

REPORT OF THE HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 20, 2005

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Thursday, October 20, 2005 at 7:08 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chairman Lori Cardin presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner  
Alderman David D. Lozeau

Members not in Attendance: Alderman Marc W. Plamondon, Vice Chair  
Alderman Kevin E. Gage

Also in Attendance: Klaas Nijhuis, Deputy Manager, Urban Programs  
Bob Mack, Manager/Welfare Officer  
Phillip Costa, Crime Prevention Specialist, NPD

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COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

-  
**R-05-303**

Endorser: Alderman Lori Cardin

**AMENDING THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PLUS COMPANY ACTIVITY  
IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2006 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO GRANT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR CHANGES  
IN USE OF FUNDS, AND RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Cardin

The motion is to recommend passage and grant the recommendation for minor changes in use of the funds.

Klaas Nijhuis

The Resolution states it pretty clearly I believe. CDBG funds were awarded to this project to accomplish renovations to several bathrooms at this facility at 62 Harbor Avenue, which houses disabled people. It is a group home. The repairs needed to be made prior to the award of funding. We have a rather long funding cycle from grant writing to award. In order for that facility to continue to receive its state funding for the care of those it serves – the repairs to the bathrooms were made for which they had applied for funding, but there are other repairs which are also needed at this facility. They have asked us to consider funding those repairs.

The facility was built in 1985. It is a nice facility, but it is a dated facility at this point. The windows and doors are beginning to fail. They have requested that the \$28,000 that you awarded them back in May be allowed to be used for windows and doors.

Alderman Lozeau

I would just ask if the replacement of the windows and the doors would help conserve fuel/energy costs.

Klaas Nijhuis

One would hope so. Air infiltration is an issue. Any way that they can save money I am sure will help keep those service dollars for service and not for heating bills.

Alderman Lozeau

Thank you.

Chairman Cardin

The motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-05-303.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-05-306**

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

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$18,000 FROM**

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AS WELL AS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AREA TOWNS  
AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT  
#341-6406 "MEDIATION COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERVICES"**

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

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Cardin

Bob Mack is here this evening. If you would like to join us Bob and address the committee.

Bob Mack

Thank you. I am here to talk briefly about the mediation program. The mediation program has recently moved under the Welfare Department umbrella. It is coordinated by Sandra Mulcahy. She would have been here this evening, but she is recuperating from some medical procedures.

Alderman Tollner

How is she doing?

Bob Mack

She is doing well. She is back to work part time at this point and on the road to recovery. Thank you for asking.

This mediation program provides a unique and important service for troubled families seeking to resolve disputes. Since its inception back in 1984 and in response to the increased number of at risk juveniles in the community, the program has had a positive impact on keeping families together, preventing escalation of violence, and improving and increasing school attendance. Ms. Mulcahy the program coordinator has excessive training and experience in mediation as well as in training in emergency response through the DBARTs grant – part of the emergency preparedness grant. She has done a tremendous job while the program has been expanding over the last year or so even with a reduction in the actual hours spent coordinating that program as that program was reduced from a 60 hour per week down to 30 hours per week staffing.

Last year in FY '05 the program served over 400 area youth and families, which was an increase of 17% from the previous year. It is a tremendous value added to the community type of program. This program is funded primarily through the Hillsborough County Incentive Funds grant – that is the \$18,000 noted in the resolution, as well as some contributions that come in throughout the year from neighboring towns. Comparing this to the city's investment of around \$12,000 it is really a considerable net gain to the city of over \$6,000 when you take a look at it

and plus the benefits of the many volunteer mediators who are very skilled in their own professional fields – just the service they provide to these families in the city and the surrounding communities is invaluable. We thank you for considering acceptance of this money. If there are any questions?

Chairman Cardin

Any questions from the committee? The motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-05-306.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-05-307**

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 THE SUM OF \$24,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #331-6228 “BOMB COMPETITIVE HOME-LAND GRANT 2005”**

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

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Cardin

Phil Costa is here – if you would like to join us an address the committee please.

Phillip Costa

Good evening. I am the grants manager. As you noted this is a competitive grant through New Hampshire Department of Safety and we were awarded \$24,000 in order to purchase an x-ray machine for our bomb squad. There is no matching requirement on this.

Chairman Cardin

Are there any questions, comments, or concerns? The motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-05-307.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-05-309**

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 THE SUM OF  
\$235,744 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, INTO  
SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #331-6229 “JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT  
(MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL)”**

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

ON THE QUESTION

Phillip Costa

We call this the JAG Grant – the Justice Assistance Grant. For you that have been on Human Affairs for a while you might remember the local law enforcement block grants that have come through in the past. That is now switched over to what we are calling the JAG Grant and will take the place of the block grants. This is a continuation of those kind of fundings – we will be funding the same kind of programs. Out of this \$235,000 approximately \$84,000 is earmarked for Nashua. The remainder will be split into other jurisdictions; specifically Manchester, Hudson, Milford, and Hillsborough County. Nashua will use their portion of the funds to fund special overtime details to take care of needs as they arise, and also to purchase equipment such as laser radars and to fund other programs that we currently had funded through the Block Grant like the RAD Program, Teen Nights, Car Seat Safety checks – things along that nature.

Alderman Tollner

They are all good programs. I guess the question I have is you say we will get approximately \$84,000 out of this grant?

