

REPORT OF THE HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JUNE 16, 2004

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Wednesday, June 16, 2004 at 7:02 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
Alderman Kevin E. Gage
Alderman David D. Lozeau

Members not in Attendance:

Also in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane
Glenn Levesque, Nashua Police Department

COMMUNICATIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-04-52

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

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DIVISION OF FIRE STANDARDS AND TRAINING INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT 332-6311

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN GAGE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE
MOTION CARRIED**

R-04-55

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter
Alderman-at-Large Steven A. Bolton
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane
Alderman-at-Large Paula I. Johnson
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Alderman Lori Cardin
Alderman Rob Shaw
Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon
Alderman Kathryn D. Vitale
Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich
Alderman David MacLaughlin

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A HUD SPECIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$785,339 FOR THE SENIOR CENTER

MOTION BY ALDERMAN PLAMONDON TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Plamondon

I would like to acknowledge all the hard work that Alderman Deane has done on this project.

Alderman Deane

Thank you. This is one of the main funding components along with the \$2.4 million bond. This is an EDI grant for \$790,000 or it was decreased somewhat, and the \$225,000 of CDBG and the EPA pending Brownsfield we got yesterday. We picked that up – that was \$200,000 to deal with some of the environmental issues over there. This is something the seniors went after. It was a great find. We are more than happy to accept the funds. Thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

R-04-73

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter
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 \$23,836.64 OBTAINED FROM THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT 331-6299 “BJA 2004 BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT”

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOZEAU TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Cardin

I know Glenn Levesque is here. By the way we appreciate you showing up and being here for all of these grants that come through. I know you have put a lot of hours into applying for these grants and we appreciate the time you put in.

Glenn Levesque

Thank you I appreciate that. This grant program is a federal grant program, which will reimburse police departments across the country up to 50% of the purchase price of all ballistic vests that are purchased by a department. We purchased 140 vests this year in a replacement program as per manufacturer recommendation, and we did in fact receive the full 50% reimbursement coming up to the \$23,836.64.

Alderman Gage

You say you got 140 vests this year?

Glenn Levesque

Correct.

Alderman Gage

That is what 5 years on those right?

Glenn Levesque

Yes that is manufacturer recommendation.

Alderman Gage

Thank you.

Alderman Lozeau

What do you do with the old vests?

Glenn Levesque

Actually because of breakdown and such the officers pretty much keep them. It is not a trade-in program at all.

Alderman Lozeau

I am just hoping there is a use for old, retired bullet-proof vests.

Glenn Levesque

Some will be turned over to firearms training testing and such, but basically because of the perspiration, the salts, and how they get worn throughout the 5 year wear period the fibers breakdown.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

DISCUSSION

Alderman Lozeau

This has got a little bit to do with Budget, but it has a lot to do with Human Affairs. I think you mentioned one time before as far as restoring some money into the Human Services Account, 505, and I just want to ask the Board members that are here tonight and any that are listening that I intend to support putting more money into the 505 account. I don't intend to unless we can cut some budget lines in other areas. I would ask that you keep your eyes open for budget lines that we can cut so that maybe we can put \$100,000 back into the 505 account. Thank you.

Alderman Deane

I have many suggested areas of budget cuts. I will bring them tomorrow. Hopefully my colleagues will support them.

Alderman Plamondon

Just to set the stage I am working with the Ledge Street PTO and there is a severe need, and I am working with the School Department and Park & Rec – there is a severe need to replace the play gym there and expand it. One of the portables is leaving and it is a CDBG approved area, it is one of our inner-city schools that is not in the affluent area. If you look around some of the more affluent areas of Nashua the play gyms are newer, larger – the existing one is old. There are playground violations – it has been inspected. Currently because it is so small they can only allow one class to go out and use it at a time. I just wanted to let the committee know that I will be coming forward at some point in time once they get all their plans, get the finances down, maybe a multi-year funding – they have been doing a series of fundraisers, and they have done quite well. I don't have all the numbers in front of me. I wasn't planning on talking about it, but I just thought I would bring that up that maybe out of next year's CDBG, maybe a little bit out of contingency this year depending on the planning or whatever, but just to let you know that this need is there. I just wanted to make a public statement on it. Thank you.

Alderman Deane

I just wanted to comment on that. There are – If you talk with the Park Department the current components associated with a playground where you can do a design of it and then on a yearly basis if the funds are available you can add different components to the play area. I know Nick has many designs that are already there where the following year you can just keep adding on to it. I was of the understanding after attending budget meetings with the school department that they were putting another portable – they were taking one out, but they were replacing it at Ledge Street School in that very area. That is what I was lead to believe.

