

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, September 27, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

President Brian S. McCarthy presided; City Clerk Patricia D. Piecuch recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Patricia D. Piecuch; Alderman Sean M. McGuinness led in the Pledge to the Flag.

The roll call was taken with 15 members of the Board of Aldermen present.

Mayor James W. Donchess and Corporation Counsel Steven A. Bolton were also present.

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Donchess

A number of exciting and good things happened over the last couple of weeks. We had the music festival on Friday and Saturday which worked out really well. We had the farmer's dinner on Sunday night. The Legacy Playground was opened after a long period of working on that. We had the award of being 16th as the best place to live in United States by Money Magazine. Tonight we have some very good appointments on.

One very sad thing is that Dominick Giovinazzo, a long-time leader from the Boys and Girls Club, passed away and his wake is tomorrow.

Because the issue of the Welcoming City is going to be voted on tonight I wanted to spend most of my time on that. I brought this resolution to join the Welcoming America Initiative on behalf of Nashua at the request of both the Chamber of Commerce and the United Way who have been involved in the effort to make new residents of Nashua, both from outside the country and inside the country welcome for a long time. I thought and still obviously think it is a very strong move for Nashua. I appreciated their leadership in this area and so I sponsored the resolution that is before you. I think there are a number of reasons that we should take positive action on this. If we want to build a stronger economy, a stronger job base, a stronger tax base and a more vibrant community, we need to attract new residents; both from within the United States and without. New Hampshire is the second oldest city in the country and there has recently been publicity about Maine and New Hampshire facing the very serious problem of an aging population with younger people not staying. Now Nashua, fortunately, if you really look at the numbers is younger, still getting older but younger and more diverse by far than the State of New Hampshire as a whole and that's an opportunity and an asset for us. 13.5% of Nashua residents are foreign born and that does not include the children of foreign born residents who might be school kids or older teenagers or even adults. The biggest problem that is raised by the Chamber of Commerce and many of the employers that we have is the inability to find qualified or any employees to fill jobs that are now open. This is BAE and across the board. We need more people moving to Nashua. As I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, if you look at the trends for the last four or five years, Nashua would have lost population were it not for immigration of considerable amounts; 3,000 to 4,000 people. We need new residents, immigrants from outside the country and elsewhere to help us start businesses to fill jobs and to provide diversity and vitality for our community and to help us work towards a prosperous future. Take Rivier University, last week they had a recruiter go to India to recruit Indian graduate students to come to that university. They are one of our leading college and university level institutions. They attracted 500 students from India and they are hoping to attract that many more to be part of their computer science program on a constant basis. This is a huge source of revenue for Rivier. Each of those students faces \$445 per credit for 36 credits so this is a major source of their recent success and one that we want to encourage and promote. If you look to the Money Magazine article which suggests that Nashua is the 16th best to live, they sighted a number of things; low unemployment, downtown Renaissance and one of the things that they mentioned was diversity and that we have begun to establish ourselves formally as a Welcoming City and as part of the Welcoming America Initiative. We are trying to, in passing this, trying to speak to a number of different groups. Number one, to the foreign born residents that we have who

are right here living in Nashua who have established businesses like Zeco, an applications business in the Millyard or Sally's Market or who are working for companies or not, people who are here now. If you think about 13% of the population being foreign born, that's about 8,000 people in Nashua. We want to speak to them and we want to say that you are welcome, we are glad you are here and we want to include you. Number two, I think we want to speak to people that are inside the United States and are here. The former Mayor of Nashville, which has taken a lot of welcoming initiatives and has become a very vibrant place, Nashville, TN. He said it is a complement when someone from elsewhere in the country or somewhere else in the world, maybe Mysore, India or somewhere else. Someone moves to Nashua and chooses this place, that's a compliment to us because we want new residents and we want a growing population and an expanding economy and a growing job base. We are also speaking to people outside of the country. We are trying to encourage those with contacts outside, Rivier University and many of the residents that we have here to encourage their friends and their family to also locate here. Finally, we are speaking to the institutions that we have here in the city that are very supportive of our efforts to include new Nashuans. I am talking about Rivier University, St. Joe's Hospital, the United Way, the Chamber of Commerce; we are trying to say to them that we agree with what you are doing and we think that's a good thing and we want to be part of it. On the converse, what message would we be sending if we reject the Welcoming America Initiative? This has been adopted without controversy in Manchester and Concord. We, the most diverse community by far in New Hampshire, would serve to gain more by being a welcoming community than any of the others and yet if the message went out that well, we are the one city in New Hampshire who just rejected the idea of being part of the Welcoming America Initiative and the message goes out to all of the groups that I spoke of which is a very negative message and one that will hurt our long-term future. As I mentioned, the origin of the Welcoming America Initiative, the idea of joining it did come from the United Way and Chamber of Commerce to their credit. The United Way has been in the community since 1930 and they are not a partisan organization in any stretch of the imagination. They have raised millions of dollars for charitable organizations around their entire region. They have been running for two years based upon a grant awarded to them by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and others, the One Greater Nashua Initiative which is basically just a parallel to what we are proposing here. Also the Chamber of Commerce has advanced this and there is no way that the Chamber of Commerce is a partisan organization and the reason that I raise the issue of partisanship is I think that some people misunderstood the origin of this and thought that it was some effort to endorse one of the parties or positions of one of the parties, specifically the democrats. The Chamber of Commerce takes a pro-business position which in their best judgement serves the best interest of their constituents, their members and the Nashua community. Some of those positions tend to be the position that the democrats support and probably more of them tend to be the position that Republicans are for. They are not a partisan organization in any stretch of the imagination. We also have received letters of support from St. Joseph's Hospital which has been in the community for 100 years serving the Nashua based people with quality healthcare for all of that time. They are not engaged in partisan politics but they strongly support this. We received a letter from Salt Lake City, UT; which is hardly a blue state or a bastion of the Democrats. They have joined the Welcoming America Initiative and have been part of it for a long time and they see great, positive aspects for them. I think given the long history of immigration here in Nashua, there are immigrants from Ireland, Greece, Canada, and Lithuania who built the mill, built the city and without them really what would Nashua be? Now we have immigrants from other countries, Asia and other parts of the world and we still need them and they can still contribute and they are still welcome and we should still make that clear. I did offer or suggest a possible amendment because a couple of the members of the committee on the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee had asked the question what are we really committing ourselves to because the Welcoming America Initiative website is quite extensive and so with the assistance of the legal department I wrote up an amendment which would simply make that a little clearer because upon joining the initiative we are simply required to or asked to sign a five statement, one page letter which says that we will advance a resolution or proclamation and we will find ways to institutionalize welcoming efforts. We are already doing this. I mean the Chamber of Commerce, One Greater Nashua, the United Way; we are already engaged in that. To join the cohort of cities and counties, appoint municipal official staff contact which is easily accomplished, participate in three phone conference calls per year and participate in annual in-person meeting with other welcoming cities and

counties depending upon the budget. I am not proposing that we spend a lot of money to send people anywhere. In fact, Jen McCormack, Director of the Nashua Public Library, has already been going to these things not on city money but on grant money so it's possible that we would in some way participate in it but we are not required to. The purpose of this amendment is simply to nail down what it is that we are really committing to and no more and no less. We are not endorsing an agenda having to do with illegal immigration or amnesty or anything else. We are simply saying that in our own way be involved in a welcoming effort in our community. I favor either the original proposal or the one that I wrote up which adds the words "by executing the attached commitment to participate in the Welcoming Cities and Counties cohort which sets for the city's role under the Welcoming America Initiative." For all of the reasons that I have mentions and I think we may hear from some others from the community, I think this is a positive step forward and I would ask all members of the Board to consider supporting this as a unifying, reaching out type of initiative and effort which in the long run will help benefit our community as a whole.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR – None

RECOGNITION PERIOD – None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE THAT THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETINGS OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016, BE ACCEPTED, PLACED ON FILE, AND THE READINGS SUSPENDED
MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SIEGEL THAT ALL COMMUNICATIONS BE READ BY TITLE ONLY
MOTION CARRIED

From: Mayor Jim Donchess

Re: Notification of Entry into Contract with a 3rd Party Supplier for Natural Gas Supply

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SIEGEL TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT TO DIRECT ENERGY BUSINESS MARKETING, LLC, D/B/A DIRECT ENERGY BUSINESS
MOTION CARRIED

From: Jennifer McCormack, Director, Nashua Public Library

Re: Welcoming America Initiative

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE
MOTION CARRIED

From: Mayor Jim Donchess

Re: Welcoming City Legislation

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE
MOTION CARRIED

From: Mayor Jim Donchess

Re: Welcoming City Proposed Resolution

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE
MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE THAT THE RULES BE SO FAR SUSPENDED AS TO ALLOW FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PREPARED
MOTION CARRIED**

From: St. Joseph Hospital
Re: Welcoming City Legislation

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

From: One Greater Nashua
Re: Welcoming City Legislation

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

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT RELATIVE TO ITEMS EXPECTED TO BE ACTED UPON THIS EVENING

Ms. Latha Mangipudi, 20 Salmon Brook Drive

I am here in support of R-16-068, the Welcoming America Initiative. I would strongly urge all of you to support the original resolution as presented by Mayor Donchess who very eloquently explained what this initiative is and I think it can only make our Nashua a wonderful city and make everybody a diverse community to be celebrated with diversity and strength and with that I give my wholehearted support.

Ms. Mary Hulfachor, 15 Salmon Brook Drive

I support the original resolution of Nashua as a Welcoming City.

Ms. Gloria Timmons, 3 Roedean Drive

I have lived in Nashua for 26 years and my ancestors came here because of a forced migration from Africa. I have met, housed and entertained many immigrants. After 22 years in the military and visiting over 30 countries I have lived many years among them. In my current development there are many different groups of people from Asia, India, Africa and they are good people who want and deserve the same thing that most of our citizens have right now, peace, happiness and to worship without persecution. As a U.S. born resident and in the spirit of this country, please find it in your heart to understand that they immigrated the same way that all of you did and should be given the same opportunities. I am requesting that you consider the Welcoming America Initiative.

Ms. Sylvia Gale, 4 Clergy Circle

Since retiring from 30 years of state service I have been very active as a community advocate and activist on a number of statewide and local activities including the Cultural Connections Committee, the state's Human Resource Commission and a convening member of the Nashua Community Conversation on Race and Justice. Along the way I have become very familiar with the work of the Welcoming America Initiative which has served as a non-partisan organization for a number of years to strengthen and support the communities across our nation that have stepped forward and done the right thing to say to all who want to become productive citizens in their community, we want you, we welcome you and we will help you to settle in as best we can. This is our country and we all came from somewhere else except for the Native Americans. We need to be extending our hands and our resources in whatever way we can. I am in full support of the original resolution as presented by the Mayor. I was disappointed

to learn that there was some belief that the Welcoming America Initiative was bringing in a political agenda. I know that not to be the case. I encourage you all tonight to do the right thing and bring forward the resolution in either the Mayor's newly amended form or the original form that he presented a couple of weeks ago to put Nashua on the map as not only the state's most diverse city but to really support the efforts that many people in this community have been making for a very long time and to say we welcome, we support and we applaud the risks that are taken for people that weren't born here to come here and pave a new way and show us all something different and enhance all of our lives as a result.

Ms. Lauren Osowski, 14A Artillery Lane

I am also here representing the Adult Learning Center. We are asking you to support the Welcoming America Initiative presented by the Mayor. Not only will it reinforce Nashua as a Welcoming City for our 1,110 students representing 74 different countries, it will open doors for the Adult Learning Center as an organization. By joining the Welcoming America Initiative network non-profits such as the Adult Learning Center will be eligible for additional resources, grants and networking opportunities. Please support the original resolution to make Nashua a Welcoming City and join the Welcoming America Initiative to open doors for our city.

Ms. Tracy Hatch, 31 Pennichuck Street

I am here representing not just my own personal opinion but that of the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce in strong support of R-16-068. I got an e-mail this evening from Alderman Moriarty asking me...telling me that he hoped that I had made mistake in sending in the letter of support from the Chamber of Commerce the first time around and wondering if I truly knew what I was getting involved with and whether the Chamber knew and I want to say emphatically that yes, we did. We and my Board have taken a position in strong support of being a Welcoming City. Not because it's a social service or a social issue, although we do think that's important, but because of the economic imperative for our community. The Welcoming America Initiative, to clarify, is a non-partisan organization. Their goal, if you look at their website and I have spent an extensive amount of time this evening doing that, not for the first time, fosters opportunity for all to become a more prosperous community by making everyone who lives in the community feel like they belong. Transforming communities into vibrant places where people respect each other and everyone's talents are valued and cultivated. That is not partisan and that's not left wing. This was the first time in my life anyone's even come close to telling me that I am left wing. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry at that one. It doesn't say anything about illegal immigrants and amnesty. A few rhetorical questions...does anyone here think our current immigration policy is working? Does anyone here think that conversations about that issue would be better if we had more and not fewer people involved in that conversation? Does anyone here really think that adopting this resolution as introduced means that Nashua is expected to solve that issue or even to take a position on it because I don't? This resolution is about being welcoming and opening the doors for economic opportunity and development in our community. Our Chamber right now is involved in conversations both with India and with Israel about bringing economic development and opportunities here to our city. How much more difficult will it be for me to talk to them about that if our Board of Aldermen says we are sorry, because we think there is some hidden something somewhere on a website of some national organization we are going to say that we are not welcoming. That's not what I think you all believe. I hope that's not what you all believe and I hope that you will also support the resolution as originally introduced by our Mayor.

