

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

A meeting of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee was held on Monday, September 19, 2016, at 7:01 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chairman Benjamin M. Clemons presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane, Vice Chair
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman Don LeBrun
Alderman June M. Caron

Also in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy
Alderman-at-Large Mark S. Cookson
Alderman-at-Large Daniel T. Moriarty
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman David Schoneman
Alderman Sean M. McGuinness
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Western Lu, Brookline, New Hampshire

I understand that Farrell Woods is being nominated for a position on the Nashua Airport Authority and having known Farrell as a resident of the airport for 20+ years I can tell you that he is a well-respected member of the community and I've worked with him at two companies and I think he will be a great Nashua Airport Authority board member.

Mr. Mike Apfelberg, President, United Way

I wanted to officially express the United Way's support on the Welcoming resolution. There is a letter of support I would like to read:

"Dear Mayor and Aldermen,

The United Way of Greater Nashua would like to express our whole hearted support for the legislation declaring Nashua a Welcoming City. As an organization we strive to improve the health, education and economic well-being of the people living in the communities that we serve and we recognize when a community is welcoming and inclusive then its residents lives will be improved. This is more than feel good legislation. Research has shown that 40% of the health outcomes for an individual are based on factors related to social inclusion. When people are not isolated they are less likely to need emergency or other costly medical services. As a result, both the individual and the community benefit absent the burden of those costly services. Other research centers around economic development demonstrated that immigrants bring needed skills and job creation to our community. In fact, the foundation of what Nashua is today was built by immigrants and in order to sustain growth into the future we will continue to need to welcome and effectively include immigrants in our community. Since 1930 the United Way has represented a collective effort to improve our community through partnerships and coalitions, therefore, we embrace this legislation as an additional and important step and encourage you to pass it with your fullest possible support. Respectfully submitted and unanimously agreed to by the Board of Directors of the United Way of Greater Nashua."

Ms. Latha Mangipudi, 20 Salmon Brook Drive

I am here in support of R-16-068 – Affirming the City of Nashua as a Welcoming City and to participate in the Welcoming America Initiative. I am excited to see that Nashua is moving in the right direction being the first generation immigrant in this community and I love this community. I was welcomed and I was able to integrate into the community from day 1. I've been able to serve my community and the new immigrants coming to the welcoming and to harness their positive potential to truly celebrate diversity. It only makes our community more vibrant and this is the right thing to do in this day in age when we are looking for peace and harmony and celebration of diversity.

Mr. Kyle Schneck, 26 Chester Street

I am also here to advocate for the legislation for the Welcoming. I also work here in Nashua and was part of the group of individuals that put together the Welcoming kick-off event on Friday and I can't begin to express how important the city's full cooperation is in supporting the Welcoming initiative. We just announced today that Nashua was ranked #16 in Money Magazines best cities in America. It said "Nashua immigrant integration initiative when a time that immigration has become a contentious issue in the political discourse, Nashua is working to integrate its immigrant community through job training and mentorship programs. The initiative is collaboration between leaders in both the public and private sectors to connect immigrants with local employers." I think that we have had an opportunity to lead in marketing Nashua as an open community and truly embracing the assets of the community and the benefits that we can receive from that. It's going to take an effort on all levels to market our city that way.

Ms. Lauren Osowski, 14A Artillery Lane

I am the director of adult education at the Adult Learning Center here in Nashua. I have the honor of working with students and teachers from 74 different countries every day and I have the privilege of seeing what education and a welcoming environment can do. When our students hear something on the news about the evils of the world they don't picture a faceless monster but their classmates. I am here to support the Welcoming City legislation.

Our students wrote a passage in the N is for Nashua book, IS for immigrants. Immigrants come to Nashua for education, work, family, culture, freedom, religion, safety, cleanliness, beauty and opportunity. Immigrants bring different dreams, cultures, foods, languages, clothing, crafts, possessions and experience to our city. Let's enjoy our global village of Nashua with our new friends, say hello and welcome them. I think we should honor their request by making Nashua a Welcoming City.

INTERVIEWS

Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

Jeff Hannigan (New Appointment)

Term to Expire: August 31, 2019

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Hannigan is not present tonight so I think we should bring him in the next time we meet.

Chairman Clemons

Sounds good.

Paula G. Lochhead (New Appointment)

Term to Expire: August 31, 2019

Mayor Donchess

Ms. Lochhead has been extremely active with Mine Falls for a long time. She's very involved with the clean-up days; she is very knowledgeable about the history and the importance of Mine Falls Park. She used to work at the American Textile Museum down in Lowell which is connected with the history of Mine Falls through the canal and the system that powered our mills. I think Paula has demonstrated that she is an excellent appointment for the committee.

Ms. Paula Lochhead

I have been here in Nashua for about 43 years. I do consider Nashua my home. I consider Mine Falls a gem for this city and is an amazing resource. It's a wonderful place.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

It's difficult to share space or protect space. We have a skate park moving in on one side, a soccer field right in the middle of it, we have bicycle trails and a proposed bridge into it. What are your thoughts on either prioritizing or identifying the best use of those spaces both for the current generation and generations to come?

Ms. Lochhead

I think to have Mine Falls available to the community is important and I also think it should be our main focus to maintain its pristine environment. We might have to do a lot of juggling; it will require a lot more intervention in terms of keeping it clean. There seems to be a core group of people who are very invested in that park.

Alderman Caron

Have you been to any of the Mine Falls Park advisory meetings?

Ms. Lochhead

Yes, I've been to many. I also regularly participate in the clean-up days.

Alderman LeBrun

You list the SCRAP Program as one of your interests; can you tell me what that is?

Ms. Lochhead

I went on a two-week archeological dig in northern New Hampshire this summer. It was through the state archeologist and he supervised a lot of volunteers to excavate a prehistoric site in Holderness.

Alderman Schoneman

I'd like to extend my thanks for your volunteering.

Chairman Clemons

I would like to thank you for volunteering as well. I appreciate your commitment to the park and the city.

