

# **COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

**Publication Date:** August 1 – August 16, 2024

This combined notice shall satisfy two separate but related procedural notification requirements. The two procedural notification requirements are (1) Finding of No Significant Impact and (2) Intent to Request Release of Funds. On or about August 19, 2024, the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development, will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of grant funds under the project known as “2312-2316 Louisiana Avenue, Former Fire Station and Vacant Parcel”. The anticipated future use of the former fire station site addressed at 2312-14 Louisiana Avenue, is intended for mixed use; childcare facility on the ground floor and residential occupancy on the second floor. The site will be redeveloped to serve the Central City community with a Type III early childhood education (ECE) center serving up to 65 students on the building's ground floor and ancillary structure. The ancillary structure will be converted into two classrooms with a shared restroom in the existing tack room. The second floor of the former fire station will be redeveloped with seven permanently affordable apartments. The vacant parcel addressed at 2316 Louisiana Avenue is proposed for outdoor space to serve both the early childhood education facility, residents, and to create stormwater management infrastructure that will serve both lots. The project funding of federal dollars through the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development is approximately \$600,000.00 of HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds utilize grant number(s) M-21-MC-22-0201 and M-22-MC-22-0201.

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The City of New Orleans has determined that the project will not have a significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determination for this project is on file at the City of New Orleans, Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street, 10<sup>th</sup> floor, New Orleans, LA 70112, and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To view the full, ERR call 658-4365 or e-mail [cafoundas@cityofno.com](mailto:cafoundas@cityofno.com) for an appointment.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination, or wishing to comment on the program may submit written comments to this office. All comments received by August 16, 2024, will be considered by this office prior to the authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this notice they are addressing. Comments can also be emailed to [cafoundas@cityofno.com](mailto:cafoundas@cityofno.com).

**RELEASE OF FUNDS:**

The City of New Orleans certifies to HUD that Tyra Johnson Brown, Director of Housing Policy and Community Development in her capacity as Certifying Officer for Environmental Review for the City of New Orleans 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's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of New Orleans to use Program Funds.

**OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS:**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of New Orleans' certification received by September 3, 2024, or a period of fifteen days from its 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 Officer or other officer of the City of New Orleans; (b) the City of New Orleans 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 project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the City of New Orleans; 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) and shall be addressed to:

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development  
Community Planning & Development/Environmental Review  
Attention: Cheryl Breaux, CPD Director  
501 Magazine Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Potential objectors should contact U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period regarding the federal funds.

LaToya Cantrell,  
Mayor

Tyra Johnson Brown  
Director of Housing Policy and Community Development/Environmental Certifying  
Officer