

April 26, 2010

NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

The purpose of this Notice is to identify the actions to be taken by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) as grantee and Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) as subgrantee and the Richmond Historical Society as second subgrantee. On or about May 6, 2010 the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (hereinafter Agency) will authorize VHCB to submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (hereinafter HUD) to release funds under the Economic Development Initiative - Special Project Grants. These funds will be released to VHCB to be subgranted to the Preservation Trust of Vermont and in turn subgranted to the Richmond Historical Society to be used for the following project:

Project Title: Richmond Round Church Fire Suppression Sprinkler System

Location of Project: Richmond, VT

Estimated cost of Project: Approximately \$25,000 (\$25,000 HUD SPG funds)

Project Purpose/Summary: The 16-sided Richmond Round Church, built in 1812-13 is a National Historic Landmark. The Historical Society will complete the installation of the fire suppression sprinkler system with construction of an underground pump room under the church and activating the sprinkler system.

FINDING OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

An environmental review for the project has been made by PTV and is available for public examination and copying at the VHCB office located at 58 East State St, Montpelier, VT 05602 during normal business hours. Based on this review, it has been determined that said project is Categorically Excluded under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-910). The project involves completing the sprinkler system with no change in use, size, density, or character. The project will not adversely impact the human or cultural environment or the quality of the environment. There are no adverse impacts under Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act and the project is not located in a floodplain.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FINDING

All interested agencies, groups, and persons may submit written comments to VHCB at the address above or to the Agency (ACCD, National Life Building, One National Life Drive, North Lobby – 6th Floor, Montpelier, VT 05620) no later than May 6, 2010. All comments so received will be considered by VHCB and the Agency prior to any administrative action or any request for release of funds from HUD.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

VHCB, the Preservation Trust of Vermont and the Richmond Historical Society will undertake the project described above with a portion to be paid with Special Project Grant funds from HUD. The Agency is certifying that Tayt Brooks, in his official capacity as Commissioner of the Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development, consents to accept jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, VHCB may use the HUD funds, and the Agency will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and other environmental responsibilities listed in 24 CFR Part 58.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the Agency'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 it is on one of the following bases: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the Certifying Officer, (b) that the environmental review record for the project indicated omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process, (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 HUD; or (d) any other reason allowed under 24 CFR Part 58 section 58.75.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Robert L. Paquin, Director of CPD, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Thomas P. O'Neill Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02222-1092. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period. No objection received after 15 days from the date of request for funds listed above will be considered.