
14 that is available on the city's website as well.
15 That is under the 2016 annual plan. You can,
16 again, see the breakdown.

17 So, turning next to page seven, is one I
18 think everyone in this room is going to want to
19 spend a little bit of time taking a look at and
20 something that we can discuss. Page seven are the
21 proposed projects for the funds that Danielle
22 talked about. The \$1,400,000.00 in CDBG funds and
23 then \$355,000.00 in home funds.

24 So the city was very fortunate. There has
25 been a lot of interest in these funds. These are

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2 grant funds so it's not something that the city
3 needs to repay. Typically the recipients also
4 Don't need to repay these funds. So we are
5 fortunate, and correct me if I'm wrong, but I
6 think 27 applications from a variety of
7 organizations.

8 So these organizations were city agencies,
9 are eligible to apply and a number of them did.
10 Churches applied. Tennant advocate applied,
11 affordable housing groups. So we were very, very
12 pleased with the number of applications that we
13 received. So they were difficult decisions and
14 choices to be made. And that's something that
15 we'd like to hear from you guys about.

16 There are four columns as you'll see. The
17 first column shows the entity. The second column
18 shows generally what the funds will be used for.
19 The third column is a column that HUD relies on.
20 They want to know generally speaking whether it's
21 going to be for neighborhood revitalization,
22 economic development, affordable housing. Public
23 services. And public services could be... and
24 that's something I'd like to talk a little bit
25 more about, but just public infrastructure. So

1
2 that could be traffic lights could be an example
3 of that. And then the final column, you'll see is
4 the amount of money that's proposed for each of
5 those activities. The final page is something
6 we'd also like you to comment about. I don't want
7 to get ahead of myself, but the city also has
8 \$786,000,000.00 in home funds and I said million,
9 excuse me, \$786,000.00 can't read my numbers
10 here. Correct, I apologize, we've got to correct
11 that. So, \$786,000.00 and those are home funds.
12 So home funds is a program specifically for
13 affordable housing, for low-moderate income
14 households.

15 So we would like to hear from folks about
16 that as well as the city has \$67,440.00 in what
17 are called emergency solutions grants. So the
18 emergency solutions grants are for at risk
19 individuals who may be homeless. And that is from
20 fiscal year 2010 and those are funds that need to
21 be spent very, very quickly. We welcome input and
22 ideas on that as well. The last page, and I will
23 stop here in a moment. That just lays out the
24 whole timeline leading up to the final submission
25 of the annual plan to the department on August

1
2 16. So let me stop there and turn it back to
3 Danielle for anything I might have missed.

4 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: **[00:17:26]** Okay, I think,
5 Dom, you've covered the majority of what needed
6 to be covered. I'd like to just make a disclaimer
7 to say that after this process is done we're
8 going to be turning around and jumping right back
9 in, in October to start the process for the 2018
10 Community Development Block Grant funding. So
11 please make sure when you see the notices that
12 you tell people and that you are participatory in
13 the process.

14 So, I think at this point what we'd like to
15 do, additionally, I want to remind people to tell
16 your friends and families about the next hearing
17 we're going to have. There is another hearing on
18 Monday at City Hall from 1 to 3. So please tell
19 people to come out and attend that hearing. So I
20 think at this point if the Mayor, Mayor Thomas do
21 you have any other comments?

22 MAYOR THOMAS: Keep moving forward.

23 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Keep moving forward. Okay,
24 thank you, your on it (SIC), okay. So we're going
25 to keep moving forward and the Mayor just stated.

1
2 So at this point what I would like to do is open
3 up for public comment. Again, we would really,
4 really appreciate any comment. This is
5 opportunity to let HUD know and let us know what
6 you think the proposed use of these funds should
7 be for 2017 Community Development Block Grant. So
8 I see a hand up, Miss Fleming, if you want to
9 come and take the mic you can be the first
10 speaker. Thank you. If you would state your name
11 and your affiliation. Either resident or if you
12 are representing an organization when you speak
13 that would be really helpful. Thank you.

