

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Office of the Inspector General**

Inspector General



December 14, 2021

Kristi C. Whitfield  
Director  
Department of Small and Local Business Development  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street N.W., Suite 850N  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Director Whitfield:

My Office will soon start a special evaluation of the Department of Small and Local Business Development's (DSLBD) administration of the DC Main Streets program.<sup>1</sup>

The objectives of this review will be to examine: (1) DSLBD's administration of the Main Streets program's grant application and award processes; (2) selected Main Streets grantees' compliance with grant agreement requirements; and (3) DSLBD's oversight of awarded grants, to determine whether there are any opportunities for improvement that could reduce the potential for fraud, waste, and abuse within the Main Streets program.<sup>2</sup>

Please provide Edward Farley, Assistant Inspector General for Inspections and Evaluations, with the name and telephone number of the person who will serve as the primary point of contact at DSLBD during the review process. He can be reached at 202-727-9249 or [edward.farley@dc.gov](mailto:edward.farley@dc.gov).

Also, please provide electronic copies (i.e., PDFs) of the following information to Mr. Farley no later than December 30, 2021, so that the I&E team can prepare its fieldwork methodology and plan:

- A list of all active Main Streets programs;
- Each Main Streets program's current grant agreement (and any amendments to it) with DSLBD;

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<sup>1</sup> "DC Main Streets is a comprehensive program that promotes the revitalization of business corridors in the District of Columbia. Created in 2002 through the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Main Streets serves as the citywide coordinating program that provides services and funding for the 26 Main Streets found in the District of Columbia.... Each DC Main Streets program is organized and led by local volunteers and community development professionals. Each program has different operating structures as defined in their by-laws and operating procedure documents." <https://dslbd.dc.gov/service/DCMS> (last visited Dec. 10, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> The OIG will determine later the best format for presenting its analysis and conclusions, i.e., whether to issue a single report or multiple reports to address these objectives.

- All grant agreements, current and past, that DSLBD has entered into for these six Main Streets programs: Congress Heights, Georgetown, H Street, Lower Georgia Avenue, Upper Georgia Avenue, and Woodley Park;
- The Request for Applications (RFA), and any addenda and/or amendments DSLBD issued for each RFA, that resulted in each Main Streets program's current grant agreement;<sup>3</sup>
- All policies and procedures DSLBD personnel use to (1) solicit and review applications for Main Streets grants and (2) administer awarded grants;
- A list of current DSLBD employees whose responsibilities include reviewing Main Streets grant applications or administering awarded grants, to include each person's name, title, email address, telephone number, and a brief description of their duties; and
- Any other documentation or information you believe would assist the review team.

Mr. Farley will schedule an entrance conference with the point of contact you identify. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, and I look forward to working with DSLBD in our joint efforts to improve the quality of services provided through the Main Streets program.

Sincerely,

  
Daniel W. Lucas  
Inspector General

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cc: The Honorable Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia, Attention: Betsy Cavendish  
Mr. Kevin Donahue, City Administrator, District of Columbia  
Mr. John Falcicchio, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development and Chief of Staff, Executive Office of the Mayor  
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Robert C. White, Jr., At-Large Councilmember, Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Mary M. Cheh, Ward 3 Councilmember, Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4 Councilmember, Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5 Councilmember, Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Kathy Patterson, D.C. Auditor, Office of the D.C. Auditor

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<sup>3</sup> Our understanding, from a review of information on DSLBD's website, is that a Main Streets RFA may contain information pertaining to more than one service area and the corresponding grant award.