Rev. Tom Woodward, 36 Hampton Drive

I come to you because I kind of reacted very strongly to an e-mail that I got last Tuesday but I see the Mayor's motion as being emerging out of what we are as a community and I've seen Welcoming America influence many different things in the community from the Adult Learning Center to the United Way and the work of the Granite State Organizing Project, all directed towards welcoming and shaping our

community so others feel at home and they can make a contribution and building a stronger Nashua. I feel that the Board made a very strong motion to accept My Brother's Keeper. That has taken form and shaped our community and I believe the Mayor's motion will also supplement that and provide more emphasis among welcoming people to contribute their lives to the outstanding life that we have here in the City of Nashua.

Ms. Adelina Hernandez, 56 Chestnut Street

I have lived in Nashua for 36 years and I work for the Nashua School District as para and I am part of One Greater Nashua and I coordinate the Navigator Program which welcomes newcomers to our city and help them navigate their way around Nashua. I strongly support the Mayor's resolution proclaiming Nashua as a Welcoming City.

Ms. Ellen Barr, 5 Dinsmore Street

I want to say that I am part of One Greater Nashua. I work as a cultural navigator and we work together as a diverse group of people working very hard to welcome newcomers into our community. I support this resolution on a personal level because I personally am committed to being welcoming. I want to say that there are so many other reasons to support it. We need to support this because immigrants help to make our community vital. The economic vitality and cultural spirit of Nashua is enhanced when we welcome. I know the importance of young immigrants coming to our community, especially in the context of greying New Hampshire population and I will include myself in that population. I know the richness of language and music and art that diversity brings to our city. I also know that our safety is increased when the population in our neighborhoods is connected, not when they feel isolated. I ask you please to vote in favor of the full resolution that affirms Nashua as a Welcoming City and make our city proud.

Ms. Leticia Meehan, 29 Grand Avenue

I am also speaking on behalf of my husband, Mark. We moved to Nashua a little over four years ago and one of the things we looked at was the diversity. We are New Jersey and New York people but we root for the Red Sox as long as they don't play the Yankees. We wanted a place with a diverse community. I teach at Main Dunstable Elementary School and our families who have come from other places, at least the parents, who were born outside of the United States, are coming in from India, Pakistan, and Iran; from Latin American countries, Puerto Rico. Not only are these children working hard and raising our test scores, their parents are working hard. They are in that school after school running academic clubs for those kids. They are winning awards and going to regional competitions. They are running track. These people are enriching us and helping my school look better. I am also here because I am American and I love this country and I love our values and that we value freedom and value welcoming others from other countries here. I love that we are the land of the free and the home of the brave. In this day in age let's not kid ourselves; it takes bravery to be welcoming. I agree with my fellow Nashuans when they said that we are safer when we are connected. Every morning at Main Dunstable we say to our kids, I want to urge you guys that we need to lead by example. "H is for Help others; A, always do the right thing; W, welcome everyone; K, kindness matters and S, safety first."

Mr. Paul Racioppi

I represent the American Civil Liberties Union of New Hampshire, a non-profit, non-partisan statewide organization with hundreds of members here in Nashua. I am here tonight to support all of the Nashua residents who have spoken out and will be speaking out in support of this resolution. The ACLU supports their efforts and hopefully Nashua will continue to be a leader in welcoming people of all cultures and ethnicities and races and backgrounds.

Ms. Susan Farina, 11 Charles Street

I am a life-long Nashua resident and I am here with my son who is a future voter and my dear friend Kushma Ganagari, a recent Nashua resident. We would like to support the original resolution and hope you will do the right thing tonight.

Ms. Jennifer Hosking, 31 Twiss Lane, Hollis, Employee at the Nashua Public Library

I would like to read a letter on behalf of the public library in support of Mayor Donchess' Welcoming proclamation. This letter was written by Jen McCormack, Library Director, who wasn't able to attend this evening.

Dear Mayor Donchess,

RE: Welcoming America initiative

After attending the Personnel and Administrative Affairs committee meeting on Monday, September 18th I wanted to share with you my own experience the Welcoming America initiative. As an organization the library has acknowledged in the last several years that the city's population is becoming more diverse and that we are not adequately reaching the newest residents with our services. Like you we have read the data from the schools about their ELL programs and the data about the aging of NH's population and the rapid influx of immigrants into our city and our state. We've also seen the turnout at large events like Nashua Goes Back to School and seen the variety of faces in that crowd: the most compelling evidence of the increased diversity of our city. In response to this the library has adopted "Become a Welcoming Space" as one of our major strategic goals and we are implementing a variety of objectives and activities toward reaching that goal. Through the Welcoming America initiative we have access to a network of communities and agencies across the country engaged in the real work of ensuring that the systems, policies and procedures in place are working to engage newcomers from anywhere in the world. Of particular relevance to us as a library has been the work done in Nashville and Dayton, and I have been able to connect directly to people from both of those communities by attending the Immigrant Integration conference in both 2014 and 2015: a conference supported in part by affiliates of the Welcoming America initiative. In both years I have returned from that conference energized and committed to working with other agencies, organizations and individuals in the city who are working to making new residents feel welcome and engaged in their new community. Joining the Welcoming America initiative allows Nashua to do more than just state to ourselves how we feel about new comers, it publicly joins us with the growing network of communities committed to implementing policy and procedural changes that make our cities and towns are ready to do more than just accept immigrants but to offer them full participation in every aspect of the life of the city.

Mr. Harvey Keefe, 4 Tamarack Place

Thank you for allowing me to address on the finest Board of Aldermen this city has ever seen. This is the third time in the history of this country that a city called Nashua, New Hampshire, has been named one of the best places in America to live to raise a family and they say why? In my opinion, two or three or four of those reasons to be in the top 20 to be in the best places to live in work in America is first, it's outstanding leadership by an almost shy Mayor. The second is an intelligent, dynamic visionary, community minded and inclusive Aldermanic counsel whose President, Brian McCarthy, not so shy, is a cut above the rest in ability, trust and duty and human relations and has always welcomed differences and changes. In the late 70's or early 80's I lived on Radcliffe Drive in Nashua, NH, and I got a knock on my door late one morning and some guy named Brian McCarthy was there and I was loaded with questions and his answered quickly with a New York accent and I knew he was a stranger just by that accent but he stated his position so eloquently that I had no further questions. Ladies and gentlemen, this man is still standing, standing tall in the most beautiful city in America and that's Brian McCarthy. First I am here because I love Nashua and I am urging you to join your President by passing the

resolution R-16-068, the Welcoming America Initiative. As we move forward and in an even more inclusive community change is already here. We cannot invent the future, it is already here. All we have to do is open our eyes and help recreate what is and what we do not and cannot control. The second reason that I am here is my short story of passion for Nashua. I was born in Birmingham, AL, under the feet of the two of the most racist people in America; George Wallace, who was the Governor and the Police Chief, Will Connor. In 1956, just returning from service, my term and career in conflict, I went to register to vote in Birmingham, AL, and when I arrived at the place to register to vote, I was asked to tell the number of jet peas in the jar. I started to react and an armed guard appeared with a hand gun and I quickly left the building. Obviously, that's why I am still living. After spending a few years in other cities in America, I arrived in Nashua, NH. This city welcomed me unconditionally. See my website if you will, it is HarveyT.com. I became a state representative, own a business here and raised my children. My youngest daughter know, because she was an immigrant and just coming to this place, wen to Infant Jesus and Nashua High, is now the Vice Provost at Saint Paul's School in New Hampshire. That's what welcoming people can do for us. I've been told that before I got up here I had to sit down real fast and I'm not going to sit down real fast but I'm going to say thank you so much and I urge you to join this body to pass this resolution so that we can become, again, the shining city on the hill.

Chief Andrew Lavoie, Nashua Police Department

I am here to support Nashua as a Welcoming City. The Nashua Police Department is a major stakeholder for inclusion and diversity programs across the city. Inclusion and welcoming strategies bring a greater understanding between individuals with diverse backgrounds that reduce fear and build strong neighborhoods, which in turn, help increase safety. We are all but one city and in my opinion embracing diversity and quite frankly, celebrating diversity makes us stronger together.

Mr. Jared Barbos, 77 Lawrence Road

I am here tonight to speak in favor of the original legislation. I am here representing all of the hats that I wear in the community, that being president of the Nashua Soccer Council, co-chair of One Greater Nashua, director of REFA Soccer Club, guidance counselor at Amherst Street Elementary School and a foster guardian at home, a father to my son, Lucas and a husband to Sarah. I am also here advocating for our newcomers and our immigrant population and I am the son of an immigrant. Tonight I am going to speak on behalf on Nashua's social advocacy workers and the work that we do and what tonight means tonight. Us, we, who put in countless amount of hours into the work for those that need it most. I'm speaking about our social workers, our therapists, our guidance counselors, our teachers, our case managers, our para-professionals, our cultural navigators at One Greater Nashua, our police officers, our coaches and many more. Those who see no end to advocating for people and their needs, those who have helped Nashua get back to be the 16th best cities in the country. What exactly does this have to do with the legislation? I remember two things from my education that I received at our wonderful Rivier University, one is that I love how our work was referred to being in the helping field and two, our field calling out for us to advocate even more for our students, our youth and our families. What I have noticed is that we don't have a lot talkers in this city but we do have a lot of doers. We know that being in the helping field that a lot of times it is a thankless job. This is job where success is not measured by how much we make, it obviously isn't the priority so what this piece of legislation means to those of us in the helping field can't necessarily be put into words. In many ways I guess if this moves forward this is what would be considered our raise or our promotion. If we do move forward we will celebrate tonight but know for tomorrow there is still work to be done and we will do it but with a brighter smile on our face.

Ms. Liz Fitzgerald, 20 Broad Street, United Way of Greater Nashua

Thank you for carefully considering this legislation. I am speaking tonight as an employee of the United Way of Greater Nashua and also co-chair of the One Greater Nashua Coalition. I live in Brookline, NH, but I consider Nashua my municipal home and the decisions you make as a policy making Board for Nashua affect my community as well. I strongly urge you to support this legislation presented by Mayor

Donchess. So many of my fellow friends and colleagues have already eloquently put many of the points that I wanted to make tonight but I'd like to emphasize that the United Way's support for participating in One Greater Nashua and the step you would be taking as a municipality in joining the Welcoming City and Counties Initiative. We are an organization of two staff people with dozens of Board members and more than dozens of volunteers and hundreds of donors that work and fight every day for the health, education, and economic mobility of every person in every community in the eleven communities that surround Nashua. We have recognized the value of partnering with the Welcoming America Initiative to address concerns about social inclusion and integration which is the first step in creating opportunities to break down social barriers that help hold people back from achieving their best potential. We are not a partisan organization. We see our work in not only helping the people who get to improve their lives through the United Way's work but also the communities become stronger and we view this Welcoming Initiative from the municipality standpoint as an opportunity for us to put a stake in the ground that says we are the kind of community that is taking this work seriously and we know that corporations will be looking to that short list of cities that sign on to the Welcoming Initiative to place their future businesses and we will, as service providers, continue to work to make sure that our residents are ready to fill those jobs when they come. We are hoping that you will strongly consider partnering with us, the service provider community and moving forward in this step to make our community the best that it can be.

Ms. Sandi Cotter, Ascentria Care Alliance Services for New Americans

We are one of the two agencies that does refugee resettlement here in Nashua. Nobody wants to be a refugee. The people that we work with came from countries where they were born, raised families, built homes, had careers and owned their own businesses. Because of the outcome of a political election, a change in religious leadership or military violence, they were forced to leave those homes. They appreciate the opportunity to be here in Nashua. With their refugee status come tremendous demands and they rise to meet those demands. They quickly become employees, consumers, taxpayers and contributing members of your communities. As a first generation American myself, I urge you all to think about where your mother and father came from and where their mother and father came from. Somebody made them feel welcome when they came and on behalf of my clients, I would like to thank what Nashua does to make them feel welcome and urge you to adopt the original resolution.

Owise, 46 Whitney Street

I am still learning English and I am a refuge and I came here three months ago. I would like to thank America and the American people for having us and giving us an opportunity to live as a human again and I would like to support this resolution and thank everyone for giving me the chance to speak here. Thank you very much.

Mr. Mohammad Mustak, 12 East Pearl Street, Apt. 3

Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I am originally from Birma. I am here as a refugee and I've been living in Nashua for almost 4 ½ years. I would like to thank you on behalf of my community. We have here around 85 in my community. We thank you for hosting us here. We also support the resolution.