14 MARY FLEMING: **[00:18:54]** Thank you, Miss
15 SCHOLAR. Good morning, Mayor and to all those
16 assembled. It is exciting that I have the
17 opportunity to address... I am Director of
18 Scholarship Programs for the City of Mount Vernon
19 and my name is Mary Fleming. I have three people
20 who are here to support our scholarship program.

21 I have Dr. Andrea Love-Ryan and I have
22 Mikail Oliver. And I have... but one of the
23 things as I'm looking at these funds that are
24 listed saying \$30,000.00. I do know that when I
25 came into the Planning Department and ran the

1
2 Scholarship Program, we did have a... funding's
3 for at least \$150,000.00. We have been able to
4 give monies to all recipients who submitted their
5 applications and did it in the right amount of
6 time and we solicited all of their financials.
7 And scholarship fund is for low to moderate
8 families.

9 Most of the families, the recipients are the
10 ones who submitted are people, sometimes are
11 first members of their families going to school.
12 And I have been excited about this because I've
13 seen the finished product. What comes to me and
14 then they complete their college degree and many
15 of them have come back to the city of Mount
16 Vernon and are working within the city and have
17 been a product of what the scholarship program is
18 about.

19 So, Dr. Ryan... Dr. Ryan came as she was an
20 undergraduate at College of New Rochelle. She
21 came to me because she needed funds. She has a
22 testimony which we will do today, but it's just
23 to show what the product is. She was able to get
24 the scholarship. The Mayor's (SIC) scholarship
25 and then she came back to me and asked me if I

1 had any way of getting her a master's degree.
2 Unfortunately our scholarship program within the
3 city does not offer a master's degree. But
4 because I did know someone who had faith in me
5 and asked me if I believed in her they would give
6 her a master's. So those are the things that once
7 the city stands behind their residents and
8 showing good faith that she was able to receive
9 the undergraduate funds. She was able to go on
10 and get her masters. And then on to receive a
11 doctorate.
12

13 So what I'm saying is that the city, with
14 assets, we get more funds because we have more
15 people coming into the city. College education
16 has increased dramatically and if we don't do
17 that, we're going to be a lost city because we
18 want to have an educated city. Once they can come
19 back to the city and offer all of their education
20 and what they're... because they believe in the
21 city. If you give to a resident they're going to
22 come back because I mean, we're one of the few
23 cities that still offer educational assistance
24 funds. So I would like to have Dr. Ryan come and
25 just say what the scholarship has meant to her

1
2 and also the other two. I have a young man who is
3 presently in his second year in college. I do
4 know without this education assistance he would
5 not have been able to go to school. His mother
6 comes, and unfortunately there would have been
7 others here but they are working today because
8 they are getting ready to go back to school. So
9 Dr. Ryan would you kindly come please, thank you.

10 DR. RYAN: [00:23:20] Thank you so much. Why
11 don't the others come and stand with me. We're
12 going to speak so we can do it as a group. It's
13 really not about me. It's about the collected
14 efforts of academics, education and our community
15 **(INAUDIBLE)** So, again I Don't want to turn my
16 back to you, but I want to thank you for having
17 us here and I do want to of course address our
18 mayor. Thank you, you know, I pray for you every
19 night and I'm grateful. It was truly an honor and
20 a blessing to have Miss Mary Fleming assist me
21 with the scholarship from the Mayor's office. I
22 had been out of college for 27 years and I had
23 the opportunity to go back to school. Knowing
24 that one's community is here to help them go back
25 to school gives them a certain strategic hope and

1
2 we don't have to necessarily depend just on
3 ourselves, but to have the community behind us
4 really gives us strategic hope.

5 So it was always a blessing to know that I
6 could come here and then the college also knew
7 that I wasn't standing alone. Our families are
8 behind us because they too want to see us
9 succeed. So with the college knowing that the
10 community of Mount Vernon was behind me and my
11 family, knowing that I was going back to college
12 after 27 years and I, having such strategic hope,
13 I could my mind together regardless of the
14 background that I had and I could go to school
15 and study because studying now would put me in a
16 new direction from the wasted life that I had.

