



# CITY OF PARAMOUNT

## **FY 2008-2009 Action Plan Amendment June 2, 2009**

Prepared By:



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## **I. Executive Summary**

On February 17, 2009 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law. The Recovery Act includes \$13.61 billion for projects and programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of which 75% was allocated to state and local recipients. Local jurisdictions who receive a direct grant from HUD are eligible to receive Recovery Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-R) funds. Most local governments use this investment to rehabilitate affordable housing and improve key public facilities. The City of Paramount anticipates receiving approximately \$324,034 of the CDBG-R funds.

The Recovery Act funding has clear purposes – to stimulate the economy through measures that modernize the Nation’s infrastructure, improve energy efficiency, and expand educational opportunities to access to health care. HUD strongly urges grantees to use CDBG-R funds for hard development costs associated with infrastructure activities that provide basic services to residents or activities that promote energy efficiency and conservation through rehabilitation or retrofitting of existing buildings.

As a recipient of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City of Paramount is required to prepare and submit a Consolidated Plan at least every five years. The City completed the Five-Year Consolidated Plan document covering the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2011. The two federal grant programs funds received by the City of Paramount, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) program, are subject to the requirements of the Consolidated Plan planning process.

The Consolidated Plan is a multifaceted document which includes:

- An assessment and prioritization of housing and community needs.
- Identifies local, state and federal resources that are available to meet needs.
- Outlines strategies to address priority needs over a five-year period.
- Provides an action plan with specific one-year goals to address priority needs.

The One Year Action Plan is submitted on an annual basis throughout the 5-year period of the Consolidated Plan serving as the annual application to HUD. The Action Plan identifies activities to be funded during the year, within the context of the five-year Consolidated Plan. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act require local jurisdictions to amend its current Action Plan to include proposed activities for the use of CDBG-R funds.

### **Action Plan Amendment**

The City of Paramount’s Citizen Participation Plan sets forth policies and procedures for citizen participation in the development of the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan documents and any

subsequent amendments. Any substantial amendments to the Action Plan would require a 30-day public review. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, HUD is shortening the minimum time for citizen comments to 7 calendar days and requiring the substantial amendment materials to be posted in the grantee's official website. Any amendment to the Action Plan requires the City to formally amend and approve the Action Plan whenever a decision is made to propose a substantial change in allocation priorities or method of distribution of funds. The anticipated receipt of CDBG-R funds constitutes a substantial change.

For the purpose of the Action Plan, a "substantial change" is defined as follows:

- A net increase or decrease greater than 50% of the activity allocation if the allocation is \$50,000 or more as listed in a published One-year Action Plan, or as amended; or
- A net increase or decrease greater than 100% of the activity allocation if the allocation is less than \$50,000 as listed in a published One-Year Action Plan or amended; or
- A net increase or decrease in an activity allocation greater than \$300,000; or
- A new activity not previously identified in the One-Year Action Plan.

In May 2008, the City adopted its annual Action Plan document for the distribution of CDBG and HOME Investment Partnership Act funds. In March 2009, the City of Paramount received official notification from HUD concerning the level of funding directly available under the Recovery Act. In recognition of this fact, the City proposes utilizing \$324,034 of CDBG-R funds for a Graffiti Prevention Program and Planning and Administration.

The City published a Public Notice on May 21, 2009, announcing the availability of the draft Action Plan amendment for a 7-day public review period and a public hearing at which residents could comment on the proposed amendment. The public hearing took place at the City of Paramount City Council Chambers on June 2, 2009. No comments were received during the public review period or at the public hearing.

### **Action Plan Fiscal Year 2008-09**

The One Year Action Plan is the final part of the Consolidated Plan and sets forth the specific actions that will be taken to address the City's priority needs and strategies. The Action Plan is submitted on an annual basis throughout the 5-year period of the Consolidated Plan, 2007 - 2011. This second year Action Plan is for the 12-month period from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

To prioritize activities to meet the housing and non-housing needs in the City of Paramount, information was analyzed and evaluated from the data and needs assessment provided in the Consolidated Plan. Priority needs were also based on an assessment of the Housing Element of the Paramount General Plan, Resident Survey, Community Meetings and the priority needs identified by the City. Citizens were invited to provide input on the Housing and Community Development needs within the City of Paramount. Input was also solicited by the Finance Department from other City Departments including Administrative Services, Community Development, Public Works, Public Safety, and Community Services and Recreation.