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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CDBG FUNDS USED TO SUPPORT IMPORTANT LOCAL INITIATIVES

WHEAT RIDGE – Approximately \$1.2 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding is being put to good use throughout the City. Based on City Council direction in late 2010, the City's allocation of federal CDBG funds, funds which are distributed by Jefferson County, have been distributed to the following programs and local initiatives:

- \$900,000 – in funding to the Wheat Ridge Housing Authority to purchase and rehabilitate homes for homeownership.
- \$60,000 – in funding to the Seniors' Resource Center (SRC) to support two more years of the senior circulator bus service, providing seniors with a reliable transportation source for everyday errands and other transportation needs.
- \$199,151 – in funding is supporting the repair and replacement of playground equipment at several parks in the City including: Anderson Park, Richards Hart Estate, Panorama and Fruitdale Park
- \$93,000 – in funding was awarded to WR2020 in support of their efforts to increase home ownership through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP).

"I am very excited about how Council has put the CDBG dollars at work in our community," said Mayor Jerry DiTullio. "These are very important programs and play an important role in advancing our revitalization efforts. Councilmember De Mott and I worked with the Jefferson County Housing Authority to find properties in Wheat Ridge that were in need of rehabilitation. I am pleased that the partnership with the Jefferson County Housing Authority continues to be productive and is helping to improve the quality housing in our community."

The Wheat Ridge Housing Authority purchased single family homes from the Jefferson County Housing Authority that were being used as rentals. The Wheat Ridge Housing Authority will rehabilitate the homes and resell them as affordable housing for first time home buyers. On Friday, February 18th, the Housing Authority purchased seven homes that will be rehabilitated in the coming year. Cheryl Brungardt, Chair of the Wheat Ridge Housing Authority, stated, "I'm excited to work with Jefferson County to remodel these seven homes. Our goal is to make them more energy efficient, beautiful, yet affordable."

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The Wheat Ridge Housing Authority was started by Mayor DiTullio and the City Council in an effort to provide affordable housing to the area and to encourage homeownership among first time buyers. District IV Councilmember and Wheat Ridge Housing Authority member Joseph DeMott explained, "The City received money for playground equipment for the area children, funding for the seniors bus services, and purchased seven affordable homes for potential new residents. I'd say the City benefited in this deal!"

The City has funded the SRC Senior Circulator bus since 2009. The bus service picks up seniors at three Wheat Ridge locations to take them to local shopping centers. There is also a limited door-to-door service for seniors within a few blocks of the bus service's fixed route.

Funding to WR2020 in support of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) will support continued efforts by WR2020 to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed homes in the City of Wheat Ridge. Once rehabilitated the homes are made available as affordable housing to local homebuyers.

The CDBG funds allowed the Parks Department to replace old and outdated playground equipment in City parks. The new equipment features the latest designs and amenities for playgrounds and meets the current public playground safety requirements.

Joyce Manwaring, Director of the Parks and Recreation, stated, "The opportunity to expend CDBG funds to replace four playgrounds in the city parks with new equipment, has certainly enhanced the aesthetics of the parks as well as created a fun, new environment for play."

The two attached photos are from Anderson and Fruitdale parks and show the new playground equipment which was purchased. .

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) was created through the Housing and Economic Recovery Act during the George W. Bush administration and additionally funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of President Barack Obama's administration. The NSP addresses the foreclosure crisis impacts at the neighborhood level by funding the purchase, renovation and resale of formerly foreclosed properties. Wheat Ridge 2020 is funded for this activity by Community Development Block/ NSP Grant Funds made available through the Community Development Program of Jefferson County, Colorado. The CDBG funds dedicated by the City of Wheat Ridge for NSP will be added with other funds to allow an additional home to be completed in Wheat Ridge.

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