Nashua Airport Authority

Farrell T. Woods (New Appointment)

Term to Expire: August 31, 2017

Mayor Donchess

We have with us Joe Duquette and Farrell Woods who are both nominees for the Nashua Airport Authority. The airport is a very significant asset to the city and one that we want to be careful to nurture and to grow; especially with the Daniel Webster College being in doubt, the importance of the airport is an institution for our local economy and for local pilots and people who want to fly. Both gentlemen have extensive experience with aviation and the Nashua Airport Authority. They are both licensed pilots. Mr. Duquette is an engineer who graduated from Daniel Webster College. Mr. Woods as well is a licensed pilot and has an airplane and another person who is very active and knowledgeable about the airport. We currently have two openings on the Nashua Airport Authority out of the five positions. Alderman McCarthy and Alderman Schoneman have helped at times to interview and locate people and that has been very helpful. I think they will both do a great job for the city.

Mr. Woods

I have been a Hudson resident since the year 2000 and a member of the airport community for about 20 years. I am an airplane owner as Mayor Donchess stated and I base my airplane at the Nashua Airport where I own a hangar. I contribute to Nashua in form of paying property taxes on that unit. I have been attending the Nashua Airport Authority meetings for about the past three years and I actively contribute in those meetings when I feel the need.

Joseph R. Duquette (New Appointment)

Term to Expire: August 31, 2021

Mr. Duquette

I grew up in Nashua and graduated from Nashua High School and Daniel Webster College with a degree in Aviation Management and at the same time earned my commission in the United States Air Force as a second lieutenant. The airport has been a very special place for me ever since I can remember. I became aware of this opportunity about one year ago. I've always wanted to find a way to serve Nashua and this opportunity was presented to me and I thought it would be fantastic. The airport is a gem and with the very recent news of Daniel Webster's status, I think the need to really preserve that gem and really work hard to maintain the airport as a vital and important part of community is upon us. We need to highlight what the airport brings to the active flyer but to the community at large so they understand that it brings a lot of importance.

Alderman Lopez

I am very impressed by the comments that Mr. Duquette just made and Mr. Woods and I think the Mayor made some excellent future. The airport is incredibly important to Nashua's future.

Alderman McGuinness

Thank you both for volunteering. From what I can see it looks like you both have some great experience. Mr. Duquette, when did you graduate Daniel Webster College?

Mr. Duquette

I graduated in 1996.

Alderman McGuinness

I too graduated from Daniel Webster College some years ago.

Alderman Caron

I had read your resumes earlier and I think this is great because the airport is coming up with some good ideas and we are moving forward in the right direction. Mayor, you made some good choices. I welcome you aboard to the airport community.

Alderman Schoneman

I really appreciate the two of you guys who I have had the pleasure to know a little bit. I'm glad you are willing to step up and thank you, Mayor for making these appointments. I think we have some good talent here and the airport is very valuable to the city and I think we need to develop a sense of how the airport is a benefit to the city and not just to itself. We don't have a city because we need a place for an airport, we have an airport because we need the advantage that aviation can bring to the City of Nashua and the whole state and we are not utilizing that to the fullest extent. There have been issues that we have tried to work through and you have participated in helping us straighten out some of those but we are at a stage where I think we need to begin moving forward and get a sense of our strategic direction for the airport. I look forward to working with you both.

Alderman McCarthy

I would echo many of the same sentiments. I've known Mr. Woods for quite a while and I met Mr. Duquette a while back and I think they are both extremely qualified to be on the Nashua Airport Authority.

Alderman Dowd

Thank you for volunteering. I served for 15 years on the Nashua Airport Authority so I hope you are in for the long-run.

COMMUNICATIONS – None

APPLICATION TO LICENSE HAWKER'S, PEDDLER'S, ITINERANT VENDOR'S LICENSE - None

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LEBRUN TO RECOMMEND THE CONFIRMATION OF THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS: TO THE MINE FALLS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE: JEFF HANNIGAN AND PAULA LOCHHEAD FOR TERMS TO EXPIRE AUGUST 31, 2019; AND PAMELA J. ANDERSON FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE MARCH 1, 2019; TO THE NASHUA AIRPORT AUTHORITY: JOSEPH R. DUQUETTE FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON AUGUST 31, 2021, AND FARRELL T. WOODS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AUGUST 31, 2017; TO THE NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION: JOHN F. EGAN FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 1, 2019; AND TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: JACK CURRIER FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LEBRUN TO AMEND THE MOTION BY NOT INCLUDING JEFF HANNIGAN

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Clemons

We will interview Mr. Hannigan hopefully at the next meeting.

Recorder's Note: Mr. Jeff Hannigan arrived at approximately 7:25 p.m.

Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

Jeff Hannigan (New Appointment)

Term to Expire: August 31, 2019

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Hannigan has too been very involved with Mine Falls Park and very interested in being on the Board. He also, like Ms. Lochhead, sees it as a major asset to the city.

Mr. Hannigan, 32 Houde Street

I live adjacent to the park. My wife and I moved to Houde Street two summers ago and prior to that we lived in the Royal Crest Apartments for approximately three years. We use Mine Falls a lot; with the dog or on my bike four or five times per week. I saw the trail clean-up folks doing the work out there. I ran into Dave who is on the committee and he let me know about the committee and I was excited to get involved.

Alderman Lopez

Have you attended any of the Mine Falls Park advisory committee meetings?

Mr. Hannigan

I've been to the last three meetings.

Alderman Lopez

It's called Mine Falls Park and I keep hearing people call it Mines Falls Park. Is it named Mine Falls because there is actually a mine somewhere or is it named after someone?

Mr. Hannigan

I don't know.

