

REPORT OF THE HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JANUARY 19, 2005

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Wednesday, January 19, 2005 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
Alderman David D. Lozeau

Members not in Attendance: Alderman Kevin E. Gage

Also in Attendance: Paul Newman, Manager, Urban Programs Department
Klaas Nijhuis, Deputy Manager, Urban Programs Dept.
Philip Costa, Nashua Police Department
Stefan Russakow, Div. Dir., Public Health & Human Serv.
Amy Gill, CSO Storm Water Engineer

Jay Minkarah, Economic Development Director

Wayne MacDonald, Deputy Chief of Uniform Oper., NPD
Lt. William Mansfield, Divisional Supervisor, NPD

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Paul Newman, Manager, Urban Programs Department
Klaas Nijhuis, Deputy Manager, Urban Programs Department
Re: Community Development Block Grant and HOME Programs: Schedule for
Consideration of Funding

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE
SCHEDULE FOR CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING**

ON THE QUESTION

Paul Newman

This launches you all on the annual process to consider projects for Community Development and Home Funding now for the third year, and more uniquely this year is the endeavor to approve and adopt a new five year consolidated plan, which if anyone doesn't have a copy of that please do let us know and we will put it in your mail. That is intended to set out all of the needs, goals, objectives, and priorities for these five years of the use of Community Development Block Grant and Home Funds and also is quite useful to other organizations in competing for funds when their project is represented in the consolidated plan.

One of the dates you may note on here that I discussed with you Chairman is the community meeting forum on March 2nd. Shortly – Klaas has been working on a press release on that to let the community know about that forum. There will be further publicity and direct invitations to many if not all of the stakeholders and participants in the community to be involved. That meeting will probably run 3-4 hours on that day during the day. It will be a very intensive workshop. Of course we will also let all of you know and the full Board as well and also other city departments to be able to participate.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you. I would like to encourage all of the members of this committee and actually the members of the full Board to participate in the consolidated plan. It was quite an interesting group we had 5 years ago when we met and obviously a lot of good comes out of it. The community gets together and prioritizes their needs. That is what we do with our funding when it comes up. I do encourage all of you to try to participate in that meeting.

Paul Newman

Of course we are being assisted, as you all know by Southern New Hampshire University and a doctoral student in their Community Economic Development program.

Alderman Plamondon

Speaking generically on the consolidated plan – in the last 6 ish years we as a committee in allocating CDBG funds have taken a stand where we have gone away from bricks and mortar allocation. I am having a little problem with that now. I have been supportive, but I am seeing a lot of inner city issues not getting resolved. With the fiscal situation that the city has been and is still in, a lot of projects aren't getting done, and it is the inner city poor that are the ones that are sacrificing. Myself I would this year like to see a greater amount go towards some bricks and mortar inner city projects. Not that I want to take away from the other organizations that we help out, but I just think a lesser percentage – I just want to let them know ahead of time that is where I am going to be focusing this year. I am not looking for a lot more money, but I think that there are some parks that – they are basically shut down. They are no good. Nobody can go there. There are just a lot of issues that have been developing in the last few years that we need to start focusing on. Thank you.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you Alderman Plamondon. I hope that you bring those thoughts to the consolidated plan meeting and that you are able to attend that. I know that being an inner city Ward Alderman that your input is valuable in those meetings. If you can make every attempt to be there it would be very helpful to have you there.

Is there any other discussion on that communication? I just have one thing that Alderman Plamondon brought up the human service – actually up to 15% of the CDBG grant that we are allowed to put towards the human service programs. This committee has every year voted on the percentage to do that. It goes towards 505 and the Review & Comment process that started this evening. What would be the committee's pleasure on that?

Alderman Plamondon

I would support continuing with that 15%. I think the 505 review committee does their diligence and they do a very, very good job. I feel comfortable in those funds going to very, very worthy causes. I would be supportive of continuing with the 15% for the 505s.

Alderman Tollner

I would continue supporting the 15%. I know last year at the end some of us got some pressure from outside entities as far as decisions that they made, but I do think that they dedicate a lot of time, they are pretty thorough in their reviews, and we should recognize their effort. I think it is a reasonable figure.

Chairman Cardin

I think toward that end last year it is one of the big problems was that the budget had been cut about \$120,000 by the Mayor's office. Trying to get that money reinstated was quite a challenge.

