

III. A.

Memorandum Planning & Development Services Division



To: Planning and Public Works Committee
From: Aimee Nassif, Planning and Development Services Director
Date: November 4, 2016
RE: Council of Local Governments (CLG) Status for the City

Summary

The City of Chesterfield is currently certified as a CLG or Council of Local Governments with the State Historic Preservation Office in Jefferson City. We attained this status in 2002 and are among 58 cities in Missouri with it. While the City has retained this status for 14 years, we have seen extremely little return from the State Office, and with the support of the Chesterfield Historic and Landmarks Preservation (CHLPC) Chair, I am recommending we not renew our membership.

Being a CLG qualifies the City to apply for grants for rehabilitation of buildings or other historic projects which other cities would not be eligible for. It also provides for technical assistance and tax credits to people owning historic properties if they qualify. To date, the City has never received any such financial assistance nor had any project to which a grant was sought after. In addition, most grants are limited in size and are matching grants which means it would still be a financial cost to the City. The only assistance we have ever received as a result of this CLG status was in 2006 when the State Office reviewed a draft ordinance we had created for the LPA or Landmarks Preservation Area Overlay District. However, we do have tools and resources now which we did not have 10 years ago if the need ever arose again. They also provided information to us when we pursued placement of the bungalow style homes in Burkhardt Place Subdivision (off Old Chesterfield Road) on the National Historic Register in 2006.

In order to remain in good standing as a CLG, the City must successfully complete a series of yearly requirements established by the State. Each year, the Department submits a report explaining all the CLG requirements that have been met and provides supporting documentation for such. Recently, the State Office has tightened up their CLG status requirements to the point that it will be extremely problematic for us to remain in good standing.

As the liaison for the City with this CLG status, the State Historic Preservation Office contacted me and advised that all cities who wish to remain as a participant must have every member of any Historic Committee and their liaison attend a historic preservation training or conference each year. As you may imagine, this is problematic for a number of reasons, most importantly is the composition of our CHLPC.

The current CHLPC Roster includes 8 regular members and 12 Ex-Officio or Member Emeritus members. These 12 individuals do not attend any meetings, many work full time jobs and are members simply for their knowledge, previous participation or the projects they work on independently. Also, several of our members are elderly or in poor health and travel is difficult. They are unable to attend our meetings so it would be an extreme hardship on them to be forced to attend trainings and conferences. And many of the trainings offered are not located in St. Louis. I communicated this with the State Office and they confirmed that any and all members, regardless of status, and staff liaisons are required to attend a training or conference every year from now on.

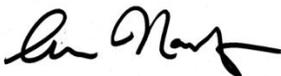
It is also important to note that there are other requirements as well that we have to fulfill which are becoming more and more difficult for the Committee to complete and we have not satisfied for the last 2 years.

After being advised of this, I spoke with the current CHLPC Chair Tom Rothwell and he agreed that this is an onerous assignment to put on our members without any benefit in return. Chair Rothwell advised he sees no reason for the City to keep its status at this time. In fact, the last time the City's CLG status was audited in 2013, the State Office asked me why the City maintains this status since we do not utilize their services. We believe it would be in the City's best interest to voluntarily remove ourselves from CLG status than to not fulfill the requirements and have the State Office revoke our standing. I recently spoke with our representative at the State Historic Preservation Office and she agreed that while unfortunate that we do not utilize their services, it would be better to seek recertification at a later date than to have our status revoked for lack of compliance.

In summary, I am asking the City if you want to maintain this status or relinquish it at this time. If we decide not to renew the CLG, we can seek recertification in the future. If it is determined that this status be retained, I will proceed with drafting our required year-end report to the State Office however we will not meet the minimum requirements for this reporting year.

Ultimately, the recommendation of this Committee will be forwarded to the full City Council for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Aimee E. Nassif, AICP
Planning and Development Services Director