

REPORT OF THE HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 16, 2005

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Wednesday, February 16, 2005 at 7:45 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: Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane  
Alderman Kathryn D. Vitale

Also in Attendance: Officer Zenus Paulson, Nashua Police Department  
Paul Newman, Manager, Urban Programs  
Klaas Nijhuis, Deputy Manager, Urban Programs  
Bridgett Belton-Jette, Director, Neighborhood Housing Serv.

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COMMUNICATIONS

From: Paul Newman, Manager, Urban Programs Department  
Klaas Nijhuis, Deputy Manager, Urban Programs Department  
Re: Community Development Block Grant/HOME Funds: Multi-Year Summaries

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

-  
**R-05-169**

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 \$106,250 FROM THE  
2004 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT  
#332-6315**

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

**R-05-170**

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 \$15,000 FROM THE  
ALLSTATE FOUNDATION INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #332-6309 "NASHUA  
FIRE RESCUE'S RISK WATCH PROGRAM"**

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

**R-05-177**

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 UP TO \$30,000 FROM THE MCLEAN CONTRIBUTIONSHIP INTO  
SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #331-6214 "MCLEAN/PAL-OUTFITTING BOMB SQUAD  
VEHICLE"**

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

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Cardin

We do have officer E. Z. Paulson here to speak on this resolution this evening.

Alderman Deane

I have seen the vehicle I think when they first got it, and there was nothing in the back. I was wondering what you thought the cost would be to do the fit-up.

Zenus Paulson

Ladies and gentlemen of the committee – Officer Paulson of the Nashua Police Department, PAL Program/Police Department Bomb Squad. Alderman Deane to answer your question several proposals were put together preliminarily to write this grant proposal to a private contributionship. Those preliminary figures were in the \$40,000 price range.

Alderman Deane

You have \$30,000 so where are you going to find the other \$10,000?

Zenus Paulson

Yes sir we have. Part of the proposal was form the McLean Contributionship through PAL was a \$30,000 grant; \$20,000 of it would be a straight donation and \$10,000 would be contingent upon matching funds. Further down the Bomb Squad Trust Fund currently has \$7,200 in it that was gathered as a result of a four-year project to obtain a hazardous duty robot and a transport and docking station for said robot. Then \$2,800 will come from the operating account listed. Would you like me to cite that sir?

Alderman Deane

No that is okay.

Zenus Paulson

That would give us our \$10,000 matching component to put the project together, and hopefully everything will come to fruition shortly.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Zenus Paulson

Thank you sir.

Alderman Plamondon

Do we have any more t-shirts to sell?

Zenus Paulson

That kicked off the project sir. We are all out of t-shirts for now.

Alderman Plamondon

I have had people calling me wanting some too by the way.

Alderman Tollner

Why don't you give them one of the twenty that you have at your house?

Zenus Paulson

T-shirts do work well as wallpaper.

Alderman Plamondon

You do a great job. Thank you.

Zenus Paulson

Thank you sir.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you very much. The motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-05-177. Is there any other discussion?

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-05-180**

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

**AMENDING THE USE OF FUNDING BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF GREATER NASHUA IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2003 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

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

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Cardin

I know that Bridgett Belton-Jette is here. Did you want to join us and talk to the committee about what this project is?

Bridgett Belton-Jette

The project for which this was originally allocated was acquisition and development of the property on Locke Street owned by BAE Systems into 7 units of family housing. We worked on the project a long time, and unfortunately not because of funding, but because of insurance and the amount of asbestos on the site we were unable to complete the project and had to walk away from it.

I mentioned earlier we recently acquired – in fact I closed on December 23<sup>rd</sup> on the property at 2 Shattuck Street. It is still in the very early stages of development, but we do own it, and we are looking to build there 4 units of low-income family housing three 3—bedroom units and a 2-bedroom. We will also be relocating our offices and having our home ownership center conference room, neighborhood space on the site. We presently provide in our current office site we provide space to the Nashua Police Department as a sub-station and we would hope to be able to consider doing that at that site as well. Our current office space is the lower level of the two-family on 50 Tolles Street and we would be turning that into a two-bedroom apartment. In total we would add five new family units to the city. This funding we are asking be re-allocated into the Shattuck Street project.

