

**Action Requested/Required:**

- ☒ Vote/Action Requested
☐ Discussion or Presentation Only
☐ Public Hearing
Report Date: _____
Hearing Date: _____
Voting Date: 2/20/25

Department: Community Development**Presenter(s) & Title:** Brittany Anderson

City Planner

Agenda Item Title:

Discussion and Possible Action of Support of Cherokee County's Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) Application Submission to Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for a Small Area Plan for the Historic Pearidge Community.

Summary:

Pearidge is a historic and dynamic community located in the city of Canton in Cherokee County, Georgia. Tracing its roots back to the 1870s, the African American community arose from the former Keith Plantation. The close-knit families established homes and were employed through the local marble and cotton mills. In 1982, the volunteer fire department was built by and partially funded by residents and served as the first African American Volunteer Fire Department in the state. With construction of a new fire department, the old building was established as the Charlie Ferguson Community Center and the organization constructed a new building using CDBG funds and opened in the summer of 2023. There is an urgent need for a small area plan for the historic Pearidge community to ensure its significant history and catalytic community services. Through this joint application with the Charlie Ferguson Community Center, the plan will address the existing needs while preparing proactively for the future.

Budget Implications:Budgeted? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/ATotal Cost of Project: Check if Estimated ☐Fund Source: General Fund ☐ Water & Sewer ☐ Sales Tax ☐ Other: **Staff Recommendations:**

Staff recommends that City Council supports Cherokee County's CDAP application for a small area plan for the Pearidge Community.

Reviews:Has this been reviewed by Management and Legal Counsel, if required? ☐ Yes ☐ No**Attachments:**

Letter of Support



February 20, 2025

Jillian Willis
Atlanta Regional Commission
229 Peachtree St NE
Atlanta, GA 30303

Subject: Letter of Support for Cherokee County Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP)
Application for the Pearidge Community

Dear Ms. Willis:

I am writing to wholeheartedly express our support for Cherokee County and the community-based organization, Charlie Ferguson Community Center's application to the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) for the historic black community of Pearidge.

Cherokee County contains numerous historic communities with a legacy of historic preservation and community involvement. The Pearidge community is currently facing significant changes due to proposed residential development which could alter its character. Through public engagement, a small area plan will provide the opportunity to develop the community's vision. It will address the challenges of affordable housing, transportation improvements, and community development.

We urge the Atlanta Regional Commission to give due consideration to the CDAP proposal put forth by Cherokee County. The development of a small area plan with the community will lead to addressing historic preservation and affordable housing.

This initiative aligns seamlessly with our community's commitment to a high quality of life and resiliency for our communities in Cherokee County. By working together across jurisdictions, we can accomplish this goal. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we remain hopeful for a positive outcome.

Sincerely,

Bill Grant
Mayor, City of Canton