Alderman McCarthy

Just for Mr. Lopez, according to Wikipedia, in years past lead was mined from the island just below the falls from a very low quality ore.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO FURTHER AMEND TO INCLUDE JEFF HANNIGAN TO THE MINE FALLS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-16-068

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

**AFFIRMING THE CITY OF NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE AS A WELCOMING CITY
AND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WELCOMING AMERICA INITIATIVE**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lopez

I would like to comment in support of it but I would also like to acknowledge the situation this weekend where I myself was not particularly welcoming. I was in the middle of organizing a community event and I was very busy doing a lot of stuff and a constituent of the city, Paul Johnson, approached me and had some questions whether everyone who is being welcomed to Nashua is being vetted. I told her that I would be happy to talk to her at a different time but that I was not going to make myself available at that moment and while I still disagree to the extent of which I should be available to every citizen of Nashua, I do recognize that I was discourteous in that situation so I wanted to offer an apology. What I like about this resolution is that it recognizes the inherent strength of working together and including people. I think it is a strength that Nashua has demonstrated for years. I was impressed when I was on the Cultural Connections Committee at how much we had already done as a city to welcome people. We started the Gate City Initiative and the New Hampshire Racial and Ethnic Disparity Group. Nashua has a very proud history of welcoming people; the Irish and the French. The welcoming hasn't always been right during those periods of immigration and there have been some tense times and I think we have learned from it.

I have discussed this with some of the other Aldermen and a comment was made that this kind of legislation isn't really enforcement. Speaking to Ms. Johnson's point, we are not now authorizing more people to come here. Any vetting that is going to be done will be done by resettlement agencies or the immigration control office. Case managers and people working with them will be vetting them all the time because they have to find out what's going on in their personal lives. Once the community asks if we will make this as public that we are a Welcoming City, the only answer we should give is yes because it reflects most accurately who we are and I would never want to send a message that we are not welcoming. We recently passed a similar resolution acknowledging that the Silver Knights did a fantastic job playing their season. This is acknowledging all the people in our city who have done a fantastic job of making of making people feel welcome and included.

Alderman Schoneman

I am relatively new to Nashua myself, I moved here in 2010, and I felt very welcomed. I was welcomed by people who were immigrants to the United States; Russian and Indian immigrants. I chose to live in Nashua because of the diversity that it offers and I think Alderman Lopez is exactly right that we have a history of welcoming people and I think it's a worth recognition just like we recognized the Silver Knights the other day. I do have a concern. The title of the resolution comes in two parts. One is this Recognition; affirming that the City of Nashua, New Hampshire a Welcoming City and I think that's great. The other one is to participate in the Welcoming America Initiative. That's something that I think we need to look at carefully. The Welcoming America Initiative, according to their website,

WelcomingAmerica.org is an advocacy group for refugee resettlement. That's a big question and is one that is loaded with all kinds of political overtones; particularly in this season with national elections taking place. There were some attacks and some incidents and both of the candidates are coming out with policies and Welcoming America has a position on some of those policies and while I think that we should affirm Nashua and the success that we have welcoming people, I am cautious about signing up for an initiative that goes beyond what a Board of Aldermen in a non-partisan capacity ought to be doing. One of their slogans mimics the slogan of one of the presidential candidates and I don't know if we should be giving it an endorsement. If there is some way to separate out the two and do the affirming that I think is so important. The question is very large and maybe the full community over time should be able to weigh in on.

Alderman McGuinness

I want to echo what Alderman Schoneman said. On the face this is a wonderful thing. I listened to the Mayor talk on Monday morning and we've lost maybe 4,000 people in our population but we gained them back with immigration. I am a little concerned about the timing of this thing. It seems to me that it's a little bit of a political issue right now because immigration is the subject of a major national debate right now. I think it makes the Board of Aldermen look like we are favoring one side of that national debate versus the other in a general sense. Again, we want immigration but I am concerned about the timing. If this is truly a genuine effort does it have to be done right now or can it wait until January? I would suggest waiting until the election is over.

Alderman LeBrun

I echo the thoughts of both Alderman Schoneman and Alderman McGuinness. This organization finances political candidates. The only conversation we've heard here is in reference to immigrants. If you look at the website it also refers time and time again to refugees. I don't think this is the time that we want to just open the gates to un-vetted refugees. I agree that we should table this until after the election.

Alderman Clemons

Mayor Donchess, what is your understanding of the Welcoming America Initiative?

Mayor Donchess

I think it's an initiative that has been launched to welcome immigrants of all stripes whether they be immigrants that are refugees or not. I think the vast majority of immigrants are not technically refugees. I do think at the national level, to the extent that refugees are part of immigration that they are checked out very thoroughly before they come into the United States. Whether they be refugees or immigrants from India or Pakistan or Bangladesh or Mexico or the Dominican Republic, I think we should welcome them. There has been some concern expressed by members of the committee that this is somehow involved with the election. This has passed in Manchester and Concord. It was really the Chamber of Commerce, which is certainly a non-partisan organization and the United Way, also non-partisan, has urged the city; I think correctly, that we become involved because of the initiatives they have undertaken which are totally non-partisan. I don't think that this is being brought forward in order to make some election point. In all of the discussion that has taken place, no one has referred to anybody running for any office that I've heard and I don't think this is an endorsement or a condemnation of anyone who is running for anything at any level. You might have seen on Friday the film made by Amanda and Kyle Schneck and Pearl Marketing. It was a pro Nashua video in support of the Welcoming Initiative. It's incredibly effective and it makes Nashua look really good. It refers to no party; I mean I don't even know which party Amanda and Kyle are. We've had Tracy Hatch; head of the chamber is a Republican. I think you have people of both parties. I think the fear that this is somehow going to be used in the election is not correct and this is not an attempt to endorse anyone.