Alderman Lozeau

The Shattuck Street project would that be rental?

Bridgett Belton-Jette

It would be rental.

Alderman Lozeau

Does it meet city planning, zoning, and all that stuff?

Bridgett Belton-Jette

I am in the beginning stages. We just as I said I closed on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. I have at this point just finished replacing the roof on the building in fact yesterday, which was an immediate necessity. Our board will be meeting tomorrow to pick the engineering firm to do the site work and the survey work for the variances and presentations with the Board. We have an attorney to do that presentation for us. It is a very early stage in terms of that.

Alderman Lozeau

Thank you.

Alderman Deane

You picked a good time to replace the roof.

Bridgett Belton-Jette

In between snowstorms.

Alderman Deane

The total of the transfer is \$24,500?

Bridgett Belton-Jette

Correct.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Chairman Cardin

The motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-05-180.

Alderman Gage

I know you have not approached the city at this time for planning or zoning so we don't have dates for those?

Bridgett Belton-Jette

Correct. I need to do the site plan before I submit an application.

Alderman Gage

The only reason I mention that after the article that was in the Nashua Telegraph Sunday regarding that piece of property I got about a dozen phone calls from constituents that were concerned with the possible development. I just want to make sure that – I spoke to her earlier to advise her that there were a lot of folks who had called me and were concerned with what will be happening there. I just want to let the constituents know that as we move along I will keep them apprised of when hearings are and things like that.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you for those comments Alderman Gage. As you know and I think most of us on this committee know that the projects that have been done by Nashua Neighborhood Housing Services have all been, in my opinion, very successful. They have been good neighbors. I expect that would be the case as well in this building.

Alderman Plamondon

I just would like to add that if there are any other properties that you need to walk away from or whatever you are more than welcome in the Ward 4 area and the Tree Streets. We would like to see some more attention to the area. The residents of Ward 4 welcome you.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you Alderman Plamondon. The motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-05-180.

Paul Newman

Under CDBG, when there is a change in the site it is the procedure to again offer the opportunity for public hearing, and that may get to what Alderman Gage is suggesting is the residents have a chance to weigh in on it because site certainly does make a difference in terms of community neighborhood interest. I would suggest that the committee schedule a hearing for your next meeting in March.

Chairman Cardin

We would be happy to do that. Perhaps we could make sure that your constituents that have concerns are able to come and voice their concerns at a public hearing.

Alderman Gage

-  
Thank you.

Paul Newman

Of course it will be advertised in the Telegraph.... **Tape flipped ...**

Alderman Lozeau

I question the motion on the floor.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN PLAMONDON TO HOLD R-05-180 PENDING A PUBLIC HEARING**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO HOLD R-05-180 IN COMMITTEE PENDING A PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 16, 2005 AT 7:00 PM IN THE ALDERMANIC CHAMBER**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

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HELD IN COMMITTEE

-  
From: Paul Newman, Manager, Urban Programs Department  
Re: Plus Company and Area Agency HOME Allocations

DISCUSSION

Alderman Tollner

I have two items before we wrap up this evening. I received a call from Norm over at the Boys & Girls Club. They are in the process right now – I guess nationally the Boys & Girls Club have changed their program Back-A-Kid, which has been a program that has been around for quite some time to a fairly new program called The One. Basically it adds to the Back-A-Kid program. During the last month and a half people at the club have been very busy learning the new program and understanding the new program. There are certain requirements that come along with it from the national association of the Boys & Girls Club. The reason why I mention that is each year in January they have to submit to Review & Comment their requests. This year they missed the deadline. For the past, if I am not mistaken, either 8, 9, or 10 years they have a Latino program that has been funded by Review & Comment. I think last year the funds were increased if I do recall from about \$20,000 to \$24,000. I told Norm I thought it would be appropriate for him to send a memo to the Chair and the committee explaining how they find themselves in this situation and also cc Review and Comment because it involves a considerable amount of the children that go to the Boys & Girls Club. They apologize for missing the deadline, but at the same time they are very concerned about the results that they may have to discontinue this after school program if the funds are not available. He will be sending a memo to the committee, to Review & Comment, and I suggested that he forward a memo to Paul as well explaining the situation that they are in.

