

REPORT OF THE HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 19, 2003

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Wednesday, November 19, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Vice Chair Alderman Marc W. Plamondon, presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman Lori Cardin, Chairman  
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner  
Alderman Stephen C. Liamos  
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane

Members of the Committee absent:

Also in Attendance: Alderman Brian S. McCarthy  
Alderman Kevin McAfee  
Dave Viliotti, Nashua Children's Home  
Louise Woodworth, Finan. Coord., Health & Comm. Serv.  
Chris Lister, Grant/Childcare Coordinator  
Glenn Levesque, Nashua Police Department  
Lt. Peter Segal, Nashua Police Department  
Klaas Nijhuis, Deputy Mgr., Urban Programs Dept.

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Paul Newman, Manager, Urban Programs Department  
Klaas Nijhuis, Deputy Manager, Urban Programs Department  
Re: HOME Program: Resolution R-03-280

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LIAMOS TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Cardin

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will be recusing myself from any discussions regarding the Children's Home this evening and any votes. Thank you.

Chair Plamondon

Is there any other discussion?

**MOTION CARRIED**

***Alderman Cardin Abstained***

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LIAMOS THAT THE RULES BE SO FAR SUSPENDED AS TO ALLOW FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A COMMUNICATION RECEIVED AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PREPARED**

**MOTION CARRIED**

From: Stefan A. Russakow, Division Director, Public Health & Community Services Division  
Re: Resolution R-03-296, Acceptance and Appropriation of \$50,000 Grant

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LIAMOS TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE  
MOTION CARRIED**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

**R-03-280**

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter  
Alderman Lori Cardin  
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner  
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon  
Alderman-at-Large Fred Britton  
Alderman Kevin E. Gage

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$167,383 OF  
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT  
374-7404**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LIAMOS TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Tollner

Is there anybody in the audience tonight that is here to discuss this? It is quite a bit of money.

Klaas Nijhuis

Some confusion in the audience – are you suggesting the language as originally proposed or the revised language as provided by Paul Newman?

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO AMEND R-03-280 WITH THE COPY THAT WAS  
PROVIDED THIS EVENING BY THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

ON THE QUESTION

Klaas Nijhuis

As you know the City was awarded the privilege to become a participating jurisdiction – that means we get an entitlement directly from HUD for the Home Partnership's money. A crazy little wrinkle in that is that the program requires that we have, in our first year, \$750,000 of home funds to commit to the program. However, because of the formula used to allocate the money to the city we were about \$167,000, and you see the change, shy of that amount. We were under the impression that a pastor award given through New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority for the development of four units of housing for the Children's Home would suffice to make up that shortfall. In discussion and deliberations between HUD, the City, and New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, it was determined that would not work, and that in deed an additional sum of money needed to be raised from the funds at New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority and to bring those and commit those to the city. An agreement was struck

with New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority to in fact do that and HUD signed off so we are getting beyond and above the \$550,000 in commitment to the Nashua Children's Home and our own – I forget the dollar amount – P.J. award from HUD directly an additional \$167,00 and change this year of home funds to commit to projects.

There is a recommended distribution of that in order to maximize the administration and the operations and the effective use of this money. That distribution is as outlined in my letter to you, which is 10% of home funds going to home administration here in the city, that is in essence to encourage the development of housing and to also do the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the program. Then there is a 5% recommended – this is a maximum – program administration fee that can go to a CHDO – that is Community Housing Development Organization. The city at this point has one, which is Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Nashua. This 5% fee will allow them to do internally the development management for new projects. Then additionally there is a maximum set aside 2 CHDOs for doing the actual development work. That is 15%. That is the breakdown that is itemized in the red text on the amended resolution that is before you.

In addition to that, we recommend that based on circumstances discovered after the gut/rehab of the Nashua Children's Home project – there was extensive fire damage and weakness in the structure – that requires about \$150,000 of additional structural repairs – there was \$550,000 awarded to that project to fund 4 of the 5 units in that project and make them permanently affordable. There is in fact a 5<sup>th</sup> unit that was part of the plan that was a caretaker unit. In order to get this money to that project the project's sponsor, Nashua Children's Home, has agreed to make that 5<sup>th</sup> unit also professionally affordable at home rents. Those home rents are 50% and 60% or medium area income.

Chair Plamondon

Of the breakdown of these funds are they all geared towards Nashua Children's Home?

Klaas Nijhuis

The additional money – we talk about a distribution and there would be about \$117,000 that would be allocated to rental housing development. If we take away the CHDO monies and our own operating monies what we are saying is in this resolution combine it with the P.J. direct funded money and out of that money commit up to \$150,000 towards the completion of the Nashua Children's Home project.

Chair Plamondon

So in item 1 here the affordable family rental housing – the \$117,000+ is there any target area for that? Is it citywide? Is it limited to like CDBG areas?

Klaas Nijhuis

It is essentially the same target area as the CDBG program. It is the low income, census tracks, and those tracks that are blighted.

Chair Plamondon

Thank you.

Alderman Tollner

The piece on the bottom here – the Nashua Children’s Home do you need to go back or will they need to go back to Zoning or Planning given that this is a 5<sup>th</sup> unit of housing where they have 4 now?

