

HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MARCH 14, 2016

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Monday, March 14, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire, Chairman, presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman June M. Caron, Vice Chair
 Alderman Tom Lopez
 Alderman Don LeBrun
 Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja

Also in Attendance: Alderman David Schoneman
 Alderman Ken Siegel
 Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy

PUBLIC COMMENT

Reverend Josephine Norwood, Tolles Street Mission

We had applied for a grant because we need some help. The mission has been there for over 25 years servicing the community and our outreach is our food pantry. We have many outreaches that we do for the community. We have grown in such a large capacity. We have on record about 1,941 clients and when I say clients I mean one family unit which can be anywhere from zero to approximately six or seven people. In our food pantry we are in need of expanding it a little bit because it is a small facility in the back that has nothing to do with the church. On a 4-day week we give out commodities to the community. They come in twice per month and we have many organizations that support us. We are a volunteer based work community with the exception of just a few people that are on salary. We bring in from Lowell Farms, Starbucks, Chipotle and the Food Bank and from USDA and other people that bring in commodities and that is headed by Jacqueline Quereast; she was just recommended as volunteer of the year from the Congress of the United States from Frank Juanita and also from Senator Kelly's office and also she's got the volunteer service award given out from our governor and she's been working with us for over fifteen years. We do a great job with just volunteers. What we basically need is to expand the facility so that we can have a little privacy when the people come in to give out their information. We also wanted to have a little place for them to sit while they are waiting to be called and to get their food. We also needed to fix our floors and take one of our rooms which is actually the bathroom to make it smaller to give us some more room so that we have more room for the clients to walk in and out and have some safety with it at the same time. We have pulled through over 100,000 pounds of food that we gave out in 2015 which represents 50 tons of food. On top of that, in 2014 we gave out over \$600,000 worth of food. We are a small entity and our budget is very small. We only take in about \$60,000 and that's including our donors. Out of that about \$49,000 is used to help the community and keep the facilities going with gas/electric and what have you. We just really need some help and we are asking for a little help because I believe if they do that little expansion it would help with our clients and help us service the community in a better way.

COMMUNICATIONS

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARON 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: Jim Donchess, Mayor
Re: FY17 CDBG HOME City Requests

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARON TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

We sent you a memo that covers the city's requests and suggestions regarding the use of the administrative money. As you know I have Ms. Schena here from Urban Programs and Mr. Caggiano from the Parks Department. We are focusing on three projects; number one is the Labine Park project which would complete the Legacy Playground at Labine Park and the rail trail lighting which Mr. Caggiano can talk about in some detail and the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Park basketball court.

Mr. Nicholas Caggiano, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation

We have three requests that we would like you to consider. The first one is for Labine Park to complete the Legacy Playground project. Currently we went back out to bid to get some more attractive bids to get the project done. We pulled some things out of the bid that we've been doing over the winter to lower the cost. The equipment itself is going to be purchased separately by the department and that purchase is going to the Board of Public Works in March and going to Finance in early May. We are hoping to get the project started in mid-June as soon as school gets out and the goal is to try and get this done before school gets back in. We are seeking \$80,000 of CDBG money and this is really for two uses. The first use is to put in a state-of-the-art integration carousel spinner. There's only one in Massachusetts and it will be the only one in New Hampshire and this will allow people with accessibility issues to get in and enjoy the playground whether you are an adult or a child. It's quite the contraption. The second use of the money is to redo what we would term as the old concession stand/flood shack in the parking lot by the softball field. With the construction of the park we have to consider putting in appropriate restrooms for accessibility. We believe with the \$20,000 and the \$80,000 we can use city forces during the fall and as a winter project and convert the restrooms so that they are fully accessible. We are going to have to do some ramping and have some sidewalk work done. It's going to be quite a complex when it's done. We have the adult softball field and Elm Street also plays there. We have the pool across the street and two schools are going to have this amazing playground in the middle. The second request, as the Mayor alluded to, is to work on the rail trail lighting. The lighting has not produced what we would consider acceptable results for the city. The project is basically going to be reworked. We are going to start the process and look into hard wiring the poles and come up with a plan to reuse the existing poles in some area of the city that is CDBG eligible. We want to do this right and the Department of Public Works is going to partner with Community Development and we are going to get this headache taken care of. Everybody has been very patient with the issue. It didn't work but we are going to work together and move forward. The third request is for the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Park for \$45,000. This is one of the first projects that I worked on when I started working for the city back in 2000. We totally reconstructed the park and made it appropriate to call it the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Park. One of the big items that we did there is that we resurfaced the basketball courts which get a tremendous amount of use and the pathway. We made a path to pull the children off the sidewalk on Ledge Street as they were going to school they were going to go through the park and that surface, which is similar to a basketball surface which is an epoxy, it's time to redo that along with the basketball courts to make sure that it doesn't get to the point of disrepair so that we

would have to rebuild it. We need to do the maintenance and it should be taken care of now.

Alderman Caron

Are you going to keep the same number of courts? I know that is used constantly.

Mr. Caggiano

Nothing will change; it will all be the same.

Alderman Caron

On the lighting at Mine Falls Park, are we using any of the cell tower money that is put aside for Mine Falls Park towards this project?

Mr. Caggiano

This project is for the rail trail so it's not going into Mine Falls Park?

Alderman Caron

I think that integration carousel spinner; I think we saw a picture of it.

Mr. Caggiano

Yes, we did when Jennifer Brooks from the Design Institute came.

Alderman Caron

I fell in love with that. Is this the estimated cost or is it the bid price?

Mr. Caggiano

That's the bid price.

Alderman Caron

Your restrooms, are you expanding the restrooms and not having a concession stand?

Mr. Caggiano

Yes. The long-term goal there is to expand the restrooms so they can be wide enough to be appropriate. We also have a long-term idea and I don't know if it's going to happen but as you know we used to have playground supervisors and our thought is to make a storage room there and possibly get a grant where we would be able to get a summer recreation intern to run some programs out of that facility for children during the summer.

Alderman Siegel

The question that I have on the rail trail lighting, didn't we talk about putting cameras on there also? I think at one time we had talked about putting cameras on the rail trail in addition to lighting because of the obvious issue with crime. The lighting is one solution but I seem to recall that. Mayor, I believe you were on Finance

at the time.

Mayor Donchess

I vaguely remember that. If the committee would like us to look into adding the cost of adding that component...we could at least look at that alternative.

Alderman Siegel

My recollection is that it was going to be up to a portion, like close to City Hall but that there was some difficulty in potentially extending it beyond that but I got the impression that somebody was going to look into that.

Ms. Carrie Schena, Manager, Urban Programs

I know that when they were working on the parking garage and installing cameras there the team that was associated with that, which was the former Transit Manager, Mark Souza and the IT Director; they did speak to the company and asked what it would take to put cameras on the existing rail trail and part of the issue was the fact that some of the were solar powered there was no wiring for the cameras so there had to be some type of power source for them. There was an idea of trying to mount them on the existing businesses or different points along the trail where there was power but that obviously brings in a lot of complications on the back end. With these being hard wired I think there is a better potential for considering that and as we move forward it is something that we can explore.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

I do remember us having that conversation. To your comment about moving forward and exploring it, I think it's something that we should consider since it's a need that's been discussed in the past.

Alderman Lopez

It seems like it would be a practical consideration right now. If we are going to put the work into running the wiring we might as well find out if we need to run other wiring too. Would running the wiring in order to add cameras also potentially be a qualification for getting funding to the police department or a grant for public safety rather than just lighting?

Mayor Donchess

That's an interesting thought and we will look at that as well.

Alderman Schoneman

I haven't seen an update on the Legacy Playground costs and while this is not dealing with that overall because it's a grant, can you give us a breakdown of where we are at with this?

Mr. Caggiano

We have a pre-bid construction meeting on Wednesday. I don't know if I want to throw a number of there before we meet with them.

Alderman Schoneman

I saw the memo from Mayor Donchess and it outlined a few other things, the total of \$225,000, is that all we are looking for? I see the program administration housing improvement program, is that something else that you are going to be talking about?

Chairman Wilshire

We are going to work on putting the resolution together at the end of our agenda this evening so we will discuss all of those line items, one by one. Are there any further questions for the Mayor or his staff?

Mayor Donchess

Going back to the rail trail lighting, the current lights I think were an experiment to see if it could be done at a very low cost which was to run them with very small solar panels and they simply have not worked to light the trail and they are very vulnerable to vandalism. There has been at least one major crime along the rail trail and many people use it as an alternative to West Hollis Street sidewalks. I've walked it recently a couple of times at night and there are definitely people out there and I think if we can light it in the right way so the lights work I think we can improve the neighborhood and the quality of life for people living in the downtown neighborhood.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

I am totally in support of this but what thoughts have we had regarding light pollution for the residences along that way? I know at one point there had been a conversation about maybe having motion sensors on the lights so the lights weren't on all night.

Mr. Caggiano

I am sure that when we do the research on the lights that you can get a motion option, I just don't know, they would be going on and off and on and off. We will certainly look at that, they have all kinds of lighting out and the way it's designed is incredible.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

That would be my request, to be considerate of the fact that there are some people's homes that are very close to the rail trail.