Alderman Lozeau

What is the deadline?

Alderman Tollner

I think it was like the 21<sup>st</sup> of January. I don't know what the date was.

Paul Newman

Actually we don't deal with the mechanics of accepting them so I am not certain.

Alderman Tollner

Alderman Lozeau I will find out what the date was.

Chairman Cardin

I know that Review & Comment has already started interviewing all of the agencies, they have already – I am not sure how to handle a deadline issue. The Chair of Review & Comment this year is Lauren Byers and Juliana Lastowka.

Alderman Deane

I had a question through you to Alderman Tollner. Jim what was the total cost of the program?

Alderman Tollner

If I am not mistaken it was around \$24,000.

Alderman Deane

Okay. Thank you Jim.

Alderman Tollner

I was just made aware of it, and wanted to make sure that at the next meeting of Human Affairs to let everybody know. If I might did you discuss the elderly tax exemption yet?

Chairman Cardin

No.

Alderman Tollner

As we stated last night at the Board of Aldermen meeting at every committee meeting that we

have we want to make the public aware especially the seniors regarding the elderly tax exemption. Due to the change in state law the filing date for exemptions and credits have been changed this year. Prior to 2005 the law allowed taxpayers to file for the elderly tax exemption and gave them until August 1<sup>st</sup> of every year and for veteran's credits until August 1<sup>st</sup> following their final tax bill. This year all of the filing dates for exceptions and credits have been changed to April 15<sup>th</sup>. This new date may come as a surprise to many who think they can file after they receive their tax bill. If there are any seniors out there – we are trying to avoid any confusion and we want to make sure that you have the ability to receive the elderly tax exemption. We again will read this statement at most of our committee meetings to avoid any denials due to improper filing. Alderman Deane last night asked for a phone number. I didn't have time today as I was very busy at work. I will surely get the phone number tomorrow, and add it to this statement.

### Alderman Deane

I just wanted to reflect on some of the testimony – some of the work that a lot of the agencies have done and the good that has come out of it. They work hard at what they do. I appreciate them coming down and testifying.

I looked through the former years, and it looks like a lot of it is pretty much the window, but I went through the memo that Paul and Klaas had sent. The close to \$48,000 that is in contingency from '04 and we are holding – I am sorry it is \$41,236 for '05 and it was Paul's suggestion to redirect that \$48,000 to another purpose. Is that correct Paul?

### Paul Newman

As part of the consideration of new projects each year we give a tabulation of funds that remain from prior years. Those can be blended in with the new grant amounts so that affectively more projects can be accommodated. That could be part of the resolution for next year's grant to re-program these former funds. That will come at such time as this committee agrees to sponsor a resolution – usually at your March meeting.

### Alderman Deane

My question is the projects from '03 and '04 have pretty much been completed, and there is no need for any of the agencies that started those projects to go to contingency because the funds have been expended and the projects have been exhausted and people are happy that what has been done has been done?

### Paul Newman

There are still active ones. A few are in '03 and indeed that is where there is the smallest amount of contingency, which is \$4,000. In '04 and '05 there are still active projects.

Alderman Deane

You feel confident enough to redirect that \$48,000 or just leave it in contingency?

Paul Newman

There is a total of close to \$88,000 so leaving some cushion to ensure that those projects may be finished, but being able to re-program most of it.

Alderman Deane

And most of it was \$48,000?

Paul Newman

Of course even at such time as they are finished if in fact those funds aren't needed they aren't lost. They can at a future date again be brought forward.