Mr. Mohammad Nurkarian, 33 ½ Amherst Street

My family and I have lived in Nashua for about 1 ½ years. I also support the Mayor's resolution as a Welcoming City, not to mention that I am also a student from Nashua High School North. Nashua is a peaceful city with harmony. We immigrated here as refugees; my parents were born in Myanmar and me and my little brother were in Malaysia. We were raised in Malaysia and stayed there for a long time so we had an opportunity to come to America and find a peaceful place to live and that's why we decided to stay in Nashua. Also, thank you so much to the mayor, president and government for letting us stay in Nashua.

Mr. Krishna Mangipudi, 20 Salmon Brook Road

My wife Latha and I have lived in this town since 1990 and we've made this our home and brought up two children in this community. I have worked in this community in various technology companies, some of which were start-ups and as a first generation immigrant we made this our home and a place to work and live and in those start-ups I was responsible for giving an opportunity to several individuals to work in high paying jobs. My story is similar to hundreds of others immigrants of this town who have opened up their arms and welcomed. The other thing that I'd like to mention is that I am also here on behalf of one of the sponsors of this legislation, the Nashua Chamber of Commerce. As a member of the Board of Directors I have watched Tracy Hatch lead an initiative this year to change the direction of what and how the policies will be set for the Nashua Chamber of Commerce. She wants to make Nashua a Welcoming City for every citizen. I can see that this will be very effective. Also in hearing and listening to several people that have preceded me, several non-profit organizations and community organizations are deeply involved in this effort to make the Nashua community a Welcoming City so given that I propose that affirming that the City of Nashua as a Welcoming City and to participate in the Welcoming America Initiative is something that you should all consider affirming and in doing so I will also suggest that you are ratifying what is already happening in this city and what the citizenry is already engaged in.

Sushma, 47 Royal Crest Drive, #3

I am a student at Rivier University and I support the original resolution.

Mr. Kyle Schneck, 26 Chester Street

I am a commercial banker in the community of Nashua and I have many for profit and non-profit clients and when I think about this issue it should not be a political issue. This is an economic issue. I speak to a number of businesses here in Nashua and I say to them what do you need to help your business grow. They say they need help, they need labor; there is a major labor shortage here and it's hitting all industries across the board and it's impeding our growth. The other thing is that I see a lot of vacant storefronts on Main Street and other areas of Nashua. Those storefronts could have entrepreneurial businesses come in and be paying tax dollars and growing our City of Nashua. Let's not make this a political issue, let's think about this as an economic issue. When I look at the Welcoming America Initiative, and I've done a lot of research looking through this website, what it is really about is immigrant integration. It's taking people in our community, perhaps underserved and under voiced people, giving them the tools that they need to help them out to make them more productive citizens. In no way is this going to hurt our community, it's only going to help our community. I do ask for all of you to strongly consider making a vote to support the growth of Nashua.

Ms. Padma Vootkur, 5 Jonquil Lane

I have been a resident of Nashua for almost 20 years. The best part of Nashua is that it is inclusive and very friendly. Since I first came here Nashua has only grown and improved and I am here tonight to support the original resolution because Nashua is my home right now.

Mr. Rich Boehler, CFO of St. Joseph's Hospital

I am here to support the resolution. We have submitted a letter of support and I also happen to be a member of the Board of the United Way. I speak this evening on behalf of my Board of Director's at the hospital and certainly my personal views resonate very strongly with those that I have heard this evening. Our hospital was formed 108 years ago to address the need of immigrants and in that case it was French Canadian mill workers who came to Nashua. Over the last 108 years our doors have been open and supportive of individuals who have come to this community. Let me first sway any fears that you might have about who will care for these people when they come, we are here and ready to help. As both an employer and an educator I think it's very important that you understand some of the challenges we face

in terms of the work force. I am on the Board of the Huntington as well so I hear about their challenges and what it means. We have a great struggle in bringing in people who can meet the needs of our patients and we've had a great history in our organization of educating people who are coming up through the ranks and being very productive. There is a family, the Lopez-Grasper Family, and I employ eleven of those individuals. They are from Boliva and they have started out many of them as nurse's aides and in other roles and have risen up to the ranks of nursing and into leadership roles because of their industrious efforts. I know when I walk on a unit and I see one of them I feel good, my A team is there. I can tell you many stories about individuals who have come to our community and made a huge difference in expanded access to services here. I hope you will vote wisely and support the resolution that the Mayor has put forth.

Mr. Dan Weeks, 7 Shattuck Street

I am a proud 12th generation granite stater but even more proud to be married to a brand new U.S. citizen, my wife, who emigrated here from South Africa. She is a Ph.D., a human rights lawyer and an academic and she is glad to be offering her skills to our communities. We recently bought a home in a neighborhood that was named after immigrants, French Hill. According to recent studies, immigrants in New Hampshire, not only counter the rapid aging of our population and out migration of our youth but they also make incredible contributions to our tax base and to the well-being of our communities. The National Academy released a landmark study on the effects of immigration in this country and found here in New Hampshire that immigrants contribute 3X in tax revenue more than they receive in public benefits. My wife and I found that Nashua is the most diverse city in New Hampshire and that is why we decided to buy a home here and raise our two kids here and we are glad that we did. Even though politics are in just about everything these things, I understand that, but it's my view that we are already a Welcoming City and we can do no wrong and only do good by affirming that publicly and making a statement to the rest of the state joining Manchester and Concord and following the encouragement of our own Chamber of Commerce and the United Way and the ACLU and St. Joseph's Hospital and others to publicly affirm what we already are and ought to be more and more; a Welcoming City.

PETITIONS – None

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS – None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Budget Review Committee 09/20/16

There being no objection, President McCarthy declared the report of the September 20, 2016 Budget Review Committee accepted and placed on file.

Finance Committee 09/21/16

There being no objection, President McCarthy declared the report of the September 21, 2016 Finance Committee accepted and placed on file.

Committee on Infrastructure 09/19/16

There being no objection, President McCarthy declared the report of the September 19, 2016 Committee on Infrastructure accepted and placed on file.

Human Affairs Committee 09/12/16

There being no objection, President McCarthy declared the report of the September 12, 2016 Human Affairs Committee accepted and placed on file.

Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee 09/19/16

There being no objection, President McCarthy declared the report of the August 19, 2016 Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee accepted and placed on file.

WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS – None

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARON TO CONFIRM BY VOICE VOTE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO THE MINE FALLS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE: JEFF HANNIGAN, 32 HOUDE STREET, NASHUA, AND PAULA G. LOCHHEAD, 4 WESTBROOK DRIVE, NASHUA, FOR TERMS TO EXPIRE AUGUST 31, 2019; AND, PAMELA J. ANDERSON, 9 PLAINFIELD LANE, NASHUA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE MARCH 1, 2019
MOTION CARRIED**

President McCarthy declared Jeff Hannigan, Paula Lochhead and Pamela Anderson duly appointed to the Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee for the aforementioned terms.

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel to Jeff Hannigan.

Nashua Airport Authority

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHONEMAN TO CONFIRM BY VOICE VOTE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO THE NASHUA AIRPORT AUTHORITY: JOSEPH R. DUQUETTE, 38 HILLS FERRY ROAD, NASHUA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AUGUST 31, 2021; AND FARRELL T. WOODS, 162 BUSH HILL ROAD, HUDSON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AUGUST 31, 2017
MOTION CARRIED**

President McCarthy declared Joseph Duquette and Farrell Woods duly appointed to the Nashua Airport Authority for terms to expire August 31, 2021, and August 31, 2017, respectively.

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel.

Nashua Arts Commission

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SIEGEL TO CONFIRM BY VOICE VOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN F. EGAN, 7 BEVERLEE DRIVE, NASHUA, TO THE NASHUA ARTS COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 1, 2019
MOTION CARRIED**

President McCarthy declared John F. Egan duly appointed to the Nashua Arts Commission for a term to expire September 1, 2019.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO CONFIRM BY VOICE VOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF JACK M. CURRIER, 6 NEW SEARLES ROAD, NASHUA, TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 11, 2019
MOTION CARRIED**

President McCarthy declared Jack M. Currier duly appointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a term to expire September 11, 2019.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-16-054

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

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$50,000 FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITY "HEALTHY HOMES AND LEAD POISONING CASE MANAGEMENT"

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-16-054
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-16-054 declared duly adopted.

R-16-062

Endorsers: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Ben Clemons
Alderdwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE NASHUA TEACHERS' UNION, LOCAL 1044, AFT, AFL-CIO, UNIT C, SECRETARIES FROM JULY 1, 2016, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2018, AND RELATED TRANSFERS

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-16-062

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

For those of you that have reviewed the cost sheet you will see that the increases from a base salary standpoint are 1% for FY '17 and 1.25% for FY '18. The other numbers are recorded on that. This group is definitely not overpaid for the services that they perform and I think that the budget committee recommended final passage and I would ask that we pass this tonight.

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-16-062 declared duly adopted.

R-16-063

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman David Schoneman

ESTABLISHING THE USE OF FUND BALANCE FOR TAX RATE

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-16-063 BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

This received the endorsement of the budget committee and it passed rather substantially.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Deane, 15
Alderman Cookson, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron,
Alderman Siegel, Alderman Schoneman, Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja,
Alderman McGuinness, Alderman LeBrun, Alderman Moriarty,
Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Lopez, Alderman McCarthy

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-16-063 declared duly adopted.

R-16-066

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Ken Siegel
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

ESTABLISHING AN EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FOR DONATIONS FOR PAVING

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-16-066

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-16-066 declared duly adopted.

R-16-067

Endorsers: Alderman David Schoneman
Alderman Ben Clemons
Alderman Ken Siegel
Alderdwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman Don LeBrun
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

**AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED
FOURTEEN DOLLARS (\$33,614) FROM THE CONSERVATION FUND FOR LONG-TERM
MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS AND ADJUSTMENTS TO THE SOUTHWEST TRAILS**

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHONEMAN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-16-067
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-16-067 declared duly adopted.

R-16-068

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderdwoman 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**

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO AMEND R-16-068 IN ITS ENTIRETY BY REPLACING IT WITH
THE COPY PROVIDED BY THE MAYOR**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Lopez

I was one of the original proposers of the initial legislation, the sponsors and then during the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee meeting concerns were raised about the attachment of the Welcoming America Initiative. Personally I have worked with the Welcoming America Initiative through my work with One Greater Nashua, through my time on the Cultural Connections Committee and working at the soup kitchen. I did not share my fellow Alderman's concerns but I felt it was important to recognize them because in the spirit of being a Welcoming City it is also important to recognize that some people may have certain fears or concerns. I proposed the golden rod amendment to that initial legislation. In the intervening time, however, I think the Mayor's office has made a very concertive effort to articulate exactly what we are agreeing to and to illuminate for the rest of the Board what the Welcoming America Initiative is doing and what they stand for. I am satisfied that they are not a shadow organization or underground campaign mechanism. I think it is evident that even if we don't necessarily agree on the politics, participating in the larger movement with Concord and Manchester is a benefit to our city. I am conscience of all of the letters of support and the testimony we heard tonight assuring us that this is something that is good for the city. I can't make myself believe that all of those people could suddenly so easily be misled as to not understand it and I think we should look at the turn out tonight as an opportunity. It's indicative of the strength that is inherent in our community. This is what every Board of Aldermen should look like in terms of community turnout. I think a cause that brought so many people

out in favor of it and not a single comment against it, by the public, is something that galvanizes the city in a positive way. I am very much in support of this and I hope my fellow Aldermen will consider this.

Alderman Clemons

I just want to echo Alderman Lopez's statements. I also want to thank the several citizens and organizations that reached out to me to tell me their opinion on the matter. I certainly will be supporting the Mayor's amendment.

Alderman Siegel

I came fully prepared to discuss the legislation as amended out of committee. There was a lengthy discussion in committee. I thought at times it wandered a little bit off track but nonetheless I thought that it seemed like there was some resolution that made a lot of sense. We now have something before us which is effectively a different piece of legislation which ignores whatever happened before the committee and is asking us, the full Board, to basically debate something which should be vetted in committee. So, if you want to take this piece of legislation as proposed by the Mayor, my suggestion, well not my suggestion because I won't vote for it at the full Board, but I would be happy to send it to committee if that is the desire to vote on that. However, let's remember that part of the argument was the "optics" of kicking this thing around. To me, when that showed up in my e-mail, I got to tell you that I was a little annoyed because if we really cared about the optics and we went through such an effort to come to some sort of what I thought was a reasonable compromise, it was fine. I personally resent a lot of the strong man arguments that have been presented like presenting this is somehow against immigrants and arguing against that as though there was ever any effort to propose that or to say that was the case. All of the arguments, although some of them I don't agree with how they were presented, basically were associated with the particular organization and not the spirit of the legislation. I will be the first to tell you that I can't stand virtue signaling legislation. I hate this stuff but, I also know that we are at a point where we do have to pass something like this because it would look troubling and the Chamber of Commerce for one, I would certainly understand why they would have a problem or any business, it just wouldn't be acceptable, which is fine. Now I don't have to virtue signal for anyone, I wake up every morning next to somebody who is an immigrant. My wife fled the Khmer Rouge. She didn't come under pleasant circumstances; she came because she found out the night before that her family was going to be murdered. Her legacy playground was the bodies that you see in the killing fields. That was her experience. So her diversity is a little bit different than the safe space diversity that we see infesting our country this day. She really did need a safe space, and this country was that safe space. And, I do appreciate the perspectives that her point of view coming out of that and her experiences provide for me. I don't need anyone to tell me that somehow by not supporting this other add-on organization that somehow I am rejecting immigrants. That's ludicrous and it's insulting to me and everyone on the Board. Again, if we want to look at the Mayor's proposal then it's got to go back to committee. We don't debate legislation that hasn't been vetted before the committee before the full Board. That's always been the case. We even called a special meeting to make sure that we didn't do the wrong thing over the summer and that was much more straight-forward. You guys just had an over one hour meeting at the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee to discuss this legislation. That's going to be ignored and we are going to have something new and pretend that never happened and that's not okay. If you really want to support the Mayor's initiative then send it back to committee, don't vote for it here.

