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## INFORMATION:

### **FY2014 Increase in Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnership Grant Funding**

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Each fiscal year the City includes estimated grant award amounts for the federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) grants in the Preliminary Budget. At the direction of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City projected an 8.4% reduction in both the CDBG and HOME grants in the Preliminary Budget.

Notification of final grant awards is typically received in May and staff is able to adjust the final budget to account for the actual award amounts. Staff recently received notification of the final grant awards, reflecting an overall 7.3% combined increase for CDBG and HOME (or separately a 10.2% increase in CDBG funds and a 1.2% increase in HOME grant funds) over the FY2013 budget.

While it is difficult to determine the exact reasons for the increased awards, the City of Charlotte is an entitlement city that receives funding calculated by HUD using a statutory formula. This formula includes various objective measures to assess the needs of the community including the extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of the housing stock, and population growth compared with other metropolitan cities. These final grant amounts are included in the Annual Ordinance for the FY2014 & FY2015 Final Operating Budget and FY2014-2018 Capital Investment Plan being considered by Council at the June 10 Business Meeting.

The increased FY2014 grant funding of \$448,718 for CDBG and \$23,669 for HOME will be placed in a contingency account pending further discussion with City Council on how best to allocate the additional funding.

### **CATS Takes First Place at International Rail Rodeo**

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The Charlotte Area Transit System's LYNX Blue Line Rail Maintenance team placed first out of 17 teams in the maintenance competition at the 2013 International Rail Rodeo held in Philadelphia, PA on Saturday, June 1. The rodeo is a competitive test and measure of the operators and maintenance team knowledge of safety regulations and skill in the operation and maintenance of train equipment.

This is only CATS' second year competing at the international level. The winning team members are Charles Truong, Eugene Capote and Patrick Mills, who placed first, second and third

respectively at the local competition on April 13. Along with bringing home the top trophy, each member received a check for \$500 from the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). Rail mechanics underwent a written test, tool identification, defective components search, circuit troubleshooting, proper fastening of nuts and bolts, measuring of rail wheels and knowledge of mechanical properties and formulas.

CATS also had two light rail operators who competed as an Operations Team at the International Rail Rodeo. Kevin Hooks, who was the local winner, focused on train operations for the contest. Metro Coston, who placed second locally, participated in the written test, uniform inspection, customer service and train inspection components. Team Hooks/Coston placed tenth out of 18 teams in the Rail Operator Competition.

CATS placed second in overall competition at the International Rail Rodeo with the compilation of both maintenance and operators scores.

**City Source Tells Stories of Citizen Service**

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*City Source* is the City of Charlotte's unique 30-minute program for citizens to learn about the City's services as well as how its employees serve the community. The program airs the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. on Cable 16 (Time Warner Cable), AT&T U-verse and is streamed LIVE online at [www.charlottenc.gov](http://www.charlottenc.gov).

In the June 6 - 19 episode viewers will find out about National Safety Month, what's happening in the Steele Creek Division at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, see a full-scale emergency drill at the Charlotte Douglas International Airport, and learn how to keep sidewalks safe and clear.

This information is also promoted in [CMail](#), the City's electronic newsletter emailed to more than 1,100 subscribers and distributed by City departments whose services, programs and employees are featured in an upcoming episode.

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