Alderman Deane

Although this committee has been nice to the Hunt Building I am just looking when we got the staging off if there is a few dollars left here where we can do another section of wall while the guys are there – what I wanted to do is see what it would cost for that one section of wall that is being staged on probably two sections of wall one is a small section because of all of the glass – the south side and then not the front but the back side that is next to Maffee's Garage – that is where all of the staging will be set up. I know we have prices. I have them in my truck somewhere but Hillary has them and so does Janice Tremblay because they did a total breakdown. I was going to see what the cost was for either one or two pieces of that wall and come back and see if the committee would entertain trying to get more of that done. I would love to get the whole building pointed and be done with it.

Chairman Cardin

We would be happy to entertain that Alderman Deane. You have done a great job advocating for that building.

Alderman Deane

I will get a memo out to the cost of the final four walls or whatever. Thank you.

Alderman Plamondon

Along that same line – Alderman Deane beat me to the point – of course I want to help the Hunt

Building, but there is another project that is also in need, and that is the Nashua Heritage Rail Trail. We had shifted \$25,000 from the Nashua Heritage Rail Trail into Memorial Field for the lighting, and at that time it was understood that at a future date those monies would be replaced. Right now there is \$16,000 remaining, and we have a signage program that has been moving, but not quickly because there are so many other things that we are looking at. I am also with Livable, Walkable Communities who have identified this as the pedestrian arterial for the inner city from downtown in the Tree Streets neighborhood and the Ledge Street neighborhoods – we have got some key areas where we would like to see some lighting to promote safety and some additional benches and trashcans. There are other needs that have come up as well as projects such as the Boy Scouts are looking at doing and other agencies that have adopted sections of the Rail Trail; the Girl Scouts, Boy & Girls Club, PAL, City Year – we have a mural project that we are in a competition now with Greater Nashua Area Youth. At some point I would like to even if – I wouldn't mind maybe some money back this year in this line item – I would like it all especially with the fear of the uncertainty of CDBG in coming years.

The Nashua Heritage Rail Trail as you all know is highly used and it goes through several neighborhoods. Some of those areas are problematic. We want to address some of those things. Thank you.

#### Chairman Cardin

Alderman Plamondon I am sure this committee is more than happy to look at the proposals that are put in. I don't know if you have worked with Paul Newman on documenting some of those, getting prices, and making sure they are doable in the forthcoming year or is that something you have worked with Paul Newman on?

#### Alderman Plamondon

Right now we are really focusing on trying to get signage up to the groups who have adopted as well as the sections that have been named in honor of prominent Nashuans.

#### Chairman Cardin

Has an application been put forth for the CDBG funds yet or ...

#### Alderman Plamondon

There is money in the line item for it. There is still \$16,000 now. My fear is we wanted to try to – well dealing with Livable, Walkable we have some areas that we are targeting trying to get some lighting. The Eaton Street Bridge is a problematic area and we knew it was even when we were doing the trail and paving it. We have had to expend some funds – I believe it came out of Park & Rec money to put curbed fencing. We still have some problems in that area. They seem to – things from computers to chairs – some young individuals find it humorous to throw it over the bridge. We have curtailed that somewhat, but it is still an area that we would like to try to get

some illumination on. That is one example of a few of them. Right now the focus is on signage and hopefully lighting, but there is not enough money.

Chairman Cardin

What you are saying is the signage that you are working on the money has already been set aside for that purpose, and you may be looking for more funding for...

Alderman Plamondon

What I am looking for is reinstatement of funds that were shifted to complete the lighting at Memorial Park. That wouldn't be done in piecemeal while we had equipment there so the city saves money with doing that project all at once.

Chairman Cardin

I think what I am asking Alderman Plamondon is if you have projects that aren't currently in the CDBG – new projects or projects that you want reinstated if you worked with Urban Programs Department on documenting what those are and what the costs would be?

Alderman Plamondon

I guess what I am trying to clarify is this is an ongoing project that has been identified and there are monies, \$16,000 currently, in place for the Nashua Heritage Rail Trail. That is the targeted area and those monies are in place for that.

Chairman Cardin

I understand, but if you are looking for other monies there should be some documentation outlining what that is and when that project might take place I guess is what I am asking you for. I understand that it is ongoing, but I think that is what happened last time is it wasn't moving forward so we redirected that money. I guess what I am looking for is something documenting what exactly it is you want to do and if you are asking for new funding then maybe you should be working with Paul to identify how much funding you will need to do certain projects.

