

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

**Publication Date:** August 15 – August 30, 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 September 3, 2024, the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development on behalf of the Housing Authority of New Orleans, 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 “Wilcox Academy”. The proposed project site consists of two parcels consisting of approximately 0.3 acre of cleared, vacant land addressed at 2517 Washington Avenue and 2723 Freret Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. Approximate center coordinates for the proposed project site is as follows: Latitude - 29degrees 56' 19.86" and Longitude - 90degrees 05' 29.62". The proposed project parcels have been identified for the following funding and construction activities as follows: 2723 Freret Street - This parcel, is currently owned by the Wilcox Academy/WilReachOne Foundation Inc., are proposed to receive funding from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for the construction of an Early Childhood Education (ECE) facility. The proposed facility will include an approximately 10,000 square foot (sf) learning center with 13 classrooms serving children from birth to age 4. 2517 Washington Avenue - This parcel is proposed to receive funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Louisiana Housing Corporation Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program toward the acquisition of the parcel and construction of a multi-unit, residential rental property. The proposed residential construction will include a two-story, four-unit residential structure encompassing approximately 3,000 sf. Each unit will offer 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. The CDBG-DR funding is to be administered by the Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) as the Responsible Entity. This environmental is being conducted by the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development for the Housing Authority of New Orleans' participation supplying project-based vouchers. The project-based voucher subsidy through the Housing Authority of New Orleans is approximately \$359,520.00 over a period of twenty years. The Housing Authority of New Orleans will utilize their Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) #FW1190.

## **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 30, 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 18, 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  
New Orleans Field Office  
Office of Public Housing  
Attention: Elvetra Gibbs, 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.

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LaToya Cantrell,  
Mayor

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