Phillip Costa

That is correct.

Alderman Tollner

Help me – why would the legislation – I know it says multi-jurisdictional, but why in the future wouldn't we have relative to the acceptance and appropriation of the sum of \$84,000 since that is the only dollar amount that we will get, and if it reads the way we state here do we take \$235,000 in ...

Phillip Costa

We will be acting as the Fiscal Agent. This is a multi-jurisdictional. The Department of Justice

deemed us to be in disparate jurisdiction where Hillsborough County has a lot of costs where they are running their jails and whatnot, but they don't report crime, they don't have rapes or whatnot where we report crime through the Niber System so they have grouped us together with Hillsborough County and said you are going to get awarded \$235,000 and you will have to figure out a way to split it. We have done that based on manpower, crime data – we all came together and agreed upon this. Where Nashua has a good system for administering the grants we took the lead as the fiscal agent, and we will be distributing the remainder of the funds to them. They have already put in applications – these are the jurisdictions that have put in applications and those have been approved as well by the Department of Justice.

Alderman Tollner

I think it is great that we are getting the money so my questions aren't like hey we don't want the money because we want the grant money, but a couple of questions – who decides, I know you said you came to an agreement that Nashua will get \$84,000. What was the disbursement of dollars to the other communities?

Phillip Costa

Manchester being the largest city and having the most crime got about I believe it was \$110,000, Milford and Hudson both got in the area of \$20,000 some odd and Hillsborough County got near \$11,000 based on a combination of manpower in the Police Department's or forces and their non-crime data as well.

Alderman Tollner

By these dollars coming to Nashua so the total grant coming to Nashua and I understand we will disburse the dollars out – does that put us in any position where when they give out the grant money and look at it and say well it looks like Nashua got \$230,000, Manchester in this case according to their records would get nothing even though they are getting the \$110,000...

Phillip Costa

In the actual grant application it is split out as to what jurisdiction got which amount in the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed by all of the .. our Mayor signed it, the Mayor of Manchester, Hillsborough County – it was all signed by representatives.

Alderman Tollner

Okay so by us taking the lead and then disbursing it doesn't put us at a disadvantage for future grant dollars that may be dolled out by any of these federal programs?

Phillip Costa

That is correct.

Chairman Cardin

Is there any other discussion on R-05-309?

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-05-315**

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter  
Alderman Lori Cardin  
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner  
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon  
Alderman Kevin E. Gage  
Alderman Robert Shaw  
Alderman David D. Lozeau  
Alderman Kathryn D. Vitale  
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF THE SUM OF \$400,000 RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FROM THE GRANT TITLED "ENCOURAGE ARREST POLICIES PROGRAM" INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #331-6230 "OVW ARREST POLICIES GRANT"**

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

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lozeau

Could you tell me what OVW stands for?

Phillip Costa

Office of Violence against Women.

Alderman Lozeau

That came up a few weeks ago and nobody knew, and you weren't here.

Phillip Costa

A lot of acronyms.

Alderman Lozeau

Yes. Thank you.

Alderman Tollner

I should have asked you about the other grant – is there any commitment on the city's part, matching dollars?

Phillip Costa

There is no matching requirement on the JAG Grant or on this grant or any of the three grants.

Alderman Tollner

Great. This is a great program and every year that we get the grant money we couldn't spend money any better than to go after..

Phillip Costa

This was another competitive grant and this is going to help increase the staffing in our domestic violence unit. We are going to use this to put in a new Sargent, an Officer Advocate, and a Secretary that they dearly need. In the last five years they have gone to step out 740 misdemeanor domestic violence cases to this year – I was speaking with the advocate and they are already close to 1,500 and we have two more months left in the year. Their workload has increased dramatically. The PD realized that and we have been able to find some funding through another competitive grant.

Chairman Cardin

Good money – thanks for your hard work.

Alderman Lozeau

While Officer Costa is here – I understand Judd Gregg just won \$850,000 in the Megabucks.

Phillip Costa

I heard that on the way over here.

Alderman Lozeau

I would suggest that you send a letter of request to our Congressman and ask him if he has any pet projects he would like to contribute to.

Phillip Costa

It actually said he was donating all of it.

Alderman Tollner

It looks as if you are saying that the cases have doubled so I am not sure whether – it is probably a good thing they are identifying more and tightening it up – that is amazing that it doubled in the last year.

Phillip Costa

In the last 4 or 5 years. This is since 2000. They have gone from 700 and some odd cases and we will; be over 1,500 this year.

Alderman Lozeau

It is not that the crime rate is up it is that the reporting of that particular type of crime through the educational process that women don't have to tolerate violence against them, and I believe they are coming forward more than they used to. Hence the increase in the numbers that we are seeing. It is not necessarily that there are more – would that be a correct statement Officer Costa?

Phillip Costa

I think it is a combination of both. We're also out there being more aggressive and we are tuning the patrolmen into how to identify these as well. The specialist now goes out and reintroduce all of the victims – when a patrolman is out there taking care of business they will go back out when things are a little more calmed down and it turns up a lot more cases and charges as well.

Alderman Lozeau

I just don't want it to be construed as we have a wave of domestic violence that hasn't been there before. Thank you.

Chairman Cardin

Is there any other discussion on this Resolution? The motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-05-315.

**MOTION CARRIED**

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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 7:20 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner  
Committee Clerk Pro Tem