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NEWS RELEASE

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HUD Completes Dubuque Housing Program Review

Dubuque, Iowa --The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO), has completed a civil rights-related program review of Dubuque’s Housing and Community Development Department, which administers the City’s Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8 rental assistance program) and the City’s Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG).

The City received a “letter of findings of noncompliance” notification from HUD on Wednesday, June 19, 2013. This notification follows a June 2011 onsite compliance review conducted by equal opportunity specialists from HUD’s Office of FHEO, a representative from HUD’s Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD), and a financial analyst from HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH).

The review analyzed the City’s changes to its Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers program mainly from 2007-2011, including modifications to the program’s residency preference point allotment and the reduction in the number of housing vouchers offered. The notification received from HUD on June 19 summarizes HUD’s findings, reviews these program changes in detail, cites the activities of and related to Dubuque’s Safe Community Task Force, and community events and public responses.

In the June 19 notification, HUD said it seeks to voluntarily resolve the findings with a number of corrective actions and the conclusion states that it is HUD’s policy to resolve

all matters by informal means whenever possible. HUD states that informal resolution is usually achieved through the execution of a Voluntary Compliance Agreement (VCA) between HUD and the recipient and invites the City of Dubuque to enter into an informal resolution.

The City of Dubuque plans to pursue informal resolution through the execution of a Voluntary Compliance Agreement. The City is committed to the fair and equitable operation of its programs and acknowledges that the actions taken had an unintended negative impact on African American program applicants. The City deeply regrets these impacts and will pursue corrective actions to address them as soon as possible. While the changes made to the program were implemented with the intent to address funding concerns and administer a more effective program, with better service and additional self-sufficiency corollary programs, the City acknowledges the negative impact on African Americans that occurred as a consequence of these changes.

City staff will pursue informal resolution through the Voluntary Compliance Agreement process to resolve the issues and achieve full compliance.

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