

## STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Community Investment Fund 2030 Board

December 12, 2023, 10 a.m.

Legislative Office Building (LOB), Hearing Room 1D/Hybrid with Zoom

300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Recording can be viewed at <https://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=22407>**MINUTES:**

## 1. Welcome and Roll Call

A meeting of the Community Investment Fund 2030 Board was held at the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT, on December 12, 2023, at 10 AM and via Zoom. Co-Chair and Speaker of the House Matthew Ritter called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

## Members in Attendance at LOB:

Speaker Ritter

Senate President Looney

House Minority Leader Candelora

Senator McCrory

Senator Moore

Representative Napoli

Secretary Beckham

Commissioner Mosquera-Bruno

Comptroller Scanlon

Secretary of the State Thomas

Jonathan Dach, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

## Members Online:

Senate Minority Leader Kelly

Senator Duff

Representative Felipe

Commissioner Reeves

Eleanor Michael, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services Designee

Kevin Alvarez, Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Policy, Office of the Treasurer Designee

Eileen Meskill, Associate Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General Designee

## Others in Attendance:

Matthew Pugliese, Executive Director of Community Development and Director, Community Investment Fund, Department of Economic and Community Development

Melinda Wilson, Assistant Director, Community Investment Fund, DECD

YukShan Li, CIF, DECD

## Others in Attendance Online:

Carlos Badiola, CIF, DECD

Panagiota Capaldi, CIF, DECD

Jess Reed, CIF, DECD  
Avery Gaddis

## 2. Comments from the Chairs

Senator Looney welcomed everyone and noted that the Community Investment Fund (CIF), like Santa Claus, has benefited communities and nonprofits during its first several rounds and he looks forward to upcoming rounds. Speaker Ritter agreed, adding that applications that are put together well and presented with a compelling case in a community that could use such assistance could receive a gift.

## 3. Approval of Minutes from September 26, 2023 Meeting

On a motion by Senator Looney, seconded by Secretary Thomas, the CIF Board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 26, 2023, meeting, as presented, with no discussion.

## 4. New Business

### 4a. Approval of CIF Technical Change Request

CIF Director Matthew Pugliese updated the Board on the North Hartford Partnership award from CIF Round 1. As part of this award, the Upper Albany Neighborhood Revitalization Zone (NRZ) was awarded a \$1,000,000 Planning grant. After working on the purchase, acquisition, and planning of the vacant Salvation Army property on Homestead Avenue, the awardee and the Salvation Army have reached an impasse.

Due to the non-profit's capacity and with new intent to examine three properties for the same end use as the original request, the request is made to change the end use recipient to the City of Hartford in partnership with Upper Albany NRZ, reduce award to \$500,000, and return \$500,000 of the award back to the CIF.

Senator Moore inquired as to the use of the funds as a Planning grant with an amount greater than \$250,000. Mr. Pugliese explained the original award for Planning was \$1,000,000 due to the extent of the Planning necessary. He further explained CIF Planning grants are set at \$250,000. The approval of this change request would be at the Board's discretion.

Speaker Ritter noted the Upper Albany NRZ's award came prior to the Round 3 Planning grant change. He agreed that anyone who applied from the rule change forward would be subject to the \$250,000 amount.

On a motion by Senator Looney, and seconded by Secretary Beckham, the CIF Board unanimously passed the technical change request to change the recipient of the Upper Albany NRZ CIF Round 1 award to the City of Hartford, reduce the award to \$500,000, and return \$500,000 to the CIF.

### 4b. CIF Funded Projects Update

Mr. Pugliese reviewed the funded projects from Round 1 and Round 2, stating that several Round 1 awards were held up waiting on the Change Policy. There are now 17 Round 1 awards and 13 Round 2 awards pending closing by end of December or early January. He noted leveraged funds are being spent first, so it may be a while before CIF funds are being expended.

Senator Looney remarked that Round 2 seems to be progressing faster than Round 1. Mr. Pugliese confirmed and emphasized the importance of awarding shovel ready projects. There were fewer shovel ready projects in Round 1 than in Round 2. Mr. Pugliese noted the importance of shovel readiness.

Representative Candelora asked if projects can commence using local funds prior to the contracts being approved. Mr. Pugliese answered that, in general, projects can commence with local funds and CIF is working with everyone on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Dach commented that the CIF Board is learning as they go, and the Board needs to prioritize shovel ready projects in the future. Speaker Ritter agreed with Mr. Dach's point.

## 5. Reminder of Next Round Timelines

### 5a. CIF Round 4 Application Update

Mr. Pugliese reminded everyone that the Round 4 deadline is Friday, December 15 at 12:00 NOON. Materials will be sent to the Board on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. Recommendations can be made at the CIF Board meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Final application count and dollars requested in CIF Round 4 will be provided to the Board on Friday, December 15.

Senator Looney asked if more awards have been granted to non-profit organizations or Municipal applications. Mr. Pugliese estimated that 60% have been NPOs and 40% have been Municipalities. He offered to send details to the Board.

### 5b. Round 5 and 6

Mr. Pugliese reviewed the Round 5 dates and the proposed Round 6 dates:

#### ROUND 5

Notice of Funding Issued/Portal Opens  
Applications Due to DECD  
Executive Summaries/Applications to Board  
CIF Staff Available for Board Questions  
CIF Board Communicate Recommendations to Co-Chairs  
CIF Board Meeting for Round 5 Recommendations

Monday, April 29, 2024  
Friday, June 21, 2024  
Monday, August 5, 2024  
Through Friday, August 30, 2024  
By Tuesday, September 3, 2024  
Tuesday, September 10, 2024

#### ROUND 6

Notice of Funding Issued/Portal Opens  
Applications Due to DECD

Monday, October 14, 2024  
Friday, December 13, 2024

Executive Summaries/Applications to Board  
CIF Staff Available for Board Questions  
CIF Board Communicate Recommendations to Co-Chairs  
CIF Board Meeting for Round 5 Recommendations

Friday, February 7, 2025  
Through Friday, February 28, 2025  
By Monday, March 3, 2025  
Tuesday, March 11, 2025

## 6. For the Good of the Order

On behalf of the Co-Chairs, Speaker Ritter expressed gratitude for the work DECD puts into this work. Senator Looney said that he believes this program is working the way everyone envisioned when the statute was passed. He commended DECD for their extraordinary work, attention to detail, and responsiveness to applicants.

## 7. Adjournment

On a motion to adjourn by Mr. Dach, seconded by Comptroller Scanlon, the CIF Board Meeting unanimously adjourned at 10:24am.