Klaas Nijhuis

They have 5 units of housing, and we provided funding to do 4 of those 5 units giving the Nashua Children’s Home the option of using that 5<sup>th</sup> unit that was always in the plan for a caretaker unit. The caretaker on site may or may not qualify for the home rental rules. Now they are saying well we will commit this unit and make this also available to families or households at or below 60% or 50% of medium area income. That 5<sup>th</sup> unit was always there it is just that we never were participating in the development of that before.

Alderman Tollner

It has already been approved – the plans have already been approved by whatever board they had to go to whether it be Zoning or Planning Board?

Klaas Nijhuis

That is correct.

Alderman Tollner

Thank you.

**MOTION CARRIED**

***Alderman Cardin Abstained***

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE AS AMENDED**

**MOTION CARRIED**

***Alderman Cardin Abstained***

**R-03-289**

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner  
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon  
Alderman Lori Cardin

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$258,285 FROM THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE FY 2003 BJA CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED AWARD, INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #331-6292 TO FUND THE PURCHASE OF BOMB ROBOTS**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

Robots is plural. Are we buying two now or three?

Glenn Levesque

The cost will be to cover the purchase of 2 robots.

Alderman Deane

It seemed like we spent quite a bit of time looking for money to buy one and now we have a windfall of money to buy 2?

Glenn Levesque

It is my understanding, and we need to thank Senator Judd Gregg to a large extent for this money, in New Hampshire we only have 2 FBI certified bomb units; the Nashua Police Department and the New Hampshire State Police has one. It is my understanding that as he was able to appropriate the funds he was able to appropriate enough to purchase 2 robots so that the State police could also use one.

Alderman Deane

Is one going to be located here in the City and the other one the state police will have at their barracks?

Glenn Levesque

Yes we will be giving one to them yes.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Chair Plamondon

Officer Levesque the two robots – are they going to be from the same manufacturer? I know I was pretty involved initially with this and I know we were looking at two manufacturers; one local and one out of the area, and they both had distinct differences in the manufacture and build time and so on – could you elaborate a little more on the differences between the two robots and will they have different purposes as well?

Glenn Levesque

The two robots are going to be ordered with what they call the bomb package so you will get your basic robot – it has an extension arm, it has the cameras on it and such, and the bomb accessories that will come with it will be a pin disrupter, it will have a charge dropper, which I am not familiar with, but our bomb techs are very happy with that, and they are going to be

purchased through Remotetech, which is a company out of Tennessee. They did a comparison with 5 different robots – the Andross F6A, which is the model we will be purchasing, was the winner based on a number of factors, but also this is the only unit used by the FBI and the bomb data center who provides much of the training and has given both our bomb units in the state a good deal of equipment so to purchase another unit and then have to repurchase all other equipment to go with the robot would be extremely expensive. That was one of the reasons they went with this robot besides what it can do. It is the only one that you can put a HAZMAT mount on so you can send it into a hazardous area with sensors on it and it can bring back the information. It can be used with our SRT team as well as the bomb unit so it is multi-purpose.

Chair Plamondon

It would also have like that speaker package for abduction type situations.

Glenn Levesque

The two-way communication yes.

Chair Plamondon

Our bomb squad are they certified to use them or will there be a timeframe for their certifications?

Glenn Levesque

The cost of the robot comes with 2 ½ days of training. Our people will go down there and be trained right at the factory on how to use this device.

Chair Plamondon

Are there any other questions from the committee?

Alderman Tollner

The appropriation of funds – is there a commitment to match on the city's part?

Glenn Levesque

No there is none.

Alderman Tollner

Thank you.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-03-296**

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter  
Alderman Lori Cardin  
Alderman-at-Large James Tollner  
Alderman Marc Plamondon  
Alderman-at-Large Fred Britton

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$50,000 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OF MARYLAND INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #341-6419**

Chair Plamondon

I might ask Louise Woodworth and Chris Lister to come forward.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Chair Plamondon

Is there anything that you could explain on this?

Louise Woodworth

The purpose of this grant is to establish an organizational framework that will attract highly qualified volunteers to provide great benefits to the citizens of Nashua and to build emergency public health capacity.

Chair Plamondon

Are there any questions from the committee?

Alderman Tollner

I just have one question – from the Department of Health and Human Services of Maryland – can you explain that – why it is coming from Maryland? Is it a federal program?

Louise Woodworth

They are in partnership with Southern New Hampshire and I am really not sure of why.

Chris Lister

To answer that question these are federal funds. The relationship evolved out of an office in Maryland so I think it is probably a typo. We apologize.

Chair Plamondon

Is there any other discussion?

**MOTION CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES – None

DISCUSSION

Alderman Cardin

I just wanted to comment for the record that I did abstain from the vote on R-03-280. Thank you.

Alderman Liamos

I just want to send my best wishes to Bob Dion who is watching at home tonight. Be prepared Bob your favorite committee, the Committee on Infrastructure, is coming up next.

Chair Plamondon

Get well soon Bob.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO ADJOURN  
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Alderman Stephen C. Liamos  
Committee Clerk