17 So when a community invests in that
18 individual you get a great yield at the end of
19 the investment. And again, my testimony is
20 powerful and I don't want to really take a lot of
21 time with that because we'd be here for a long
22 time. However, what was so paramount is that at
23 the end of all of my education I'm now, besides
24 being a minister, I teach a program where
25 education is the post. Spiritual and academic

1
2 education is the focus and I now encourage people
3 to go back to college and that's the main thing
4 because I think that a mind is a terrible thing
5 to waste. So I think that while I'm now
6 encouraging people to come or go back to college,
7 they're going to be... they are residents of
8 Mount Vernon, I do a program in Mount Vernon and
9 I have no left Mount Vernon. They're going to...
10 they are residents and they are going to have to
11 come to Miss Mary Fleming and that... I want to
12 encourage you that that amount of money, while we
13 are grateful for that little amount of money. I
14 would love to encourage you to go back to the
15 board and pray, because I know you all pray,
16 about giving a little more. Because there are...
17 the Mount Vernon community still has more
18 residents that are adults that want to go back to
19 college. And we are responsible for helping them.
20 And I'm in this community day in and day out
21 encouraging people to go back to school. From 18
22 on because they cannot get lost (SIC) to this
23 community of what the world looks like.

24 So I'm here to encourage Miss Mary Fleming,
25 from the Mayor's office to continue on okay?

1
2 Because they cannot get lost to the world. If we
3 continue to look like the world we don't have...
4 we have to be transformed by the renewing of our
5 minds. So all that you can do, if you can go back
6 and think how can we put a couple more monies
7 (SIC) into this. I think it would be beneficial.
8 I am very grateful for the monies that I received
9 and I want to see you guys make it. I want to see
10 you not stop at your bachelors. I want to see you
11 go to get your master's and if God so ordains it
12 I want you to get your doctorate because this
13 community could be filled... not for sake of just
14 saying we did it, because it's not about us, it's
15 so that we can turn around and help the next
16 generation. We may not work directly with the
17 next generation, but they can look to you to say,
18 if God did it for me he can do it for you.

19 LAMONT: **[00:28:20]** My name is Lamont (SIC)
20 McCrae. I'm a current student at Westchester
21 Community College. I've been going there since
22 the Spring of 2016. I recently took the Summer
23 off because my financial aid ran out, but I will
24 be going back into (SIC) the Fall this year and
25 I'm an new recipient of the Mayor's scholarship.

1
2 I recently applied this year and I think it's one
3 of the best scholarships. This year it's my first
4 actual scholarship I actually applied for since
5 I've been in college and I think it was very fair
6 for the rules and the submissions of what you
7 have to have to be qualified because there are
8 other scholarships that are... qualify for you to
9 have more credits or different qualifications to
10 sign up. So I believe this was a good...
11 especially for the four coming up, this was a
12 very good opportunity to (**INAUDIBLE**).. going to
13 college in the Fall of this year. I think you
14 should register and it will be a very great help
15 and (**INAUDIBLE**)... my education and I'm going, my
16 major is business administration and I will
17 continue that until I get my Bachelor's and I
18 should be graduating in Spring 2018. I appreciate
19 the opportunity (**INAUDIBLE**)... to take advantage,
20 move forward and give it a shot. I appreciate it,
21 thank you so much.

22 MIKAIL OLIVER: [00:30:12] My name is Mikail
23 Oliver and I was born and raised in Mount Vernon.
24 When I qualified for this scholarship I couldn't
25 believe it because I'm the first in my family who

1
2 even stepped (SIC) to a college. My mom and my
3 father never stepped to a college. So now when I
4 went to school I was so serious and I'm so
5 focused. I'm so happy because I never, I never
6 had an opportunity like this. It's my first
7 scholarship and they're so welcoming and so nice.
8 **(INAUDIBLE)**... because this is my last year. I've
9 done one year so far. I'm going for my associates
10 degree and I'm about to finish right now at
11 Dutchess Community College.

