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

**STATE OF VERMONT**

April 10, 2024

City of Rutland, Michael Doenges

P.O. Box 969

1 Strongs Avenue

Rutland, VT 05702

802-773-1800

Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development

Alex Farrell, Commissioner, VT Department of Housing and Community Development

One National Life Drive, Davis Building, 6th Floor

Montpelier, VT 05620

802-828-3080

The purpose of this notice is to satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Rutland and the State of Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (Agency).

**Request for Release of Funds**

On or about April 26, 2024, the City of Rutland will submit a request to the Agency to release Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL93-383) and the National Affordable Housing Act as amended; and the Agency will submit a request to HUD to release HOME Investment Partnership Program funds under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, to undertake a project known as Forest Street located at 133 Forest Street, Rutland, Vermont which includes an approximately 1.54 acre parcel of land with three vacant, blighted industrial buildings on site. The proposed activities include acquisition, demolition of the existing three structures and the new construction of a residential building providing 30 units, parking, access drive, sidewalk, snow storage, and utility connections. Funding amounts have not yet been determined. Project based vouchers are anticipated. Mitigation factors include the post-construction testing of the building for radon and activation of the pre-installed radon mitigation system if activation is warranted, based on radon test results. An Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) inspection must be completed by a licensed contractor and mitigation completed prior to demolition, as required by state and federal laws. In addition, a Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test of the debris will be conducted by a licensed contractor to determine the presence of Lead Based Paint materials prior to disposal in order to dispose of the materials appropriately, as required by law.

The estimated total cost of the project is approximately $13,261,746 including anticipated amounts of approximately $500,000 in CDBG Funds and exact funding amounts for HOME will be determined at a later date. In addition, approximately 10 project based vouchers are anticipated and National Housing Trust Funds may be pursued at a later date.

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

The City of Rutland and the Agency have determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record, which will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to Attn Michael Doenges, Mayor, City of Rutland, P.O. Box 969, 1 Strongs Avenue, Rutland, VT or via email at [mdoenges@rutlandcity.org](mailto:mdoenges@rutlandcity.org); or by U.S. mail to Environmental Officer, Department of Housing and Community Development, National Life Building, One National Life Drive, Davis Building 6th floor, Montpelier, Vermont 05620 or via email at [Grace.Vinson@vermont.gov](mailto:Grace.Vinson@vermont.gov).

**Public Comments**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Rutland regarding the use of CDBG funds, Attn: Michael Doenges, Mayor, City of Rutland, P.O. Box 969, 1 Strongs Avenue, Rutland, VT or via email at [mdoenges@rutlandcity.org](mailto:mdoenges@rutlandcity.org) or by U.S. mail to Environmental Officer, Department of Housing and Community Development, National Life Building, One National Life Drive, Davis Building 6th floor, Montpelier, Vermont 05620 or via email at [Grace.Vinson@vermont.gov](mailto:Grace.Vinson@vermont.gov).

All comments received by April 25, 2024 will be considered by the City of Rutland and the Agency prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds. Comments must specify which Notice they are addressing—the Finding of No Significant Impact or the Request for the Release of Funds.

**Environmental Certification**

The City of Rutland is certifying to the Agency that the City of Rutland and Michael Doenges, in his official capacity as Mayor, and the Agency is certifying to HUD that the Agency and Alex Farrell, in his official capacity as Commissioner of the VT Department of Housing and Community Development, consent 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. The Agency’s/HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Rutland to use CDBG funds and the Agency to use the HOME funds.

**Objections to Release of Funds**

The Agency will accept objections to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the City of Rutland‘s certification, and HUD will accept objections to its approval of the release of funds and the State’s certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual 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 Officers Michael Doenges/Alex Farrell; (b) the City/Agency 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 development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Agency/HUD; 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 via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Environmental Officer at ACCD [Grace.Vinson@vermont.gov](mailto:Grace.Vinson@vermont.gov) for the CDBG funds, or to the HUD Director of Community Planning and Development [CPD\_COVID-19OEE-BOS@hud.gov](mailto:CPD_COVID-19OEE-BOS@hud.gov) for the HOME funds. Potential objectors should contact the Agency/HUD via email to verify the last day of the objection period.