Alderman Moriarty

There is a difference between catch phrases and things that we say that we feel and are registered trademarks or specific organizations that use specific phrases. I like Nashua, I'd like to make it great and I like America and I'd like to make it great. Are we going to pass a resolution to make America great? There is a difference between saying that we want to be a Welcoming City and something that is a Welcoming Initiative. You can go on-line and read about the organization; it's a Welcoming Community Initiative. The difference between platitudes which we all like; I love people versus a specific actionable organization with an agenda that is itemized on-line and is very specific. There is a difference between organizations that I am a part of like Symphony NH and people going out and wanting to do things because they feel it's right. There is a difference between that and a governmental body setting an established approach towards an agenda that is very specific. Their agenda has a list of three things that I was able to find that are very clearly identified. Each of them are controversial, unresolved and they are extremely partisan. Our role as city leaders is to take care of the people that we have here and pay the bills; the police department, fire department, teachers and pave the roads. As a city leader I have an interest in getting to know the community, I knock on doors and I am friends with many of the people on the Cultural Connections Committee. I agree with what they do 9 times out of 10 but this specific one I would disagree with. So what are these three things that are controversial, unresolved at the Congressional level and they are very partisan and by partisan I mean Democratic. The three things are, and they are clearly listed on the website, in order to get certified as a Welcoming City...their purpose of the Welcoming City Initiative is for all of the cities in the country to prepare themselves to be ready for these three things to occur. One of them is for refugee settlement, the second one is illegal immigration amnesty and the third one is free universal health care. The one that is most partisan is the illegal immigration amnesty. The website very specifically talks about President Obama on a certain date had an administrative deferment action and it talks about what we would like to do as part of the Welcoming City Initiative is to get the communities to understand what that means. We would like people to know who are the individuals that would qualify for administrative deferment and what you do once they get deferred. That is the technical term for illegal immigration amnesty. The same with the refugees, we would like to prepare the city to welcome in refugees of all types. These are topics that are at a national level that are controversial, unresolved and partisan and are very different from the feelings and the platitudes of welcoming an individual. When I urge you to vote no on this I am urging you as a governmental entity that needs to not get involved with this particular specific agenda.

Alderman Lopez

I had to confirm what was triggering all of the response because I wasn't sure exactly what the slogan was. I think you are referring to Hilary Clinton's "Stronger Together" logo which is two words put together that when combined take on all of this extra meaning. I would like to clarify that One Greater Nashua managed to accidentally create a similar slogan before Hilary Clinton ever declared that she was running for office and it was just because we were thinking that Nashua is stronger together. I don't think it's been used but I think if it was it might also be misconstrued as an underground association. I am not aware of any part of this legislation that requires us to vote for Hilary Clinton or any of her initiatives. While there were advocacy points that were on the website, it's not uncommon for any organization which is trying to advocate and identify specific priorities that is relevant to their mission. I don't think our legislation really commits us to anything other than just participating and it's not really saying anything beyond that. Just by virtue of the fact that we would participate in Welcoming Week at all could mean that is the extent of our participation. There is no obligation to support any particular political parties or anything of that nature. I was not aware that there are triggers that other people may hear if they are coming from a different political party and may think that this is part of a larger effort. I think that's unfortunate. When I was the Cultural Connections Committee chair I was approached by Welcoming New Hampshire and they asked for a very similar resolution and at the time I didn't because I had been told by the Mayor that appointed me that the Cultural Connections Committee wasn't any kind of political advocacy body so they didn't do anything with it. This predates any current election cycle. It was asked for before and it's just acknowledging what we have already done and I don't think that the line to

participate in the Welcoming America Initiative really compels us to do more than just acknowledge that it exists which we have been doing tonight by talking about it. If we pass the resolution then we are recognizing the good work that our city has done and if we delay the resolution as has been suggested we are very clearly signaling to people who feel very passionate about this that it's not convenient for us politically and what our particular party preferences are might take priority over what the needs of the city are. You could make the argument that by accepting this you are taking on all that connotation of another political party. None of that was stated here and I don't think anyone in this room in favor of this have indicated any of those preferences. It's being introduced by the opposition to the motion and the only campaign support that's happening right now is by people who are opposed to the resolution.

Alderman McCarthy

I guess I wasn't aware until tonight that there was a website that had anything that we might consider offensive on it. If I restricted myself to thinking about things that have been resolved by the Congress we could all go home and just let the city rot because the Congress is completely dysfunctional. Whether you like it or not, once this argument is on the table we embrace one side or the other by what we do with this and frankly, somebody brought up that we had attacks over the weekend and reactions to them regarding immigration; I actually don't want what I do for the city to be driven by the reaction of two people; neither of whom is my first choice to be the leader of the free world, to the insane actions of an American citizen. How that influences immigration policy in any direct way I am not entirely sure but I think what we owe to the citizens and what we owe to everybody involved in this is simply to evaluate what we think Nashua's attitude towards immigrants who come here is and what we think are the words that are in the resolution which doesn't tie us to anything that's on the website, it simply says we tell people who are immigrating to Nashua that they are welcome here.

Alderman McGuinness

Mayor Donchess, is there any urgency or time sensitive reason this legislation has to be acted on now?

Mayor Donchess

I look at the Welcoming City website and I don't see anything about these three items but I don't know if this is something that someone else has interpreted but I've looked at a couple of them. It was brought to us by the Chamber of Commerce and the United Way. I just don't think that they are involved in the partisan election and I don't think they brought this to us in a partisan fashion. I don't think that anyone has mentioned this as a partisan issue until this moment and I can't see anything about these three things. The word amnesty is a loaded word but I'd bet anything that there is no website that says amnesty on it; I mean no website connected with this initiative. I looked through some of the cities and towns that are part of this; Nebraska, St. Louis; I mean these are main line middle of the road communities. I think that it would be a problem for Nashua if we become known as the first community to reject Welcoming America. I don't think it would help us if we defeat or delay this and I am suggesting that we should become part of this along with the Chamber of Commerce and the United Way.

Alderman Caron

In reading this resolution, the most important part of this is that Nashua is a Welcoming City. The part here about the Welcoming America Initiative week has already begun. We would be kind of a laughing stock if we defeat this. Maybe we need to amend it and just put Affirming the City of Nashua, NH as a Welcoming City and not put in that part about the Welcoming America Initiative because that week is already in progress and we haven't even passed this and it doesn't go before the full Board until next week. I agree with the Mayor and Alderman Lopez that this could be very difficult for us and it has nothing to do with your party affiliation. With the things that are going on right now it would be nice if people felt that they are welcome in the City of Nashua.

