



CITY OF IOWA CITY

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December 9, 2009

Parkview Terrace Resident
Iowa City, IA 52246

RE: CDBG Buyout

Dear Property Owner:

On December 1, 2009, City Council passed a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign the acceptance letter and to and sign the grant agreement for \$11.7 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) flood recovery funds to acquire properties in the Parkview Terrace neighborhood that were not eligible for the HMGP (FEMA) buyout program. The amount of CDBG funds will allow the City to make an offer on all 54 properties in the Parkview Terrace neighborhood included on the buyout application.

City staff would like to know which homeowners are interested in accepting a CDBG buyout as soon as possible. If you owned the property at the time of the flood, the initial offer will be 112% of the 2008 assessed value less any duplication of benefits (e.g. FEMA repair assistance that was not expended for the purpose for which the funds were awarded). If you did not own the property at the time of the flood, the offer will be at the current market rate value. **Based on your 2008 assessed value, your estimated initial offer for ____ is ____.** If you are interested in accepting the initial offer, please contact Doug Ongie at 319-356-5479 or doug-ongie@iowa-city.org.

There is appeal process for homeowners that are not satisfied with the initial offer and are still interested in a buyout. Once an appeal is filed, the City Attorney will schedule a time for the appeal hearing that is convenient for the homeowner. Keep in mind, an appeal will delay the buyout process.

Also, please remember that Jumpstart interim mortgage assistance and down payment assistance are available for all homeowners pursuing a buyout. Interim mortgage assistance can reimburse homeowners for mortgage payments, homeowner's insurance, flood insurance, and property taxes. Households that have previously applied for Jumpstart do not need to apply again.

The CDBG buyout is a voluntary program. All applicants can choose to back out of the program at any time prior to closing on the property. Please contact me if you have questions or need more information regarding the CDBG buyout program or Jumpstart funds.

Sincerely,

Doug Ongie
Community Development Planner

CC: City Council
Dale E. Helling, Interim City Manager
Jeff Davidson, Director of Planning and Community Development
Rick Fosse, Director of Public Works