

TO: Village Council and Mayor Brown
FROM: Finance Committee, Rob Bartlett - Chair
RE: Hamilton County Community Development Block Grant Program
DATE: June 4, 2021

The Finance Committee met on Friday, June 4, 2021 at 2:30 pm to discuss Mariemont possibly entering a cooperation agreement with Hamilton County which would give us access to their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee members Rob Bartlett, Kelly Rankin and Joe Stelzer, Mayor Bill Brown, and Joy Pierson and James Noyes from the Hamilton County Planning & Development department.

CDGB is one of three grants that Hamilton County receives from U.S. Housing and Development. In 2021, CDGB received \$3.5 million. Mariemont is 1 of only 6 Hamilton County jurisdictions that currently does not participate in CDGB. The 41 jurisdictions in Hamilton County that do participate include Glendale, Amberley Village, Wyoming, Fairfax, Newtown and Madeira. If Mariemont joins the program, CDGB will receive more money from HUD. Mariemont in turn will automatically have access to 40%-45% of that money: 40% is estimated to be \$13,117 a year and 45% to be \$14,756 a year.

The CDGB grant money must be used for specific projects, for example projects that benefit senior citizens, ADA compliance, historic building preservation and renovation, and code enforcement/property maintenance to name a few. Also, we can let the amount build up over time. It is not “use it or lose it”. And to be clear, there are no requirements for creating low income housing. Joining will also give us access to two other grant programs that we could apply for: Mini Planning Grants, which can be used for project such as business district plans, sewer system replacement plans, strategic planning, or identifying community development needs, and the Community and Economic Development Assistance Program (CEDAP), which can be used for large scale strategic projects for economic development.

To participate in CDGB requires that council pass a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement of cooperation with Hamilton County, and then the Mayor sign the agreement of cooperation. In order for Mariemont to have access to funds in spring/early summer 2022 (estimated to be between \$26,234 and \$29,513), we need to submit the resolution and the signed agreement by July 16, 2021. The Finance Committee is recommending that we enter an agreement of cooperation with Hamilton County. If council agrees, the Village Solicitor will draw up the resolution for council to vote on at the next meeting. In order to meet the July 16 deadline, the resolution will need to be passed on an emergency basis.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Bartlett, Chairman

Kelly Rankin, Vice-Chairman

Joe Stelzer, Member