Alderman Lopez

I have the same comments. I've had some constituent comments that the light flickers constantly and I think directed lighting would be a good idea. I'm not confident that motion sensor lighting would ever turn off because there are skunks and stray cats as well running around but whatever the solution is, if you would look into it we would definitely appreciate it.

Alderman Siegel

Just to shed some light on the light, we had this discussion at Finance in this context of the street lighting throughout the city and I spent a lot of time researching it and the papers that I read regarding light pollution; the main two components to be concerned about is correctly shrouding the lights to aim them properly and the reflectivity off of the surfaces that they are shining on. To the extent that can be controlled reasonably, I think we will be fine. We are not setting up an Italian restaurant dining environment; we are setting up lighting so that people can see.

Alderman Schoneman

At the last meeting I was at we heard about the funds available and the requested funds were well below that number. Now, adding up all of these things here the requested funds exceeds the amount available. Will Ms. Schena be advocating for your positions for things when they are in competition with agencies and recipients?

Ms. Schena

I think she is leaving the priority decisions up to you, we are just putting forth what we think the city's requests are and the committee needs to weigh the relative importance of these things.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-16-007

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderswoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Tom Lopez

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$40,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITY "FY2016 AND FY2017 CLIMATE AND HEALTH ADAPTATION PLAN (CHAP)"

- Re-Referred to Cmte – 3/8/16

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Wilshire

Are you the person who wrote the grant?

Mr. Tim Roache, Executive Director, NRPC

My staff did.

Chairman Wilshire

Can you give us the low down on this grant?

Mr. Roache

I was prepared to talk about why we think it's important and where there is value in this. This is an opportunity for regional engagement to identify health impacts related to either severe weather or climate and develop strategies to minimize those impacts to the communities, not just Nashua but the thirteen communities that coincidentally make-up the public health area and the Regional Planning Commission. When you reduce those burdens what you are really talking about is reducing costs and reducing incidences of illnesses or injuries from weather/climate related health issues. The process would be to work collaboratively to identify three to five priority areas to focus on. You could look at, and this has to be decided through the grant

process, but you could look at heat impact, heat stress from three or four days of about 90 degree temperatures. There are areas in the city where buildings aren't quite insulated enough and you have the higher incidence of that and when that happens it causes a response for your emergency people to bring people to hospitals and that raises costs. The idea would be to develop outreach materials to reach people and make grant money perhaps available to help with weatherization to reduce those incidences. Other incidences could be Vector-borne illnesses like Lyme disease; Hillsborough County is right now the highest incidents of Lyme disease in the country or in the northeast if not the country and it could be related to climate change and if so it would make sense to address that through education outreach and work towards ways to mitigate that. The implementation of this would be outreached to the, working collaboratively with the emergency responders and health officials in the region. The other piece is the work that will be done under this grant will also support hazard mitigation planning which you deal with under FEMA and that should save money through the efficiency of having this opportunity to work on the climate health impacts. Under this grant it will save us time and also the community health assessment; again there is overlap there where we could find some value and save some time and money on this.

Ms. Bobbi Bagley, Director of Public Health and Community Services

The only things that I would add would be the fact that the opportunity that this presents for us as a city is that by having the work sub-contracted by NRPC allows for the planning process or at least the assessment for the planning so that we know what to expect down the line. We have two years that we would have the opportunity to take a look at what the impact of climate changes or what we are seeing with regard to weather changes in our communities and things that we will have to take care of as time goes on. The first year would give us the opportunity to have the assessment done so we could develop or at least focus on what we need to look at as far as planning efforts and that would help prepare us for what we need to take place later on.

Alderman Lopez

What kind of oversight is the city's Public Health Department required to do for this? You are talking about sub-contracting out so do you just give it to them and they report back or are you in constant communication to tell them what's going on our side and what's going on regionally?

Ms. Bagley

Basically our responsibility is that we attend all of the meetings where the information is being reported out. We don't have any obligation to provide any staffing. NRPC will do the work and then report information out to us at our meetings that we normally attend.

Alderman Lopez

Are these meetings you might have to attend for other reasons anyway like some of the other funding that we've seen?

Ms. Bagley

Yes, sir.

Alderman Siegel

Here I am back at the committee level and we are going to vet this and I appreciate that. I heard several things that were very obviously health related issues like heat stress, Lyme disease but we don't really need to discuss climate change in that context. Heat stress is a real issue and clearly it's a public health issue. If this grant were just about Lyme disease we wouldn't be having any conversation, it would be 15 to 0 and slide right

through. Right now it seems like Nashua has been used merely as a conduit to get money over to NRPC to do this study and at some point there will be some uncertain interaction with whatever output happens. We really don't provide any input to guide it and it's not clear what happens when it comes back but if it's only going to come back and say heat stress is an issue or Lyme disease are an issue or mosquitoes are an issue, we already know that. I don't see that any of the money being spent really changes any action plan we would have because these are existing issues. My objections have nothing to do with climate change so for all of the moon bats out there that thought I was some climate change naer; this has nothing to do with it, it's really just where is our priority list? My colleagues may have received a paper that I sent out and hopefully have taken a look at what was in there. There was a reason why I sent it out and it was just to be flip, it was to say okay, at what point do you get to a point where we say maybe this isn't something we are willing to do. It's the will of the committee whatever is going to happen here but at some point I would like to believe that there will be things that come before us which people have legitimately put effort in getting grant money for which show up and maybe aren't worth pursuing. Just to be clear, the specific document that I sent around and Ms. Bagley, I am sorry I should have sent a copy to you; it was titled Glaciers, Gender and Science; A Feminist Glaciology Framework for Global and Environmental Change Research. The abstract is kind of humorous in that it says that "glaciers are key icons of climate change and global environmental change, however the relationship among the gendered science and glaciers, particularly related to epistemological questions about the reduction of glacial logical knowledge remain understudied. This paper thus proposes a feminist glaciology framework with four key components, etc." Some of my colleagues have slogged through in its entirety and in particular, to Alderman McCarthy, I congratulate you, that was quite the effort. Again, I didn't send it out to play with everybody and goof around; it was to provide a benchmark for something that we hopefully will all agree that isn't necessarily something that we would want to do so even if the money were available and in this case somebody got the grant, this was a half of million dollars. Here we laugh and say that's ridiculous, they are spending all of that money over there for this nonsense or in my opinion nonsense but yet somehow we don't have an obligation, not that this grant is on that par, but that we don't at least have an obligation to look fairly carefully at what we take money for. I do that in the context of some extremely important problems that the public health has. We have an on-going opioid crisis, you mentioned Lyme disease which is ravaging this area and so given that and staff time and that basically we are just serving as a conduit with an uncertain outcome and an uncertain input, I just wonder if at some point we say maybe not. I want to make it clear that I have no religious interest in this but I'd like for us to consider these questions and also to at least as Board members learn from the whole experience and be prepared when the time comes to discuss the legislation that we all know what it is that we are discussing. No matter what happens I view this as a very positive outcome however it goes one way or the other.

Alderman McCarthy

Actually I had a few questions. I'm a little confused as to why we are applying for a grant that seems to have regional value to it. I am assuming that is simply because this set of grants has to be applied for by a municipality and us being the largest member of NRPC we would be the likely ones to do it even though the actual value is to the entire NRPC membership. My other question is what can we expect that we would do differently with or without this study being done?

Ms. Bagley

What the study does for us is it gives an opportunity for a plan to be developed and written. You talked about the taxing of the division right now and the staffing. That would be an extra burden on our plate to have to develop the plan whereas right now we have the opportunity to have a sub-contractor develop that plan for us. With regard to why it comes through us, we hold the public health regional preparedness grant and the funding is coming from the state through the agencies that hold the public health regional grants.

Mr. Roache

NRPC wasn't eligible to apply directly for this. I guess I would add that if we didn't have this grant, I think a lot of what comes out of this is an outreach effort, it's an awareness effort and developing strategies for public health, first responders and others to step in pre-emptively and try to reduce the number of those cases. If you save a life then you reduce a number of medical instances where there are hospitalizations involved and there's all those things that we agree on like mosquito's and ticks and heat stress then there is a little bit more value there than feminist glaciology. I say that with all due respect. I think there is a little bit more to it and it does extend to the region. If I could have partnered this on my own I would have. We do have a long-standing partnership as we are working on the Complete Streets work and from my perspective I am very fortunate that I don't have a staff that has to be watched heavily. We have a really good relationship and good communication with the public health already.

Alderman Siegel

There was a clarification at the Board of Aldermen which was very specifically designed to give us a better idea of what this was for and it only talks about climate change effects so I appreciate that you are talking about Lyme disease and heat stroke but if I read this and I see someone out doing that work, no matter how worthy it is and it clearly is more worthy in my mind, that doesn't seem to match what the grant is for. I'm thrilled that you would be doing that work, it would be fantastic to have a plan in place to deal with Lyme disease but I am worried that this grant isn't set up to accommodate that legitimately.