12 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: **[00:31:18]** Dr. Ryan, Lamont
13 and Mikail, thank you for your powerful testimony
14 and Mary Fleming thank you for your testimony as
15 well. We are also... education and youth services
16 are huge priorities of this administration and
17 one of the things we are committed to doing is as
18 we assess all of the needs of the city and get
19 input from everyone in the community, we're
20 looking not only at CDBG funds, but other venues
21 of funding to help address a lot of the needs
22 that are here in the city that are being unmet.
23 So we are looking not only at CDBG but at other
24 funding sources and funding streams and trying to
25

1
2 see how we address all of the needs of the
3 community.

4 Part of what is going to happen today too is
5 this will be part of... this will be transcribed
6 and be part of the official record. So Dr. Ryan,
7 and Mikail, and Lamont, if you'd like to provide
8 written testimony as well, we will also include
9 that as part of the official record. But thank
10 you very much for your powerful testimony.

11 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Are there any other
12 comments? Would anyone else like to come up?
13 Please come up and state your name for the record
14 please?

15 REV. ARTHUR ROSE: **[00:32:36]** Good morning
16 everyone and God bless you. My name is Reverent
17 Arthur Rose, I'm the senior pastor of Upon This
18 Rock Ministries in Mount Vernon, New York. My
19 question is in regard to the categories of the
20 distribution of funds and I just heard about the
21 scholarship programs if you will. I just wanted
22 to know, in regard to the topics, because I know
23 that there are subdivisions and subcategories,
24 where would scholarship fall in as well as where
25 would reentry program to... or reintegration as

2 well as job development? What topic would that
3 fall under in regard to the grant funds
4 allocated?

5 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Thank you for your
6 comment. Are there any other comments? I'd like
7 to invite people to come forth at this time to
8 continue the public participation part of this
9 process. Please come forward and state your name
10 for the record. Thank you.

11 KEN BRIGHT: **[00:33:34]** Good morning. My name
12 is Ken Bright and I'm the founder and director of
13 Life Progressive Services Group. It's a reentry
14 transitional program for those who are formerly
15 incarcerated and turning back to the community.
16 Which we know they are coming back to the
17 community and they are not really provided the
18 services... the adequate services that's really
19 needed to sustain themselves out here. Or to keep
20 them from recidivating back into the criminal
21 life. Without going into my life, a lot of people
22 know my life, but since then for the last seven
23 years I have created a reentry program right here
24 in Mount Vernon. Without anybody's support. I've
25 been self-funding this myself. I get little small

1
2 donations but we can use... but I also, within
3 our program, the theme of my program is green
4 thinking.

5 Those who are responsible for our
6 communities, our families and our environment
7 need to be changed. They need to be rectified,
8 they need to be corrected. They need to be
9 stepped up a little better. And the only way that
10 can happen is by putting services into
11 individuals where they can learn what they need
12 to go next. There is a lot of people who are
13 returning to the community and it's not being
14 addressed adequately and that also goes into
15 three quarter (SIC) housing which I was speaking
16 to you earlier. Housing is so important because
17 if the people don't have anything or anything to
18 learn from or to work towards. No jobs. You're
19 setting them up to fail.

20 So, and the worst part is here the community
21 suffers because that's trauma on the communities.
22 Crime effects the community and it effects
23 families. So if you can rectify that, then you
24 have a smooth sailing. As an example, me, myself,
25 I came out here and I changed the things that I

1
2 come in contact with. They are things you can
3 change. People do change. It's just a matter of
4 getting community support. If the community...
5 our faith based communities or whoever the
6 groups, if they're not going to support these
7 individuals when they come home, then you can't
8 cry what happens in the community. You really
9 can't. So we need to change that. So that's my
10 thing.

11 DOM MCCOY: Two quick things, and thank you
12 for that comment. I'd love to hear a little bit
13 more if you could retake the mic in a moment just
14 about three quarter housing. I think I mentioned
15 earlier that the home program, the federal home
16 program provides funds for affordable housing and
17 if I understood correctly from our conversation
18 before the formal part of this hearing took
19 place, it's something that you're looking to try
20 to provide, I think temporary housing possibly
21 for?