Alderman Clemons

We did have a long conversation at the committee level about the resolution and many points were stated. There was a golden rod copy that the committee had come with as an alternative. We could vote on that alternative if we wanted to, somebody could make a motion to amend the legislation so that it looks like the golden rod copy, however, there are approximately 100 people in the audience right now and I've gotten several e-mails and phone calls from people asking me to not do the legislation that we

did in the committee and to instead endorse the Mayor's version or the original version. We heard from 28 people tonight and they all stated that they wanted the Mayor's version or the original version. To send it back to committee is wasting their time, wasting their organizations time, it's wasting our time and I'm not going to do it. I think we should pass this tonight in one form or another and move it along because it's an embarrassment at this point to send it back to the committee. The Mayor's amendment doesn't add anything significant to what the original legislation was except for the fact that it adds in the document that he would be signing to join the initiative. I would suggest that my colleagues pass one version of this and forget about sending it back to committee.

Alderman Siegel

In response to Alderman Clemons I would say that there are two options and we don't have to accept the Mayor's amendment. If there is a desire to pass something this evening we have two alternatives. We have either the recommendation by the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee to accept the legislation as amended which we can vote on or failing the amended version before us will be the un-amended version which we can then vote on. I don't see that there is a requirement to send it back to committee if in fact we want to pass something this evening. We have two options before us. My colleague, Alderman Clemons, has said that there isn't much material difference between the two so I would assume that he would be more than content to deal with either one of those. I would suggest that we debate at the full Board the legislation that has been referred by committee in its present form, accept it or reject it in that form and then proceed on to the legislation that has originally appeared, if in fact the amended legislation does not pass.

Alderman Lopez

I just wanted to point out that the changes that the Mayor made were...one of the strategies that was discussed in the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee meeting was one response that we could have done was to literally just take out everything that mentions the Welcoming America Initiative. I also suggested in the meeting specifying exactly what we are committing to and I think the Mayor has done exactly that. I think this is more of a middle ground than any other presentation because the amended version that came out of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee was in response to the fears that it was a partisan effort or there were concerns that we didn't know what the Welcoming America Initiative was versus the original form which we could have just agreed to in the first place. The same night that we introduced this resolution and then referred it to committee; we suspended the rules so that we could congratulate the baseball team on their stunning season. Some virtue signaling is apparently okay but others are not. We did not suspend that rule because it was important to discuss in committee anything that was particularly important but we did suspend the rules for the baseball team. I think sometimes we need to look at the situation that is right in front of us and not follow the process explicitly every single time when the process that is before us is sufficient.

Alderman Cookson

I would like to thank all of the members of the public who came out this evening to speak to us and share their thoughts on this piece of legislation. I learned a lot from them this evening. I learned more from them this evening than the Mayor's administration was prepared to present to us at the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee meeting. There were pieces of the Welcoming America Initiative, their website, the documentation that was presented on that website; and the Mayor and his staff had absolutely no idea that the city had any obligation to. I appreciate that the Mayor at this point adding that to the piece of legislation because it was me who identified it to the members of the committee, again, who had not seen it at all. Alderman McCarthy was searching for it that evening having no idea that it existed. The chairman of the committee had no idea that it existed. I don't think there was one member of that committee that evening that understood that there were obligations that were set upon the city for it. You can approve it potentially by including it and making everybody aware of it now. My question would be at this point, what else is there? There is a document that we sign but

again, I'm not sure that is complete of everything that the city would be asked to do and the services that we would ultimately have to provide. Again, what I heard this evening was very similar to what I heard at the last meeting and that was that we as the City of Nashua have been welcoming for years. You came to this country for whatever reason, for opportunity and you feel welcome and I think that we as a community attempt to have that pervade everything that we do, we want to be welcoming and in fact, in 2002, there was a piece of legislation that was introduced, it was an ordinance, O-2-03; former Alderman Fred Britton, Alderman Deane was a co-sponsor, Alderman Bolton at the time was a co-sponsor, Alderman McCarthy a co-sponsor, Alderman Cote, Alderman Tollner, Alderman Plamondon and Alderman Rootovich were all co-sponsors of a piece of legislation in 2002 that said Nashua is a proud, vibrant, welcoming community. Nashua offers its people opportunities for personal growth, prosperity, education, culture, heritage and recreation. Nashua is a city which responds to the needs of its citizens, continuing to examine its processes to enable efficient delivery of services that enrich the quality of life. In 2002, ladies and gentlemen is when we looked at that piece and we adopted it and we said that is what we want our community to be and I think that we have lived up to it and I think we have done a great job. Now, we also see the idea of economics and I think that is a very valid point. I think we do need to look at economics. I think we look at how welcoming our community has been over the past three or four years as Mayor Donchess has stated saying that our immigration population has increased over those three to four years to negate any persons who have left the city. Our population is stagnant right now. I think we are a Welcoming City and I think we continue to be a Welcoming City and I think we have the services, the personnel, the staff and the schools but what was not necessarily said which I think is an economic driver are the grants that are potentially available to our schools, our adult learning center and our police. Nothing was discussed, we have zero information on what grants might be available to the organizations within our community to help with our immigration population. I am personally of the mindset, and while Alderman Siegel may be fine with taking this and having a discussion this evening about it, I think this warrants going back to committee. I think it warrants having a discussion about all of the different aspects of the legislation and what it does mean because that hasn't been shared with the committee or the Board of Aldermen. Again, I have learned a significant amount about this piece of legislation, additional information from you; the public this evening so thank you for that, I truly appreciate it. I will not support this legislation in its current form and I would urge the members of this Board to send it back to committee so that we can have a thoughtful discussion about the entire merits of this piece of legislation.

Alderman LeBrun

There was a member of that committee that stated the commitment that we would be making and I was that member. We debated this for well over an hour and in the end we decided that the original legislation was not the way to go and we amended it to state that Nashua would proclaim itself a Welcoming City by Mayoral proclamation only and that's what came to this Board and that's what we seem to be not understanding and not taking up this evening.

Alderman Lopez

With respect to Alderman Cookson, I feel like we are not really living up to the last part of the resolution that you mentioned earlier. We are not being responsive to the community right now and we are not looking at the process that we are employing in any way to make sure that it's responsive. We have a huge community turn-out saying do something tonight, pass the Mayor's original version, even in my case, pass a version which is the original version but very clearly delineates what we are actually agreeing to and a version that was also vetted by our own corporation counsel. Yet we are still saying what more, what else could there possibly be? Have we thought about every grant opportunity for every organization that could be on this list? No, we haven't and I'm not sure that is actually our responsibility. I think our responsibility is to be receptive to the community that's saying we support this and we want this. I think it's a little bit transparent to turn to the audience and say you have taught me so much tonight when they are trying to tell you something different. They are trying to tell you that they want you to pass this tonight and they don't want you to stall it or wait any longer. It was proposed by Alderman

LeBrun in the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee that why don't we just leave this until January 1st. It's important when the community says please do this that we answer that in a very conscientiousness way. I haven't heard any firm concerns or arguments against doing this other than the process orientated ones, which again, we've already set precedence with other issues that were far less impactful where we had a lot less to take credit for. All I have heard is there might be something else, there might be more to look at and I would invite anyone who is interested in doing more research into this to get involved in the Cultural Connections Committee and the One Greater Nashua effort and the many immigrant support organizations in the city. You don't need to hold up the legislation to do that because this has been going on for a long time.

Alderman Dowd

There is a piece of legislation on the floor and there is also an amendment to that legislation on the floor. I would suggest that we vote on the amendment and if it doesn't pass then we vote on the legislation as it was presented because that is what came out of committee and see what happens.

Alderman Schoneman

In response to that last comment, I will join those who say they are not going to support the Mayor's proposal that comes out tonight. I attended that meeting as well and believe that the compromise that came out was pretty good. This legislation; I certainly accept that it was somewhat driven by the Chamber of Commerce and the United Way but the draft of this legislation comes from WelcomingAmerica.org. Part of their strategy in New Hampshire, and I just don't like that the City of Nashua is being co-opted by congratulating ourselves on being the Welcoming City that we are that I have experienced, that we are now endorsing an organization which does way more and may in the future do way more than the things that we think they are doing today. Part of their strategy is to mobilize local groups to do a number of things including trying to get legislation through the local Board. That's a stated goal, it's a milestone and it's in their publications that they want us to do and part of the drafting from this comes from the WelcomingAmerica.org. I feel that we are being co-opted. That language is still here but the amendment that came out of committee takes out the specific endorsement of the Welcoming America Initiative but it includes much of the language. The language didn't change and that's why I say that I think it's a reasonable compromise. It's gets the language the WelcomingAmerica.org wants in here, which apparently we are willing to follow, but it takes out a specific alignment with that organization and I think that's a reasonable position. I will not support the newly revised alternative that the Mayor presented.

Alderman Siegel

I am going to address a couple of things and I am sympathetic to Alderman Dowd's concept that we do have something in front of us but these comments are all associated with that. With all due respect to Alderman Lopez, if the legislation before us was to congratulate all of the people that were involved in the efforts that are on-going like the Cultural Navigators or the United Way efforts or the Chamber of Commerce efforts and we were congratulating them for all of the good work they do, that in fact would be like the typical type of proclamation that we have before us that all of us would support and it would go through just like that, this is not that and let's not pretend it is. We are talking about us as a city and we are virtue signaling on the municipal level which is comical. I would be more than happy to congratulate people for the actual work they do, but instead, we have to virtue signal on the municipal level and okay, I'm willing to accept that because compromise is what we do here but that legislation is now tying us to an organization which clearly members are uncomfortable with. Again, there was an hour and fifteen minute discussion about that. Normal compromise is okay, the real essence here, which everybody wanted and everybody was fine with, was that we are a Welcoming City and we don't want to have anybody perceive that we are not a Welcoming City and that was a great compromise. All of a sudden the waters are muddied and I would be more than happy to discuss this. I have enough information on the Welcoming America Initiative. I'm sure not many people went through all of the 990's. Has anybody

out there gone through the 990's and actually look at the money that actually being granted and look to see where the money came from? Look at the actual resources on here and read them? I'd be happy to quote that but I'm not going to quote it from this piece of legislation because we vet that in committee. I'll go to committee and discuss it if you want but I would be more than happy to discuss what it is that we have before, that was before us out of committee. I think it's a complete mistake if we want to vote on it, we are voting on whether or not to accept the Mayor's amendment and just vote directly on that. That's not the way we do business and for good reason.

Alderman Moriarty

We could have had a unanimous vote here tonight I think with the compromise that came out of the committee. I get along with Alderman Lopez very well and I like a lot of things he said tonight. He did point out that the people who showed up were all in support. There are some people in the audience who are against but they just haven't spoken and understandably so because there is a bit of perception or stigma attached with voicing your opinion against this topic. There are a lot of people out in this city who would have been for the version that the committee came up with but that has been ruined. The best thing to do is absolutely send it back to committee. No one has made that motion so I am going to.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MORIARTY TO RE-REFER R-16-068 AS AMENDED TO THE PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman O'Brien

Point of order, Mr. President, isn't there already a motion on the floor?

President McCarthy

A motion to re-refer is in order.

Alderman Moriarty

Roll call.

Alderman Cookson

I am trying to determine which amended version it is that we are sending back to committee. Is it the amended version that came out of committee or is it the amended version by the Mayor?

President McCarthy

It is neither; we were referring a piece of legislation to the committee.

Alderman Cookson

I thought Alderman Moriarty's motion was as amended?

President McCarthy

It hasn't been amended.

Alderman Moriarty

Point of inquiry then, can you recommend what the best way to make the motion would be?

President McCarthy

The motion that I accepted from you was to re-refer the legislation to committee.

Alderman Moriarty

Ultimately it doesn't matter because we are going to end up going back, the idea is to get it back to the committee so we can at least have the discussion on the new piece of legislation and have the opportunity for a unanimous vote.