Alderman Lopez

In the feminist glaciology paper, one of the suggestions that they made was using local knowledge like folklore history, interviewing people who lived in a certain area and asking them if they remember the weather being different. I was surprised when I read that because to me that is completely subjective data. What it sounds like this grant could potentially be doing is giving us a way to get more objective information about what we believe subjectively to be the case. As I understood it looking at Lyme disease or heat stroke, those are things that happen and as they continue to happen year after year we may start to grow accustomed to them happening but if we look at those in the context of has this always happened it provides an opportunity to find out not only find out if that is true but has there been an increase and does it correspond to climate change. At the same time it also lets us find out how bad the situation is right now. All of this is data which could help us develop a strategic plan without having to put all of own resources into developing a strategic plan.

Mr. Roache

A lot of that historical information related to that is available in the New Hampshire Climate Assessment which we have access to through UNH and we also have a lot of data from our regional planning efforts that supports that type of analysis. I see some value in this; I do see some good arguments on both sides.

Alderman Lopez

The grant did reference evidence based practices so you would be starting from people who have already done this in similar communities and cities, is it that kind of thing?

Mr. Roache

Yes, there are other models within the state to follow. I have the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission that collaborated with Upper Valley Public Health that did the first phase and they are now moving onto the second phase.

Alderman Lopez

Have any of the other members of the Regional Planning Committee done something like this in the past?

Mr. Roache

Other Regional Planning Commissions?

Alderman Lopez

Within ours.

Mr. Roache

Not that I am aware of, no.

Alderman Lopez

So again, if the study is going to be done, why not make it Nashua centric? Why not use the priorities and the information in the largest partner in that area rather than letting a smaller municipality or a smaller partner do the research relative to their needs which would influence potential strategic planning for it?

Ms. Bagley

With regards to some of the finding with Lyme disease, because we've now been extending some of our efforts more regionally, for instance, we are very Nashua centric but our communicable disease investigation now extends to the regions and so by us having more information about what to expect in those different towns supports the work that we currently do right now so our communicable disease investigation is not just limited to Nashua any longer. We investigate diseases that come through and we are looking at them in the other towns that are supported in our public health regions. I believed that changed a few years ago. Since I have come back I have learned that we have these combined specialized grants now and our work extends into Milford and Hollis and the other towns. It will benefit us to know what's happening regionally because we do an investigation and a follow-up anyway.

Alderman Lopez

So if Hollis went for this grant and obtained it and focused on issues that are specific to Hollis and didn't necessarily focus the data gathering that is specific to Nashua we basically don't get the benefit of the education, don't get the specific priorities that would be identified as important to Nashua and the work is basically done by a different partner.

Mr. Roache

I don't think there is any one community could go after it since the grants are focused towards the public health agencies. It's a coincidence but the Regional Planning Commission boundary and the public health boundaries overlap. It's a regional entity that has to go after this and in this case it is public health and we just happen to be the planning commission that has the demographic data and the GIS capabilities and all of the technical capabilities with the planning staff to help them deliver the products.

Alderman Lopez

So if we don't accept the money does it get used by another group in this region or does it just go to a different

region altogether?

Mr. Roache

I don't know.

Ms. Bagley

It goes back to the CDC.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

Tim you said that you have some information from a region that has already completed the first phase of this which is identifying those three to five priority areas. Can you talk about that, what did they find?

Mr. Roache

The one I have with me is from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Planning Commission based in Lebanon and I think their focus was flooding because they had to deal with tropical storm Irene. I know they had heat stress. They did not do Lyme disease but it was heat and flooding related illnesses that they focused on as their priorities. I haven't read this front to back yet but there were increases either for heat stroke illnesses and deaths and increased incidents of injury and exposure due to contaminants after severe weather events and they cited a lot of things that happened in Irene where ground water was contaminated from all of the flooding. They had kerosene leaks and diesel leaks that contaminated public water supplies. Then there were all of the gastrointestinal effects of having the wells contaminated. Each region would be a little bit different and I think it would be a collaborative process between all of the communities in the region. I suspect Lyme disease would be one and heat would be another for us. Flooding, we will see; we haven't seen a significant flood in Nashua in quite a while.

Alderman Siegel

Climatological data in the mapping of heat over time has been 1 degree of Arc increments and squares throughout the planet, that's how the data is maintained. All of those counties are well within the 1 degree of Arc so it's the same data. I don't understand why we are replicating the work they are doing. It seems to me that let them take the lead and do the studies, they are in phase 1 they can go to phase 2 and see what they come up with and react accordingly. I mean it's not news that when lots of water floods an area that you have contaminants like oils and fertilizers in the water supply or that you have a risk for things like Cholera or E.coli bacteria. I'm not clear where there is all of this new information that's going to be obtained. It's nice that we have the ability to get this grant and it goes back to the ether. The ether are the taxpayers of New Hampshire to be used for some other purpose which is okay because eventually we all have to pay attention to that because the money does run out.

Alderman LeBrun

Just as a means of making my position clear when it comes to climate change, global warming and whatnot, Alderman Caron and Alderman Siegel covered a lot of my points. This big ball that we live on started as a snowball billions of years ago and it has evolved into what we have now. More than likely a billion years from now it will become another snowball where it will burn up and float into space but man is not going to change the evolution of our climate.

Alderman McCarthy

In a sense with regard to what we were talking about it, whether there is climate change or not is irrelevant. The question is we have a climate that, for whatever reason, the question is that we have a climate that seems to be warmer than the one we had several years ago. The question is, is that changing what we have to do for public health, who cares whether it's manmade or not. I guess the issue here is are there specific health things that, for the moment the fact that the grant exists seems to presuppose that someone at the state level says there is climate change whether it's manmade or not. The grant proposes to say what are the things that you are going to have to deal with in public health and how to deal with them. Basically the proposal is what I am hearing here which is that let's do a strategic analysis of what we would have to do and get a response plan to it. It seems to me that there are things to do particularly with heat effects and communicable diseases from insects that clearly fall in the realm of things that we are dealing with more than we used to. I think there is value in it based on what I have heard this evening.

Mr. Roache

I appreciate Alderman Siegel's point about the temperature in the Upper Valley vs. here. The reason I think we need to look at this; the regional difference is that we need to find our targeted vulnerable populations. Seeing temperature change, fine; but knowing who to reach and how to help that vulnerable population is important. From the flooding and contamination, knowing where the wells are and knowing what level of flooding will impact them, that's where there is value in this. We are all in the same boat.

Alderman Schoneman

I've listened to the discussion and it sounds like from that study up north or for any purpose of conversation, there's nothing that is surprising. If there is nothing that is surprising then I don't see the point of doing more. If we knew about Lyme, the potential for the elderly to suffer when it's extra hot out, the problems associated with flooding; these are things that we already know and that study, at least from what you indicated there's no surprise and if there's no surprise it just doesn't seem like it's worth it.

Mr. Roache

There are surprises in all of these things, you are right. The value here is to identify the areas where we can really move the needle and have an impact on those populations through education and outreach to prevent some of the negative health impacts associated with it. Can we prevent someone from going to the hospital in the long run, that's the idea behind this, it's not to prove whether it's getting warmer or colder or flooding or not.

Alderman Schoneman

Have we accepted any grants in the past or have we done any studies locally on Lyme disease or have we done anything for the elderly and heat.

Ms. Bagley

We have not and for me coming in as the director now with an emphasis on doing all that we can to ensure and assure the health and safety of the community of Nashua. Having the opportunity for a partner to do this for us is what is ideal for us. Capacity wise for us to take the time to develop the plan; we don't have the resources and the technology that NRPC is going to offer us. When I was working here in 2006 that's when we started to see the Lyme rate go up. It's 2016 and we have not developed a plan to in all that time to anything to address the education or to identify vulnerable populations so me that timing of this works for us as a division to be able to do the best thing that we can for our residents here and those who can be impacted.

This will give us the opportunity to have a direction and identify priority areas where those priority populations that we need to focus on. Right now we get cases that come through and we do our investigations and provide information back to the state and that's all that we do right now.

Alderman Lopez

While there doesn't seem to be any surprises to be discovered, I don't think research in general should have a lot of surprises. We should be building off of other people's work and you should be able to predict what is probably going to happen but you should still be testing to make sure that is the case. In this case collecting information to make sure that if you make a plan based on what we all know, we should make sure that we really do know it. Going back to that suggestion that we study global climate change just using folk lore and local memory, that's not a very solid way to do it, it's all anecdotal. This is an opportunity to use resources and tools to look at it more carefully and say okay these are things we think are going on right now, how severe are they and what are the impacts? If you look at climate change there are usually two elements to it. What we are really talking about is our ability to adapt to the climate, not just the climate. As Alderman LeBrun said the world is going to be here long after we are. But, as Alderman McCarthy pointed out, it's the people that matter. Making sure in the Nashua region if there are things that are changing like heat stroke; maybe that could be climate change or maybe there are just more of us that are vulnerable to heat stroke because we have a larger older population. Whatever the case is it seems reasonable to try to figure out what the dynamic is objectively using a tool we have sitting in front of us rather than waiting until we have to do it because now there are surprises.

