

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2006 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-76-2006

Proposed by Council Member Campos

Introduced by Council Member Campos

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction October 3, 2006

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Neighborhood Business Development Program

3 For the purpose of expressing the support of financing for the Maryland Department of Housing
4 and Community Development's Neighborhood Business Development Program known as the
5 Neighborhood Business Works Program.

6 WHEREAS, Section 6-301 through 6-311, et seq. of the Housing and Community
7 Development Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, established the Neighborhood Business
8 Development Program to invest in revitalization projects for small businesses and
9 microenterprises; and

10 WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Council is interested in promoting the
11 revitalization of our community by encouraging the development and/or expansion of for-profit
12 and non-profit small businesses; and

13 WHEREAS, CASA of Maryland, Inc., has applied for financing under the Neighborhood
14 Business Development Program known as the Neighborhood Business Works Program
15 administered through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to
16 renovate the McCormick-Goodhart Mansion located at 8161 15th Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland
17 20873, for use as a Multicultural Center as outlined in the Executive Project Summary attached
18 hereto (Attachment A); and

19 WHEREAS, this project is located in State-approved locally designated neighborhood and
20 conforms with all applicable County Zoning Ordinance requirements; and

21 WHEREAS, State law and the regulations of the Neighborhood Business Development
22 Program known as the Neighborhood Business Works Program requires the approval of the

1 County governing body for all projects; and

2 WHEREAS, the County Executive, by his signature, also expresses approval of this project.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
4 County, Maryland, that the County governing body hereby approves and endorses the financing
5 to CASA of Maryland, Inc. for the project pursuant to the Neighborhood Business Development
6 also known as the Neighborhood Business Works Program.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Secretary of the
8 Department of Housing and Community Development of the State of Maryland, at 100
9 Community Place Crownsville, Maryland 21032.

Adopted this 17th day of October, 2006.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Thomas E. Dernoga
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Jack B. Johnson
County Executive

ATTACHMENT A

Executive Summary
CASA of Maryland, Inc.'s Application for DHCD Neighborhood BusinessWorks Funds

The redevelopment of the historic McCormick Mansion into a Multicultural Center is included as a key component of the Community Legacy Plan for the area known as the International Corridor. Located in the heart of Langley Park, the Mansion is centrally located within walking distance of 2,000 households, the majority of which are inhabited by low-wage immigrant families. It is structurally sound, but is deteriorating due to severe water damage, vandalism, and neglect.

The foremost public purpose in creating the Multicultural Center is to secure a location to provide essential programs and services dedicated to the low-income, highly diverse communities of Langley Park and the International Corridor. Expanding into the Mansion will provide CASA with the physical and human resources to widen its reach and will ensure the future of an historic landmark. The center will also supply space for other non-profit partners to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to the diverse communities in the vicinity of the Mansion.

The Multicultural Center project will respond to the above-stated needs of the multi-ethnic communities of Langley Park by securing a historic landmark as an "anchor" for low-income community members to receive essential programs and services. The project is a public-private partnership between CASA of Maryland, Inc. (CASA), Sawyer Realty LLC (Sawyer), and the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County (RAPG). Thanks to CASA's work with tenants in apartment complexes surrounding the Mansion, and to its strong partnerships with the business community, Sawyer, the current owner of the Mansion, decided to designate the Mansion to be a center to serve the community. In May 2005, Sawyer signed a lease with CASA for 99 years, at the price of \$1.00 per year. More recently, Sawyer has indicated a willingness to sell the Mansion to CASA for the price of \$1. Working closely with the Redevelopment Authority, CASA has taken on the lead responsibility to renovate the Mansion to create a Multicultural Center that will house several non-profits, and will provide a variety of services to the ethnically diverse but drastically underserved and economically disadvantaged immigrant communities of Langley Park. CASA is currently working with organizational development consultant Bob Brehm to identify and form commitments with non-profit partner organizations who will reside in the Center. CASA is committed to a vision of a center that reflects the multicultural nature of the community of Langley Park, and therefore anticipates that partner organizations will include groups that represent and/or serve the African American community, the African immigrant community, and the Asian immigrant community.

CASA respectfully requests \$75,000 from the Neighborhood BusinessWorks program of the Department of Housing and Community Development to support permitting, engineering, and design costs related to the renovation of the McCormick-Goodhart Mansion, located in the heart of Langley Park, to convert it into a Multicultural Center serving the diverse populations of that area.