President McCarthy

The committee can take any number of actions once given back a piece of legislation. They can return the same amendment that it recommended the first time, it can recommend a new amendment, it can recommend the original passage or it could recommend indefinite postponement.

Alderman Moriarty

Okay, my goal is to simplify so I'll be specific here then. My motion by is to refer the current copy that is being considered which is the amended version which Alderman Lopez...

President McCarthy

That motion would not be in order. What is before the Board that can be re-referred is the original legislation.

Alderman Moriarty

Okay then in order to make a motion that is in order...

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MORIARTY TO RE-REFER R-16-068 TO THE PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Siegel

I do appreciate what my colleague; Alderman Moriarty is trying to do. We are trying to come to the best resolution but unfortunately, the bouncing back and forth itself is a problem. I believe, as probably Alderman Moriarty believes, that with the compromised solution I thought we were getting a unanimous vote. I think a unanimous vote would be very useful. Again, I don't like these types of legislation. I think it's great when people do things and we recognize the people that do things but I don't believe we should be cheerleading ourselves this way but that's my opinion but I would be happy to vote for this legislation in compromise because that's what we do. To go ping-ponging back and forth and having basically the same type of discussion; I am not sure I am in favor of that. I'd like to get this resolved. I would be happy to start reading off pieces of data that I have gathered about this but I don't think it's relevant. You know, why I personally can't stand this organization from what I found out about it. Well, I can't stand is probably a little harsh but I am not comfortable is probably more accurate.

Alderman Lopez

First I would like to point out that most of the resolution does actually congratulate organizations and businesses and what's been going on in Nashua and I would argue that most of the work has been done by the communities that are represented here tonight. However, my understanding of the process that we

are in now is that I made a motion to replace the originally proposed legislation while we were discussing that originally proposed legislation. I don't see any reason to send the whole resolution back to the committee when we have already discussed it in committee and everybody who was able to go there went and presented their arguments. Out of that meeting we had two outcomes. One was the committee recommended an amendment which could be introduced and voted on here after my motion is dealt with and the Mayor did respond directly to the comments of the committee and offered a substitute version which very explicitly states what we are getting into. Again, that was vetted by corporation counsel so I feel like the steps we should be taking here are voting on my motion and then making a motion on the original version and if that needs to be amended then fine. There are three options right now and we could literally go through all three of them.

President McCarthy

Alderman Wilshire, can you please take the chair for a minute?

Recorder's Note: Vice President Wilshire was seated in place of President McCarthy

Alderman McCarthy

I think I see what is going to happen so I'll make a prediction and then I'll ask us not to let that come true. From where I sit, I have the advantage of being about 6" higher than everyone else so I can see what is going to happen. It looks to me like if this goes to a vote that amendment will probably pass by an 8 to 7 majority and the resulting legislation will also pass by an 8 to 7 majority, 7 members of the Board will be extremely unhappy that that happened and 8 members of the Board will be mildly satisfied with the short-term result. Frankly, I don't think that's a good result for us or for the community, 15 to 0 would be better no matter what comes out of this. Let's think about it for a minute, I think everyone around this horseshoe agrees with the concept that we are a Welcoming City and that immigrants are very welcome here in Nashua. I think that most of the things that we are asked to do by the list that Mayor Donchess' amendment would add are things that we agree to do or that we are already doing. I read the list at the committee meeting a couple of weeks ago. Everything that was in there with the exception of maybe attending a yearly conference had to do with looking at how to be inclusionary in our processes and those are things that are already being done by the city and by the One Greater Nashua. I would rather see us take the time to come up with something that will make everybody happy. If there are issues that have to do with the organization itself that we should be aware of then I would like to hear those. I think that Alderman Siegel is right that those things should be done in committee and not here so let's think about what the long-term affect is of how we are going to do this. My personal opinion is if the amendment gets around to me and I have to vote on it, I will probably vote yes. If the amended legislation comes around to me then I will probably vote yes because of all the things that I've heard and my belief that this is not a partisan piece of legislation and that it is something that helps us. I want to warn you that I don't think that's the best thing for us to do necessarily in terms of coming up with a piece of legislation that serves the people who are out there as best we can because I don't think it will serve them but that it will simply help to divide this Board over that point and we will fight this out for months instead of trying to do something that I think we all agree we should do in the first place.

Recorder's Note: Alderman McCarthy returned to his set as President and Alderman Wilshire returned to her seat as Vice President.

President McCarthy

The motion is to re-refer to committee.

Alderman Clemons

With respect to your clairvoyance in how the vote is going to turn out, I think that it would be a colossal waste of time to send this back to committee and the reason that I say that is because your 8 to 7 clairvoyance isn't going to change because the fact of the matter is that what the people in the audience want and what the organizations who represent, who by the way, when is the last time you have seen St. Joseph's Hospital, the Chamber of Commerce, One Greater Nashua, the Adult Learning Center, the United Way, the library, the Cultural Connections Committee, churches and other organizations get together behind a single piece of legislation and come before us and say please pass this and we are going to vote 8 to 7 no? That's ridiculous and you are wasting their time if you send it back to committee because we are not going to agree 100% on the Welcoming America Initiative so we should either vote it up or vote it down tonight.

Alderman Siegel

My remarks probably won't get any applause. I honestly would love to go through this but again, I feel very strongly that this is not the place for it. I don't want to see this go back to committee but I actually think the Alderman McCarthy is pretty insightful; however this passes it should be pretty much unanimous. It won't be if we try to jack this. To waste time at the full Board instead of doing that before committee where we can have an interactive discussion is crazy. I think we should just vote on sending it to committee and I would recommend that we do send it to committee. And, this idea by the way, that somehow this represents everybody and everybody's opinion, again, has everybody done the same amount of research? I can guarantee not. I'm sorry, I think it's wonderful that people have come out and I wish that they would come out for frankly more substantive things like the budget or the pension gap that we have. Come out for that; that would be helpful. Other than that, this should go back to committee if you really want to have a substantive discussion because there is no time urgency. The time window has passed for the Welcoming America Initiative week and that was said in committee. That's why the compromise came about to begin with, there didn't seem to be any benefit, it didn't matter. The week had passed and the city wasn't going to commit any resources so what was the point? It made a lot of sense. Alderman Caron initially suggested the compromise and it sounded good to me but again, we have a different motion before us but it should go back to committee.

Alderman LeBrun

Why do we feel so intensely that for whatever reason that we have to come under the umbrella of an organization when we can simply resolve this by the Mayor putting out a proclamation which would proclaim Nashua as a Welcoming City? Why did we need an organization to tell us how to do that?

Alderman Dowd

Normally if additional information could come forward and be more enlightening, I would more than willing to send it back to committee. I happen to have attended the committee meeting but I wasn't a voting member but I was listening. Quite frankly, from the discussion that happened that evening with the voting members of that committee, I don't see the result changing so it's going to come back to the full Board again. I would prefer that we take some type of action tonight and I agree that it should be 15 to 0 with the Welcoming Initiative but I don't see where anybody in other cities has been negatively impacted by doing this. I've heard no mention of anything that was adversarial to Manchester or any other city that has adopted it. If it is up to me I would say let's vote on the amended legislation and if it doesn't pass then we vote on the legislation that came from the committee which I assume would pass but maybe not. I think we ought to at least vet those this evening.

Alderman Moriarty

I can take a hint, Mr. President and offer another compromise. We could have a unanimous vote in probably less than two minutes. I will be happy to withdraw my motion if Alderman Lopez withdraws his motion.

President McCarthy

You can withdraw your motion or not and it's up to Alderman Lopez whether or not he withdraws his. Are you withdrawing your motion?

Alderman Lopez

I think if everybody on the Board is serious about the welcoming part of this then we will have a unanimous vote after this but I also think that honestly, I don't see the concerns that have been raised and I thought I was listening to and compromising when I made that motion at the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee meeting and I thought that the Mayor also responded to those concerns appropriately so I am not withdrawing my motion. If the rest of the Board would like to vote my motion then we can vote on the recommended version.

President McCarthy

Alderman Moriarty, did you withdraw your motion to re-refer?

Alderman Moriarty

No.

President McCarthy

The motion is to re-refer to committee and debate of that point is in order.

Alderman Wilshire

I don't see any different outcome from the committee. I am not going to support re-referring this to committee. I would like to vote this up or down tonight.

Alderman Schoneman

I do think that going back to committee would be a good idea. It sounds like there is other information, Alderman Siegel mentioned that there is some information that he has and I understand his desire to move it through and we could probably pass the goldenrod copy tonight if that had been the motion. I would also point out about Manchester; my understanding is that it didn't go through right away. It came to the City of Manchester and I believe Mayor Gatsas, a number of years ago and it was rejected and it was vetted for a long period of time. In fact, it was the rejection in Manchester that caused the Office of Refugee Relocation to hire WelcomingAmerica.org to come into Nashua to go after what they call the talkative resistance here in the state to begin to put political pressure on people to get this thing passed. It didn't sail through Manchester and I think they vetted it and I it wouldn't hurt to send it back to committee and vet it here too.

Alderman LeBrun

If you want a unanimous vote then why don't we vote on the original recommendation from the committee proclaiming Nashua as a Welcoming City and have the Mayor put out a proclamation stating

such? That's all we need to do. We do not need an umbrella organization telling us how to do it. I think we are all intelligent enough to know how to do it.

Alderman Siegel

With regard to Alderman Wilshire's point about the results out of committee, actually the results could be very different because the results out of committee were a specific compromise before us and the legislation that is before us that was proposed in modified form by Alderman Lopez could potentially appear out of committee with a recommendation of one way or the other for that so that's a very different outcome and it's an outcome that would be vetted in committee so I am sorry, committee does matter.

Alderman Caron

Mr. President, I have a question because I knew this was going to happen when we left that committee meeting; that nothing was going to change. Does the Board of Aldermen approve every organization that the city belongs to? I mean this thing with the Welcoming America Initiative, can that be a separate thing that the Mayor does separately as an organization and we do the affirming the City of Nashua as a Welcoming City and maybe that would placate a lot of the Aldermen who have this real angst about the initiative program? Nothing is going to change if we send this back to committee.

President McCarthy

Anything that requires things that will be acted upon by this Board such as the appropriation of budget or entering into an agreement would in fact require coming to the Board. The Mayor is pretty much free to take other administrative actions that don't step on the authority of the Board of Aldermen other than that.

Alderman Cookson

Are we able to divide the question? Are we able to take the welcoming piece, as Alderman LeBrun suggested and make a decision on that piece and then the issue that seems to be of concern to at least a portion of this Board be taken up and discussed additionally with additional information and additional details that might be available?

President McCarthy

The way one would do that is through the process of amendments. The motion that is in front of us is not divisible because it's simply to re-refer to committee.

Alderman Cookson

Understood; thank you.

Alderman Lopez

I would like to observe that we did cut it in half when we were at the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee and that was my effort to understand where other people were coming from and I feel that the Mayor did, in fact, listen to those concerns and stipulate and add additional materials to it that didn't increase what we were agreeing to but it limited what the original resolution was suggesting in response to the concerns. We did cut it in half and then additional information was brought forward but apparently it's not enough to satisfy people who had the position originally that this was not something that they wanted to pass.

Alderman Siegel

Roll call.

Alderman Schoneman

I would like to say that I support sending it back to committee. When I listen to Alderman Cookson read the legislation that came out those years ago, frankly, that sounded so much more eloquent and beautiful and encouraging about Nashua than this language that comes from WelcomingAmerica.org. I really strongly recommend that we send it back to committee and come up with something that speaks for Nashua itself and not something that is given to us by somebody on the outside who is giving it to us for a reason for our endorsement. Something can happen in committee that I think could be better all around.

President McCarthy

The legislation that Alderman Cookson was referring to was the adoption of the vision and mission statements of the City of Nashua which have been in the ordinance books since then.

Alderman Schoneman

It sounded beautiful no matter what its source was and it still says the things that I think we want to say for ourselves, we could reaffirm that.

Alderman Lopez

I appreciate that it sounded beautiful and I appreciate that the public taught Alderman Cookson so much but I also think the public is very clearly signaling to us, most of it, that they are interested in this particular wording in the resolution tonight.

President McCarthy

Is there any further discussion on the motion to re-refer?

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Alderman Deane, Alderman Cookson, Alderman Siegel, Alderman Schoneman, Alderman McGuinness, Alderman LeBrun, Alderman Moriarty	7
------	--	---

Nay:	Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Lopez, Alderman McCarthy	8
------	---	---

MOTION FAILED

President McCarthy

The motion now is to amend.