Alderman McCarthy

I wouldn't expect there would be surprises in terms of what we think the impacts are. When I compare Nashua to other regions there are reasons why our threats are completely different than other areas of New Hampshire. We have a substantial concentration of elderly housing that is high rise and in urban settings which is likely to be hotter and more taxing in downtown Nashua than it is to be in more remote regions of New Hampshire in the middle of the summer. Plus if you have a population with 5,000 to 10,000 elderly people living in housing in the city you are much more likely to see that problem as one that you have to have a plan to deal with. If the majority of what we are doing here is to look at those two specific problems instead of how does Nashua respond to things that we know are not really surprises. It's not a surprise that when your house catches fire you are in danger and yet we tell everyone that you should develop your own plan for how to deal with that when it happens. It's no surprise that the power goes out when it's in the single digits in the middle of winter and people can freeze to death. That's true everywhere but we have a specific plan for how to open up shelters in Nashua and deal with that from an emergency preparedness perspective. If that's what we are looking to do; to say how do we make people aware of Lyme disease and do some prevention there, even that one may occur everywhere but I think there are specific things that have to be in here to get to our population. With the heat problem, I think we actually have a problem that is more intense than it is in other areas of the state. Those are the things we are concentrating on the grant and to get actual action plans for that then I think it's a reasonable investment of money. Is that what you anticipate coming out of it?

Mr. Roache

Yes, in the first phase of it determining whether it's heat or Lyme disease but yes, that's the idea.

Alderman Siegel

I just have one last remark and that is ask yourself if this were 100% taxpayer of Nashua money would you pay for this study? That's all I ask.

Alderman LeBrun

I will support this based on the Lyme disease issue because I know that is very real. In fact, former Alderwoman Pam Brown and I sponsored a bill in the House recently that was found expedient to legislate. The reason it was is because the Board of Medicine took no stance and were neutral on the issue; up until a year ago they penalized doctors for diagnosing Lyme disease but they have now changed their position. They don't penalize but they still do not promote the diagnosis of Lyme disease so that bill was filed ITL.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

There were a couple of things that I heard Director Bagley say. I heard you say that this is information that you would like us to have but in terms of having the capacity within the department, if you were to do this within the department we would be taking staff from other things and based on your priorities right now it wouldn't be done. We've got a partner who is going to get the data and share it with us and then we can work within the region to develop a plan. I want to make sure I heard that correctly, you feel there is a need for the information and you would like the information but right now we don't have the staff to do that and do all of the other things that are important within our health department. I think that whatever comes out of this at least we've got some data. It might just confirm what we know but now we have data to go along with it to develop our plan. I also think that I heard that aside from developing a plan that is specifically focused on what the health department can do, this information would also be used by emergency providers so it's beyond the health department but it's bringing all of our emergency management people and our health department people together to develop a comprehensive plan in addressing whatever these health related priorities might be.

Mr. Roache

They would be partners in the process.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

I would imagine that because there are some things that we do in this region where we share resources across communities that we might be looking at some of that happening within this plan. Much like we do with our dive team, not everybody has a dive team but our dive team is available when it is needed.

Mr. Roache

That's a little bit beyond the scope, that's really up to Justin Kates and his group to work on that but in the end it comes down to when these incidences do happen and if you are going to implement a strategy to reach these populations you need all of those partners to participate in order to be effective. The interest would be in the second phase of this to actually try to prevent these things from happening and save a couple of people from illness.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

So the data that is collected in the first phase and used to develop the second phase, that data will be available to all of the communities so if they wanted to write grants to address particular needs within their community then the NRPC would be available to them to go on for other grants.

Mr. Roache

Specifically this will be useful for the other communities in their hazard mitigation planning. Right now there isn't a requirement to address climate or climate resiliency at the local level but there is a state level

requirement for hazard mitigation plans so the writing on the wall is that will trickle down to local hazard mitigation plans eventually and this type of information will be useful for that. Again, there is the health impact assessment for you I can't speak to but I know that you said there would be some use in that plan as well.

Alderman Schoneman

The grant, if it's approved, is not going to reverse any trends in climate and it's not going to cure Lyme disease and it's not going to cure heat stroke. It's not going to fix anything; it's about prevention and warning people so in the end there might be a pamphlet developed that explains Lyme disease and heat stroke. If it's very hot and we would need to open a shelter with air conditioning this isn't going to provide anymore staffing to accomplish that.

Ms. Bagely

That's correct but with a little bit more of a targeted focus. The more direct we can be the more effective and efficient we can be and if we can get those numbers down that's important. Lyme untreated has some serious medical and physical impacts on individuals and so the more information that we can get out that is evidence based, pamphlets and brochures are good but we can also target where we are going to do informational education sessions and make things available through our health departments, nurses and community services health promotion specialists.

Alderman Lopez

The numbers that we are talking about are people so when we are talking about this isn't going to do anything to fix climate change, that's not the health department's job. Their focus is how do we make sure that our constituents can deal with it. If this is an effort to better understand what higher temperatures do to the elderly in my ward then I am in favor because I prefer not to constituents having heat stroke issues who otherwise could have been helped just by approving this and understanding the problem a little better. The same goes for Lyme disease. Parents could receive pamphlets and understand better what danger their kids might be. I think that accomplishes something, it doesn't make Lyme disease vanish from the planet but we only have to focus on what is going on in Nashua. I think the dialogue here has been extremely productive and I want to thank Alderman Siegel for making sure that this was thoroughly examined. My suggestion to the health department would be that when you are writing your grants make sure that when they come to the Board of Aldermen that those of us who are not professional grant writers can understand what we are approving. Ultimately the health department should be focusing on what the health priorities are in the city and the Board of Aldermen should be focusing on the funding. I am in favor of it because it sounds like something that will help people in my Ward, maybe not directly but if it makes one person less susceptible to getting Lyme disease then I am all for it.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-16-017

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Ken Siegel
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Tom Lopez

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$70,000 FROM THE STATE OF New Hampshire DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITIES "FY17 AND FY18 TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAM OF GREATER NASHUA"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Wilshire

This is a grant that we have been getting for many years and I believe that while tuberculosis isn't an overall abundant problem there are concerns about people that come from other countries.

Alderman Lopez

I know that the TB testing program in general, in past years the health department has offered TB inoculations and I know that in my profession a lot of employers require you to have TB testing but would the \$70,000 providing TB inoculations or studying TB's impacts?

Ms. Bagley

The funding that we get from the state for our tuberculosis program is for case management and for prevention. New Hampshire is a low incidence state when it comes to active tuberculosis but our issue is the high number of latent TB cases that get reported. The skin testing that's done; part of the funding we cover are the supplies that we need to purchase to do those skin tests. We find that Nashua has a very large immigrant population and a growing refugee population and individuals who test positive means that they have latent tuberculosis or they have been exposed to the tuberculous and it lies dormant. At different points in time when a person is under a lot of stress or there is some other illness that may impact them then that bacteria can break out of the capsule that's holding it in by their immune system and they can become active cases. It's the high number of latent cases that we want to make sure we can provide continual case management for because they are put on treatment and then we provide case management through our outreach worker or through our nurses making sure that people complete their medication regime.

Alderman Lopez

The issue for tuberculosis being a potential isn't immigrants but it's the high latency period because my understanding is that I don't think we have had the increase in immigrant population for as long as I can remember the history of tuberculosis. My first experience was working with the shelter population around nine years ago. I was not aware of as large an incoming immigrant population at that time, while it's just as likely that I wasn't connected with that particular effort at the time but anybody can get it. If you go somewhere outside of a controlled area you could pick it up and you wouldn't know it for a long period of time until those

capsules break.

Ms. Bagley

That's correct in fact some of the case management has been for people who have traveled. The data shows that the largest number of individuals that have latent tuberculosis happen to be our immigrant population. You are right though anyone can get it.

Alderman Lopez

How many people need to have it for it to become a public health issue?

Ms. Bagley

Just one.

Alderman Lopez

So a group of people who had latent TB could go on a cruise and they would still pose that risk to the general population? So should we do the skin testing and confirm that we don't necessarily have a problem boiling right beneath us we just need to be prepared if something does start to happen.

Ms. Bagley

Yes.

MOTION CARRIED

R-16-018

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman Don LeBrun
Alderman Ken Siegel
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tom Lopez

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$120,000 FROM THE STATE OF New Hampshire DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITIES "FY17 AND FY18 IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM OF GREATER NASHUA"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Wilshire

This is a great program, the health department goes into the schools and does immunizations and I believe a walk-in as well. We've been getting this funding for quite some time.

Alderman Lopez

I want to do my due diligence and ask what this is about but I actually already know because of the type of work that I do. I see the immunization program active everywhere. My understanding is that it does reach a lot of different people and it offers direct immunization services to low-income populations and it's necessary to make sure that we maintain our immunity and we don't have more people susceptible to illness.

MOTION CARRIED

R-16-019

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Ken Siegel
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Don LeBrun
Alderman Tom Lopez

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$170,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITIES "FY17 AND FY18 STD & HIV DISEASE CONTROL"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lopez

I also know about this program because of my line of work and know that it also presents a lot of issues from coming up.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS - ORDINANCES - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION

At this point I am going to ask Alderman Caron to take over the chair as the discussion will be around developing the resolution for CDBG and because my employer has applied I will not be participating in this part of the project.

Vice Chairman Caron

In looking at the numbers we are looking at a deficit so we have to cut some funding out.