22 KEN BRIGHT: Correct, transitional housing.

23 DOM MCCOY: Transitional housing for folks
24 who are reentering the communities and that...
25 that maybe something the home program is the

1
2 right fit for. The list that is in the
3 presentation doesn't break you out these small
4 funds yet, but as I, I think mentioned a short
5 time ago the city does have \$786,000.00 of home
6 funds. So I would like to hear a little bit more
7 about that and Rev. Rose, I think you had had a
8 question about the categories. The Mayor's
9 Scholarship fund and I can't recall uh...

10 REV. ARTHUR ROSE: Reentry and job
11 development.

12 DOM MCCOY: Those I think, and Danielle,
13 correct me if I'm wrong, but I think generally
14 those are... that would fall in the category of
15 economic development. So if you were to turn and
16 take a look at after the Mayor's scholarship
17 program that third... the third column, this
18 category that's under economic development.

19 REV. ARTHUR ROSE: I wasn't sure if it was
20 public services or it was economics. Public
21 services is on the sixth page.

22 DOM MCCOY: Right. And that pie chart was
23 from 2016. So if there's anything else, sir, that
24 you wanted to add about the three quarter housing
25

2 or if you want to submit something later. You're
3 more than welcome to do that.

4 KEN BRIGHT: Yeah, I'll submit something. It
5 could be a little more extensive and more
6 defined.

7 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: **[00:38:08]** And there were
8 some questions about... I also wanted to flag for
9 you, for the 2017 proposed budget, there is
10 midnight basketball for the first time that, that
11 is being added in there. And that would be year
12 round to address youth services and to make sure
13 that we address the needs of our youth, what
14 happens after hours. So this could be something
15 that would take place from six o'clock to 10
16 o'clock at night, every day I believe although
17 it's still being sketched out year round. So if
18 you have comments about how we structure that
19 that would be welcomed as well. And that would be
20 a place where the churches and youth or and
21 others in the community who work with our youth,
22 that would be great to get your input as well.
23 The other case is for the first time as well
24 we're setting funds aside for My Brother's
25 Keeper, My Sister's Keeper. And again, as a way

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2 to address the needs of youth in our community
3 who are at risk. So that would be wonderful to
4 get your input as well as how we structure that
5 and getting written comment on that would be
6 incredibly helpful because we're going to be
7 looking at your (SIC) organization, churches, how
8 we address the needs of at risk youth
9 particularly in that My Brother's Keeper
10 initially. So any input there would be greatly
11 appreciated. And this was put in there as a
12 response to the concerns that churches have put
13 forward, how we address the needs of at risk
14 youth. So, thank you.

15 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Do we have any other
16 comments from the public at this time? Please
17 come forward and state your name for the record,
18 thank you.

19 LINDA RICHARD: **[00:39:50]** Hello, my name is
20 Linda Richard (SIC) and I personally I am a
21 resident of Mount Vernon and I also work within
22 Mount Vernon with the Guidance Center of
23 Westchester. I come to you multiple layered.
24 Number one, housing. I could only receive Section
25 8 and there used to be a program called Home of

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2 Your... not home of your own, but based on the
3 fact that I'm paying a large amount for my
4 apartment, the subsidy is a large amount for my
5 apartment. That amount of money could go towards
6 me purchasing a home. Because if you really look
7 at it houses are going... I did the
8 multiplication. By the time I calculated what my
9 landlord received in rent for 10 years which came
10 out to \$300,000.00. That is a house I could have
11 purchased. So, I feel that there should be
12 programs out there to allow people to move
13 forward. Because I understand, we want people to
14 come out of the system. But it should be in a way
15 that they're cradled and supported. Another
16 instance is, currently I work for the Guidance
17 Center of Westchester and what we offer is a
18 program called a Health Home. And it's not
19 actually a physical home, it's not a physical
20 space. But it's giving people a care coordinator
21 that can assist them with their goals. So if the
22 person has a chronic condition, if they have
23 asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure or if they
24 have a mental illness. Schizophrenia, bipolar.
25 They can get the counseling that can help