Alderman Cookson

I believe it was at the last full Board meeting where we had public comment and several members of the public stood up and addressed this body, the Board of Aldermen, speaking about this particular initiative and in particular, one of the things that I heard from almost everyone and I don't have the transcribed minutes in front of me, but I think all of you may agree that we all heard at least some portion of the public comment say I came this many years ago and I felt welcome then. It wasn't necessarily about this, it was I came to Nashua and I was welcome and there was opportunity for me. Regardless, I want to take the partisan out of this because we are a Welcoming City. We embrace our diversity and we love our neighbors and we want to make sure that we are economically viable to entice other citizens, whether they are immigrants or not to join this community and have a future and raise their family and enjoy everything that Nashua has to offer. Mine Falls Park or whatever it is, we want to make sure that we have the services, we have the education and we have the public safety. We want to make sure that Nashua is the best possible community so that everybody feels welcome when they come here and hopefully will make a point that says that it's so good that they will want to stay and raise their family and will have generations. In the neighborhood that I live in we've got generations of families that don't leave that neighborhood. We've got a grandmother over on this street, the mother here and the child that lives on the next street over. That's what Nashua is about and we are welcoming. Leaving partisan out of this conversation on my behalf, my question is truly about what it means to participate in the Welcoming America Initiative. What does it obligate the city to do? What additional stress or strain does it put on any of our current staff? One of the things that was mentioned was DACA and with DACA you have to provide certain materials, passports, birth certificates or whatever the case may be. It is within the toolkits portion of the Welcoming America Initiative so there is a laundry list of things that we would be responsible for as a community so my question is what additional stress or strain would be put on our current staff with approving or participating in this initiative?

Mayor Donchess

Well I don't think anything in the sense that...we are not committed and there are no specific steps that we have to take. I suppose there are things that we could do but I don't see, other than trying to create a friendly, welcoming environment.

Alderman Cookson

We are friendly and welcoming already, aren't we?

Mayor Donchess

Correct.

Alderman Cookson

I thought so.

Mayor Donchess

And affirming the fact that what's we intend to do. I'm not sure that there are any particular steps that we have to take.

Alderman Cookson

Is there any travel associated with this initiative?

Mayor Donchess

Not that I know of.

Alderman Cookson

There is an annual trip each year. Who would be participating in that and how much?

Mayor Donchess

If you are thinking of me I had no thought of going to a convention or whatever it would be.

Alderman Cookson

I don't know who would be, Mr. Mayor, I'm just asking because that was one of the obligations of participating in this initiative. I'm just curious as to who would be assigned to that and who would travel and what sort of stipend would be associated with that?

Mayor Donchess

Well I think where we are getting hung up is the word "obligation," we don't have obligation to do anything. As far as I know, I mean I don't know, someone from the United Way might go, someone from the Chamber of Commerce might go; I have no idea but as far as city employees, I have no intention of sending; if someone wanted to go on their own dime then I don't have a problem, maybe they would want a day off, I don't know but I am not aware of any effort to have any city person go to any convention associated with this initiative.

Alderman Cookson

Thank you.

Alderman McCarthy

Can someone point out where they are finding this information on obligations?

Alderman Cookson

What I think would be helpful is for the Mayor and his staff to present to us exactly what it is that's contained within this. I can go into the website and I can click on links and there are a multitude of links that will take you to the White House...It would be great to have a presentation about what is the Welcoming to America Initiative and what are the obligations associated or what does it mean to participate in that initiative. That would be helpful for I believe this committee and it would certainly help members of the full Board.

Alderman McCarthy

I'm looking at the website and I can't find anything that commits us to anything if it is the WelcomingAmerica.org website.

Alderman Cookson

"Commitment to participate in the Welcoming Cities and Counties Cohort..."

Alderman McCarthy

Where did you find that?

Alderman Cookson

It is at the WelcomingAmerica.org/sites/default/files/welcoming%20city%20&20...

Alderman McCarthy

But how do you get to it from the home page?

Alderman Cookson

Well, I've already clicked on the link and I'm not sure exactly which link I clicked on but I have provided you with the exact link?

Chairman Clemons

Alderman Moriarty, do you have an answer to this specific question?

Alderman Moriarty

In some sense, yes; what Alderman Cookson is saying is...he is restating what I said in a different perspective and making it clear to everybody that there is a difference between the feelings, the desires and platitudes...

Chairman Clemons

Excuse me, I was asking if you had a specific answer as to where the link was that Alderman McCarthy had asked. If you don't then I am going to let the Mayor speak because I think he has important things to say that we need to hear.

Alderman Moriarty

I believe I had my hand up a long time ago, my apologies.

Mayor Donchess

I'm looking at the website again and I don't see...I mean there are many, many links. Yes, the White House has been involved in initiating this across the country to try to make the country be welcoming. But, just because the White House is mentioned; I mean in reality they are not the enemy. I just saw a...regardless of what party you are, I saw a...

Alderman Cookson

Personal privilege.

Chairman Clemons

You are out of order, please let the Mayor finish.

Mayor Donchess

I saw a picture dating back to 1988 of me welcoming George Bush, Vice President, at the Nashua Airport. Now, I am not of his party and I did not support him for President but he came to Nashua so he deserved to be welcomed. I mean just because there is a reference to the White House doesn't mean we should be against this, in my opinion, regardless of what party. I would say that no matter who is in office there. The White House often does good things no matter who the party is.

Alderman Cookson

Personal privilege, Mr. Chair?

Chairman Clemons

Alderman Cookson.

Alderman Cookson

Thank you. My expressing that there was a link to the White House; I made absolutely no commentary on whether it was good or bad, I was providing an example of the multitude of links that were provided with this. For that expression to be placed on me, to infer that by stating a website; I think is incorrect and I think the Mayor needs to apologize for that because it had no implication as to whether it was good or bad as to my stating it.

Chairman Clemons

Whether or not the Mayor apologizes to you or not is up to his own personal privilege.

