

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2009 Legislative Session**

Resolution No. CR-92-2009

Proposed by The Chairman (by request – County Executive)

Introduced by Council Member Campos

Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Introduction November 17, 2009

**RESOLUTION**

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 State of Maryland Community Legacy Program

3 For the purpose of approving the application by CASA de Maryland, Inc., a Maryland nonprofit,  
4 through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for funding through  
5 the Community Legacy Financial Assistance Fund.

6 WHEREAS, Section 6-201 through 6-213 of the Housing and Community Development  
7 Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, established the Community Legacy Program to preserve  
8 existing communities as desirable places to live and conduct business and provide financial  
9 assistance to sponsors for the development of community legacy plans or community legacy  
10 projects; and

11 WHEREAS, Sections 6-207 (b)(1) provides that the Community Legacy Board may not  
12 approve an application for participation in the Community Legacy Program unless the  
13 application is approved by the political subdivision; and

14 WHEREAS, CASA de Maryland, Inc., is applying to the Maryland Department of Housing  
15 and Community Development for the Community Legacy Program for funds to rehabilitate the  
16 McCormick-Goodhart Mansion, a Prince George’s County Historic Site, to house its  
17 Multicultural Service Center, as described in Attachment “A” and incorporated herein by  
18 reference; and

19 WHEREAS, the Multicultural Service Center will serve the low-income immigrant  
20 community in the County, thereby contributing to the reinvestment in and revitalization of the  
21 area; and

22 WHEREAS, the County Executive expresses approval of the application submitted by

1 CASA de Maryland, Inc. and its Multicultural Service Center as a Community Legacy Project.

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Council of Prince George's  
3 County, Maryland, hereby approves the application from CASA de Maryland, Inc. for the  
4 "Multicultural Service Center Project" submitted to the Maryland Department of Housing and  
5 Community Development for participation in the Community Legacy Program in the  
6 approximate amount of \$350,000.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Executive, by his signature, expresses  
8 approval of the application submitted by CASA de Maryland, Inc.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Secretary of  
10 Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland for consideration by the  
11 Community Legacy Board.

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2009.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marilynn M. Bland  
Chairperson

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Redis C. Floyd  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jack B. Johnson  
County Executive

## ATTACHMENT A

### Executive Project Summary

CASA de Maryland, Inc. (CASA) is a 501(c)(3) community-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life and social and economic well being of the Latino and immigrant community in Maryland. Since its founding in 1985, CASA has provided key services to residents of the areas immediately adjacent to the property known as the McCormick-Goodhart Mansion, a Prince George's County Historic Site located in the Langley Park neighborhood of Hyattsville, Maryland. CASA takes pride in its accomplishments as a community resource, facilitator and advocate for more than 20,000 low-income Latino community members each year. With an overall operating budget of just under \$6,000,000 and a staff of over 70, CASA not only provides direct services, but also teaches participants ways to more fully participate in social, economic, and civic life through programs like employment, legal, and social services, education, health promotion and access, community organizing, and leadership development.

Thanks to CASA's tenant organizing work in apartment complexes surrounding the Mansion, and to its strong partnerships with the business community, CASA officially purchased the McCormick-Goodhart home for \$1 to create a Multicultural Service Center for the community. When rehabilitation of the Mansion is complete and the Center is operational, CASA anticipates a significant increase in its capacity to provide direct services. The Center will be within walking distance of over 2,000 residential units in the heart of Langley Park's low-income immigrant community. In the Center's first five years, CASA will establish its health and legal programs and expand its roster of classes in ESOL, citizenship, financial literacy, and civic participation. With its added space, CASA intends to expand its economic development training and projects.

To date, CASA has secured approximately \$13 million of the approximately \$13.8 million needed to renovate the Mansion and support the project. CASA has previously received funding from the Community Legacy Program to fund a feasibility study in 2003, which determined that the overall stability of the structure was sound and feasible to convert to a multicultural center. In 2008, CASA received additional Community Legacy support towards the Multicultural Center

project in the amount of \$225,000 (\$200,000 for capital and \$25,000 for operating). Conversion of the McCormick-Goodhart Mansion into a Multicultural Center began in December 2008. Significant progress has been made – the architectural/engineering phase is 100% complete and the construction phase is 50% complete. CASA expects to complete renovations by January 2010 and move into its new headquarters by February 2010. The historic and green (the project is expected to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design/LEED Gold certification) Multicultural Center will serve 6,000 low-income individuals annually—3,000 of whom will be new clients to CASA. Throughout this process, CASA has been working in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Maryland Historic Trust, the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George’s County, and the Prince George’s County Department of Housing and Community Development.

Using the Multicultural Center to its fullest potential will be key to CASA’s future, providing the organization with the increased space, improved visibility and strengthened community partnerships needed for sustainability. CASA is working to secure community and corporate support in order to complete this important project. To that end, it has established a Development Advisory Committee, currently composed of 16 members committed to giving and attracting funding for CASA’s “Building for the Future” Campaign, which will fund the Multicultural Center renovations, in addition to providing programmatic support and ensuring CASA’s future financial sustainability. Phillip Stevens, co-founder of Stevens Builders, Inc., whose experience encompasses all types of projects, has generously donated his time pro bono to serve as the Owner’s Representative on the project. Project management of the Mansion renovations is lead by Mark Stevens, Vice-President and Co-Founder of Stevens Builders, Inc.