

CITY COUNCIL

For City Clerk's Use:

APPROVED **DENIED**

Reso No. _____ File No. _____

Ord No. _____

Agenda Item No.: _____
Date: November 19, 2008

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Rich Buquet, Neighborhood Services Manager

SUBJECT: Amendment to FY 2008-2009 One-Year Action Plan to include a new Allocation of \$400,000 for the acquisition of a building for use as a Tiny Tots Pre-school and Neighborhood Meeting Center

RECOMMENDATION:

It is requested that Council amend the One-Year Action Plan to include a new allocation of \$400,000 to assist in the acquisition of a building in a low-income census tract for use as a Tiny Tots Pre-School and Neighborhood Meeting Center.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The City of Escondido receives annual formula allocations of CDBG Program funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). All program and program administration expenses are paid with CDBG funds and do not impact the General Fund, unless Council directs otherwise.

CORRELATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL ACTION PLAN:

This item relates to the Council's Action Plan regarding Community Outreach.

PREVIOUS ACTION:

On April 25, 2007, Council adopted the FY 2007-2008 One-Year Action Plan and approved its submission to HUD.

On April 23, 2008, Council adopted an Amendment to the FY 2007-2008 One-Year Action Plan to include a new allocation of funds to the Grape Street Improvement project totaling \$450,000. Funds came from the cancellation of the Orange Place project and from unprogrammed funds.

BACKGROUND:

Since the award of the allocation for the Grape Street Improvement project in April of 2008, staff has become aware of an urgent need for funds to assist in the acquisition of a building to house the City-

run Tiny Tots Pre-school program. The Tiny Tots program serves a vital need in the community by providing a low-cost kindergarten-readiness program for 3- and 4-year olds in the central part of the city. The program serves the residents of the Mission Park and other low-income areas.

The Tiny Tots program was originally located in the Youth Activity Building on Mission Avenue (in the Mission Park area) until 2007 when it was forced to relocate due to serious health and safety issues within the facility. Since that time, the program has been temporarily relocated to the Washington Park building, however that building is not appropriate or suitable for the activities and requirements of the Tiny Tots program. Further, the Washington Park building is needed for other scheduled uses and activities which have been displaced and for which the building was actually designed. The Tiny Tots program is in need of a permanent, secure home appropriate for small children in a classroom setting in or near the Mission Park area.

In addition, the building will be designed to include much-needed meeting space for neighborhood meetings and activities that serve the city-supported neighborhood groups from the Mission Park area. The proposed building will be located in the targeted low-income census tract that includes the Mission Park area (CT 202.12) and is within walking distance of the residences and neighborhoods there.

The Grape Street project is currently in design but construction will be delayed for the time being. Staff expects to recommend the Grape Street Improvement project for additional funding in a new allocation cycle in the near-future as funds become available.

The proposed CDBG funding is expected to assist in the purchase of a suitable building on Woodward Avenue in conjunction with other funds being identified by staff. Once those funds are identified, staff will return to Council for authorization to make an offer on the property. Finally, if for some reason additional funds are not identified and/or an acquisition for this purpose is not completed, staff requests authority to reinstate the \$400,000 allocation to the Grape Street Improvement project.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Buquet
Neighborhood Services Manager