Ms. Schena

I'd like to go back to the Mayor's memo that was accepted earlier this evening and to Alderman Schoneman's point we didn't step through every line item on there, we just wanted to allow the Superintendent of Parks & Recreation to speak to those projects. The other line items on there are the CDBG Program admin which is the cost primarily of the staff for Urban Programs. Urban Programs is entirely funded under federal grants. It's a combination of a few different ones. This grant, CDBG and Home and also a lead paint grant that

supports some staff in that department. That line item is capped at 20% of the annual grant plus program income and we include the cost of doing fair housing activities and all of the reporting and policy making. The Housing Improvement Program is a loan program for owner occupied properties and the property needs to be a one to four family structure. We give loans out in the form of a 0% interest loan and it is deferred until the property is either sold, transferred or if they refinance and take equity out of the property. In years past we have basically set that program up basically as a revolving loan so each year we do refund it with some of the annual grant and then it was worded such that as program income was received throughout the year, which is typically other housing rehab loans that are repaid throughout the year, that that money would go back to the loan program and that was done as a mechanism when the grant was suffering some pretty dramatic cuts. The Housing Improvement Program went from being funded at about \$150,000 down to \$75,000 over the course of a couple of years. Looking at the history of it and the amount of program income we've received we have averaged around \$100,000 by the time the loans get paid back throughout the year. The way that this is structured this year is that we are asking for that base figure of \$75,000 from the annual grant and then the other \$25,000 to bring it up to \$100,000 would be from any program income that we receive rather than saying all program would cycle back into that program. The reason for changing the language this year is that there is an activity called Disaster Resilience Planning for \$8,000 and that is a project that we are proposing. It came from the office of Emergency Management from Justin Kates and he was looking to do what they call disaster resilience planning and HUD has an office of disaster resilience, it's something that they want grantees and communities to be looking at and basically at the heart of it he would work with himself and his intern to develop a tool kit that would be used as an assessment for the various non-profits in the community and they would be able to use this tool kit and assess their operations and their facilities to see where they might have some weak points in a disaster and what would help them be more resilient. He would like to do this in a two-phased trial where he develops a tool kit and then works with about ten agencies and he would step them through that process of planning so that at the end they would have a disaster resilience plan and also it would help agencies identify future requests for CDBG funding. The \$8,000 is subject to receiving program income and the reason why that is because it's subject to the 20% cap; that admin and planning cap that HUD puts on us. Assuming that we have an estimate of about \$40,000 that we think we will receive in program income this year; so out of the \$40,000, \$8,000 would go to this disaster resilience planning and then \$25,000 would go towards the Housing Improvement Program which leaves \$7,000 to go toward any activities.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

I'm looking at the activity status that you gave us on 2/3/2016 and in the Housing Improvement Program you are showing a balance of \$40,291 and you indicate that it reflects a little over \$35,000 of program income so is this balance being rolled into that \$75,000 or is this balance still out there for this year?

Ms. Schena

At the time that this report was provided we had started with the original \$75,000 and at the date of this we had received a little over \$35,000 in loan repayments that added to the \$75,000 so out of that total of approximately \$110,000 there was \$40,000 remaining, which I think we have since committed some of that.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

Okay so what's in the Mayor's memo, this \$100,000 is all of the money.

Ms. Schena

That's correct.

Vice Chairman Caron

Do you want to finish the letter concerning the HOME Program?

Ms. Schena

Under the HOME Program there is the annual grant amount of a little over \$289,000 and there was a small balance from FY '15 admin funds that's available to reprogram this year so out of that total HOME caps the admin costs at 10%. The Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) is a very specific type of non-profit that has a mission of developing affordable housing. They have to have a specific type of board structure which includes low-income representation and they have to meet certain financial criteria. The HOME Program requires that it's a 15% of the annual grant set aside and that's an automatic reservation so when HUD gives us the money in our federal system, 15% is automatically set aside for that type of activity. When we identify a non-profit that potentially qualifies as a CHDO we work with them to develop a project. The most recent one was Southern New Hampshire Services who is constructing Salmon Brook right now. Last year we were able to state that the CHDO funds were specifically state that the CHDO funds were for that project. We don't have a project identified right now and HUD allows up to two years to commit this money so we really don't have a prior year balance which is good. We set this money aside and either this year or next year we would hopefully have a project identified to reserve the funds. The balance would then just go to affordable housing development and that would be available to any developer either non-profit or for profit who is developing qualified affordable housing. You may notice that there's not home buyer money set aside this year. For the past four years we have set aside \$55,000 to assist home buyers purchase properties in the form of down payment and closing cost loans and the first two years' worth of money we entered into a contract with Neighborworks of Southern New Hampshire to operate the program and we ran into an absolute road block where we have been unable to find any primary lenders who are willing to accept the terms of our HOME restrictions as a subordinate lien on the property because of some of the requirement that HUD makes us put in there. The concern is that they don't want any liens on the property that could potentially survive a foreclosure. There is another option under home buyer that we could opt to do which if we did have a foreclosure situation then our lien does get wiped out and that would make the primary lenders a little bit more comfortable. We are reaching out to the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority to speak with them about the ramifications and what would be involved if we change our terms. Hopefully we will be able to get at least those first two years of money out the door rather quickly and then we have another two years' worth, another \$110,000 that was reserved over the last two fiscal years for home buyer purposes as well. It's not under contract at this point but it is reserved for that purpose. I feel like we have a pretty significant amount of money that we need to move under that program and I would be reluctant to set even more money aside this year.

Vice Chairman Caron

So before you is the funding for CDBG and as you can see we are about \$112,000 in the negative so we have to put some numbers together in order for us to do the legislation which is time sensitive.

Alderman Lopez

I think the sites that we reviewed that had initially applied for CDBG, there were not any of them that really in my mind were looking at a luxury item or a program expansion. The roof on PAL does need to be fixed, the expansion of the Tolles Street Mission, they are working under difficult conditions and personally I would be hesitant to reduce the funding of any of the rail trail project because my understanding is that project should cost a lot more than this and it is a major issue in my Ward regarding public safety and transportation. I'd like to see those given priority. The newer projects that were presented tonight like Labine Park, is partial funding possible for those?

Vice Chairman Caron

Sure, we can shave off whatever or you can eliminate it totally. I have a couple of questions. In looking at the activity status you have some things that are going to be done within a short period of time but one that really stands out to me is Girls, Inc... They ask for \$97,000 and they haven't put together a project for this \$97,000 and then they are asking for another \$61,000 so I have a concern about that. It's almost a year and they are holding onto this money. What are we looking at here?

Ms. Schena

The \$97,000 was allocated about this time last year for FY '16 and it is toward the cost of their facility renovation that is underway. When we did the site visit the executive director spoke about a little bit about the project being delayed slightly to a point where it was going to bring them really close to summer and they made the decision to hold off to try to do it when the facility is not fully occupied because they run their summer programs there. The \$97,000 we executed right around the time of the site visits; our agreement with Girls, Inc. so that those funds are formally ready to go when they are ready to draw down on them. We are going to be paying for the architectural and engineering costs related to the project rather than paying for construction just to avoid all of the Davis-Bacon and labor requirements. If we were to put that \$97,000 into formal construction costs then Davis-Bacon would apply to the entire project which is up to about \$2.5 million. It's almost an unfair burden to do that for the percentage of funds that we have into it. We have been working with Girls, Inc. to try to figure that out. We would have to monitor every bit of construction work that occurred there and collect certified payrolls and conduct worker interviews from start to finish even for the funds we are not associated with. Architectural and engineering is an eligible expense of a construction project and they have exceeded \$97,000 in those costs so we easily can reimburse for that.

Vice Chairman Caron

So the money is committed and now you have a plan as to where it is going to go for this project. Knowing that they are going to do this large renovation project on that building which is over 40 years old, the request this time is for playground equipment. I'm wondering, that's a large amount of money, did they break it out? Are they looking to do the whole area with fencing or were they just doing the playground area?

Ms. Schena

I think they intend to fence a good majority of the back parcel up to and including the city's pool boundary. They have a small playground that's there now that is completely enclosed and I think they were going to remove that smaller fencing to just have one large space that was enclosed.

Alderman Lopez

That would make sense if they are going to be in the middle of a big renovation it's probably the right time to put a playground in otherwise they are shutting things down at different times.

Vice Chairman Caron

The other issue would be if they should be concentrating on that and then looking to put the playground equipment up afterwards? That's a big project.

Alderman Lopez

That's why I think if they had the resources to do then doing them both at the same time means there is this period of disruption where everything gets done rather than a period where some of it gets done and the

another period when more of it gets done.

Vice Chairman Caron

Would the committee like to go one line at a time?

Alderman LeBrun

I'd like to go one line at a time

Vice Chairman Caron

We'll start with the Nashua Children's Home kitchen renovations.

Alderman LeBrun

Having toured the Nashua Children's Home I believe that everything that they proposed is well needed. I don't think we can do very much with that number.

Vice Chairman Caron

Okay, so you are saying that we should keep that \$35,521 in there for the Children's Home.

Alderman LeBrun

I believe everything they requested is very well needed.

Alderman Lopez

I agree and I am wondering if we should go through all of these and vote on full funding or review it as a second step. Why don't we go through the list and vote on the ones we know we should fully fund and then focus on the ones where we are not entirely sure, there might be some debate over them.

