

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2006 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-77-2006

Proposed by Council Member Campos

Introduced by Council Member Campos

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction October 3, 2006

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 State of Maryland Neighborhood and Community Assistance Program

3 For the purpose of expressing approval of the project submitted by CASA of Maryland, Inc., to
4 the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for participation in the
5 Department's Community Development Tax Credit Program.

6 WHEREAS, Article 83B, Sections 4-701 through 4-706 of the Maryland Annotated Code,
7 recodified as Housing and Community Development Article, Sections 6-401 through 6-406,
8 established the Neighborhood and Community Assistance program to assist nonprofit
9 organizations in carrying out approved projects in designated revitalization areas, to encourage
10 businesses to invest in designated revitalization areas, and to strengthen public-private
11 partnerships; and

12 WHEREAS, Article 83B, Section 4-705(c) of the Maryland Annotated Code, recodified as
13 Housing and Community Development Article, Section 6-405(c), provides that the Maryland
14 Department of Housing and Community Development may not approve a proposal for
15 participation in the Neighborhood and Community Assistance Program unless the proposal is
16 approved by the governing body for the county in which the designated revitalization area by the
17 project is located; and

18 WHEREAS, CASA of Maryland, Inc., a not for profit corporation, proposes to undertake
19 the rehabilitation of the McCormick-Goodhart Mansion, a Prince George's County Historic Site
20 located in the Langley Park area to house its Multicultural Services Center as more particularly
21 described in Attachment A (the "Project"); and
22

1 WHEREAS, CASA of Maryland, Inc., has applied to the Maryland Department of Housing
2 and Community Development for approval of the Project and an allocation of tax credits for
3 business entities that contribute to the Project pursuant to the Department's Community
4 Investment Tax Credit Program; and

5 WHEREAS, the County Council has previously expressed approval of developing a
6 Multicultural Services Center in the Langley Park Area by the adoption of Council resolution
7 CR-60-2002; and

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

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Council of Prince George's
10 County, Maryland, hereby expresses approval of the Project, as set forth in Attachment A,
11 submitted by CASA of Maryland, Inc., to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community
12 Development for participation in the Neighborhood and Community Assistance Tax Credit
13 Program.

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 Project Summary

CASA of Maryland, Inc. 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. CASA facilitates the self-development, organization, and mobilization of low-income immigrants to achieve full participation in the community. With a staff of 55, a corps of part-time teachers, and a group of dedicated volunteers, CASA achieves its goals through its Employment, Education, Leadership, Health, Legal, and Civic Participation programs.

Since its founding in 1985, CASA has provided key services to residents who live in 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 has now entered into a 99-year agreement with Sawyer Realty Holdings, LLC to lease the Mansion. The lease provisions support the intended use as a Multicultural Services Center, directed by CASA and host to other likeminded organizations. The lease also provides that Sawyer Realty Holdings will cooperate with and support CASA in its efforts to secure the substantial funding required to rehabilitate the mansion. CASA is committed to raising the funds necessary for Mansion rehabilitation and to energetically seek funding from private as well as federal, state, and local government sources.

When rehabilitation of the Mansion is complete and the Multicultural Service Center is operational, CASA anticipates a significant increase in its capacity to provide direct services. The Center will be within walking distance of over 2000 residential units in the heart of Langley Park's low-income immigrant community, allowing significantly more residents easy access to the classes and programs of CASA and its partner providers. 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, health, and civic participation.

CASA is planning to include partner organizations that currently offer services to the multicultural community. These organizations will share the use of classrooms and other specified amenities of the center with the goal of fostering a significant multicultural center to support the very diverse community. CASA is currently in the process of identifying these multicultural partners. It intends to contact both community members and other community organizations to assist in the identification of the Multicultural Service Center partners.

Using the Mansion 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 rescue an historically significant neighborhood focal point, the McCormick-Goodhart Mansion and to build a much-needed hub for the service providers who are ready to meet the unique needs of this richly diverse community.