

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) and  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOI/RROF)**

**Date of Publication:** August 17, 2011

**Responsible Entities** City of Somerville  
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community  
Development  
93 Highland Avenue, 3rd floor, Somerville, MA 02143  
Tel: 617-625-6600, x. 2500

**These notices shall satisfy two separate, but related, procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Somerville ( City), acting by and through the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (MOSPCD).**

**CDBG, ESG and Home 2011-2012  
REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

**On or about August 19,2011 the City will submit a request to the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Boston Office, for the release of CDBG, ESG and HOME 2011-2012 Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 to undertake a project known as CDBG, ESG and HOME for the purpose of assisting low and moderate income residents and businesses in Somerville. CDBG funding will be \$2,585,669, ESG funding will be \$ 125 ,761 and HOME funding will be \$850,413. The projects will be as follows: ArtsUnion: ArtsUnion Streetscape & ArtsSpace improvements in Union Square. Historic Firehouse: Rehabilitate Local Historic District (LHD) designated low- and moderate-income homes to historic design standards. East Somerville Main St: Support for Main Streets organization and initiatives in East Somerville. Farmers' Market. Land Acquisition: Appraisals, technical studies, and other land acquisition costs in CDBG eligible areas. Storefront Improvement Program: Funds for renovating storefronts and/or signs & awnings in CDBG eligible commercial districts, or to eligible micro-enterprises. Groundworks Somerville: Landscaping and planting improvements in schools and other eligible public areas. North Street Park & Harris Park: Environmental testing, appraisals, design, and other activities for park in CDBG eligible area. Street Tree Planning: Funding will provide for the planting of approx. 100 trees in CDBG eligible areas city-wide. ADA Improvements: For ADA improvements to sidewalks, curb cuts, and pedestrian signals & signage throughout the city. Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) funds are targeted toward the operation of emergency shelters, homeless prevention, and crisis intervention programs. OUSING REHAB: Funds to rehab rental and homeowner properties occupied by and/or affordable to residents who are income eligible under Home and/or CDBG regulations. DOWNPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: HOME CHDO SET ASIDE: Funding for affordable housing construction or acquisition by CHDO-eligible entities. If you require more information a complete copy of the HUD Action Plan is available in OSPCD 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City hall and online at <http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/economic-development/caper>**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**The City has determined that the projects to be funded with the above CDBG, ESG, and Home Funds will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is**

contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at MOSPCD, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143 and may be examined and/or copied Monday-Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Thursday from 8:30 a.m - 7:30 p.m.; and Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to The City at the address given above. All comments received by the end of the business day on August 19, 2011 will be considered by the City prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

The City certifies to HUD/Boston that Joseph A. Curtatone, in his capacity as Mayor and Certifying Officer of the City of Somerville, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD/Boston's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City to use Program funds.

#### **OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HUD/Boston will accept objections to its release of funds and the City's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officers of the City; (b) the City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, or incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD/Boston.; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to: HUD/Office of Community Planning & Development, Thomas P. O'Neil Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02222-1092. Potential objectors should contact HUD/Boston (617-994-8200) to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

*Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor of the City of Somerville*