Alderman Lozeau

I don't think they reinstated all of it, but most of it.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee
Re: Special Revenue Account #352-6513
Favorable Recommendation of R-04-151

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Plamondon

Half of Mine Falls is in Ward 4, and I just want to say I am extremely excited about this additional HUD Grant, Phase II, and there will be a Phase III coming up. We are looking at some really great things to do in Mine Falls with making better access, basically inner city access within Ward 4 with these monies, and the gate house getting that up and running, get a good flow through there, control the milfoil. This is very good federal dollars coming towards us. I believe Senator Gregg is behind this. This is real exciting.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-04-150

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 \$1,000 FROM
SAM'S CLUB FOUNDATION INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #331-6213
"SAM'S CLUB – INVESTIGATIVE EQUIPMENT"**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Philip Costa

This is a grant from Sams Club to purchase some investigative equipment, i.e., some photography equipment.

Chairman Cardin

Are there any questions?

Alderman Plamondon

Are there any matching funds that will go towards this or any requirements?

Philip Costa

There are no requirements or matching funds for this.

Alderman Plamondon

Thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO GO OUT OF THE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS TO TAKE UP R-05-164

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Tollner

I would like to ask the committee's indulgence – if we could take this out of order so Stefan can get on the road and get going home. I think it is relatively an open/shut discussion. Then we could provide some time for the other people that are here to speak.

Chairman Cardin

What is the committee's pleasure?

MOTION CARRIED

R-05-164

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 \$2,000 FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH INSTITUTE (CHI) INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #341- 6403 "NEW HAMPSHIRE TURNING POINT INITIATIVE"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Stefan Russakow

What this is, is an incentive from the Community Health Institute – they approached us as well as other members at the public health network within the state to participate in a series of group meetings that will review current information processes for managing performance of local public health entities, agencies, and systems, and recommend some best practices in the New Hampshire context.

This is really basically one of the next steps as part of some of the areas' public health improvement plans to see where we are, where we need to go, and come up with some standardized practices. They approached us and this grant is meeting expenses on our behalf and travel expenses. There is no requirement for a match. It is a short durational project.

Chairman Cardin

Are there any other questions?

MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RETURN TO THE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS
MOTION CARRIED**

R-04-151

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter

Alderman Lori Cardin

Alderman Marc W. Plamondon

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$357,660 OBTAINED
FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT INTO
SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #352-6513, "MINE FALLS HUD GRANT – PHASE II"**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Nicole Gaudette

I am President of the Student Historic Preservation Team, and I have been a member for two years. We are here to ask for support for the R-04-151 regarding the Mine Falls HUD Grant Phase II. We are thrilled at the positive preservation development for the 1886 gatehouse and the surrounding area. Last year the main focus of our group was to research what specifically a preservationist would be able to lend us towards understanding how to safe our historic treasures like the gatehouse.

This has truly been a team effort. We owe thanks to the people at the Division of Public Works, Parks, Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee, Senator Gregg, and the Board of Aldermen. You have all helped us learn a lot. Our group has spent every week, once a week, and we have 20 students still going strong since 1998. Again, thank you very much for your support.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you Nicole. We appreciate you coming before us tonight.

Alderman Tollner

I would just like to ask if any of your friends that are here wish to come up and say anything with regard to the project. You are sure? You did a very nice job by the way. Thank you.

Jaclyn Leads

I also used to go to Fairgrounds Middle School. Now I go to school in Manchester. The Student Historic Preservation Team would also like to thank the Mayor's office and in particular Senator Gregg for his help.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you very much. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak on R-04-151?

Amy Gill

Just here to speak on what the grant entails. HUD is monies directed towards the gatehouse and an educational component down at Mine Falls Park. We have allocated several projects towards the gatehouse – the first one being preservation has started and will be completed in the near future. From those recommendations they will be using remaining dollars to hopefully make improvements to the gatehouse. There is a feasibility study also involved on how we can help educate the public on the historical aspect, environmental aspects, technological aspects of Mine Falls Park.

Chairman Cardin

Does anyone have any questions of Amy?

Alderman Tollner

You went before the Board of Public Works. Did they have any questions or any ideas about the project?

Amy Gill

With the entire grant?

Alderman Tollner

Right.

