

VERONA

Township of Verona, New Jersey



Municipal Building
600 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey 07044
Website: www.VeronaNJ.org

MAYOR KEVIN J. RYAN
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March 30, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3011

RE: Funding Threats to CDBG

Dear Congressman Frelinghuysen:

As the local Mayor, I am writing this letter on behalf of the Township Council and the entire community to express our support for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and to voice our opposition to any threatened cuts or elimination of this program in FY2018. Any reduction in CDBG funding would severely slow down or eliminate thousands of local and state projects and programs that are vital to the country's affordable housing stock and economic health.

Local governments including Verona use CDBG funds for critical community development activities including, infrastructure improvements such as roads, water and sewer systems; expanding homeownership opportunities; eliminating slum and blight; employment training; business and job creation; transportation services; services at libraries, community centers, adult day care and child and after school care facilities; homeless housing assistance; and crime awareness programs. According to HUD, every \$1 million in CDBG funding supports nearly 26 jobs and since 2005, CDBG program resources have created over 300,000 jobs.

In one year alone CDBG supported the rehabilitation of nearly 95,000 homes and financed public improvement projects that benefitted an estimated 3.3 million residents in communities from coast to coast. This important housing, community and economic development program has been a catalyst for economic growth and has helped local officials leverage funds for community needs.

Every year since 1979, Verona has benefited from CDBG funds to improve the municipal infrastructure and expand services to the services provided in the community. To date, Verona has received approximately \$7.5 million.

The Trump Administration's budget blueprint has proposed the elimination of the entire CDBG program, however, at a time when our nation's infrastructure is ailing and our country is enduring an affordable housing crisis. It is more important now than ever to increase CDBG funding to give communities the ability to address their infrastructure, housing and economic

development needs at the local level. We ask you to oppose any legislation that would eliminate or reduce funding for CDBG in FY 2018. We would also like to extend an invitation to you and your staff to tour our CDBG-funded projects to see the benefits of the program firsthand.

We thank you, in advance, for your support of CDBG. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Ryan
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive
George Sercio, Essex County CDBG Director
Verona Township Council

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman, House Committee on
Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3011

Constituent Office:
The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman, House Committee on
Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
30 Schuyler Place, Second Floor
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

The Honorable Cory A. Booker
United States Senate
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

Dear Senator Menendez:

Constituent Office:
The Honorable Cory A. Booker
United States Senate
One Gateway Center, 23rd Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Constituent Office:
The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
One Gateway Center, Suite 1100
Newark, New Jersey 07102

The Honorable Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
County Executive, County of Essex
Hall of Records, Room 405
465 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Newark, NJ 07102

Mr. George F. Serio, Jr., Division Director
Division of Housing and Community Development
County of Essex
Kips Castle Park, 20 Crestmont Road
Verona, New Jersey 07044