

# REPORT OF THE HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JULY 21, 2004

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Wednesday, July 21, 2004 at 7:00 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 David D. Lozeau

Members not in Attendance: Alderman Kevin E. Gage

Also in Attendance: Chris Lister,  
Bill Brown, Southern New Hampshire Medical Center  
Fire Chief Roger Hatfield, Nashua Fire Rescue

## Chairman Cardin

I would like to remind members of the committee and of the audience to please turn off any cell phones during the meeting. Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

## NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

### **R-04-98**

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

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF A  
GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$46,000 FROM THE NH CITIZENS  
CORPS COUNCIL – VOLUNTEER NH PROGRAM INTO SPECIAL  
REVENUE ACCOUNT 341-6420**

## **MOTION BY ALDERMAN PLAMONDON TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

### ON THE QUESTION

#### Chairman Cardin

I know that we have Chris and Bill here this evening. If you would like to join us and identify yourself for the record.

#### Bill Brown

I am associated with the grant in that I am assisting as being the program coordinator for the basic disaster life support and advanced disaster life support program for which the grant

pertains. Real quick on what the program is – this is basically a pass through fund. The money was given to the City of Nashua by the State of New Hampshire Citizens Corp. Council. Under that we have made an application to them to fund this particular program. The program that we are bringing into Nashua is called a Basic Disaster Life Support and Advanced Disaster Life Support Program.

It is a program that has been developed by the American Medical Association, the Medical College of Georgia, Texas A&M University, The American Public Health Association, the Center for Disease Control, and a number of other organizations. It is a certification program for healthcare providers to have an increased amount of awareness in emergency procedures. It deals specifically with natural disasters, biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological disasters. This is a premier type program.

What we are doing with the funds is we are contracting with Georgia Tech to come up and actually be the instructors for this program so the instructors that are coming up are a group of nationally known. Most of them are physicians that are specially trained and that put on this program. We will be the first program in New England to offer this BDLS/ADLS Program, and what we are looking to do is open this up to members of the State Citizens Corp. Councils the states Medical Reserve Corp., which we are working to implement here in Nashua and there are two others in the state. It is a wonderful opportunity to bring this very unique and timely educational program into the area.

It will be done here at no cost to the city. It would be strictly grant funded. Those people that are not members of State Citizens Corp. Councils or not part of the state's Medical Reserve Corp. will be paying a tuition price to offset those particular costs.

Chairman Cardin

Sounds like a great program. Does the committee have questions?

Alderman Lozeau

Where is the seminar or training session going to be held?

Bill Brown

The program is going to be held at the Crowne Plaza right here in Nashua.

Alderman Plamondon

A little bit more detail as to this is all funding to go towards training. I would like a little more detail as to who will be trained. Is it statewide, is it greater Nashua area, is it based on volunteers or municipal employees that fit into a disaster relief?

Bill Brown

The target audience is people that are affiliated with State Citizens Corp. Councils and under those groups there are programs called CERT teams (Community Emergency Response Teams) – there are 13 of those that are established in the state. The CERT teams are made up of mostly people who are going to be volunteering with their fire departments or emergency management agencies to assist in disaster operations, but they are volunteers not uniformed

personnel so they are not firefighters, they are not EMTs necessarily, they are people that are working under a CERT function. In addition to that, there will be Medical Reserve Corp. personnel. Those people include physicians, dentists, veterinarians, nurses, all sorts of allied healthcare personnel.

The purpose of this training program is to be a bit of an enticement to have people join established CERT programs and the three Medical Reserve Corp. programs that we have in New Hampshire and for those people that are members to provide them with a high level of training so that in the event of a disaster they have a specific nationally recognized body of knowledge.

It is a state program in that the monies were given to Nashua so that we could put the program on here, which specifically benefits our greater Nashua Medical Reserve Corp., but it also benefits people from Littleton and from Derry and anyplace else within the state.

Alderman Plamondon

Why not train in the best area where we have the best disaster relief?

Bill Brown

Absolutely.

Alderman Plamondon

How many individuals do you think will be going through this course?

Bill Brown

We have it set up for a maximum of 100 people to attend the basic disaster life support program, which is one day. There is a two day advanced disaster life support program and we have space for 100 people in that program as well. The fourth day of the program will be an instructor program and we will limit that to 50 people who have completed the PDLS and the ADLS course. We have already received pretty strong interest in enrollments for the program both within the state and outside of the state.

Alderman Plamondon

Are there any local matching dollars that are needed to fund this?

Chris Lister

No.

Alderman Plamondon

Thank you.