Amy Gill

Not that I know of. I think we laid out the project to them like we did tonight that there is a preservation study on the brook.

Alderman Tollner

They are comfortable with ...

Amy Gill

Yeah they supported it.

Alderman Tollner

Thank you.

Alderman Plamondon

Just to reiterate, as liaison of the Board of Public Works, there wasn't any major discussions on this other than basically a degree of excitement that we are starting to see some of these dreams come true. I want to thank the kids from Fairgrounds. They have done a lot of work out there. Way back even when Al Manoian was here with taking off graffiti, cleaning the building – they have spent a lot of time out there and they have done a great job. I also want to thank Senator Gregg for coming forward with these monies. The gatehouse is extremely historic in that it was built in 1886, but to look in there the timbers still have the stamps from Boston where the lumber came from. Just how the gate is operated – where they haven't been operated in so many years it has created a problem in the canal, which in itself is historic because that was hand dug by the first wave of immigrants to Nashua, the Irish, who lived basically where the School Street Parking Lot is. They hand dug that whole canal. With the gatehouse not having any flow it has created a lot of mill foil and it is very stagnant and so on. Not only to move this forward from an historic perspective but an engineering perspective to get a flow back in there and cleaning up that canal. It is beneficial for all involved, and obviously for the City of Nashua. Also again to reiterate this went to BPW and got a favorable recommendation and the Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee also gave a favorable recommendation. This is some exciting stuff.

There is a Phase III we are hoping for and I think we pretty much have it.

Amy Gill

We have applied for it.

Alderman Plamondon

We are pretty confident we will get it. This is some good stuff. Thank you.

Chairman Cardin

Are there any other questions?

MOTION CARRIED

R-04-152

Endorsers: Alderman Robert A. Dion
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon
Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF THE SUM OF \$100,000 FROM NASHUA ROTARY CLUB INTO CAPITAL PROJECT FUND ACCOUNT #752-3709 "ROTARY COMMON – IMPROVEMENTS" FOR IMPROVEMENT OF CERTAIN LAND ADJACENT TO SALMON BROOK PROPOSED AS A PARK AND NAMING SAID PARK "ROTARY COMMON"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN PLAMONDON TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Plamondon

I would like to note that the Board of Public Works gave a favorable recommendation on this.

Jay Minkarah

I am sitting in for Kathy Hersh who had a meeting conflict this evening. I think most people are familiar with the rotary common project. It has been receiving a lot of publicity lately. We do view this as a key redevelopment and really environmental reclamation project. It was the gateway to the city's downtown area. The project would remove what has become a blight within that area and help to not only bring us a new park, but help to restore Salmon Brook within that area. It is a brook that I think has been a volatile part of this city's development. It is not really very well appreciated. The Hippo recently called it the lost river so we also hope that this project will renew appreciation of Salmon Brook and the role that it has played in the city's history. Currently the property is owned by the Department of Transportation. It was purchased in '98 as mitigation for the widening of the turnpike. It kind of sat there for a while, but we have been working with the State for a number of years. The State has dedicated \$235,000 towards restoration of the site. Basically their concept was we are going to basically restore it, stabilize it, and then turn it over to the city not really take it to a further level. Our vision is to really make it a park that will become an asset to the city.

What is in front of us is the acceptance of \$100,000, which is a gift from the Rotary towards furthering this project. I think we are also very pleased to have local Congressman Bass has managed to get an allocation of \$250,000 for the coming fiscal year towards this project as well.

With these funds we believe that we will be able to move forward, create a design and implement the park within the coming year.

Chairman Cardin

Jay could you for the record tell the public where exactly this is – this is on Main Street correct?
Jay Minkarah

Yes. This is on Main Street. It kind of looks like a brown field site – it has been that way for a number of years – basically across from the Simoneau Plaza – it you look across the street from that area you will see kind of a fenced off area that looks like it needs a little bit of help.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you.

Alderman Lozeau

I would like to go on record as thanking the Rotary Club. Bill Barry is its President. Jack Tulley and all the boys over there – it is a great project for them, and I know they are really passionate about it. Thank you to the Rotarians.