Alderman Tollner

I think the portable there now is one that the school department is leasing. They are going to move one over there in that spot that they own.

Alderman Plamondon

The one portable to the left of the play gym is definitely 100% leaving and that area will be vacant. There are two there and on one of them is definitely leaving and that will give room for expansion. That playground has been inspected by Park & Rec., Nick Caggiano, and this I forget the lady's name – there is someone that is an employee that is a certified playground inspector or what have you and there is a series of violations to playground standards. From what I have been told what is existing needs to be replaced. They have gone out for bids. I have asked them to work with Nick Caggiano and Mark Conrad and they are going to be going out for a bid process to get several companies involved. Right now the bids they have that I saw from this one company I thought was high. I think that some of these companies if they see it is a PTO and not the city and not a competitive bid go out with their first number – they don't have a sharp pencil. That will be reviewed plus for CDBG they need competitive bids anyway. Mark Conrad I spoke to him as well – the school department does not fund playgrounds and that is a policy that they have and is something that they don't do anywhere in the city even inner-city. I was a little disheartened at that, however...

Alderman Deane

That is wrong. That is against the law.

Alderman Plamondon

This is what I was told. Maybe they will build a new one from scratch on a new school, but after that they don't go out and build – this is what I was told. I was hoping there was some money in the school department that could help out this PTO. What they said they would do – Board of Public Works has reviewed this and they have agreed that it is a good cause. The expansion of the playground what they want is some higher fencing for foul balls from the field. School Department said that they would do the fencing – they would raise the fence – they would handle that. That and help with the bidding process – they will assist with that, but they will not help in the replacement or additional equipment.

Chairman Cardin

That is the same information I got when the Sunset Heights playground was being rebuilt. I know the PTO went out and raised like \$60,000 to replace the equipment there. It is quite a costly effort.

Alderman Deane

If the equipment is offered to the children attending the school and once it is placed on the school department property the ownership is the school department. The school department allows the children to go out and play according to state law as is the curriculum and the rest of the building associated with the educational funding that we have through Concord the school department is responsible for funding that.

Alderman Plamondon

The actual playground and the portables are on Park & Rec property.

Alderman Deane

That is not true.

Alderman Plamondon

It is.

Alderman Deane

No it is not. I have a map. I put a fence up over there and I went through the ...

Alderman Plamondon

I can show you the GIS.

Alderman Deane

It is wrong. The map that I have from the city shows that there is a property line that runs from where the old field used to be if you went half way down the first base line from there and you

turned and pointed to the front doors of the Boys Club that is where the line ran. I will bring that and show it to you because I had to meet with Scott Cote at the time who was working at the school department to get permission from the Board of Education to put the fence up.

Alderman Plamondon

I am telling you counsel weighed in on it as well. This was looked at with Park & Rec, counsel and this was the determination that came through as well. I am trying to get all of these departments working together for these elementary school kids. This is pretty pathetic that we are trying to fight for a better playground for them. Anyway I don't want to get too far ahead of us because there are still a lot of stages to go to find out in the planning and additional fundraisers and such, but I just wanted to tell you.

Chairman Cardin

Alderman Plamondon as far as fundraising I know that the Sunset Heights PTO is very active and raised quite a bit of money so perhaps they can join up with Judy Blacheck and some of the others up at Sunset Heights and get some ideas. They did a great job fundraising.

Alderman Plamondon

Actually Ledge Street School has done very well themselves. I don't remember the dollar amount, but I was quite impressed for an inner-city ward. It was in the tens of thousands.

Alderman Lozeau

I just want to mention my son won first place in the sales of fundraising stuff for Ledge Street school and he got a limo ride to Burger King.

Alderman Deane

I bought two cars from them. I am having trouble with the fence. Why would you want to raise the fence because the activities on that field are in the evening or on Saturdays and Sundays when the school is closed. I couldn't see spending money to do that. If it were something that was – when the children use that area the baseball diamonds aren't used because those children that use them are in school. Then the organized activities other than the Boys & Girls Club, which is an after school thing as well. I am wondering – I wouldn't spend too much time or any money on doing that. I would put the money more towards the equipment than fencing.

Chairman Cardin

This discussion may be premature. I don't think there are really any concrete plans.

Alderman Plamondon

To chime in on that the Board of Public Works and the School Department agree that just to be safe and to be safe so the kids could play ball on the fields as well as simultaneously in the playground they wanted it to be safe. That was their determination.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN GAGE TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Alderman Marc W. Plamondon
Committee Clerk Pro Tem