Alderman LeBrun

That sounds fair, yes.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

That's fine.

Vice Chairman Caron

Okay so we are looking at the Children's Home being fully funded. The Front Door Agency, are we looking to fully fund that at \$15,000.

Alderman LeBrun

We did not tour the Front Door Agency and my question is that it's a \$15,000 appropriation, how large is that roof?

Alderman Lopez

I did ask a member of the public to do drone footage but I just haven't received it yet. It's possible that it was sent and I haven't found it yet because I just came back from vacation.

Ms. Schena

I can't give you a number as far as square footage size but we in this fiscal year just did a roof at another one of their facilities of a similar size and that came in at about \$25,000 or \$22,000. I know that this \$15,000 would not be for the whole cost of the roof and that they were planning to contribute some of their own funding to make up the difference.

Vice Chairman Caron

So the request is for \$15,000 for the Front Door Agency.

Alderman Lopez

I say do the whole thing.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

The amount that we are over our CDBG budget represents about 13.6%. I don't know if we want to go through and look at maybe just a 10% cut on some of these and a bigger cut on others because at some point we are going to have to make some cuts.

Alderman Lopez

I think that makes the math a little bit easier but it doesn't really address the merit of each project or the ability of who is requesting it to do something else to make that happen. I am hesitant to say cut costs on a roof repair that they need and can't finish it otherwise.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

Ms. Schena, which projects listed here two through six; which of those projects is the request that is being made of CDBG, 100% of the cost of the project?

Ms. Schena

I believe the Nashua Children's Home, Girls, Inc., PAL and the Tolles Street Mission, all but the Front Door Agency.

Alderman Lopez

I just want to point out that the Tolles Street Mission, if they are requesting for full funding for a \$16,000 repair; earlier they stated that they only bring in about \$60,000 so my opinion would be to fully fund that too because they are not going to pull that from somewhere else.

Alderman Schoneman

I am not on the committee but I would like to comment. I agree with Alderman Lopez. I believe that when we did the tour we may have learned that the estimate of \$16,500 was low for the project. They may need to find

additional funding so if we can find some way to fully fund their request I think that would be great.

Vice Chairman Caron

Maybe the easiest way to do this would be to look at those three or four items that maybe we don't want to fully fund. They are all important but we have to come up with over \$100,000 to be in compliance in order for us to put the legislation through. I think we need to look at those agencies that could maybe do with less or wait. Maybe some could do work this year and some next year without interring with their project.

Alderman LeBrun

That was why I asked the question about the Front Door Agency, is that something that could be moved out a year? Does it have to be done as soon as possible?

Ms. Schena

Honestly I am not sure but Maryse Wirbal; the Executive Director was at our last meeting and spoke a little bit to the condition of the roof. It certainly sounded like something that needed to be done. I don't think it's actively leaking right now but I do think that it's in a state of disrepair just because of its age. The facility that we are working on now or that we just completed on C Street was in a similar condition and of a similar age.

Alderman LeBrun

The roof replacement at the PAL facility, the installation of the internal roof access, is that absolutely necessary? The building has never had one before.

Ms. Schena

There is certainly no code or requirement under CDBG that it be done. I believe it's just a matter of function for them that they would like to have that access.

Alderman Lopez

In the presentation they pointed out that they were trying to put the roof access in so that they can maintain roof because they weren't able to figure out just how bad the damage was because they didn't have a roof access. If they are going to repair the roof that seems like a good time to put the roof access in and the money that we are putting into repairing the roof is better served making sure they can maintain the money that we put in rather than just letting it fall apart. I think when we are talking about leaking roofs versus fixing a basketball court and resurfacing a second path that walks past an already existing sidewalk, I feel like we should be looking in different places to cut money.

Vice Chairman Caron

That's why I asked if there were some things that could be held off without impacting; repairing a leaky roof is something that is going to affect the agency in order for them to do their job. If the roof starts leaking then we are looking at a more serious issue. My feeling is that while Girls, Inc. has a playground area and would certainly like to upgrade it, I don't know if \$61,000 at this point when they are doing these renovations on their site is more important than some of these other issues that we are talking about. Whether you cut it in half or reduce it, it is something that I would look at. I love the idea of that carousel at Labine but the think it's more important for them to upgrade the restroom facility area and look at something like that down the road. As far as the basketball court I know that it needs upgrading and it is a facility that is used greatly. We'd like to fund everybody but unfortunately we don't have that kind of money. We need to make some hard decision today.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

Carrie, how does the project delivery number of \$118,422, how is that money different from program administration?

Ms. Schena

Project delivery is similar to administration but it is considered a direct project cost. It's basically funds; at least one full-time position and then a little bit of several other positions and the costs are related specifically to drafting the scope of work for the construction projects, putting the project out to bid, monitoring it and closing it out. It's basically a construction manager, 100% of our construction manager and the like I said, a small percentage of one other staff person's time to get that work done and do all of the Davis-Bacon monitoring that has to get done on every project. It's definitely attributable to construction. Admin differs in that administration of the grant are things that effect the program as a whole so my position, for example, where I am in charge of general reporting, the consolidated planning and this whole process I am responsible for things that effect the program as a whole not specifically related to an address or specific project.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

For some reason I just don't remember this project delivery cost being brought before us, what was this funded at last year?

Ms. Schena

I want to say it was \$116,000. I think we changed the name of the line item a couple of years ago just to make it clearer.

Alderman LeBrun

You list under the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Park basketball courts, does it have to be two courts, can it be one court?

Vice Chairman Caron

Alderman LeBrun, the courts are already there, they are refurbishing the courts that are there. Basically when you do something like that they recommend that you do the whole court.

Alderman LeBrun

That explains it.

Ms. Schena

I think it's just one big rectangular area and not multiple courts.

Alderman Lopez

Doesn't the DPW regularly service its parks and have a list of those parks and how urgent they are? I think this is the first I've heard of this to be focused on as a priority?

Vice Chairman Caron

They do put in their budget for "X" amount of money for playground repairs but this is a request to the CDBG funding source because of the additional cost.

Alderman Lopez

So that doesn't suggest that they are currently in disrepair or falling apart.

Vice Chairman Caron

Right, it just means it should be done within a certain amount of time. I don't think you want to go five years because they have already been there for 20 years.

Ms. Schena

When we met as staff internally public works had a much longer list than these three projects that ended up before the committee and part of that was prioritizing amongst their requests which were in the highest need and the basketball courts was one that they felt took priority. I think they are in a condition of disrepair.

Alderman Lopez

My impression of the DPW was that they were overtaxed last year and not able to do a lot of the projects that they wanted to do. I believe Labine was on their list of parks that they need to repair, I just don't remember the Vietnam Park being on the list.

Vice Chairman Caron

Some of the other issue is budgeting because some of this stuff would be in the budget. Because of what they are told the percentage they increase, they have to put some of this maintenance aside. I am sure that if they put this as one of their top three, the repairs are much needed because of the use of the facility. It's over 20 years so when you don't do any upkeep to it that can happen. When you're looking at the priorities that you have like a hole in a roof or a major roof repair for us this would be more of a low priority than something like taking care of a roof or what have you. That would be my way of thinking if you set up your priorities. You mentioned your priorities. For me, that would be a priority that would be a low priority. If you can give them some money to do something that's fine, but if you can't, you have to look at what the important requests are.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

To the Labine Park, it's \$60,000 for the Carousel Spinner which is a piece of playground equipment. The other \$20,000 that they are asking for is for upgrading bathrooms. Not that I don't think that upgrading the bathrooms is unimportant, but if they are designing and putting in a playground, it seems to me that they need to have those pieces of equipment. It's easier to do that installation as part of that big playground installation. I am going to make a motion to reduce Labine Park by \$15,000. It would reduce it from \$80,000 to \$65,000

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO REDUCE LABINE PARK FROM \$80,000 TO \$65,000

Alderman Lopez

I look at it the other way around, Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja. If you are building a new park or upgrading the park, that's going to generate more and more traffic. I think the bathrooms become a higher priority, in particular, making sure they are handicapped accessible for the park that you just designed for handicapped

accessible people. I feel that should be done before the carousel. If we have a park that's almost done, you could fundraise for it. I have never seen anybody fundraise for a bathroom.

Alderman Melizzi-Golja

Carrie, let me ask you this. At the end of the day if we say we reduce it from \$80,000 to \$65,000, do they decide what to do with that?

Ms. Schena

Unless the committee says otherwise.

Alderman Lopez

Can we suggest they fix the bathrooms? Can I amend the motion to say we should also suggest that they do the bathrooms? In my mind in terms of priority, I like the carousel and I want it to happen but I also want to make sure that they do build the bathrooms.

Alderman Melizzi-Golja

I think if I heard Carrie correctly if we put any specificity to that, they must do it. I think if they listen to this discussion, they know what the priority is. We're just saying, you want to put in a carousel and you want to do bathrooms, we think those are all really good things but we don't have \$80,000 to give you. We're only going to give you \$65,000. You figure out how to do it.

Ms. Schena

I think you could put language in the resolution that says with a priority of completing the bathrooms. We've seen things like that.

