AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR

MEETING DATE: April 20, 2020 **AGENDA ITEM NO.** 7.1
WARD: ALL **QUASI-JUDICIAL**: No

CITY MANAGER'S ITEMS

MOTION: Approve the reallocation of Attainable Housing funds from Rehabilitation Account in the amount of $20,987.00, Mortgage Assistance Account in the amount of $88,479.00, and Administration Account in the amount $2,686.00, for a total of $112,152.00 to Special Projects Account to establish an Emergency Assistance Program to assist households below $54,960.00 annual income (80% of Area Median Income (AMI) impacted by COVID-19.	**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION:** Approve
FUNDING SOURCE:	Attainable Housing Fund
FISCAL IMPACT ($):	NA
One-Time Cost:	Yes
Budget Year:	2019-2020
Budgeted Item:	Yes

Person Initiating Request: Steven Belden, AICP, Community Development Director
Department: Community Development - Housing and Real Estate

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Housing and Real Estate Division is reallocating Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) and local Attainable Housing funds to develop an Emergency Assistance Program (EAP) to assist to low-moderate income households and micro-enterprise businesses (below 80% AMI) experiencing hardship due to COVID-19.

The re-directed funds will provide temporary residential rental and utility payment assistance (up to $750 per month for 3 months), foreclosure counseling and emergency business loans (up to $10,000) to micro-enterprises (5 or less employees, one of them being the owner) within the City of Fort Myers. The owner of a micro-enterprise business must be low-moderate income and located within the City of Fort Myers.

The Attainable Housing funds will be used for temporary residential rental and utility assistance and foreclosure counseling. Currently, there are $12,759.00 in the Special Project Activity and $22,613.00 in the Home Foreclosure Prevention and Assistance Program. The total Attainable Housing Funds available to provide emergency assistance is $147,524.00. Staff will supplement these funds with $200,000.00 from SHIP to provide temporary rental and utility payments, $100,000.00 from CDBG micro-enterprise activity to provide emergency business loans and $377,462.00 from CDBG CARE funds for both rent and utility assistance and business loans. The total Emergency Assistance Program will

be approximately $824,462.00. Qualifying participants must provide documentation that their hardship is due to COVID-19 impacts. Qualifying applicants must indicate any previous evictions in the last three years as part of the application process.

Since 2009, the City has provided home rehabilitation funds to 11 homeowners, two home buyers with purchase assistance, 19 homeowners with foreclosure assistance or 39 homeowners benefited from loan modification assistance. There were 46 home owners in the Harlem Lake neighborhood that benefited from up to $5,000 in exterior home maintenance and repair improvements.

ATTACHMENTS: