

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Beloit will submit a written exception to the federal Conflict of Interest provisions under 24 CFR 570.611. The City is requesting an exception under 570.611(d) to award 2016, 2017, and future Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to the Merrill Community Center, and to consult with Regina Dunkin regarding Merrill Community Center activities and strategies in development of the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) Plan. As part of the exception request, the City is required to publicly disclose the conflict of interest and submit to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) any comments received from the public regarding that conflict. The conflict of interest is described below, and a description of how Councilor Dunkin will be withdrawn from the decision making process with respect to CDBG funding follows.

Regina Dunkin was elected to the Beloit City Council in April of 2016. The Beloit City Council annually approves the CDBG Funding Priorities, Annual Action Plan, and CDBG budget allocations. The City Council also approves the CDBG Consolidated Plan, any substantial amendments, and participates in workshops related to CDBG funding. This means Regina Dunkin, as a City Councilor is both in a position to participate in the decision making process with regard to CDBG, and as the Executive Director of Merrill Community Center, may also have a financial interest in a contract or agreement for CDBG awarded to the Merrill Community Center. This constitutes a prohibited conflict as defined in 24 CFR 570.611(b).

Councilor Dunkin will withdraw herself from any City Council meetings, workshops, or discussions regarding the CDBG funding process and will leave the meeting room while discussions and decisions are being made related to CDBG items on the City Council Agenda. Councilor Dunkin will have a representative other than herself conduct presentations or provide comments regarding CDBG funding for the Merrill Community Center during public meetings.

For further information or to submit comments, contact Teri Downing in the Community Development Department at (608)364-6705 or by email at downingt@beloitwi.gov. Comments must be submitted no later than 5:00PM on September 14, 2016.

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