Alderman Plamondon

This is the former International Paper Box Machine facility that since the building has long come down – historically Main Street there is a beautiful granite arch bridge that is hidden. One of the goals is to try to open that up so we can see that nice stone arch bridge holding up Main Street. Overall it is estimated to be a \$600,000 project. I want to thank Congressman Bass. As Jay said Congressman Bass has appropriated \$250,000 for this, DOT did \$235,000, and the Rotarians – their national office sent out a plea or a request to all Rotarians for a centennial project – it is the 100th year anniversary. They wanted every Rotarian to have a project that would help the community, that would be visible, that would be a win/win, and just to do everything they could. Our local Nashua Rotary came forward with this project. I just can't thank them enough for coming forward. I will happily support any legislation to name this Rotary Common. I think it is very appropriate and this is another project that we are looking at turning an extremely blighted property into something that is going to be the destination. It is going to be a hub, it is going to be what Nashua has always missed, and that is a common. It is a green space for our downtown, which we don't have. This will give us that. This I think is extremely exciting. Kudos and thank you to all involved.

If you go there now and look at it you can easily get ideas. There will be some design charettes on this where the community is going to be asked for their involvement. I would encourage anyone to go there, walk around, and you will instantly get ideas of what can be there. Right now there is some homeless shanties, there is a new undesirable things going on there, but with

this project we are going to clean that up. Thank you.

Alderman Tollner

I don't want to belabor the topic, but I also would like to thank everybody involved especially the rotary. I think the names were mentioned; Bill Barry, Jack Tulley, I think Paul Clarke was the former President of the rotary. They really did a nice job and stepped up.

Chairman Cardin

Alderman Tollner I would like to thank them as well. If they were looking for a high profile much noticeable property this is the one. In downtown Nashua this is it. Thanks to all who participated in making this happen. Thank you Jay. The motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-04-152.

MOTION CARRIED

R-04-157

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

CONSENTING TO THE CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY AT 31 CROSS STREET BY THE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE TO THE GREATER NASHUA DENTAL CONNECTION, INC., AND ASSUMPTION OF A MORTGAGE SECURING OBLIGATIONS OF A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AGREEMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lozeau

I would like to abstain from any comments and I would like to ask that my name be taken off. I hadn't realized my wife was still on the Board of Directors and is the past President of the Greater Nashua Dental Connection, and I wouldn't want the perception of a conflict.

Chairman Cardin

Paul are you going to start this off?

Paul Newman

You have representatives of the Police Athletic League approached the city several years ago to acquire this property to serve as a community asset and neighborhood center. They can

describe how that has transitioned I am sure into something that perhaps is different than originally envisioned. Nevertheless the prospect is that the proposed use would still be consistent with the intent of Community Development Block Grant program as a neighborhood community resource facility serving the targeted population that is principally lower income.

Chairman Cardin

Paul have we done this elsewhere in the city in the past? Did we do this a few years back – another project?

Paul Newman

Conveyance – the only one that I can recall was a sheltered workshop that was assisted back in the late '70s or early '80s that eventually closed and was disposed of, and actually the city recouped the proceeds of the sale of that. In this case because that was simply going to be sold in the private market for other than a community purpose, but this will continue as such. It is contemplated and not uncommon around the country elsewhere.

Chairman Cardin

Are there any questions from the committee?

Alderman Plamondon

Probably through you Madam Chair to the Deputy Chief – I have been in this building many times – I am some of us on this committee also thought the use of CDBG monies for the original purpose – my questions will we still have a PAL facility there or police substation? Will there be anything along those levels still there? It is a good-sized building. Just wondering if this is going to be strictly the Dental Connection or what are the plans.

Wayne MacDonald

The Dental Connection is on the first floor. The second floor is open space. The DAV still has an office there. Part of the agreement was when they sold the building under the block grant was that they would be allowed to keep an office there indefinitely. We do not have, the police department, PAL, we do not have any type of office space there. Really the only thing that we have been doing recently, within the last couple of years – since I joined PAL, is basically we have been a landlord. We have been taking the two PAL officers that are assigned – the building where we have all of our programs out of is Ash Street. It is very successful. What has happened is we have taken the two officers assigned to PAL and they have basically been responsible for the maintenance of the building up there. The Dental Connection has been an excellent tenant. They have made improvements to the building. The program has been very successful. The PAL board unanimously agreed that it would be the best fit to turn the property

over to the Dental Connection. As far as police presence there we don't have that up there, and we haven't had it up there.