Vice Chairman Caron

You're being reduced to \$65,000 which needs the bathrooms to be done first and then whatever you have leftover for your playground equipment. I think that might make everybody happy. I agree with you, Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Melizzi-Golja

That's fine.

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO REDUCE LINE 7, LABINE PARK, FROM \$80,000 TO \$65,000 WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THE RESTROOMS BE REPAIRED FIRST; BALANCE TO BE USED FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AS NEEDED
MOTION CARRIED**

Alderman LeBrun

I propose eliminating Item 3, the roof replacement at the Front Door Agency, and eliminating the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park basketball courts.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LEBRUN TO ELIMINATE THE FRONT DOOR AGENCY BY \$15,000 AND THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK BASKETBALL COURTS FOR \$45,000

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lopez

I'm concerned about eliminating them outright. As much as I wouldn't put a basketball repair versus a roof repair, I do also think it sounds like they really do need some repairs. I would be in favor of partially funding the basketball. I'm really reluctant to shut down the Front Door Agency's request because we don't know what the roof condition really, really is. We weren't able to look at it or do a site visit along those lines.

Alderman LeBrun

Carrie mentioned that the Front Door roof was not leaking at this time. It was just proposed that it needed to be replaced.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

I'm reluctant to totally cut that out because when I remembered the director speaking to us, it sounded like there was a feeling this really needed to be done. "The Front Door Agency purchased the property in 1998. It was estimated the roof was approximately seven years old. Over the last two years, we have seen an increase in leaks and are concerned this will only increase as the roof continues to age. Over this time, we have seen shingles fall off and require replacing it." That's at the bottom of page two of their request. They were already experiencing problems with this property.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO REDUCE THE FRONT DOOR AGENCY AND THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK BASKETBALL COURTS REQUESTS BY 33 PERCENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LEBRUN TO REDUCE BY 50 PERCENT, REDUCING THE FRONT DOOR AGENCY TO \$7,500 AND THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK BASKETBALL COURTS TO \$22,500

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lopez

Is the amount that we're reducing it likely make the repairs to the park undoable?

Ms. Schena

I don't know.

Vice Chairman Caron

Some of this was going for the walkway that circles the park. That probably would be the part that they wouldn't get done. I think they could probably get the basketball court done with the \$22,500. It might be a little low. It depends on how the bids come in.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

I can support Item 9, the memorial park. I'm uncomfortable reducing the Front Door below \$10,000. For that reason, I'm not going to support this.

MOTION FAILED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO REDUCE THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK BY 50 PERCENT TO \$22,500
MOTION CARRIED

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

If I'm following the numbers, it looks like we have about \$75,000 left that we're over budget.

Alderman Lopez

What happens if we reduce 11 or 12? They don't issue the grant?

Ms. Schena

It depends which line item you are speaking of. On the housing improvement program, in prior years, it was \$75,000 plus any program income that was received throughout the year. This year we were saying still to use \$75,000 of the base grant and then up to \$25,000 of the program income. That comes in to bring it up to \$100,000. If that goes down that's less units that we can address. We could go back to the way it used to be where we say \$75,000 and depending on what program income comes in. If we receive more than \$40,000 of program income it would go to the housing rehab program. There would be a consideration there. The admin if it is not fully funded, we would probably have to look at trimming back staff.

Alderman Lopez

If we cut back #10, next year we're going to have less potentially in the CDBG money. If we cut back the other one, someone might lose their job?

Ms. Schena

Correct.

Alderman Lopez

I was asking originally about administration costs, not about housing.

Ms. Schena

That's one of the benefits of the housing improvement program. It is a loan program. That's what generates the program income. Making the change this year to say \$75,000 of a base allocation and up to \$25,000 for program income put its such that if program income exceeds that number, that will just sit in a pot to be reallocated next year instead of automatically coming into the rehab program.

Alderman Lopez

Is the \$25,000 that was put in this year just a specific number for a reason? Is it historical?

Ms. Schena

It was to try to at least try to refund the program at \$100,000 annually. Anywhere around the \$100,000 mark we are very careful with the per unit cost and what repairs are done to each property. Knowing there isn't a large pot of money and wanting to touch as many homes as possible; we do go in and prioritize the most critical needs at each property. Often time's people come in for one thing and end up with something else.

Once we do the assessment or visit to their property, we realize they have much more serious needs than what they thought.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO REDUCE LINE ITEM 10, HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, BY \$10,000, TO \$90,000
MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LEBRUN TO REDUCE THE PAL PROJECT BY 25 PERCENT (\$8,000)

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lopez

The presentation we attended made sense to me. Their roof has been in disrepair for a long time. They have taken a lot of steps to try to make stopgap repairs. Part of the reason it's in the state it is in now is because they didn't have access to the roof in the first place. I don't think PAL is an organization that can easily fundraise additional money for that. I'm not in favor of 25 percent being removed.

MOTION FAILED

Alderman Wilshire

You need to cut another \$57,000 but that doesn't include any contingency that you would normally budget for.

Alderman Lopez

What if we took Alderman Melizzi-Golja's idea of cutting ten percent uniformly and made it five percent instead?

Vice Chairman Caron

I don't think it would do it.

Alderman LeBrun

Ten percent would come close.

Alderman Schoneman

I want to comment on the across-the-board suggestion. It might seem like its useful and it could solve a problem, but I think it doesn't take into account the prioritization that was discussed earlier. Listening to the conversation, it's clear that everybody wants to do as much of this as possible. That's just not going to work. I think if you begin to look at the prioritization, I would call you back to Labine Park and that carousel in particular. I like the conversation about keeping the bathrooms. I think that's important. I like the suggestion that maybe the carousel could be added later. It's a \$60,000 piece of equipment. That's a lot of money. Will there be as much value in that as some of the other things you're doing. I think you get a large savings by postponing that for a little bit of time until they can fund some other way. One of the questions I asked when the parks director was here was not so much how much the total cost is but how is the fundraising going. That was going to be largely a donated playground. I don't know what the answer to that is. There may be some way for them to work on that \$60,000. You would be able to keep a larger portion of what you clearly believe are vital. Not to say that a carousel is not important, but it's not vital. Vital being necessary for life.

Alderman Melizzi-Golja

Do you know where the funds are coming from for the playground? How much of that has been donated?

Ms. Schena

I don't know what the donation number is up to. There's some CDBG money from a couple of fiscal years ago, just over \$50,000, that was initially slated for Labine fields and park in general before it was known the legacy was going to go there. We do have \$50,000 of CDBG that is going towards purchasing some of that existing equipment that Nick Caggiano spoke about that the city was going to purchase. I can't remember the dollar figure. It is going to the Board of Public Works in a week or so. It does include the \$50,000 of CDBG and then I want to say roughly \$70,000 from some other funds that are through the parks and rec department. That's just the equipment cost. I think what's going out to bid would be for the actual labor and installation. That was the piece that Superintendent Caggiano was saying he was reluctant to put a number on just because the bids have not been received yet. Its \$120,000 to purchase the existing structures they hope to put in.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LEBRUN TO REDUCE LABINE PARK FROM \$65,000 TO \$20,000 TO BE UTILIZED FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE RESTROOMS
MOTION CARRIED**

Alderman Melizzi-Golja

We still need to reduce \$20,139.40

Ms. Schena

And there hasn't been a discussion about contingency and if there's going to be a small amount set aside for contingency.

Alderman Schoneman

Relating to Line 1, at the meeting I was at last time you voted to set aside 15 percent. I think it was done because we appeared to have way in excess of what was needed. I don't know if there's any point in reconsidering that line or what that is for.

Vice Chairman Caron

That money went to Review & Comment. That committee has already met and put their recommendations together. Obviously we can't take it back.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO REDUCE LINE #13, DISASTER RESILIENCE PLANNING, FROM \$8,000 TO ZERO

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lopez

I think that's an example of something that's a really good idea but could also be done in different ways.

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Melizzi-Golja

I've forgotten what we typically put in contingency.

Ms. Schena

It's varied. I've seen it \$5,000, \$7,000. This past year it was \$10,000. Out of that \$10,000 we only needed \$2,000. Typically contingency is if there are really any unforeseen issues with the construction projects that are funded. It's also worded such that if there was any emergency need that arose throughout the year, it could be presented to the committee and possibly funded through contingency. If an agency had a failed roof in the middle of the year off of the regular grant cycle and there was contingency money, it might be something they would come to the committee and ask for to be funded out of contingency.

Alderman Melizzi-Golja

We're looking at our major construction projects being basically 2 through 6.

Ms. Schena

I would say the roofs would be the biggest wild cards.

Alderman Melizzi-Golja

And maybe Tolles Street if we pulled out a wall and find something we weren't expecting.

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO ADD \$5,000 INTO LINE ITEM #14, CONTINGENCY
MOTION CARRIED**

Alderman Melizzi-Golja

We now need to figure out where we are going to get \$17,139.40.

Alderman Wilshire

I'm coming up with \$9,600.

Alderman LeBrun

I'm coming up with \$9,850.

Ms. Schena

The deficit to start with was \$112,639. Labine was cut by \$60,000. The basketball courts by \$22,500. Housing improvement program was \$10,000. Then you have to add in the \$5,000 from contingency. And another \$8,000 for the disaster resilience.

