



Community & Economic Development  
120 Malabar Road SE, Palm Bay, FL 32907  
(321) 409-7187

March 6, 2023

Dr. Pauline Borland  
Esther Theological Seminary  
1501 Robert J. Conlan Blvd., Suite 260  
Palm Bay, FL 32905

RE: Response to PY2024 CDBG Appeal Letter

Dear Ms. Borland:

The City is in receipt of your PY 2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Appeal Letter. Although the City believes the services your agency provides to the residents of Palm Bay are invaluable, certain factors led the Community Development Advisory Board to not recommend funding for your agency.

- Ten agencies requested a total of \$300,930, there was only \$111,317 available for public service funding. Only five (5) of the 10 agencies were recommended for funding. Esther Theological Seminary were ranked 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Your appeal letter stated, *"During our post-application review, Mr. Agarie noted that the scoring of the proposals lacked systematicity and appeared to be based on a subjective assessment rather than adhering to the published scoring criteria outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP). According to Mr. Agarie, the evaluation seemed to rely heavily on a summary of the organizations rather than a thorough assessment against the specified criteria."* First, staff would like to point out that this was the first CDAB meeting Mr. Agarie attended so we are not certain how thoroughly he was able to review the package. The package provided to the board does provide the published scoring criteria in the outlined RFP.

Additionally, since the CDAB is a recommending board, your agency also has the ability to speak during the Public Hearing which will be held at 6pm on March 21, 2024, in Council Chambers. You may attend the meeting and appeal the CDAB's recommendation at that time as well. Your appeal letter and this letter will be included in the Council's package.

Sincerely,

*Nancy A. Bunt*

Nancy A. Bunt

*Down to Earth* And Up To Great Things

Community & Economic Development Director

*Down to Earth* And Up To Great Things