Alderman Siegel

So now we get to just have a committee meeting at the full Board level. So now would be the time I suppose to raise some of my objections. So, how many of you know what a 990 is? It's a tax return by a

501C3 and in the 990 they talk about the programs and how they spend and how they get their money. This particular organization when it was first born had a big grant. Can anybody tell me where the money came from? Nobody knows. Everybody wants to find out some magic boogeyman or whatever but nobody seems to know where the money came from and I find that very interesting a little troubling. It's not a conspiracy theory but it's very unusual for a charitable organization to start-up like that with absolutely no idea where its founding money comes from. In those 990's you can also see where this goes and how did it get their money and you can see it year by year. By the way, I will steal a line from a CBS News investigator reporter who was describing these "grass roots" organizations; he called them AstroTurf because they are not real grass roots. This would be that. The claim is that these are grass roots organizations but in fact, the funding is not grass roots by any means. Again, it doesn't necessarily make it a bad thing but it's kind of a little troubling. I look at that and I feel a little bit funny and even the notations in the tax returns say they are supposed to get 1/3 of their funding after a while through public means but that's not happening except through fees. Their programs charge money and that's how they are sort of getting the additional support to get above that threshold according to the returns. But again, that's not necessarily a disqualifying element, every charity when it first starts off usually starts off with a particular grant from a benefactor and they are given a number of years to get to that threshold. It's a little curious that the benefactors are a little unknown and that's sort of troubling. Now, a lot of people have said that they have gone on the website and I've carefully studied the website. Okay, fair enough. I've gone on the website and frankly, a lot of it is gobble gook but there is nothing incriminating or evil about gobble gook, it's just the type of vacuous verbiage that we often see in a lot of organizations. However, if one does go through the resources; I believe what is the...there is a learn and then there is a resources page and then you can actually...you have to go through a lot of clicks and actually make a real effort to download the actual documentation; those real PDF's. Some people do it and some people don't, I did it. Some of the phrases in here are a little bit troubling because what does this really do, it's basically a primer on how to put your message together to get passed the fact that people are skeptical but not really in a friendly way the way I look at it, to me it looks very manipulative. Let me quote "use these message themes to frame and introduce your stories, add to your materials and as fodder for social media posts." That's kind of interesting. "Perception/Reality, about messaging." This is on page 7 of a document called Stand Together. "A person's opinion isn't based on reality, it's based on their perception of reality. Listen to and understand your audience perceived reality and then craft your messages to resonate with it and use these new messages to reshape perception." Okay, now I kind of have a little problem with this Orwellian approach to something which supposedly is virtuous. By the way, one can actually look deeper into the actual overall theme of several of them because it's not like it's welcoming all of the immigrants that can certainly contribute to our community. It's very specifically targeted at a very specific segment which I think is unfortunate because it does everyone else a disservice. I leave it up to you folks to vote because in this politically correct world I can't mention anything because of course, I'll get skewered one way or the other. I think actually that's unfair. So we have some very specific targeted group that then there is a specific means and there are a number of these in here and that's just one document; there are actually two specific documents where it's sort of this Orwellian message twisting mechanism that you can use as part of your toolkit. I find that a little frightening and so I don't want to be associated with that. I'm sorry, I find that unfortunate. Nashua is a virtuous city. I think we are a great and welcoming city. Why do we have to be a city that needs to associate with an organization that puts out as a toolkit an Orwellian message twisting machine? For what purpose and funded by who? Why can't I find that? I searched literally for three hours and I am very open-minded about it, I'm not trying to find some evil...like oh, this is George Soros. If it is then it is, I don't care. I just want to know who is behind this and why. That's sort of a little bit of a problem for me. Again, we have a great city and we do well on our own. We already had a proclamation that Alderman Cookson said something about which is hey, we are welcoming and so we also had out of committee a message that was the same. We stripped ourselves of this, which I think people legitimately have concerns with, I certainly did. They are not uneducated and by the way, I don't believe that there is a political motivation, in fact, in committee, I cautioned the Aldermen; we are not allowed to subscribe motive to people's reasoning. That is part of our code of conduct. To the extent that had happened to me, shame on everyone, that's not okay. I'm not subscribing motive, I think the motives are pure. I think what happened is people just don't research enough. I think all of the people who testified today did so

with all pure and good intent and I welcome the commentary, I think it's great that people are excited about this stuff and want to make Nashua a better place but we can do that without associating with this organization. There's no value and that was even pointed out in committee, which, by the way, I didn't attend that meeting but I watched it. That's my problem, the information contained in their fact filings and the information contained on their website, as stated by them, not me. Draw your own conclusions.

Alderman Lopez

The information that is presented on their 990 is that there isn't information so I don't see any cause for inferring any undue or inappropriate behavior because there is no evidence that this actually happened and I think an advocacy toolkit or a how to communicate to the public is something you probably would expect in a welcoming organization, an organization designed to empower people who may not actually be that great at communicating, may have English as a second language; to me it sounds like a road map for how to communicate with people to people who aren't professional politicians or possessing of advanced education degrees and just want to make a difference in their community and want to be inclusive and want to say what they know is right as articulately as possible. I don't hear any of what was described as Orwellian. I think it could be summarized as just saying you may be in the situation where you are walking into a group of people who believe something differently and you need to listen to them, such as our audience here, and when you are trying to make your comments back, if you are trying to push a point home then you need to start by understanding what their point is first. That's basic communication, not Orwellian.

Alderman O'Brien

I truly would just like to say that I am glad we are having this discussion, I have total respect for people who are against it and people who are for it. I'm looking at the list that was put out by the Welcoming America Initiative and you have to put some weight to look at other communities around America that have really backed this. I'm sure it was vetted by their City Councils or Aldermen or Selectmen. Some of these communities are no slouches; Akron, OH; New York City; Washington, D.C.; Columbus, OH; and Boston, MA; and Battle Creek, MI. They all vetted this and voted for it. Somebody has to prove a little bit more to me to change my vote. I don't think these cities have been hog washed, I think they have looked at this and vetted it and made the appropriate choice.

Alderman Cookson

I certainly would have hoped that other communities would have vetted a similar piece of legislation but that doesn't negate our responsibility to vet this piece of legislation. When we look at the City of Manchester, did anybody look at the City of Manchester? I did. September 21, 2015; Committee on Administration and Information Systems, there was a meeting that happened at 4:30 p.m. Chairman Craig called the meeting...I mean I'm not going to read all of this to you but what I wanted to point out is that Alderman Long stated that there was an initiative and Mayor Lozeau in Nashua had signed a recognition of Welcoming Week. That was somewhere prior to September 21, 2015. Alderman Ludwig said so basically this is a good faith effort on behalf of the city. Alderman Long's response, yes, there are 32 cities in the country right now that have proclaimed themselves as a Welcoming Community. Nashua is the only other city in New Hampshire to have done that. Weren't we supposed to be looking at this piece of legislation saying that Manchester and Concord were reasons why we should do it? There is a proclamation and not a resolution. I had a legislative search done and there is nothing that the city has done prior to September 21, 2015, legislatively to recognize us as a Welcoming City or Welcoming Week or whatever the case may be. It may have been a Mayor's proclamation but it was not a piece of legislation that we, as a Board of Aldermen, took up. The City of Manchester vetting it appropriately said hey, Nashua did it, here's Mayor Lozeau, here's the proclamation and I can read it to you. No, we do our own vetting.

Alderman Clemons

I can't speak for her obviously but I can imagine why Mayor Lozeau did this by proclamation.

Alderman Cookson

Well that's implying isn't it?

Alderman Siegel

Come on, point of order. That's almost a violation of the code of conduct.

President McCarthy

Alderman Clemons, please refrain from remarks of that type.

Alderman Clemons

Why, because I stated...

President McCarthy

Because it implies...

Alderman Clemons

No, I didn't imply anything.

President McCarthy

It implies that this Board is the reason why it was done by proclamation and if you want to say that then say it and explain why but don't leave things to inference.

Alderman Moriarty

So adhering to the code of conduct I am not going to infer or guess what people's vote are but I would like everybody in the room to ask yourself what has motivated you to come here, what is it really that you want, that you are trying to express? Are you trying to express that we are a Welcoming City. When I take time out of my day to go and visit the Ethnic Awareness Committee and do an investigation, there is a reason why I am doing that. I am in support of the idea of Nashua being a Welcoming City and there is a reason I want to do that. I like "Live Free or Die" in New Hampshire. I like the fact that we are a free state. I support liberty and I support people who come together and create an alliance. I like how we are a Welcoming City and I think all of this makes America great but I am not, as an elected official, going to get on board with endorsing the political organizations that call themselves those things that I just called. So my motivation to support this piece of legislation as it came out of the committee I think is the exact same motivation as to why you are all here and is why we would get a unanimous vote. I'm telling you now that my motivation for why I am not going to vote for this is because it supports an organization that is unnecessary to be attached to this document which I have issues with.

Alderman Dowd

Two points, one is that I haven't heard anyone say that any city or organization has had any negative action because of being part of this Welcoming City. I've heard tax things but that can be said for a number of organizations. Are there any organizations that have any negative implications from being part of this initiative? Number two, whether this went back to the committee 16 times, I don't see anyone's opinion changing and if it came back to the full Board then I still don't see anybody's opinion changing so I still think we should take a vote and if it passes it passes and if doesn't it doesn't.

Alderman O'Brien

With regret, Mr. President, my esteemed colleague did bring up the example of Manchester after I read off a number of communities and if I can through the chair, just to clarify, what was the final outcome of Manchester on this? Is it approved in Manchester?

President McCarthy

My understanding is that it is.

Alderman Siegel

So, here we are, we are going to waltz around and vote on this and maybe it will pass 8 to 7, again, Alderman McCarthy has been rather insightful but if you care about the optics does that make sense. That's probably a bad message so congratulations, you'll pass something and that's no good. But, that's what is going to happen because I think, again, I really want to pass something that says Nashua is fine; I don't want to have a problem but we had a good compromise, something that would send a much stronger message and that's not going to happen with this glued in there and that was clear in committee so if you wanted to say the same types of arguments then yes that's true but the only outcome would be what is spit out of committee; either what has already been spit out of committee or the thing that is before us now. So you are either going to have an 8 to 7 vote on something and what's the message there? I mean really? Just vote it down and then you have the opportunity of voting on the original legislation or the legislation as amended. You can get two more cracks at it. This seems silly.

Alderman Cookson

I wanted to refer back to the Ward 2 Alderman's question about how it is affecting other communities and what the impact is. I think that is the exact type of question that that we should have discussed in the committee.

Alderman Deane

This is a perfect example of how not to do something. I find this whole situation rather embarrassing for the city and the Mayor. I was at the committee meeting and correct me if I am wrong but I thought that amendment left the committee with a 5 to 0 vote with Alderman Clemons stating that he was going to vote for it but if someone called him up he was going to listen to what people had to say, which I think we all do. I came tonight looking to hear some debate but also to vote on the amended version that we sent out of committee that we discussed for about an hour. That's what the five of us agreed upon. Here we are looking at this WelcomingAmerica.org and whatever the spin may be, I mean, I went on their website and I clicked on their little learn button and then I went to their welcoming strategy and then I clicked on the full strategy and I read through it. I guess everybody is entitled to their own opinions but it just seems like we are signing on to a heavy lobbying effort for the federal government. That's what it looks like to me. That's just my opinion. I look at this goldenrod copy that I would support. I think we all should support it, it's time to save a little face.

Mr. President, the motion on the floor is to re-refer? That was shot down, right?

President McCarthy

Correct.

Alderman Deane

So now the motion on the floor is for final passage of the amendment that was made by Mayor Donchess?

President McCarthy

It's to amend.

Alderman Deane

Would my motion to vote on the goldenrod copy be out of order, Mr. President?

President McCarthy

I believe you can actually motion to amend the amendment to the goldenrod copy.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT TO THE GOLDONROD COPY

Alderman Lopez

Can I make a motion to amend the goldenrod copy back to my original amendment?

President McCarthy

No. Let me explain this so everyone understands it. The rules allow a motion to amend in order to get the amendment right. You can make a single level of amendments to the amendment at a time. If Alderman Deane's motion were to pass then the motion would be to pass the amendment which is now the goldenrod copy to replace the legislation. The motion is to amend the amendment to include the goldenrod copy instead of the copy circulated by the Mayor.

Alderman Siegel

Just for clarity because this is getting very recursive, a yes vote would be a vote to basically vote for the goldenrod copy, is that correct?

President McCarthy

To vote to replace the proposed amendment with the goldenrod copy.

Alderman Siegel

Okay, thank you.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Alderman Deane, Alderman Cookson, Alderman Siegel, Alderman Schoneman, Alderman McGuinness, Alderman LeBrun, Alderman Moriarty	7
Nay:	Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Lopez, Alderman McCarthy	8

MOTION FAILED

President McCarthy

The motion before us is that of amending with the copy proposed by the Mayor. Is there further discussion on that motion?

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Moriarty

At the risk of having someone shake their finger at me, if your motivation is to demonstrate to the world that Nashua is a Welcoming City, all you had to do was say yes on that last amendment. If you voted no for that then there's something else.

Alderman Siegel

That's probably not in our code of conduct.

Alderman Moriarty

Duly noted.

Alderman Lopez

We have gone through every possible aeration of this so I would propose to my fellow Aldermen that as the vote is continually on the same lines and there isn't any actual substantive objective to the Welcoming America Initiative, there are possible 990 forms that are mysterious, there are maybe some grant opportunities and all kinds of subjective possibilities but if we are going to vote 8 to 7 on this then this is an opportunity to say okay, I'm not going to win the vote against; they are going to shut down Welcoming America as a part of this so maybe I should now signal my support to the Welcoming Community and the people gathered here today who are in support of it.