Alderman Moriarty

Regardless of what party you are on, what everybody needs to understand is that this endorses an organization. There is a difference between saying we are welcoming people. That's not what this is. This is an endorsement of a specific organization that has an agenda and it has toolkits. There are PowerPoint presentations and Word documents; there is a lot of information. There is a lot of help that they offer to the communities to be able to read this information and do things because this is an organization. That statement in of itself doesn't say the organization is bad or good but I would urge you to understand that there is a difference between saying I want to be a nice person and endorsing an organization. It's just like I like liberty and freedom but I am not going to support an organization that asks the City of Nashua to endorse the Free State Project. I want a free state, we can all agree with that but are you going to sign on-board and endorse the Free State Project as an organization? This is precisely what we are doing here. There is an organization that is the Welcoming America Initiative that has these things in it that are very specific and Alderman Cookson was asking if maybe the Mayor could give a presentation about what are these specific things that this identifiable organization wants to do because then we can say oh maybe we do agree with that or don't and that they just may be using the word "welcoming" because it makes us sound nice and some people might think that. I want everybody to be sure of that.

Alderman Lopez

I would be concerned that the public might look at that action as being an obvious stall for political purposes because it was asked if maybe we should wait until January after the election is over. This is something that affects people now. Many of us don't have to deal with discrimination or worry about going to school every time somebody in New York decides to commit a terrorist act. This is supposed to be us speaking as a city as to what our values are. If there is a strong push to just delay it until the campaign season is over that should be overly and directly stated. Requesting that the Mayor's office present in detail a website that we all have access to is getting very convoluted when the thrust of this is to say that we are a welcoming city. I think we should have the capacity to decide whether we are a welcoming city or not and we should be able to communicate that to the public. There are a lot of people and organizations that have supported this and I don't that any of them ever really mentioned any of the partisan issues until they came up tonight. The more we try to win the federal election here in the Aldermanic Chamber then we are not helping our own constituents in Nashua. It hasn't even been clear if there is any kind of commitment to participating in the Welcoming American Initiative. They may be an organization that has different interests to us overall but our participation can just be this resolution saying we happen to be a welcoming city as well. We could be joining other cities that have also not identified these issues I guess because they perhaps didn't discern them as clearly as we do but they did manage to have the discussions that we are having right now and come to the conclusion that ultimately they wanted to be a welcoming city. I don't think there are a lot of obligations in being involved in the initiative and I think Alderman Caron may be right that it's just easier to say let's not be involved in the initiative because the week's already underway. That's what prompted them to propose it in time sensitive way so that we could celebrate with the rest of the cities but people are going to celebrate anyway. People who are working with immigrants already consider their own communities welcoming even if we don't want to formalize it by saying you are at least as important as the Nashua Silver Knights and all of your work does matter and we want to pass a resolution to say we are with you. If the second half of it is such a red herring then maybe we should drop it.

Alderman McCarthy

I did find the list and I'd like to read it so we all understand what it is. The total text of the commitment to participate in the Welcoming Cities and Counties Cohort reads "As representatives in local government we recognize that cities and communities are proactively welcoming newcomers and take steps to ensure their successful integration will be strategically positioned as global competitive 21st century leaders. We therefore resolve to participate in the Welcoming Cities and Counties Cohort and commit to taking the following initial steps to creating an environment that is receptive to immigrants and unlocks the full potential of all members of the community."

1. Advance a municipal or county level proclamation or resolution declaring your locality to be a welcoming one. Alderman McCarthy – That would seem to be what we are doing this evening.
2. Fundraise to institutionalize welcoming efforts through the adoption of policies and practices that promotes inclusion within local government and the broader community. Alderman McCarthy - That would seem to be like the One Greater Nashua Initiative.
3. Join a cohort of cities and counties that have pledged to become more welcoming. Alderman McCarthy – That doesn't actually commit us to anything.
4. Appoint at least one municipal staff contact for the project. Alderman McCarthy – I assume the Mayor's office has done that.

5. Participate in three conference calls each year to share and learn from promising practices from other welcoming cities and counties. Alderman McCarthy – So somebody has to spend a couple of hours on the phone.
6. Participate in an annual in-person meeting with other welcoming cities and counties. (Dependent upon available travel resources) Alderman McCarthy – So it does not commit us to doing that.

That is the entirety of the list that is in the commitment document.

Alderman Schoneman

I found something too on the web page which is how they define a Welcoming City. It plans all relevant sectors such as government, business, non-profit and others. Work together to create a welcoming community climate that supports long-term immigration. Commits; municipalities' commits to institutionalize strategies ensuring the on-going inclusion and long-term economic and social integration of newcomers. Builds communities; newcomers and long-time residents find common ground and share leadership. Communicates; messages of unity and shared values permeate the community through the media, through the voices of leaders and among residents. Sustains; policies and practices that are considered to ensure interactions between new and long-time residents and remain positive when communities economic vitality remains strong. I don't offer that as a contrast to what was stated but as another place where the words are a little different. There's a lot of stuff in the web site. I want to be clear that I am not saying that anyone in the audience was taken a political view. I think the organization, Welcoming America, takes a political view and we need to be careful about that. One of the speakers at the meeting last week did say that it was political and I'm just making an observation that this is a political atmosphere. I don't think he or she is advocating politics but this organization seems to. The suggestion that Alderman Caron and Alderman Lopez made echoed to perhaps separate out the two and do the first. The first says that we affirm to be a welcoming society and we are here in Nashua. To join an initiative with an organization that has multiple arms I think should be more properly vetted. Those are two separate things.

Chairman Clemons

We have a couple of different options. We could amend it and then the Mayor, upon his willingness, could simply allow us to participate via proclamation. I personally think that there are a number of organizations in the city that have spoken for this legislation the way it is written. They want to participate with the Welcoming American Initiative such as the United Way and the Chamber of Commerce. These are not groups of people that are out looking to have a partisan divide. If anything the fact that those groups want to be involved in this initiative says they want to try to bridge that partisan divide. I think they think this is probably a good way to do it but I can't speak for them. I would not be in favor of amending it. I think we should pass it because there have been several people in the community who have spoken up several times in favor of it and sometimes you have to listen to your constituents and what they are saying.

