



PUBLIC NOTICE

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

ROTTERDAM FIRE DISTRICT #1 FIREHOUSE UPGRADES

APRIL 23, 2016

Name of Responsible Entity and Recipient: New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), 38-40 State Street, Hampton Plaza, Albany, NY 12207, in cooperation with the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), of the same address. Contact: Thomas J. King (518) 473-0015.

Pursuant to 24 CFR Section 58.43, this combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (FONSI/NOIRROF) satisfies two separate procedural requirements for project activities proposed to be undertaken by HCR.

Project Description: The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), an office of HCR's HTFC, is responsible for the direct administration of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program in New York State. GOSR proposes to provide CDBG-DR funding to upgrades and improvements required for the firehouse to meet federal- and county-recommended standards as a functional emergency operations center for the Western Mohawk River Valley Region of Schenectady County (the "Proposed Project").

The Proposed Project is located on a 1.6-acre parcel at the Rotterdam Fire District #1 firehouse at 1215 Main Street, Town of Rotterdam, Schenectady County, New York. The Proposed Project is comprised of several component upgrades and improvements required for the firehouse to meet federal- and county-recommended standards as a functional emergency operations center for the Western Mohawk River Valley Region of Schenectady County. These upgrades and improvements include providing an approximately 3,126 square feet addition on the east side of the existing firehouse, comprised of a multi-purpose area, a triage area, and an emergency vehicle storage room that also would include a switchgear generator room. Approximately 16 parking spaces would be added to the east of the additions to replace the 17 parking spaces displaced by the proposed additions. The parking area would include dedicated handicap parking and a ramp to the new sidewalk. The Project would be constructed on the existing Rotterdam Fire District #1 property. No land acquisition is anticipated.

The multi-purpose area and restrooms would include two aluminum storefront entrances; three floor-mounted commercial water closets; one urinal; four lavatories; two Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant modular showers; standard toilet partitions and accessories; and two drinking fountains. The exterior of the building would be clad with brick and concrete masonry veneer. The roof would have a sloped metal deck and would be covered with a rubber

roofing membrane. In order to enable the firehouse to serve as a shelter for responders and an assembly area for storm victims, particularly those needing emergency medical treatment, the new construction also would house an emergency operations command center, triage area, and storage space. The generator room would be at the southeast corner of the building, away from the triage area and the existing building and separated from the addition by a fire-rated wall to protect the users of the facility.

Other improvements incorporate mechanical, electrical, and plumbing upgrades. Mechanical improvements to the interior environment of the firehouse include the installation of an energy efficient roof-mounted air conditioning system. Gas fired unit heaters, a roof mounted exhaust fan at the generator room, and a new roof mounted exhaust fan for toilet rooms for the addition also would be provided. Establishment of a power system backup would entail acquisition and installation of a 125kva natural gas-powered generator at the exterior of the building, connection of the generator to the firehouse electrical system with required upgrades, an automatic transfer switch and increased electrical feed to 400-amp service from standard power supply to support required electrical upgrades. In addition to new plumbing fixtures, the Project would provide an oil separator for floor drains in the garage; furnish an instantaneous gas-fired, direct-vent hot water heater; and modify the existing water service to be used only for filling of tanker trucks.

Removal of existing building components would be required in order to make the proposed changes. These removals include: one hollow metal door and frame; four windows; two four feet by four feet concrete pads; approximately 74 feet of roof edge and soffit at the junction with the proposed addition; eight concrete parking stops; one aluminum door canopy; two two-foot concrete bollards; one air conditioner condenser unit; and three exterior wall-mounted light fixtures. Two vent pipes to the exterior of the existing building would require sealing during construction and rerouting through the new roof, and miscellaneous television cables and air conditioning condenser would require protection and reinstallation above the existing roof.

The subsurface below the footprint of the proposed addition is a layer of fill composed of black cinders, or black cinders with layers of brown silt, extending 3 to 5 feet below the pavement surface. To adequately support the addition to the firehouse, the cinder fill would be removed and replaced with structural fill material (compacted soil). Additional site work would include grading the new parking area, installing concrete sidewalks and curbs, installing new bollards, adding a storm water infiltration bed, and adding topsoil and seeding disturbed areas to establish a lawn.

The total estimated cost of the Proposed Project and the total amount that would be funded by HUD is \$1,403,000.

Flood waters from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee inundated Rotterdam Junction in the Town of Rotterdam, Schenectady County, New York. Due to flooding on Route 5S and storm damage to the Route 103 Bridge, Rotterdam Junction was effectively turned into an island surrounded by debris-laden flood waters. At the center of the island, the Rotterdam Fire District #1 firehouse provided survivors with a safe place for meals, medical treatment, shelter, showers, donations, and recovery assistance. Because of the ad hoc use of the firehouse as an emergency shelter and command center, its capacity to operate was severely challenged during the flooding and demonstrated a need for improvements to the facility.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Project has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and HUD environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 58. The EA is incorporated by reference into this FONSI. Subject to public comments, no further review of the Proposed Project is anticipated. HCR has determined that the EA for the project identified herein complies with the requirements of HUD environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 58. HCR has determined that the Proposed Project will have no significant impact on the human environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement under NEPA.

Public Review: Public viewing of the EA is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs> and is also available in person Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM at the following address: Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1224, Albany, New York 12260. Contact: Thomas J. King (518) 473-0015.

Further information may be requested by writing to the above address, emailing NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org or by calling (518) 473-0015. This combined notice is being sent to individuals and groups known to be interested in these activities, local news media, appropriate local, state and federal agencies, the regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency having jurisdiction, and to the HUD Field Office, and is being published in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected community.

Public Comments on FONSI and/or NOIRROF: Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the Project. The public is hereby advised to specify in their comments which “notice” their comments address. Comments should be submitted via email, in the proper format, on or before May 9, 2016, at NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org. Written comments may also be submitted at the following address, or by mail, in the proper format, to be received on or before May 9, 2016: Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1224, Albany, New York 12260. Comments may be received by telephone by contacting Thomas J. King at (518) 473-0015. All comments must be received on or before 5pm on May 9, 2016, or they will not be considered. If modifications result from public comment, these will be made prior to proceeding with the expenditure of funds.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS AND CERTIFICATION

On or about May 10, 2016, the HCR certifying officer will submit a request and certification to HUD for the release of CDBG-DR funds as authorized by related laws and policies for the purpose of implementing this part of the New York CDBG-DR program.

HCR certifies to HUD that Thomas J. King, in his capacity as Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the U.S. 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 GOSR to use CDBG-DR program funds.

Objection to Release of Funds: HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and GOSR's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later). Potential objectors may contact HUD or the GOSR Certifying Officer to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

The only permissible grounds for objections claiming a responsible entity's non-compliance with 24 CFR Part 58 are: (a) Certification was not executed by HCR's Certifying Officer; (b) the responsible entity has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the responsible entity or has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before release of funds and approval of environmental certification; 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 Tennille Smith Parker, Director, Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division, Office of Block Grant Assistance, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410, Phone: (202) 402-4649.

Thomas J. King, Esq.
Certifying Officer
April 23, 2016