



February 8, 2019

To: City Councilors

Re: Recent grants awarded to HHS

The following is meant as a brief explanation of the three different grants that HHS has been awarded to provide context and rationale for accepting them.

- 1) Mass Housing grant: This \$4,000 award is a grant we also received last year. It allows us to provide expert programs and workshops on hoarding, a significant issue in our community. This year we intend to provide a two-part workshop to train residents in how to de-clutter. The workshop will be timed to be completed shortly before the next city-wide shredding day so that we can encourage residents who are working on de-cluttering to utilize this valuable free service. We are also providing training for people who have completed the hoarding treatment group. Once trained, they will begin leading recovery groups for those struggling with hoarding. Finally, we will continue mentoring college students to provide in home sorting services for residents in need of assistance with decluttering, a program we supported last year as well.
- 2) AFDO Food Safety Video Project: This \$20,000 is a grant our department has received before for other purposes. We were awarded funds to create an informative video on best practices for food establishments regarding food safety. The video, once completed, will be available on our website and our Environmental Health Inspectors can use this as a tool for restaurants in need of staff re-training. The video will be translated into the most common languages spoken by restaurant staff. We are excited to take on this new project and are already well underway with developing the power point materials that will be the basis for the project and have fully scoped out the budget.
- 3) AFDO Environmental Health Specialist Training: This \$3,000 grant is also one we have received in years past. These training dollars allow us to send our environmental health inspectors to critical trainings to ensure that they are knowledgeable on all the latest science within food standards oversight. Our staff report that these trainings are valuable to their work.

The HHS department has an excellent track record in managing all the outside funding sources we receive, keeping appropriate records, maintaining communication and complying with reporting requirements. I have every confidence that we will follow suit with these three grants.

Sincerely,

Deborah C. Youngblood