Alderman Moriarty

As a non-voting member I am going to excuse myself but I wanted to correct any misperception on what I said before. I didn't mean to disparage the Free State Project, I personally think it's a great organization but I personally wouldn't submit legislation asking the City of Nashua as a governmental entity, endorse them just like I wouldn't with the Welcoming America Initiative. Putting aside whether you think they are controversial, unresolved or partisan, the specific goals and specific actions are what I disagree with. When it comes to the full Board I am going to vote no.

Alderman Lopez

I don't share the concerns that have been voiced about partisanship because I was not aware of that perspective at all. Just because I don't share the concerns and I didn't know that this was a concern doesn't mean that it doesn't mean something to the people that do share it. I acknowledge that I understand what this looks like. If I am deeply committed to a particular political party and I see what I view as a subversive attempt to try to shift my own hometown into being in favor of that then I can see that. I think recognizing that the core importance here and most of the letters that we've received and the comments were focused on Nashua being a Welcoming City and that we are a community of people who care for each other. When our mosque was damaged last week we all came together as a neighborhood to do something about it. The Welcoming American Initiative; I think it was a larger effort to be part of the celebration but that's not...the organizations that have done the work will continue to do the work. I am sure that the United Way will continue to be part of the Welcoming American Initiative. The people who are committed to his and doing this day in and day out are going to keep doing it but I think it's important for us to acknowledge, now that the question has been asked that yes, we are a welcoming community. It's a very straight forward resolution when you look at the first part. As soon as you start using the word "and" it becomes very politically contentious. I do agree with the comments that were made previously that the Board of Aldermen doesn't need to be partisan so if there is a chord that we all agree on I think we should just focus on that part of it.

Mayor Donchess

I don't think that this is some secret plot or whatever to advance some political agenda. The total list of cities and this goes back several years and I'm sure many have joined since. Allegheny County, PA; Austin, TX; Baltimore, MD; Boise, ID; Chicago, IL; Columbus, OH; Dayton, OH; High Point, NC; Lincoln, NE; Macomb County, MI; Montgomery County, MD; New York, NY; Oakley, CA; Philadelphia, PA; San Francisco, CA; St. Louis, MO; the county and the city. These are the initial participants in this initiative. They are from all over the country from states of both political stripes. I don't think we, the sponsors, intended for this to be some kind of partisan statement. I don't think the supporters here have advanced it in that way and never intended to use it in that way. I think people are reading more into this than was ever intended or is really there.

Alderman Schoneman

I agree with everything the Mayor said. I don't think that anybody tried to advance an agenda but I think that the Welcoming America Initiative might have one and that's the part that I think we ought to suspend. There is nothing to say that the Chamber of Commerce and other groups in the city cannot continue to work these groups, this is just about whether the City of Nashua will officially endorse this organization. I think we should separate the two out and someday if we want to do it we can vet it and think about it. Most people had not looked at the website until tonight and I think we need to give it some time. Let's declare ourselves to be the Welcoming Group in the City of Nashua that we already are.

Chairman Clemons

The motion on the floor right now is to recommend final passage of R-16-068. Is there any further discussion?

Alderman Lopez

I will make a motion to amend the resolution to "affirm the City of Nashua, New Hampshire as a Welcoming City"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO READ: “AFFIRMING THE CITY OF NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE AS A WELCOMING CITY

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

Is that in the title? Are we removing any other language associated with the participation? “And to participate in the Welcoming America Initiative,” is that being removed from the body as well, in its entirety?

Alderman Lopez

Can I include that in a motion? And remove reference to the Welcoming America Initiative as an organization?

Chairman Clemons

Yes. What would the title and the last sentence read?

Alderman Lopez

Affirm that the City of Nashua, New Hampshire is a Welcoming City and refrain from using any terminology that commits us to the Welcoming America Initiative.

Alderman Deane

We can't refrain from doing things. We have to remove what currently exists in the title, which we've done. The proposal through the amendment is: “Affirming the City of Nashua, New Hampshire as a Welcoming City” The “and to participate in the Welcoming America Initiative” would be struck from the title.

Chairman Clemons

That's the motion.

Alderman Deane

That's just the title. Now you have to go into the body. I won't speak for Alderman Lopez, but I think what he wanted to do was remove any of the language associated with the participation part in the Welcoming America Initiative. Is that what your attempt is?

Alderman Lopez

Yes.

Chairman Clemons

Let's amend the title and then discuss that. I think there are a couple of things we might want to address in there. Right now the motion is to amend the title to: “Affirming the City of Nashua, New Hampshire as a Welcoming City” and remove any mention of the Welcoming America Initiative.

Alderman Lopez

I'd rather just clarify that we want to remove any language that commits us to the Welcoming America Initiative so we don't literary have to lean over the Mayor's shoulder and write it.

Chairman Clemons

Might I suggest this? Let me make a motion to change the resolution title to: "Affirming the City of Nashua, New Hampshire as a Welcoming City" and to amend the last sentence to delete "and participate in the Welcoming America Initiative" That is my motion.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO AMEND THE TITLE OF R-16-068 TO READ: "AFFIRMING THE CITY OF NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE AS A WELCOMING CITY" AND DELETING IN THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE BODY OF THE LEGISLATION THE WORDS "AND PARTICIPATE IN THE WELCOMING AMERICA INITIATIVE"

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

Are you going to remove the participation part in the sixth paragraph? Are you going to remove that in its entirety?

Chairman Clemons

Let's do that on a separate motion so we're all clear if that's okay.

Alderman Deane

I think for clarity purposes we should amend the title and then the body.

Chairman Clemons

Okay.

Alderman Deane

I think your motion would be to remove "and to participate in the Welcoming America Initiative" and just leave the title as "Affirming the City of Nashua, New Hampshire, as a Welcoming City." That's the motion for the new motion?

Chairman Clemons

Right. That is the motion before us. Is there any discussion on that motion? Are we clear on what we are voting on? We are just voting on the title.

