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February 22, 2024

Palm Bay Community Development Advisory Board
120 Malabar Road SE
Palm Bay, FL 32907

Subject: Appeal for Reconsideration of Grant Application – Esther Theological Seminary

Dear Members of the Palm Bay CDAB,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the time and effort that the Community Development Advisory board dedicates to the betterment of our community. I am also writing with a sense of urgency to appeal the decision regarding the recent grant application submitted by Esther Theological Seminary.

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to apply for the grant, as we believe our proposed project aligns seamlessly with the City's vision for community development and improvement. After careful consideration and collaboration within our organization, we were disheartened to learn that our application was not selected for funding.

I am writing to bring to your attention a concern raised by Board Member Alfred Agarie regarding the evaluation of the recent grant applications submitted.

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.

Understanding the importance of a fair and transparent evaluation process, we are eager to address any discrepancies or areas of misunderstanding that may have led to this divergence



from the published criteria. We share Mr. Agarie's commitment to ensuring that the evaluation process is consistent and in line with the guidelines established in the RFP.

Furthermore, we kindly request the opportunity to present our case during the next Community Development Advisory board meeting, allowing us to provide clarity on our proposal and address any concerns directly. We value your dedication to a fair and objective grant evaluation process. While a reassessment may not lead to the funding of our program, our primary concern is ensuring the adherence to due process.

We understand the demanding nature of your responsibilities and appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing this appeal. Thank you for your continued dedication to the welfare of Palm Bay, and we remain hopeful for a favorable reconsideration of our grant application.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pauline Borland
President
Esther Theological Seminary