Alderman Plamondon

I see your point, but I guess what I am saying is from my viewpoint it is not new funding. It is the same existing project that we shifted monies from the Memorial Park to complete that project thereby the Nashua Heritage Rail Trail and that project took the back seat to complete and save money with Memorial Field. That is what I am trying to say. Now to give additional details we can certainly do that. I have been working with Paul and Kathy Hersh and our focus now is trying to get some signs up.

Chairman Cardin

I understand what you are saying, but right now you are telling me there is \$16,000 in CDBG that is not going to cover the fencing or the other projects that you are talking about and you are saying it is not a new project, but the money is not there for that because it was used for something else right?

Alderman Plamondon

Because of an emergency status.

Alderman Tollner

The money is not there and you want – put it this way if you want to replenish the money you have to file and talk to Paul.

Chairman Cardin

We need to know how much that is and what the projects are that it is going to go for.

Alderman Tollner

We just aren't going to be able to dump the money back in that used to be there without...

Chairman Cardin

Without documenting what it is we are putting it back in for I guess is all I am looking for.

Alderman Deane

What is the plan?

Alderman Plamondon

It is the same plan that goes back to the construction of ...

Paul Newman

I am pretty sure that the original \$40,000 or so was for a skate park along the rail trail. I don't know whether that is still contemplated. I think that was the reason it was reduced, and until such time as that ...

Alderman Plamondon

It was amenities. The skate park was a possibility, basketball courts, tennis courts, bachi for the

elderly over by Gatewood Manor – there were several things that we were looking at – recreation type items to address the needs of the residents in that area between the elderly and the youth. Those plans were there, but they all took a back seat in order to move forward with Memorial Field. Thereby this project has really been severely stalled.

Chairman Cardin

I guess what I am asking from your is to document what projects you want to move forward with and work with Paul in setting a price to those so that if money were to be put in there we would know what we were funding exactly.

Alderman Plamondon

Then what I will ask is Community Development to move this back to a front burner project.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you Alderman Plamondon. Are there any other discussion items?

Paul Newman

I put an excerpt from a recent Community Development Digest that I subscribe to, which has news on what is going on in Washington, funding developments and particularly about the budget proposal to eliminate the Community Development Block Grant, which is of course rather ironic given your meeting tonight and given our community forum coming up. I just want to briefly say that we have through this association – this is the Nashua Community Development Association to which we subscribe, they offer templates for letters and petitions and such that communities may use as they wish to address to their elected representatives, their congressional delegation, as they see fit. We can make this available to the administration and if the Board of Aldermen either individually or as a group would want to put something together you could contact myself or Klaas and we could assist with providing history of the affects of CDBG in Nashua, and like I said suggested format of this organization.

Alderman Lozeau

I wonder if a resolution from this Board would be in order as we have done to Charlie Bass for one thing or another.

Chairman Cardin

I think that is a good idea. I also would go along with some kind of a letter to the delegation as well as a resolution outlining the affect it would have on this community not to have these funds available for all of these wonderful projects that have been going on here in the city.

Paul Newman

If we can be of any assistance in preparing something just let us know.

Alderman Lozeau

Good to go.

Paul Newman

Okay well we will assume we will do it and send it along to all.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you Paul.

Alderman Plamondon

To be accurate I think we need to first..

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN PLAMONDON 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: Paul Newman, Director, Urban Programs  
Re: Community Development Digest – CDBG Funding

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

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Tollner

I would probably word it a communication that Paul Newman received a copy of so that for the record it is not from Paul Newman. Just to be technical. I don't want someone to come back later and say Paul didn't write this.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Paul Newman

The budget process I guess is going to be starting very shortly and it was urged in these various

things that we have seen that committee should take action within a couple of weeks so if you were to have a resolution introduced you may want to consider passing it at that meeting.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you Paul. Thank you Klaas for all of your input and help this evening. Is there any other discussion?

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner  
Committee Clerk