Roger Hatfield

This is an exciting program for the City of Nashua. It has been about 8-10 months since the City of Nashua started moving towards its own Citizens Corp. The federal government has been actually funding communities to push forward in getting these Citizens Corp. programs up and running. It really allows for our local Emergency Planning Committee that has a lot of different volunteers like REACT to get involved with Citizens Corp. The one thing that Bill is bringing up is really critically important – during all of our planning for Smallpox and all of the bio and chemical type incidents that we might potentially ever encounter we need a lot of volunteers to run our clinics that is why the Medical Corp. is critically important to this whole operation. Bill along with Stefan from the Health Department and the LEPC have supported this aspect of moving towards Citizens Corp. and this is the first grant of many I hope that you will see coming into the City of Nashua to get volunteers trained to a level that they will keep themselves safe and be able to provide services to the city in assisting the police, fire, and EMS providers.

Alderman Plamondon

Rockingham Ambulance they are involved in the program as well?

Roger Hatfield

Absolutely. This was brought in front of the Emergency Management and our local Emergency Planning Committee. We voted to support this. Ed Lecius the co-emergency management is the Chair of the Citizen's corp. This is actually part of emergency management, but this is just one branch working towards the medical end that we have gotten this grant for.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you. Are there any other questions?

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-04-99**

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

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF THE  
SUM OF \$540 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, HIGHWAY  
SAFETY AGENCY, INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT 331-6202  
“NASHUA DWI SATURATION PATROLS”**

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

**R-04-100**

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

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF THE SUM OF \$84,765.28 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY, INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT 332-6312 “HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT 2003 – HAZMAT”**

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

ON THE QUESTION

Roger Hatfield

This is one of those Homeland Security Grants that has been pushed forth for many, many years especially when Homeland Security funds started to come around for support in helping all the regional HAZMAT teams throughout the State of New Hampshire. As we are all aware Nashua does have a HAZMAT team that takes care of 19 communities. These funds are the first batch of what I hope will be many that will allow us to upgrade, replace, maintain our HAZMAT equipment especially any type of gas monitor, chemical suits. The other component of this grant allows us to finally pick up a little bit of overtime for specialized training that we are required to have to keep our technicians at the level that they need to be.

It is basically a grant that does not allow us to supplant our budget, but allows us to recoup some of the costs for things that we have to replace on a daily basis.

Chairman Cardin

Are there matching dollars for this grant?

Roger Hatfield

No.

Alderman Tollner

It came to our attention that the Governor had some concerns over the allocation of Homeland Security Funds for programs. I am not sure if this was in that category. Are you aware of the concerns?

Roger Hatfield

I am extremely aware. I have been on the phone for the last two days since the Governor has made the issues. I can honestly tell you from the City of Nashua's point of view that has never had to be a consideration that we have never supplanted our budget with federal monies especially Homeland Security. The items that he is complaining about even though are part of the list called the SELL (standardized equipment list) and they are valid. I truly don't know who is giving the Governor at this point in time information, but if that is the only outcome that he is

looking at I think he needs to look at the federal guidelines, look at the recommendations of the SELL, and those items are there. These items are actually from the old list, being the 2003 list that only dealt with decontamination equipment, monitoring equipment, and protective clothing.

Alderman Tollner

Thank you.

Alderman Lozeau

Did your office apply for the grant?

Roger Hatfield

Yes. Actually this is one of my other hats is I represent all of the regional HAZMAT teams and this is one that the regional HAZMAT teams push hard for and we were able to receive.

Alderman Lozeau

Keep applying for grant.

Roger Hatfield

Yes.

Alderman Plamondon

I have seen documentation, federal papers regarding the Homeland Security Funds and what I saw was very detailed as far as what the monies can be used for – communications and what types and so on and so forth. I don't know what the Governor is saying, but the federal documents that I saw were very specific as to where these funds can be used. I know that is the direction that Nashua has been going in and the Souhegan Valley HAZMAT. Is that the 19 communities?

Roger Hatfield

Yes.

Alderman Plamondon

For the 19 communities and we just got a new truck and trailer – looking forward what is the direction that we are looking equipment wise besides the replacement of materials as we use them? Are we looking for any other vehicles because we have also been very ingenious with the former Pepsi truck and...?

Roger Hatfield

We have always been creative in utilizing the fleet as best as we can and also looking to partnership with industry to get equipment. I think the key thing is upgrading and continuously looking at technology. Some of the areas that are really coming through in enhancements is in information technology. We have been moving a lot of information onto GIS working with

Angelo. We are looking to get mobile clip into the city along with the HAZMAT team to allow us to have access of information right at our fingertips during a crisis along with gas monitoring/sampling equipment – a lot of our issues are determining what is and is not a hazard and the only way you can do that is with sensitive and really technical equipment out in the field. Some of this equipment that you use out in the field is extremely expensive.

Slowly we are having more and more companies coming up with the technology. Europe has brought a lot of new technology into the United States. These are the things that the HAZMAT team are looking at so that we can make a quick analysis of the situation and to really mitigate the emergency as fast as we can.

Alderman Plamondon

Thank you Chief.

Chairman Cardin

Thanks Chief. Are there any other questions on R-04-100? The motion before us is to recommend final passage.

**MOTION CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN PLAMONDON TO ADJOURN**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

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

Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner  
Committee Clerk