

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

September 6, 2024

Mr. J.E. Lincoln Saunders  
City of Richmond  
900 East Broad Street, Suite 201  
Richmond, VA 23219  
804-646-7970

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Richmond.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or about September 24, 2024 the City of Richmond will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Richmond Field Office, Community Planning and Development Division, for the release of HOME funds under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended, to undertake a project known as Lafayette Gardens Apartments. The proposed project is to be located at 2209 Ruffin Road in Richmond, Virginia. The proposed project will include the interior and exterior rehabilitation of the existing 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom apartments and the conversion of the existing community room and leasing office contained within Building 2219 into two new apartment units for a total of 104 multi-family housing units among 13 buildings. Additionally, the existing maintenance and laundry building will be demolished and replaced with a new freestanding community building in the same location that also provides a leasing office as well as laundry and maintenance facilities. Furthermore, the project will include the relocation of the existing playground and replacement with new playground equipment. New landscaping will be planted at the front and rear of the existing buildings and at the new community building. Finally, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance improvements will be completed for the apartment community's exterior amenities and within all accessible apartment units. The estimated value of the HOME funds is \$250,000. The total estimated project cost is \$24,717,174 (inclusive of HUD and non-HUD funds).

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The City of Richmond has 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 (ERR) on file at the City of Richmond, Department of Housing and Community Development, Main Street Station, 1500 East Main Street, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219, and may be examined or copied weekdays 8am to 5pm. Requests for copies must be made to Wilken Fernandez via e-mail at [Wilken.fernandez@rva.gov](mailto:Wilken.fernandez@rva.gov) or via telephone at 804-646-0361.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Wilken Fernandez, Senior Project Development Manager, City of Richmond, Department of Housing and Community Development, Main Street Station, 1500 East Main Street, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219, phone: 804-646-0361, electronic mail: [Wilken.fernandez@rva.gov](mailto:Wilken.fernandez@rva.gov). All comments received by September 23, 2024 will be considered by the City of Richmond prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

The City of Richmond certifies to HUD that Mr. J.E. Lincoln Saunders, in his capacity as Chief Administrative Officer, 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 Canterbury Enterprises to use Program funds.

## **OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Richmond'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 Officer of the City of Richmond; (b) the City of Richmond 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, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by 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 in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be submitted via email to [RROFCPDRIC@hud.gov](mailto:RROFCPDRIC@hud.gov) Attention: Mr. Ronnie J Legette, Sr., Director, HUD Richmond Community Planning and Development Division. Potential objectors should contact HUD at (800) 842-2610, Extension 4881 or [RROFCPDRIC@hud.gov](mailto:RROFCPDRIC@hud.gov), to verify the actual last day of the Objection period.

Mr. J.E. Lincoln Saunders, Acting Chief Administrative Officer