**AMENDED MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO AMEND THE TITLE OF R-16-068 TO READ:
"AFFIRMING THE CITY OF NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE AS A WELCOMING CITY"
MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Clemons

Now we can discuss the body because I believe there are a couple of things that we might want to adjust. I'm not sure how the committee feels about mentioning Manchester and Concord in there. I do believe that following the spirit of the title change that we just did, the last part of that last sentence should be eliminated.

Alderman Caron

I think that you want to take out that sixth paragraph concerning the week of events. That would be amended to take it out as Alderman Lopez talked about. And then the last paragraph should just say: "Now therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Nashua that the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen of the City of Nashua recognize and affirm the City of Nashua, New Hampshire as a Welcoming City to reinforce that all are welcome in Nashua"

Chairman Clemons

Is that your motion?

Alderman Caron

Yes.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARON TO FURTHER AMEND IN THE BODY BY DELETING THE SIXTH PARAGRAPH WHICH STATES: "WHEREAS, THE CITIES OF MANCHESTER AND CONCORD ARE BOTH WELCOMING CITIES, AND WELCOMING WEEK, AN ANNUAL SERIES OF EVENTS TO CONNECT NEIGHBORS AND SERVE COMMUNITIES, IS SEPTEMBER 16 - 25, 2016" AND BY DELETING IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH THE WORDS "AND PARTICIPATE IN THE WELCOMING AMERICA INITIATIVE" SO IT READS: NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF NASHUA THAT THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF NASHUA RECOGNIZE AND AFFIRM THE CITY OF NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE AS A WELCOMING CITY TO REINFORCE THAT ALL ARE WELCOME IN NASHUA
MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Clemons

We now have to recommend final passage as amended, R-16-068. Is there any further discussion on that?

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Clemons

I'm just going to say for the record that I hesitate. I'll support this in committee, but I'm going to listen to what my constituents have to say. I'd like them to contact me and tell me what they think as far as participating in the Welcoming America Initiative goes because I want a greater understanding of how important that part of the legislation is to anybody in Nashua. While I will support this in committee, I'm not going to commit to it at the full Board.

Alderman Lopez

I would just like to comment to the public that's watching and indulging us in the audience, I understand what my fellow Aldermen are concerned about. I don't share all of their concerns, but I also respect that other people may be coming at the situation from a different perspective. I hope none of the discussion tonight is being misconstrued as genuine concern on the part of individuals that we are not welcoming or that we wouldn't be. I think it is just collectively we have to make decisions on behalf of our community. The same strength of diversity that we are talking about when it comes to culture and ethnicity applies to thought and perception as well. While I would have liked to get my own way very easily, I think we're all representing our individual neighborhoods and our communities. The positions expressed here make this a stronger resolution.

Alderman Caron

I feel this amendment really will push forward and everyone will appreciate it better. I understand what you are saying about the America Initiative project but because that is ongoing right now and it's going to be gone, doesn't mean that we can't bring it back. I think the important thing for the city and the community and those who are coming here understand that we welcome them and we want them to be part of our community. It doesn't have anything to do, as Alderman Lopez and others have said, partisan or what your affiliation or how you feel. This is the important part, that Nashua, New Hampshire is a welcoming community to anyone who wants to come here. The second part, I think, we can look at for next year because they will do another event. They do these events every year. That's why I feel supporting this amendment is the way to go. It would be a sad day in the City of Nashua if we defeat this because of our feelings. Thank you.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LEBRUN TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE OF R-16-068 AS AMENDED

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Clemons

That was the motion before us. Is there any other discussion on that?

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-16-017

Endorsers: Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

AMENDING THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman McCarthy

I hadn't read the legislation until I came here and I agree with everything that's in it and its intent but I have some wording issues with it. I can make some motions tonight to fix it or I could provide if we are willing to wait until the meeting, I could provide a draft. They are lengthy but they are not complicated. It occurs to me that the language regarding the chair and vice chair is fine. The issue I have is with the alternates. Basically we need to state that the alternates have to have the same set of qualifications as the person that they are the alternate for as in they must be members of the Boards or Commissions. In

the case of the Mayor's designee the way it is written now it could be a private citizen and that was not the intent of

the committee so I would like to change that to the Mayor or the Mayor's designee who shall be an employee of the city and an alternate who shall also be an employee of the city. My changes are to the first four paragraphs as well as the paragraph on the appointment of alternates.

Chairman Clemons

Alderman Melizzi-Golja, is this time sensitive?

Alderman Melizzi-Golja

I would personally at least like to see a vice chair because there is no vice chair but the rest of it I have no problem wordsmithing. I think what Alderman McCarthy stated regarding the alternates in paragraph three; that was the intent and certainly the designee from the Mayor's office I think in the original language it was assumed to be somebody who was employed by the city. We won't have a meeting until October so we can bring this back.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEAN TO TABLE O-16-017
MOTION CARRIED**

DISCUSSION – None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman Lopez

I appreciate the Boards indulgence and I was glad that everyone was able to talk it out. I also wanted to announce that Wednesday at St. Patrick's Church is a job fair from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This Friday evening I will be sleeping in a box outside to support the United Way's United we Sleep endeavor to raise awareness of homelessness.

Alderman Schoneman

I will echo Alderman Lopez's indulgence and the committee's willingness to talk these issues through.

Alderman McCarthy

I'm glad we worked through that and figured it out. One of the things that I hate most about the actions of this Board is when partisan politics gets in the way of what we all agree ought to be doing. The city is doing the things that we need to do to be welcoming. I don't think the Welcoming Cities organization is advocating for things like amnesty but I think you could construe that. Amnesty is a policy issue at the national level that we should stay away from that requires way more debate than it has ever gotten to get the right answer. I do want to make sure that we embrace the things that are taking place that are the good things for us. I would encourage the Mayor to come back to us and talk about the initiative and have some discussion with them about those issues that we are concerned about because I think we will find that from their perspective they are probably as horrified as taking those on as we are because it just leads to more conversations like the one we had here tonight.

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 8:47 p.m.

Alderman Don LeBrun
Committee Clerk