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2 navigate the system with them. So when I say
3 navigate, if the person needs housing we can
4 pretty much give them referrals or let them know
5 when Section 8 applications are coming out. Or
6 help them fill out a SPOA application or connect
7 them to the resources in the community. If the
8 person has difficulty with getting to their
9 medical appointments we could call the doctor,
10 set up the appointment, go to the doctor with
11 them. Get them transportation to their doctor. If
12 the person has difficulties with applying for
13 Social Security, we could help them out with
14 doing the application. If they have problems with
15 DSS and recertification. See, people don't know,
16 when you're in the system, you've got to give
17 them your life. And if you're lost and you've
18 never done it before, because for me, I've been
19 employed and I've been unemployed. And when
20 you're unemployed you've got to give them your
21 life. And you have to explain everything and
22 sometimes going through the system alone people
23 need support. So if you know anyone who would be
24 utilizing services, the information is going to
25 be in the back. But please, feel free to call me.

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2 My name is Linda Richard and I hope the funds are
3 utilized in the way that helps support the
4 community because I truly believe in Mount
5 Vernon. I have three little ones and trust me, I
6 make sure my kids get their needs met. Thank you.

7 DOM MCCOY: Comments from anyone else at this
8 time.

9 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: Damani do you want to talk
10 about traffic lights?

11 DAMANI BUSH: **[00:43:05]** Hi, my name is
12 Damani Bush. I'm the assistant to the Public
13 Works Commissioner. Looking at this chart I know
14 you're probably looking to see that the majority
15 of the budget is going toward traffic lights. As
16 a Mount Vernon resident it's very important that
17 along with resurfacing our streets and filling in
18 pot holes that we ensure the safety of our kids
19 and our seniors. So the majority of this money is
20 going to be going towards installing new traffic
21 lights, new crosswalk signalization (SIC) and
22 handicap ramps. And things of that nature. A
23 quick story I'll tell you is when I was
24 elementary school, actually one of my friends got
25 hit by a car due to a traffic light that wasn't

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2 working. So it's very important that we ensure
3 the safety and moving forward that's... that's
4 what we plan on doing. So the average cost to
5 replace and entire intersection is about
6 \$35,000.00 so it's a lot of money, but it's
7 needed. And for the safety, I think that's the
8 most important thing. Thank you.

9 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Thank you. Are there any
10 others who would like to come forth and make a
11 comment? Please come forth. Please come forth to
12 the mic please. Please state your name for the
13 record.

14 NESHAWN STEPHETH: **[00:44:25]** I'm Neshan
15 Stepak I'm the collections and electronic
16 resources librarian. I wanted to ask about
17 parking and how often... how hard it is to find
18 parking in this city and the limited amount
19 sometimes of handicap parking. I know in this
20 building there is handicap parking on both sides
21 of the building, but there's no van parking. And
22 we have an employee parking lot, but we don't
23 have a public parking lot. And a lot of the
24 buildings around here don't have a public parking
25 lot like the social services building, and the

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2 employee... when you go to the employment office
3 it's often very difficult to find parking around
4 here. We have limits on how many people can come
5 to this building because of parking issues. I
6 think this is true throughout the city. I there
7 are... when I go to city hall, when I look
8 around, when I look around the parking around
9 here we have a lot difficulty having the people
10 here. And I can also say that it's not that easy
11 for a lot of the organizations here. It's not
12 that easy to bring people into the city. It's not
13 that easy to bring business also into the city
14 when you look at how the parking is laid out in
15 this city. It needs to change. It's an issue that
16 affects us. It's an issue that effects other
17 people around us. That's pretty much what I'm
18 going to talk about for now.

19 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Thank you for that
20 comment, however, the comment is not necessarily
21 related to the things that we're here for today.
22 We can answer those questions after this session
23 has closed out. Thank you for your comment. Are
24 there any other questions or any other things
25 that people would like to say? Okay. So this

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CMV_CDBGHomePublicHearing 072917_
closes out the public participation phase of the
2017 Mount Vernon Community Development Block
Grant funding process. We thank you again for
coming out on this day. I know it's not easy. It
is a Saturday, I know people have things to do.
Thank you and again, we just want to remind you
to please tell your friends and family about the
second participation hearing that will be held on
Monday at city hall in the city hall council
chambers. And it will be from one to three. So
please tell everyone to come out and participate.
Again, thank you on behalf of Mayor Thomas, thank
you. **[00:47:20]**

