



# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Mayor and City Councilors  
**From:** Rich Olson, City Manager  
**Date:** March 19, 2015  
**Re:** Consideration – River City CDC Summer Youth Camp Funding

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***BACKGROUND:***

During the October 6, 2014 City Council meeting, the Council approved a Community Support Grant to River City CDC in the amount of \$8,500 for its next Summer WorkCamp. According to River City CDC's narrative, the WorkCamp would bring in over 400 young volunteers to perform minor home repairs on approximately 45-50 homes in our area. These repairs include window repairs, painting, roofing, building porches and handicap ramps. The City's funds were to be used for building supplies, paint and other building materials.

***ANALYSIS:***

On Wednesday, March 4, I met with Lenora Jarvis-Mackey and Phil Johnson about this year's proposed summer camp budget. The large WorkCamp will not take place this July and most likely would occur in July 2016. Due to the needs within the community, a smaller stand-alone project is being proposed. This year's proposed project will cover the Towns of Edenton and Hertford along with Elizabeth City. It is proposed for the stand-alone summer camp to use the \$8,500 in Community Support Grant funding to improve 15-20 homes in Elizabeth City. The same criteria will be used as in the past. City funds will continue to pay for such items as lumber, paint and siding. City staff will evaluate these homes to determine if any would be eligible for weatherization funding in conjunction with the summer camp program.

This proposed use of funds is substantially different from River City CDC's presentation to the Finance Committee during the Community Support Grant process. Attached is the revised budget for the program that has been submitted by River City CDC. I previously sent a memo seeking input from the City Council regarding this matter, and I received a request from a Councilmember to place the issue on an agenda for Council discussion.

***FINANCIAL:***

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their meeting of March 19, 2015. During the discussion, Mayor Peel advised that Phil Johnson of Pepsi is involved with this project; and in fact had originated the idea. He stated that Mr. Johnson introduced the idea as a way to get local kids involved in making the community better and also to give them something to do. He advised that Mr. Johnson had contacted River City CDC because of their involvement in the larger Group WorkCamp Program; and a partnership had been created for this effort. Mayor Peel reminded the committee that the issue involves an earlier Council discussion whereby River City CDC had been encouraged to seek one-half of the funding for its large WorkCamp over two Community Support Grant cycles, since that event is held every two years. He stated that if the Council approves the reallocation this year, the issue of funding the larger WorkCamp scheduled for 2016 would still exist. Mayor Peel said that both camps were great projects, but he felt the local camp is actually better because it involves our local kids. Councilman Horton pointed out that the only change is that the project is a smaller scale and will be completed by local kids.

A motion was made by Councilman Horton, seconded by Mayor Peel, that the Committee send to the full council a recommendation to reallocate \$8,500 in Community Support Grant Funding for River City CDC. The motion carried unanimously.

***STAFF RECOMMENDATION:***

By motion, approve the requested reallocation of Community Support Grant funding for River City CDC.

RCO/vdw