Alderman Deane

I think that's wonderful but you just missed your opportunity to do just that.

Alderman Siegel

I couldn't agree with my colleague, Alderman Deane more and by the way, this idea that characterizing the snip-it's that I put out there as not substantial, that's a judgement call on your part. You didn't read this stuff, I did so you are reacting to something that I said which is a snip-it. Had you read even more maybe you would have the same opinion, that's fine, you are welcome to that but you are making an awfully stiff judgement call by claiming that there was nothing substantive when in fact you are basing that on something you yourself have not reviewed.

President McCarthy

Before we go any further I will remind the Board that remarks are intended to be addressed to the chair on the merits of the legislation.

Alderman Siegel

I apologize, Mr. President and also to my colleague, Alderman Lopez, I did not mean to be out of line.

Alderman Lopez

I would like to state to the chair that my assessment of it is actually a testament of my faith in Alderman Siegel. I know he would not have spoken up unless he had thoroughly done the research.

Alderman Schoneman

I don't see myself swaying anybody's view but I just want to be clear that this co-ops the City of Nashua into endorsing something that we just should not be doing. The example was given during the committee and again here tonight that there are lots of organizations that we could be co-opted into supporting because they support free speech, we like free speech. We should not do that. As a matter of principle I believe that's been inappropriate and as much as I like the goldenrod copy with the Welcoming America Initiative in there I simply cannot vote for it in principle.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Lopez, Alderman McCarthy	8
Nay:	Alderman Deane, Alderman Cookson, Alderman Siegel , Alderman Schoneman, Alderman McGuinness, Alderman LeBrun, Alderman Moriarty	7

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-16-068 AS AMENDED

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Lopez, Alderman McCarthy	8
Nay:	Alderman Deane, Alderman Cookson, Alderman Siegel , Alderman Schoneman, Alderman McGuinness, Alderman LeBrun, Alderman Moriarty	7

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-16-068 declared duly adopted as amended.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-16-011

Endorsers: Alderman Don LeBrun
Alderman Ken Siegel
Alderman David Schoneman
Alderman Tom Lopez

ADOPTING PROVISIONS FOR REDUCED TAXATION FOR CERTAIN CHARTERED PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

- Tabled at Full Board Level – 5/10/16

O-16-016

Endorsers: Alderman David Schoneman
Alderswoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman Don LeBrun

AUTHORIZING STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LOCK STREET AND CROSS STREET

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHONEMAN FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-16-016

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Moriarty

I am sure there is good reason and I respect Alderman Schoneman for being a good Ward Alderman but I voted for one stop sign a long time ago at the persuasion of another Alderman and there are too many stop signs up there, particularly on Lock Street, so I am going to vote no for this.

Alderman Schoneman

This is not a stop sign for traffic calming, there are sight lines that are at issue there. There are certain requirements for putting in stop signs and in this case the city engineers went out and determined that the sight lines are inadequate due to things that can't be moved like utility poles and that kind of thing. It meets the requirement based on legitimate safety concerns for this particular intersection.

Alderman Lopez

I've received several constituent that they were looking forward to the stop sign and they felt it was a very good move. I am in favor of it.

Alderman Dowd

Normally I am not in favor of 4-way stops but that particular intersection is very dangerous and it came under the recommendation of the Department of Public Works and it meets the qualifications for a 4-way stop so I fully support Alderman Schoneman.

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance O-16-016 declared duly adopted.

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-16-069

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane
Alderman Benjamin M. Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Ken Siegel
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy

**AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO ENTER INTO A TEMPORARY SKATEPARK
EASEMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE DAVID W. DEANE SKATEBOARD PARK**

Given its first reading; assigned to the COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE and the BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS by President McCarthy

R-16-070

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

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$32,366.55 FROM THE STATE
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "FY2017 SUSTAINED TRAFFIC
ENFORCEMENT PATROLS (STEP)"**

Given its first reading; assigned to the HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE by President McCarthy

R-16-071

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Benjamin M. Clemons
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy

**AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO EXTEND THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE
NASHUA DOG OWNERS GROUP, INC. FOR THE DOG PARK AT YUDICKY FARM**

Given its first reading; assigned to the COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE and the BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS by President McCarthy

R-16-072

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

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$249,266.77 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "FY2017 OPIOID ABUSE REDUCTION INITIATIVE (OARI)"

Given its first reading; assigned to the HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE by President McCarthy

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jim Cutter, 86 Palm Street

We have had a problem with our neighbors, the Gilbertson's for a long time because the city building inspectors of 1950 and 1971 lead the Gilbertson's astray by approving building permits that did not have actual dimensions that violated the plat ordinance. Because it is a city error, we expect the city to correct it. See RSA 626:3, II, Effect of Ignorance or Mistake. This statute puts the blame on the building inspector/public servant who approved the building permit. Sincerely, Jim.

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderman Lopez

I just wanted to comment that I had the opportunity to sleep in a box on Friday and particularly working with the homeless myself I was under the impression that I understood somewhat of their situation but it really brought it home to what some of our fellow neighbors are going through when they are having trouble finding housing. There are many reasons for homelessness, opioid abuse or a temporary break in their family. Regardless of the cause it's a very unfortunate situation and there is a shortage of housing available for people to move into; public housing or otherwise. I was encouraged this morning to actually attend the opening of the Salmon Street Elderly Housing Program. I think making sure that the elderly in our community don't end up spending any nights in a box is just a basic imperative that we should be attentive to as a city. I wanted to recognize the efforts of the city's welfare department in doing that.

Alderman Moriarty

The non-profit organization Symphony NH has their season opening concert at Keefe Auditorium on Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

Alderman Schoneman

I distributed a gift and a thank you note from local churches in the community that got together to organize some volunteer efforts and they just wanted you to know that you are thanked by them.

Alderman Siegel

I'd like to thank everyone who worked so hard for the Downtown Nashua Music Festival and also the farmer's dinner which was tremendous. I'd also like to congratulate the Mayor on becoming a grandfather.

Alderman Cookson

Earlier this evening we accepted and placed a file the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee meeting minutes from September 19, 2016. I am glad that since we did accept it and place it on file you had an opportunity to review those minutes prior to accepting them. During the course of the meeting there was a dialogue that took place between Mayor Donchess and myself and it was with regard to the Welcoming America Initiative and during the course of that conversation Mayor Donchess attempted to attribute a comment; what I perceived to be a comment about some information that I had provided and his response was "I mean really, they are not the enemy." It was with regard to a link that I had provided in the course of discussion. At that moment when I felt that some value was being attributed to my statement, my comment, I asked for personal privilege of the chair of the committee. As we are talking about rules this evening, whether it be a code of conduct or whether it be Mason's or whatever the case may be, I asked for personal privilege that evening. Chairman Clemons response to that question or that point was that I was out of order and to please let the Mayor finish. I just wanted to share with the rest of Board that again, I provided the information, the Mayor attributed...I made no comment of whether it was good or bad, I just made a statement and provided a link for the committee to review. Again, the Mayor made the comment that suggested that it was derogatory in some way and that's just incorrect, it's insulting and it was disrespectful at the time. I will let you know that the Mayor did apologize to me between meetings and I accepted that apology. However, as we look at Mason's; I'll share some knowledge with you. This is called questions for personal privilege, this is on page 174 for those of you who might be interested in learning. Questions of personal privilege of members must relate to questions related to members of the body or relate to charges against their character that would in truth incapacitate their membership they are not entitled to the floor on a question of personal privilege unless they propose to present relates them in there representative capacity. What happens when a member asks for personal privilege? When a question of privilege is one affecting the House or any one of its members it requires immediate action. It may be raised while a member is speaking. It is in order to raise the question of privilege at any time. The presiding officer must decide whether it is a question of privilege and it is not of sufficient urgency to justify interrupting the speaker. A member wishing to raise the question of privilege should rise and address the presiding officer without waiting to be recognized and say "I rise to a question of privilege or privilege of the House or I rise the question of personal privilege. The presiding officer should then request the member to state the question and in no way should the appropriate response be by the chair that you are out of order. So, what I would suggest at this point is that I would certainly expect at the very least an apology from the chair of the committee. It's important that even though he might be ignorant of the procedure and the rules of Mason's, that he was out of order that particular evening. At the same time, and while I understand that the chair of that committee is a sophomore on this Board, may not be familiar with all of the rules, he was previously the chair of another committee so he should be. He should understand what is going on. Unfortunately, Mr. President, you happened to be sitting in this Chamber that evening as well. What I find more egregious is the fact that you didn't take this as an opportunity to provide some guidance to the leadership that you have put in place on this Board. We have rules in place and it's quite clear that I was not addressed appropriately, accurately and nobody took the effort or time to understand what the actual motion was and what I was entitled to. While the chairman, again, may be negligent or ignorant of the rules, I know that you are not and I would hope that you would take this as an opportunity to educate those leaders that you put in place to represent this body. Those are my comments this evening.

Alderman LeBrun

I would like to remind everyone that on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. there is a memorial on Amherst and Concord Streets at the Fallen Firefighter's Memorial.

President McCarthy

I want to address the issue that was just raised. I don't lightly interfere with the business of our committee chairs when I am at their meetings. I think it's disrespectful as long as the proceedings are going along well and frankly, I think there are members of this Board who would call for my head on a plate if I did it at the committee's that they chair, all the more so when the ruling of the committee chair is correct. The rules on personal point's privilege are specific to one exacting circumstance and that is where the allegation that has been made would be disqualifying from participation in the Board if it were true. There was no such thing before the committee at that point and the chair was well aware of that. Whether that's why he ruled that the request was out of order at that point, I don't know.

Alderman Cookson

A point of personal privilege, Mr. President...

President McCarthy

Alderman Cookson, I am speaking, please wait until I am done. Is there something before us right now that would disqualify you? If not you don't have the right to interrupt me while I am speaking. I will recognize you again when I am done. Whether or not that is the reason that the chair chose to make that ruling, I don't know. It is likely that the better approach would have been to ask about the point of privilege and not allow a speech because frankly, we should take very seriously when we interrupt other members who are speaking. I believe that the actions of the chair were in fact, reasonably responsible and if he chooses to apologize to you for that then he may but I don't believe that his actions were out of line and the business of the committee was conducted.

Alderman Cookson

When a motion or a point of personal privilege is addressed the correct response is exactly as you just stated and that is to allow the speaker to continue to address what that point is that he/she perceives to be the issue. The inappropriate response is to be called out of order.

Committee announcements:

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE THAT THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2016, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Attest: Patricia D. Piecuch, City Clerk

Jim Donchess

Mayor • City of Nashua

To: Board of Aldermen

From: Jim Donchess

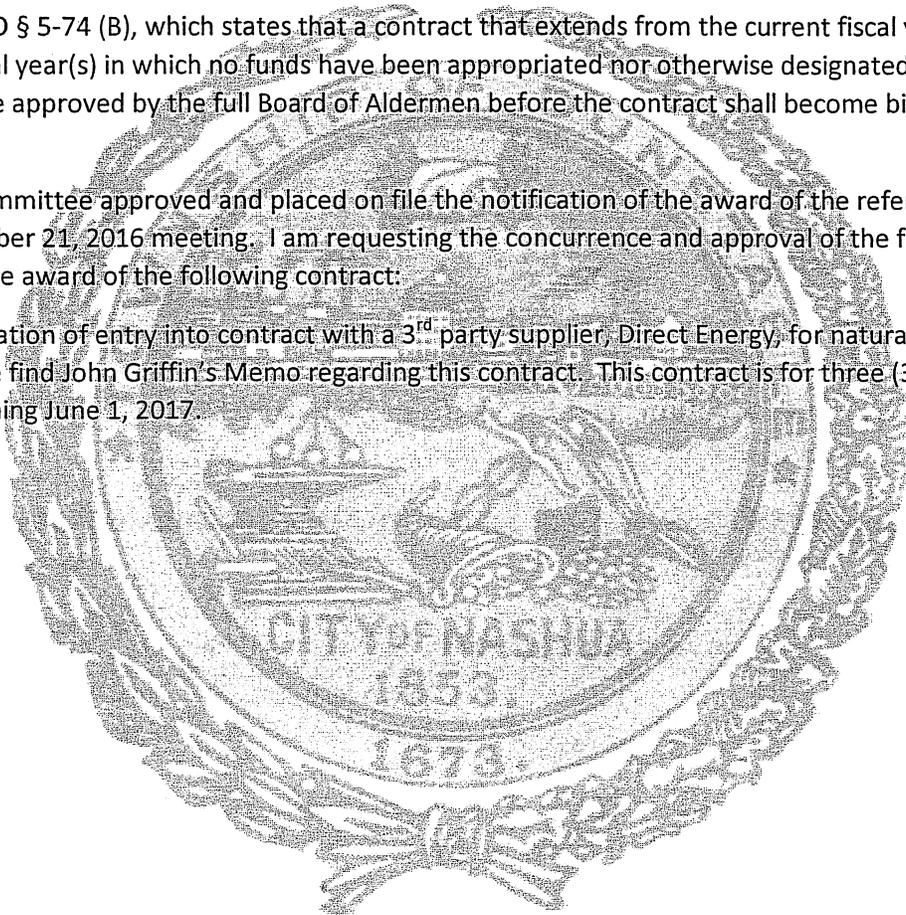
Date: 9/22/16

Re: Notification of entry into contract with a 3rd party supplier for natural gas supply

Pursuant to NRO § 5-74 (B), which states that a contract that extends from the current fiscal year into succeeding fiscal year(s) in which no funds have been appropriated nor otherwise designated for this purpose shall be approved by the full Board of Aldermen before the contract shall become binding on the City.

