

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing was conducted by the Human Affairs Committee on Thursday, February 16, 2006 at 7:38 P.M. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chairman Marc W. Plamondon presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner, Vice Chair (8:15 p.m.)
Alderman Richard LaRose
Alderman David MacLaughlin
Alderman Michael Tabacsko

Members not in Attendance:

Also in Attendance:

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CLERK

Chair Plamondon called for nominations for a Committee Clerk for 2006/2007

Alderman LaRose nominated Alderman MacLaughlin

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TABACSKO THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE NOW CLOSED
MOTION CARRIED**

**VOTE ON ELECTION OF ALDERMAN MACLAUGHLIN TO THE POSITION OF CLERK OF THE
HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING TWO YEARS**

ALDERMAN MACLAUGHLIN ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC HEARING

Consolidated Plan/Community Development Block Grant
and HOME Program

Comments on Past Performance; Identifying Needs for Future Activities;
Availability of CDBG Applications

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR

Bridgett Belton-Jette, Director, Neighborhood Housing Services, Greater Nashua

Maryellen Durso, Site Director, Nashua Area Health Center

Brian Young, Executive Director, Nashua Center (formerly Nashua Center for Multiply Handicapped)

Doug Murray, Community Council of Nashua

Charles Matthews, President, Hunt Building Board of Trustees

Joe Webster, New Hampshire Legal Assistance

Sheila O’Riordan, Grant Manager, Urban Programs Department

Ruth Morissette, Margarite’s Place

Jean Russell, Program Manager, Permanent Support Housing/Maple Arms Emergency Shelter of Harbor Homes

Klaas Nijhuis, Assistant Director, Harbor Homes

Ernest Boarbour, resident

John Slebodnick, Project Administrator, Urban Programs

Kathy St. Laurent, resident

Ken Peron, Ash Street

Rita Palquin, resident

Andy Demers, Business Manager, Greater Nashua Dental Connection

Chairman Plamondon

I was asked to enter into the record a communication to the Aldermanic Human Affairs Committee from Rob Riley, Director, Micro-Credit-NH, a program of the NH Community Loan Fund (copy attached hereto).

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION - None

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR – None

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION – None

The Public Hearing was declared closed at 9:30 P.M.

Alderman David MacLaughlin
Committee Clerk

Report to the City of Nashua Past and Current Use of CDBG Capital Assistance Funds Community Council of Nashua, NH

In 1939, the “Council House” at 7 Prospect Street was erected as a memorial to Mary Proctor Harris on a site donated by Mabel Chandler as a memorial to her parents. The building was well constructed in the style of a Virginia mansion of architectural renown, and has served the Community Council well through sixty-seven years since construction.

However, energy technology has advanced since 1939 and in 2000 we submitted a plan primarily targeted to upgrade our energy systems, including:

- Replace the original coal-oil furnace with three natural gas staged furnaces.
- Replace 29 window air conditioners with central air conditioning. (Window units will be donated to the city as they come out.)
- Replace the third floor electric heat with HVAC tied to the furnaces.
- Replace 80 original wooden windows with energy efficient double glazed vinyl windows.
- Repair the original slate roof.

The following outlines the cost and progress of the upgrades:

COMPLETED	CDBG	Expenses	CCN	Balance	7 Prospect St. Project
June-01	\$35,000			\$35,000	
June-02	\$30,000	\$46,905		\$18,095	Furnace w/ asbestos abatement
June-03	\$20,000	\$11,500		\$26,595	AC Design Plan
June-04	\$40,000	\$48,500		\$18,095	AC Installation 3rd Floor
September-05		\$52,134	\$34,039	\$0	AC Installation 2nd Floor
Total	\$125,000	\$159,039	\$34,039	\$0	

We experienced significant delays with the AC process. The two initial bid requests had no response. We hired an engineer to develop the retrofit plans and that resulted in bids, but at a much higher cost than we expected. We still have to complete the 1st floor, but the specifications are in place, even if the money isn't.

The following has been approved and will be addressed in the spring:

APPROVED	CDBG	Expenses	CCN	Balance	7 Prospect St. Project
May-05	\$20,000				Windows replacement - 1st 40.

We appreciate this opportunity from the City of Nashua to invest capital in our energy infrastructure. These energy upgrades are already reflecting savings in our heating bills and we expect that the summer will bring lower electric bills. We are also experiencing more even heating in the building, which is comforting to our staff and clients on cold winter mornings.

MOVING FORWARD

Two of our current energy projects are incomplete because of funding. These need to be addressed before we move into our new five-year plan:

NEEDED	CDBG	Expenses	CCN	Balance	7 Prospect St. Project
2006	\$45,000				HVAC Installation 1st Floor
2006	\$20,000				Windows replacement - 2nd 40.

The following list was included in the January 2005 Community Development Questionnaire regarding a five year Capitol Project plan. All work is proposed to rehabilitate our property at 7 Prospect Street, Nashua, NH. We propose undertaking each project with the intention of preserving the historical structure while upgrading.

Item	Unit	\$ Per unit	# Units	Total
Repair existing slate roof and snow guards	Each	\$ 21,950	1	\$ 21,950
Slate roof flashing and additional snow guards	Each	\$ 19,990	1	\$ 19,990
Suspended ceiling - first floor only	Sq Ft	\$ 2.40	4,000	\$ 9,600
Wallpaper	Sq Ft	\$ 2.00	30,000	\$ 60,000
Carpet	Sq Yd	\$ 22.00	2,000	\$ 44,000
Vertical blinds	Each	\$ 75	125	\$ 9,375
Receptionist renovations	Sq Ft	\$ 8.00	600	\$ 4,800
Receptionist mail and copier room	Door/frame	\$ 1,100	1	\$ 1,100
Electrical/Telephone/Data rework	Sq Ft	\$ 4.00	4,000	\$ 16,000
External door card swipes	Each	\$ 2,000	2	\$ 4,000
Re-core internal door locks, make new masters	Each	\$ 50	100	\$ 5,000
				\$ 195,815

Memo

Date: February 16, 2006

To: City of Nashua Alderman, Human Affairs Committee

From: Rob Riley, Director, MicroCredit-NH, a program of the NH Community Loan Fund

RE: Public Hearing February 16, 2006

Thank you for accepting this into the public record on my behalf.

MicroCredit-NH's mission is to stabilize and increase the income of self-employed people by providing access to micro loan and equity capital, business training and technical assistance and wider market opportunities. MicroCredit-NH is committed to providing services to self-employed and microbusiness owners in Nashua. For an entrepreneur working out of her home and aspiring to open a storefront, expand services or products, or build her client base, these services are essential and uniquely provided by MicroCredit-NH.

Over the past year, MicroCredit-NH has served entrepreneurs through one-on-one trainings and other support. Workshops have included Starting or Re-starting Your Business and time management. MicroCredit-NH is increasing its presence in Nashua and will be hosting additional training sessions to provide entrepreneurial support to emerging and existing businesses including a bookkeeping and accounting workshop on March 22 and a Marketing Roundtable Discussion for Latino business owners on March 30.

Thank you for your continued support to provide these essential business development services to the Nashua community.