Alderman Plamondon

I know when we first purchased the building we were looking at kind of modeling after Ash Street in a way. Is it because of budget cuts in the Police Department that we weren't able to continue with the community policing – in other words we have the two officers now, but I know when we first had this building over on French Hill we were trying to do that, and we had a few events there and then things kind of fizzled. I am just wondering is it budget cuts that affected this?

Wayne MacDonald

I can't answer that from when first purchased the building. I know that when I got involved with PAL two years ago Phil's, Inc. was in the second floor and they had a program there for the middle school a Junior High program. Because of their budget cuts and the lack of attendance they decided to move the program over to Burke Street. Other than that I am not aware of – I believe way back when they did have some activities there. Having the two PAL officers we just could not extend over to that area based on all of the work that they have over at Ash Street.

Alderman Plamondon

Not that I am not supportive of this. I am just concerned. I am very familiar with that neighborhood over on French Hill, and I know a lot of people in that area. I know there are a lot of kids with nowhere to go. Way back when we acquired this property I was hoping that we could do something similar to Ash Street. That is just unfortunate that we weren't able to get that off the ground. I know that you have a facility on French Hill with the housing – Nashua Foundation for Housing – Greater Nashua Housing, and we have a substation there, but it is a small facility. We got CDBG monies for the park so we have a little park back there, but that is a little further away from this area. I am just concerned that the kids in that area really don't have any place to go. Hopefully maybe the Dental Connection will have some ideas to try to work in concert with the PAL office on Ash Street.

Way back we had some events where Ash Street and this facility, the former DAV building, were both involved in. We did our neighborhood night out, the Crime Watch Walk – we would go from either French Hill to Ash Street and vice versa and then we would have events there. We tried to get some things going. It brought a lot of kids out. Anyway that is just my two cents worth on this – not that I am not supportive of this I am just concerned. Thank you.

Paul Newman

I can shed some historical light on that. Maybe this is what you were thinking – the funding actually for this was originally approved for Neighborhood Housing Services. I think that must have been during the time when they were transitioning to the Greater Nashua Housing

Foundation and decided they didn't want to jump into this. Actually PAL stepped in because DAV wanted to sell the building and effectively acted as the savior of keeping it as a community facility. I think perhaps not necessarily with a program of their own in mind.

Chairman Cardin

It seemed to ring a bell when the transfer of ownership came up.

Alderman Tollner

I guess I have a question maybe for Paul – I have been over at the Dental Connection portion when they rehabbed the building there. If memory serves me correctly you have some amount of building that isn't being used right now by the Dental Connection and that is going to be vacant. Are there any plans to generate additional revenue by renting out or leasing a portion of the building or bringing in some additional programs – not necessarily of course PAL, but some other programs?

Paul Newman

I would defer to the representative of the Dental Connection, Jamie McNamee.

Jamie McNamee

I am the President of the Board of Directors for the Dental Connection. We have talked about leasing out that space in order to help meet the expenses. In fact, we have had some discussions with the Boys & Girls Club – they would like to put in a facility for after school use. That sounds like it would meet some of the needs and interests that you were talking about.

Chairman Cardin

Sounds like a good fit.

Alderman Tollner

That isn't in place right now though right?

Jamie McNamee

No.

Alderman Tollner

Thank you. I am on the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Club that is why I asked. I knew it

wasn't, but I wanted to clarify that. If we were voting on it and there was something going on right now I probably would refrain from the vote. Thank you.

Chairman Cardin

Is there any other discussion? The motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-05-157.

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Lozeau Abstained

R-04-162

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 \$285,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY, LAW ENFORCEMENT TERRORISM PREVENTION PROGRAM, INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #331-6217 "MOBILE COMMAND UNIT"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN PLAMONDON TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Plamondon

I want to know if we can get some information on this. Is there a matching fund? Do we already have the vehicle? I have seen this like armored car command center thing around Nashua. Is this the vehicle?

William Mansfield

That is not the vehicle. In September of last year, we ran a scenario involving police, fire, and it had to do with terrorism incident that happened down at BAE Systems. During this particular exercise that involved all of these different entities from throughout the State, we found that we had a command van that was in place, which is an old retired ambulance – I believe there was a hurricane happening that particular day that the exercise was being performed, and we found that ambulance that we had for the past 7 years (it is probably about 10 years old) that particular van could not hold any more than 2 people in there, you couldn't stand up in it. There is no place for a negotiator to be able to negotiate with the people inside the building, there was no place to have a conference so people could get together to discuss what was going on with the particular incident.

