

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing was conducted by the Human Affairs Committee on Wednesday, February 18, 2004 at 7:05 P.M. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chairman Lori Cardin presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman Marc W. Plamondon, Vice Chair
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner (@ 7:08 pm)
Alderman Kevin E. Gage
Alderman David D. Lozeau

Members of the Committee absent:

Also in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Paula I. Johnson
Paul Newman, Manager, Urban Programs

Alderman Gage

I know that this particular segment may take a while. We have about a dozen folks here from the public regarding R-04-09 and I was wondering if we would be willing to deal with that first. I know I came in just prior to the meeting beginning. I apologize for not mentioning that, but I didn't realize how many folks I would actually have from...

Chairman Cardin

I think there is probably an equal number on both sides so what is the committee's pleasure?

Alderman Plamondon

Stick with the agenda I would say.

Chairman Cardin

Okay. Paul did you want to speak?

PUBLIC HEARING

Consolidated Plan/Community Development Block Grant

Comments on Past Performance; Identifying Needs for Future Activities

Paul Newman

As you all know – the committee knows, but for the public's benefit this is the first of two public hearings held each year on the Community Development Block Grant as the Board of Aldermen considers the funding plan. The block grant is one of the first block grants created by the federal government, and has been around since 1974. It provides communities with funds to meet the needs of older and particularly lower income neighborhoods through affordable housing, neighborhood improvements, community services to some extent. This hearing is for the general purpose of getting comments on the past performance on projects that were funded in the past and general needs that seem to exist in the community for consideration for future funding.

There is another hearing in April, which would be on specific funding plan. Proposals may be submitted by individuals, organizations for funding and we can provide the form for that for any group or individual that wishes to apply. The deadline this year will be March 5th. Those proposals would then come before this committee for their deliberation. Also this is the second year in which the city is the direct recipient of the Home Investment Partnerships Program Funding – another HUD program, but because of 2000 census data we became qualified for that – the Community Development Block Grant is \$890,000 and the Home funding specifically for affordable housing is \$577,000.

Chairman Cardin

Is there anyone that would like to give testimony on this Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Plan?

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR

Kim Shaw, Director of PLUS Co., 240 Main Dunstable Road, Nashua

Sister Sharon Walsh, President, MP Housing

Martha Green, Area Agency

Brian Young, Executive Director, Nashua Center for Multiply Handicapped

Mary Jordan, Director, Nashua Adult Learning Center

David Villiotti, Executive Director, Nashua Children's Home

Bridgett Belton-Jette, Director, Neighborhood Housing Services, Greater Nashua

Peter Labombarde, Resident supporting Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Nashua

Kathy Hersh, Division Director, Community Development Division

Doug Murray, Community Council

Patty Hayes, Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

None.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR

Klaas Nijhuis, Deputy Manager, Urban Programs

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

None.

The Public Hearing was declared closed at 7:40 P.M.

Alderman Marc W. Plamondon
Committee Clerk, Pro Tem