

PH-2

Donna Gordon

From: Taryn Kryzda
Sent: Sunday, March 7, 2021 3:11 PM
To: Donna Gordon
Cc: George Stokus
Subject: Fwd: Block Grant for COVID impacts

Need to include as public comment on the item, thanks

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Virginia Sherlock <vsherlock@lshlaw.net>
Date: March 7, 2021 at 1:06:21 PM EST
To: Commissioner Sarah Heard <sheard@martin.fl.us>, "hjenkins@martin.fl.us" <hjenkins@martin.fl.us>, Commissioner Doug Smith <dsmith@martin.fl.us>, Edward Ciampi <eciampi@martin.fl.us>
Cc: Taryn Kryzda <tkryzda@martin.fl.us>, Sarah Woods <swoods@martin.fl.us>, Virginia Sherlock <vsherlock@lshlaw.net>
Subject: Block Grant for COVID impacts

**Think Before You Click: This Email Originated
Outside of your organization.**

Commissioners,

Please include this e-mail in public comments for Tuesday's Agenda Item PH-2 regarding the request to use \$1.4 million in Community Development Block Grant funds to build a "learning center" at Witham Field to train residents to meet new workforce education needs.

I do not believe the proposed use meets the grant requirements. It is unlikely that at least 51% of those who use the facility's services will meet low- or moderate-income level standards, and I do not know how the facility addresses "the immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community" caused by COVID-19.

Extensive renovation of a County-owned building will not address immediate existing needs of residents caused by COVID-19. There is sufficient availability of empty commercial space throughout the County that could be used. You are proposing to spend more than \$1 million in grant funds to upgrade a property in the County's inventory. In addition to the extremely high cost of renovating the airport building, it will likely take months to get the job done.



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The proposed location does not serve the parts of our community most in need. Access to Witham Field is not available for many residents who might make use of the facility, even if it were designed to meet an immediate need created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Why not establish a facility in East Stuart or Indiantown or another area that is more accessible to the underemployed? Why not use at least part of the grant funds to increase accessibility for tests, treatment, and vaccinations, food, clothing, rent assistance?

The proposed use appears designed to train a workforce for targeted industries and businesses served by the Business Development Board rather than the community as a whole.

Virginia P. Sherlock
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Mary K. Vettel

From: Rosemarie Zummo
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 8:07 AM
To: George Stokus
Cc: Mary K. Vettel; Lar'Nesheia Ponders
Subject: FW: CDBG Grant for Building 17 at Witham Field

PH-2 public comment for the record.

Rosemarie Zummo
Executive Aide
District 2, Commissioner Stacey Hetherington
Martin County Board of County Commissioners
772.288.5421 (o)

From: Ted Astolfi <tastolfi@mceconomy.org>
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 1:59 PM
To: Stacey Hetherington <shetherington@martin.fl.us>
Subject: CDBG Grant for Building 17 at Witham Field

<p>Think Before You Click: This Email Originated Outside of your organization.</p>

Commissioner Hetherington,

I would like to go on record as supporting the grant application for the rehabilitation of Building 17 as a training center.

Please take a moment to watch the video (link below) about a project in Alabama that exemplifies the vision for what building 17 could become.

<https://youtu.be/xMjAOD-WLTw>

Thank you,

Ted

Ted Astolfi
CEO/President
Economic Council of Martin County
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Stuart, FL 34996