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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Rosita C. Youngblood 
SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship – Reforms to Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation that would reform the state's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) and bring greater accountability and transparency to the grant process.

Although RACP funding is essential in helping to bring large scale economic development projects to communities across the Commonwealth, it is evident that there is a significant lack of transparency and accountability with this program that permits unscrupulous developers to take advantage of the system, and be rewarded with millions of dollars in state funding simply because they have contributed to the campaigns of high-level public officials. The current RACP system enables pay-to-play politics, and recent developments in my legislative district are proof positive that a community's voice is often an unwanted and unrecognized element of the process.

That is why my legislation would require all RACP projects to undergo at least one public informational meeting in the community where the project will be built. Furthermore, my legislation would require the Secretary of the Budget to inform the State Senator and State Representative where the project is located that the project has been approved for funding. Often times, RACP projects are awarded funding, and contracts are fully executed, without a lawmaker's knowledge.

In addition to notification requirements, my proposal would prohibit an out-going or "lame-duck" governor from using RACP funds as parting gifts to campaign donors and other "friends" and supporters.

The Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program is a vital component to our state's economic development initiatives, and it is important that we provide funding to help our communities grow. However, it is time that we provide accountability and transparency to the process, and put an end to the pay-to-play politics that has surrounded this program.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, or would like a copy of the language, please contact Diane Boyer at dboyer@pahouse.net, or by calling 772-5404.