What ended up happening was a grant was developed from the Homeland Security, federal government, and basically we applied for it to get a command van. We went to a couple of different companies and looked at what they had for products, and came up with a 32 foot long vehicle, which would allow us to have I believe it is a 9 foot conference area, I think a 60 or 7 foot communications area, and also another 5 foot area where we could hold negotiations with anybody who is holding either a hostage or can be used just to hold personnel if need be.

The vehicle that you were discussing, the tank that was going around, that is a bear cat vehicle, it is an armored vehicle that is manned by the Special Reaction Team. That has no facilities in it such as this particular unit would have. This would have radios, interoperable radios for everyone within the state, it would have a satellite link for TV programming as well as cellular phones in it, a telephone system, a camera that would be able to record the incident as it was occurring out there. It is a fairly large vehicle. There are some communities throughout the State that are purchasing some of these units – none as large as the one we are purchasing, but this can also respond – this vehicle can also respond to other communities because we do have our Special Reaction Team respond to these other communities and this would be very beneficial for them.

There are no matching funds with this particular grant, although there are certain items that are not covered by the grant – items such as anything that has to do with the televisions – there is a roof rack that goes on top of the roof, awnings – there is a telephone system, hi-tech telephone system that connects with cellular – they won't cover that. The total for this \$285,000 – the total cost that the police department would need to kick in is approximately \$10,000 - \$12,000. That is basically for the technology and the extra equipment to go into the vehicle. The grant would cover the cost of the vehicle as well as the radios and some high tech equipment that goes in there, but will not cover everything.

Alderman Plamondon

One of my questions, and you kind of touched on it – how many are there currently in New Hampshire? Does State police have one?

William Mansfield

State Police have 1 or 2 and I know that their Highway Enforcement has one. Other than that I am not familiar with anyone else in the state that has a newer model one like what we are purchasing.

Alderman Plamondon

We said this works in conjunction with the bomb squad – it goes hand in hand. With the radios and such will you be able to work with the same frequency with Rockingham Ambulance as well as the EMTs in the surrounding communities? Nashua is typically is the first responder to say a terrorist event in Hudson or Merrimack will we have the same frequencies – will we have access?

William Mansfield

We will have interoperability with every entity in the entire State.

Alderman Plamondon

This is another expensive vehicle. Do we have a place to house this?

William Mansfield

Currently no. We are looking into the possibility of speaking with the Fire Department to garage it over in that area.

Alderman Plamondon

This segways into my argument for a new fire station. This is basically a fire truck money wise, and to have the high tech equipment like this exposed to the elements. I think we have to plan ahead. This is great. This unit will be prepared for a variety of terrorist activity, disaster events, natural as well correct?

William Mansfield

Correct.

Alderman Plamondon

It won't have any laboratory facilities or anything for testing...

William Mansfield

No it will not.

Alderman Plamondon

Thank you.

Alderman Tollner

First of all congratulations on getting the grant money for this. I just have a couple of questions. For argument sake the situation over in Hudson, Merrimack, Hollis, Brookline where they could use a vehicle like this would we be apt to lend them or allow them usage of this vehicle?

William Mansfield

I think we would allow them usage of the vehicle although we would probably have to have our personnel with it. Because of the technology that will be involved in this we will need somebody that will be able to use it and show other people how to operate the equipment.

Alderman Tollner

Have we had discussions internally as far as allowing usage by another town or city to use it and has anything been set up?

William Mansfield

There have been discussions internally within the Police Department that this vehicle would be able to be loaned out to other agencies and that was part of the grant also that if there was an incident that occurred that we would respond with this vehicle to these other entities if necessary, if they requested it.

Alderman Tollner

Then the additional monies that you are talking about - \$10,000 - \$12,000, is it safe for us to assume that will be absorbed within the present budget?

William Mansfield

Correct.