Alderman Schoneman

I started with the \$22,500 reduction for the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Park, Basketball Court. \$60,000 out of Labine. \$10,000 out of the housing improvement program. That added to \$92,500. Then we reduced

Disaster Resilience Planning by \$8,000. That came up to \$100,500. Then we added \$5,000 back in, which means you have to take it out of that. That brings the number down to \$95,500. If I subtract \$95,500 from \$112,639.40, I come up with \$17,139.40.

Alderman Wilshire

Can we go line by line? Line 1 should be \$91,744. Line 2 should be \$35,521. Line 3 should be \$7500.

Vice Chairman Caron

No. It's still \$15,000. We voted no. There's your difference?

Alderman Wilshire

There's the difference.

Alderman LeBrun

Carrie, can you explain the rail trail. Is that basically the lighting?

Ms. Schena

That will be towards the total cost. The lighting project, in its entirety, is estimated to be between \$300,000 and \$500,000. The \$100,000 would go towards that. It's the cost to trench, run new conduit and then hire a contractor who would do the electrical connections and purchase the light fixtures and poles. That's for the entire length of the trail, 1.3 miles.

Alderman Lopez

Is the \$100,000 going to be used to do as much as they can do or are they going to wait until they have the full amount?

Ms. Schena

The intention is to do the entire project at once. We talked about doing it phased. The Director of Public Works indicated that cost-wise it doesn't make sense to do that. You have the contractor there to do the entire length.

Alderman Lopez

The lighting on the rail trail is not useful. There are maybe 3-4 lights on the extension that are flickering on or off and most of them are off. This is a project that in its entirety should be done as soon as we can get it done.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LEBRUN TO REDUCE THE RAIL TRAIL BY 20 PERCENT

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

Could we amend it to reduce it by ten percent so it would cut \$10,000? We would then have \$7,139.40 left and then reduce the Girls, Inc. playground by that amount which would give them \$54,360.60 to put towards playground design.

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO AMEND TO REDUCE THE RAIL TRAIL BY 10 PERCENT (\$10,000) AND REDUCE THE GIRLS, INC. PLAYGROUND BY \$7,139.40

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lopez

What about doing all of that but reducing the rail trail by \$5,000 and taking \$2,500 from the Grant Administration Project delivery. Would \$2500 off of either budget remove a position?

Ms. Schena

No, I don't think it would remove a position. We'd have to get creative with pens and paper. If I could if the number that's not the whole dollar if that could maybe affect one of the non-outside entity for ease of setting it up in our federal system and creating the sub-recipient agreement. Less than whole dollars gets a little odd to track the pennies.

MOTION AMENDED BY ALDERWOMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO REDUCE THE GIRLS, INC. BY \$7,140

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LEBRUN TO CALL THE QUESTION

Vice Chairman Caron

The motion on the floor is to reduce Girls, Inc. playground and fencing from \$61,500 to \$54,360, and #8, rail trail from \$100,000 to \$90,000

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO ADD \$5,000 TO THE RAIL TRAIL AND REDUCE \$2500 FROM LINE ITEMS 11 AND 12

ON THE QUESTION

Ms. Schena

Maybe have one \$2500.60 on one of them so we're whole.

MOTION CARRIED

Vice Chairman Caron

We'll go through them to make sure everybody is on the same page. #2, Children's Home is \$35,521; Front Door Agency is \$15,000; Girls, Inc. is \$54,360; PAL is \$32,000; Tolles Street Mission is \$16,500; Labine Park is \$20,000; Rail Trail is \$90,000; Vietnam Memorial Park is \$22,500; Housing Improvement Program is \$90,000.

Alderman Melizzi-Golja

For grant administration I have \$119,825.40. For project delivery, I have \$115,922.

Vice Chairman Caron

Disaster Planning is zero. Contingency is \$5,000.

Alderman Melizzi-Golja

Rail trail, we added back \$5,000.

Vice Chairman Caron

Okay. Rail trail is \$95,000.

Alderman Wilshire

I'm off \$1.20.

Ms. Schena

It could be that the spreadsheet has formulas in it.

Alderman Wilshire

It's only \$1.20.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO APPROVE THE FINAL NUMBERS AS ADJUSTED
MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET AS PRESENTED FOR THE
HOME PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR '17 TOTALING \$294,065.79
MOTION CARRIED**

GENERAL DISCUSSION

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman Lopez

I would like to congratulate Frank Figeroro, a cab driver, who spotted a fire yesterday and went into the building and made sure several people got out including five children.

Alderman Wilshire

I just wanted to comment on April 11 the opioids discussion with this committee will take place. Alderman McCarthy had invited the panel to come before us after seeing them at the Science Café. He thought it made a lot of sense for the city to be informed and brought up-to-date on the crisis in our city.

Alderman Melizzi-Golja

Tomorrow evening, we are going to have Director Marchant and some people from Community Development doing their presentation on the city plan for health as well as the complete streets program. I know it's being

presented in about a week during the week. Tomorrow night, Science Café's topic is on the Zika virus.

Vice Chairman Caron

I would like to thank the committee. This is a lot of work. We have to make a lot of hard decisions. You worked and made compromises. I think that was great. Also, a quick update. Review & Comment is finishing with their agency meetings this week. The commissioners will be meeting to discuss the final outcomes and the tallies and meeting with the volunteers to make sure that everything that they agreed to be up and running and getting it to Human Affairs and legislation.

Alderman Wilshire

I just wanted to mention that this is not a done deal. This funding recommendation gets put into a resolution and at the full Board will be referred to this committee. We get a second bite at the apple and more public comment. This will be coming back before this committee. Thank you, Alderman Caron, for your hard work.

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Aldерwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Committee Clerk

Jim Donchess

MAYOR • CITY OF NASHUA

To: Human Affairs Committee
From: Jim Donchess, Mayor
Date: March 11, 2016
Re: FY17 CDBG & HOME City Requests

I appreciate the opportunity to meet with the Human Affairs Committee to discuss the City's requests for CDBG funding. This year's CDBG allocation is approximately 2% higher than last year and the HOME Program increased by approximately 10%. These funding changes highlight the importance of continued advocacy for maximum funding of the CDBG and HOME programs to our Congressional representatives.

In addition to our annual grant of \$611,629 and prior year funds in the amount of \$23,315.60 available to reprogram (identified in a memo from Carrie Schena to the HAC dated February 4, 2016), the Urban Programs Department estimates approximately \$40,000 of program income. I also recommend recapturing the following balances to apply toward this year's projects, bringing the total available to \$713,373.60:

FY11 Best Retail Practices	\$12,000
FY11 & FY14 Railtrail	\$ 8,929
FY14 Neighborhood Impact	\$ 7,500
FY16 Contingency	<u>\$10,000</u>
Subtotal	\$38,429

With regard to this year's CDBG Annual Action Plan, I propose the following:

- Labine Park \$80,000: This request will be used to purchase an Integration Carousel Spinner costing \$60,000 and for the rehabilitation of the existing restroom including new roofing and accessibility improvements, such as new doors, fixtures, partitions, walkways, walls, plumbing upgrades, electrical upgrades and flooring. This work will be completed separate from the current project that is out to bid.
- Railtrail Lighting \$100,000: Funds will be used toward the cost of installing new, hard-wired lights along the entire length of the trail. Work will include purchase of new lights/hardware, trenching and electrical work. Total project cost is estimated to be \$300,000 - \$400,000.
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park \$45,000: These funds would be used to rehabilitate the basketball courts and walkway in the park.
- CDBG program administration \$122,326: Planning and administration is limited to 20% of the annual grant + program income. Admin includes the cost of staffing, fair housing, reporting and planning activities.
- Housing Improvement Program \$100,000: Loan program for code, safety and accessibility improvements. Properties must be occupied by a low-income owner, not to exceed four units. Funding of this program includes \$75,000 from the annual grant and \$25,000 from projected program income.

- Project delivery \$118,422: These costs are directly attributable to the cost of construction management of the Housing Improvement Program and CDBG physical projects.
- Disaster Resilience Planning \$8,000: Project will be funded through and is subject to the receipt of program income received throughout the year. The City's Office of Emergency Management will oversee the development of a resilience plan toolkit for non-profit entities that provide services for at-risk populations. The plan will include a risk-assessment to identify areas of physical improvements (i.e. generators, flood-proofing, storm shutters) that would help an agency be more resilient to a disaster and document their need for funding of such improvements. Under this pilot program, they will also assist approximately 10 agencies in developing a disaster resilience plan. The toolkit will be simple enough for an organization to conduct independently and ensure sustainability of the project if funding diminished.

Regarding the HOME Program, the annual grant is \$289,197 and there is FY15 Admin funds in the amount of \$4,868.79 available to recapture, for a total of \$294,065.79:

- Grant Administration \$28,920: Capped at 10% of annual grant
- CHDO set-aside \$43,379.55: this is a mandatory reservation for projects developed by a specific type of non-profit.
- Affordable Housing Development \$221,766.54: Applications for affordable housing development projects are accepted on a rolling basis. These funds are available to non-profit and for-profit developers for qualified housing projects.