Alderman Tollner

I guess the only other question I would have – I think it is great – if we were to I don't know what some of the conditions are in accepting this grant money and allowing this vehicle to be used with say police staff to other municipalities, but if there was some re-appropriation of funds or whatever the expenses are for argument sake if this had to go to Merrimack or Hudson for a situation that the city would be reimbursed for any expenses that the city itself would incur if we were to lend the vehicle. I think it is a great vehicle and should be used as best we can, not just in Nashua, but the surrounding communities, but I would be a little concerned that if it was to go to Merrimack we have expenses that we would incur to do that that the City of Nashua be reimbursed.

... tape flipped ...

William Mansfield

I think there is something to date. We do respond to other communities for a variety of issues including the Bomb Unit and the Special Reaction Team. We have understandings with these other departments for mutual aid – we have mutual aid agreements – I am not familiar with exactly what the reimbursement issues are and how that works, but there is something in place currently.

Alderman Tollner

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Great. Thank you.

Alderman Plamondon

To continue with Alderman Tollner's statements, like Nashua Fire Rescue another way of addressing the funding I think Nashua Fire Rescue and variety of municipalities across the country what they have been doing is regionalizing so like with our HAZMAT it is Souhegan Valley and the various communities that are involved from Milford out give a small amount of money annually. I can just see – I suggest this to the police department as an alternative as well – be it Souhegan Valley Terror Disaster Force now Hudson used to have a dive team now Nashua is going to do it, we have the bomb squad, we have robots, we are getting the technology for this van so it might be something that we ought to look at as a suggestion is regionalizing and getting at least something from these other communities up front. It is just an idea. It works in other communities. I know Nashua Fire Rescue does it. It is just a thought.

MOTION CARRIED

R-05-165

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 FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$63,125 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #331-6207 "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT 05 FUNDS"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Philip Costa

This is a continuing fund that we have been receiving from the New Hampshire Department of Justice since '98. Right now this money is used to pay for the salary and benefits for a Domestic Violence Advocate and Domestic Violence Specialist to assist victims of domestic violence and investigate and follow up on all misdemeanor charges.

Alderman Tollner

I will repeat the same thing I said last year. I think this is a great program. I guess one of the questions that the Board has had in the past so I will ask it now is we are not increasing the position or the hours of the position – we are maintaining what we already have in place – I think we increased it last year or two years ago – are there any matching funds that come along with this commitment from the city's perspective?

Philip Costa

Back in '98 it was initially a 25% match, and the funds have decreased so we are currently matching approximately 46%. It has been absorbed through our budget.

Chairman Cardin

Do we just have the one domestic violence advocate in this city?

Philip Costa

Through the legal bureau yes. We are currently on the 12th of January we applied for a newer grant that we found to help them because they are understaffed. We are not going to find out until probably mid summer.

Alderman Lozeau

I can speak from experience in the domestic violence that this is a very, very crucial position to have. What the advocates do and what the prosecutors office does for the domestic violence victims in this area is unbelievable. It is nice to see that this money is still coming in from the feds. I know last year they were saying that money is diminishing every year. Thank you for applying it and keep looking for domestic violence money please.

Alderman Plamondon

Just to add to that – my dealing with the Crime Watch and getting statements and reports – it is the number one issue that we have is domestic violence, and the varying degrees of it. One hundred and twenty five thousand is super. I would like to quadruple that, and hopefully we get some more grant money because it is a shame some of the things that go on out there in people's homes and the abuse – such as the murder on Everett Street. Perhaps if that individual had gotten some help maybe that woman would still be alive. That is just one example of the extreme of what these officers have to deal with on a day-to-day, hour-to-hour basis. This is great to get this, and hopefully we will be getting more.

Alderman Tollner

I thought we had roughly about 1.5 FTEs. If we are talking about roughly \$120,000 I think there was more than one staff person that these funds were going to.

Philip Costa

Right now the domestic violence unit has an advocate and a specialist. Right now I believe the department is looking to increase staffing there, but that isn't pertinent to this grant.

Alderman Tollner

Okay, but there is more than one person dealing with this right in there.

Philip Costa

Yes.

Chairman Cardin

Still understaffed I am sure.

Alderman Tollner

Absolutely understaffed, but I want to make sure it wasn't one now when I thought that there were two people.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

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HELD IN COMMITTEE

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From: Paul Newman, Manager, Urban Programs Department

Re: Plus Company and Area Agency HOME Allocations

DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Committee Clerk