The Finance Committee approved and placed on file the notification of the award of the referenced contract at their September 21, 2016 meeting. I am requesting the concurrence and approval of the full Board of Aldermen for the award of the following contract:

Contract notification of entry into contract with a 3rd party supplier, Direct Energy, for natural gas supply. Attached please find John Griffin's Memo regarding this contract. This contract is for three (3) years with the term beginning June 1, 2017.





City of Nashua
Financial Services Division
229 Main Street - Nashua, NH 03060

(603) 589-3171
Fax (603) 589-3209

September 14, 2016

TO: Mayor Donchess
Finance Committee

FROM: John Griffin, Chief Financial Officer/Comptroller

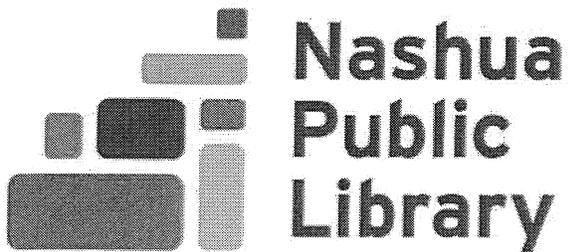
SUBJECT: Notification of entry into contract with a 3rd party supplier for natural gas supply.

On Thursday, September 9th, 2016, Financial Services, in conjunction with the Nashua School District, competitively solicited and entered into an agreement with a 3rd party energy supplier for the tariff-controlled supply portion of its natural gas utility bills. Pursuant to the communication approved at the September 7th, 2016 Finance Committee meeting, please find attached the executed contract ("Exhibit A"), as well as the Commodity Master Agreement ("Exhibit B"), which is referred to within the executed contract.

Contract Terms:

Fixed Price: \$5.280 per dekatherm

Fixed Term: 36 months beginning June 1, 2017



September 21, 2016

To: Mayor James Donchess
From: Jennifer McCormack, Director
RE: Welcoming America initiative

Dear Mayor Donchess,

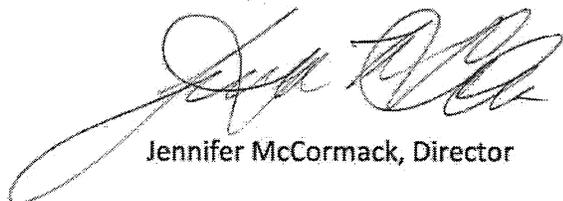
After attending the Personnel and Administrative Affairs committee meeting on Monday, September 18th I wanted to share with you my own experience the Welcoming America initiative. As an organization the library has acknowledged in the last several years that the city's population is becoming more diverse and that we are not adequately reaching the newest residents with our services. Like you we have read the data from the schools about their ELL programs and the data about the aging of NH's population and the rapid influx of immigrants into our city and our state. We've also seen the turnout at large events like Nashua Goes Back to School and seen the variety of faces in that crowd: the most compelling evidence of the increased diversity of our city.

In response to this the library has adopted "Become a Welcoming Space" as one of our major strategic goals and we are implementing a variety of objectives and activities toward reaching that goal. Through the Welcoming America initiative we have access to a network of communities and agencies across the country engaged in the real work of ensuring that the systems, policies and procedures in place are working to engage newcomers from anywhere in the world. Of particular relevance to us as a library has been the work done in Nashville and Dayton, and I have been able to connect directly to people from both of those communities by attending the Immigrant Integration conference in both 2014 and 2015: a conference

supported in part by affiliates of the Welcoming America initiative. In both years I have returned from that conference energized and committed to working with other agencies, organizations and individuals in the city who are working to making new residents feel welcome and engaged in their new community.

Joining the Welcoming America initiative allows Nashua to do more than just state to ourselves how we feel about new comers, it publicly joins us with the growing network of communities committed to implementing policy and procedural changes that make our cities and towns are ready to do more than just accept immigrants but to offer them full participation in every aspect of the life of the city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer McCormack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Jennifer McCormack, Director

Jim Donchess
MAYOR • CITY OF NASHUA

To: Board of Aldermen

From: Jim Donchess

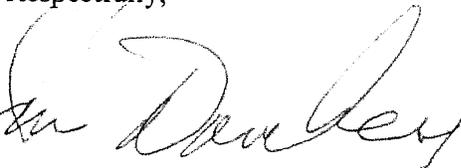
Date: September 22, 2016

Re: Welcoming City Legislation

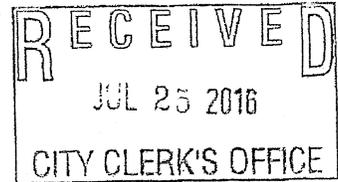
Attached is a copy of the resolution of the Manchester Mayor and Board of Aldermen which affiliated Manchester with the Welcoming America Initiative. This resolution is posted on the City of Manchester's website.

Please note that the Manchester resolution concludes with the following language, "...the Mayor and Board of Aldermen hereby recognize... the Welcoming Manchester Initiative as helping to unite our community and proudly joins the Welcoming America Initiative as one of the many cities and municipalities that already are Welcoming Communities."

Respectfully,



Mayor Jim Donchess



**Welcoming Manchester Resolution
Board of Mayor and Alderman**

Resolution Affirming Manchester, New Hampshire as a Welcoming City and to join the Welcoming America Initiative, to help unite our community and ensure that all are welcome in Manchester.

WHEREAS, fostering a welcoming environment for all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity or place of origin, enhances Manchester's cultural fabric, economical growth, global competitiveness and overall prosperity for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Manchester has long been recognized as a hospitable and welcoming place where individuals, families and institutions thrive and the contributions of all are celebrated and valued; and

WHEREAS, Manchester is committed to continue building a welcoming and neighborly atmosphere in our community, where all people including immigrant newcomers are welcome, accepted and integrated; and to encourage all residents of Manchester to do their part in reaching out and welcoming all who live, work and visit Manchester; and

WHEREAS, community efforts that promote understanding and collaboration between long-time residents and foreign born community members are crucial in encouraging and ensuring a welcoming environment, such as Welcoming Manchester initiative; and

WHEREAS, Manchester encourages its business leaders, civic groups, other government agencies and community institutions and residents to join in a community-wide effort to expand prosperity and inclusion for all residents by implementing policies and practices that promote integration; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Mayor and Alderman does hereby recognize on this 2nd day of August Two Thousand and Sixteen, the Welcoming Manchester Initiative as helping to unite our community and proudly joins the Welcoming America Initiative as one of the many cities and municipalities that already are Welcoming Communities.

Jim Donchess

MAYOR • CITY OF NASHUA

To: Board of Aldermen

From: Jim Donchess

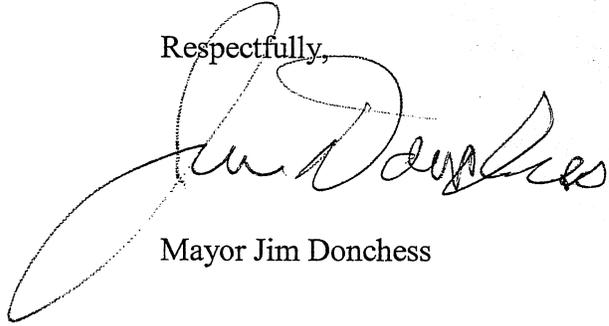
Date: September 22, 2016

Re: Welcoming City Proposed Resolution

Please find the attached proposed resolution to R-16-068 for your consideration at the Board of Aldermen meeting on September 27, 2016.

Also attached is the "Commitment to Participate in the Welcoming Cities & Counties Cohort" which sets forth the City's role under the Welcoming America initiative.

Respectfully,



Mayor Jim Donchess



RESOLUTION

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

CITY OF NASHUA

In the Year Two Thousand and Sixteen

WHEREAS, fostering a welcoming environment for all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity or place of origin, enhances Nashua's cultural fabric, economic growth, global competitiveness and overall prosperity for current and future generations;

WHEREAS, Nashua has long been recognized as a hospitable and welcoming place where individuals, families and institutions thrive and the contributions of all are celebrated and valued;

WHEREAS, Nashua is committed to continue building a welcoming and neighborly atmosphere in our community, where all people including immigrant newcomers are welcome, accepted and integrated; and to encourage all residents of Nashua to do their part in reaching out and welcoming all who live, work and visit Nashua;

WHEREAS, community efforts that promote understanding and collaboration between long-time residents and foreign born community members are crucial in encouraging and ensuring a welcoming environment;

WHEREAS, Nashua encourages its business leaders, civic groups, other government agencies and community institutions and residents to join in a community-wide effort to expand prosperity and inclusion for all residents by implementing policies and practices that promote understanding and an appreciation of diversity; and

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.

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 and participate in the Welcoming America Initiative by executing the attached "Commitment to Participate in the Welcoming Cities & Counties Cohort", which sets forth the City's role under the Welcoming America Initiative.



COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WELCOMING CITIES & COUNTIES COHORT

As representatives of local government, we recognize that cities and communities that proactively welcome newcomers and take steps to ensure their successful integration will be strategically positioned as globally competitive 21st century leaders.

We therefore resolve to participate in the *Welcoming Cities and Counties Cohort* and commit to taking the following initial steps toward creating an environment that is receptive to immigrants, and that unlocks the full potential of all members of the community:

- Advance a municipal or county-level proclamation or resolution declaring our locality to be a welcoming one
- Find ways to institutionalize welcoming efforts through the adoption of policies and practices that promote inclusion within local government and the broader community
- Join a cohort of cities and counties that have pledged to become more welcoming
- Appoint at least one key municipal staff contact for the project
- Participate in three conference calls each year to share and learn from promising practices from other Welcoming Cities and Counties
- Participate in an annual in-person meeting with other Welcoming Cities and Counties (dependent upon available travel resources)

City or County Name: _____ Date: _____

Agency: _____

Representative Name: _____ Signature: _____

Executive Name: _____ Signature: _____



September 23, 2016

The Honorable Mayor James Donchess
City Hall
229 Main Street
Nashua NH 03060

Dear Mayor Donchess:

We are writing to express our support of your resolution to name Nashua as a full participant in the Welcoming America initiative. As a member of the Navigator group through One Greater Nashua, I have seen firsthand the wonderful results that come from making sure everyone feels welcome, whether they are a longtime resident of Nashua or new to the city.

America is one of the most diverse countries on earth, with Nashua being the most diverse city in the entire state of New Hampshire. It is important that private citizens, businesses, and local government officials all work together towards the same goal of equality and inclusion for all. Welcoming America helps communities do that by providing a non-partisan network of resources that promote opportunity for all, and helps communities transform into vibrant places where people respect each other and everyone's talents are valued and cultivated.

All of us have different pasts, but we must work towards the same future. A future that includes economic growth for our city and a safe and welcoming community for all who choose to call Nashua home.

Sincerely,

Tara Collins
Mission Coordinator
St Joseph Hospital - Nashua, NH
One Greater Nashua Volunteer
Navigator Program

Rich Boehler, MD, MBA, FACPE
CEO & President
St. Joseph Hospital, Nashua NH
Board of Directors - United Way



September 23, 2016

Honorable Mayor James Donchess
City of Nashua
Main Street
Nashua, NH 03060

Dear Mayor Donchess,

We are writing to you as co-chairs of the One Greater Nashua Coalition. Our coalition includes over 120 greater Nashua residents with 40 active volunteers and more than a dozen anchor organizations that share your value for our city's growing diversity. Members of our coalition represent residents from all walks of life including long-term residents, business owners and established community leaders. With funding from the Endowment for Health and NH Charitable Foundation, we have formed a three-year plan to increase social inclusion and integration for all people in our community that feel isolated and disconnected including new comers. Through this work we expect to increase Nashua's economic vitality and improve long term health outcomes for our community.

One Greater Nashua was formed about 1½ years ago. At the end of our first year, we were proud to report that our efforts resulted in mobilizing over 40 active volunteers that contributed over 5,676 hours to our city.

As you well know, our current demographic trends compel us as a community to ensure that all students in our school district achieve their highest potential. As baby boomers retire, we will be challenged to find millennials to take their place. Data demonstrates New Hampshire among the states with the oldest and least diverse population. This is not a sustainable trend. While we are among the states most challenged by an aging population, it is clearly a national problem. Economist Ken Johnson of UNH's recent research highlights that there have not been enough millennials born in the US to replace the retiring baby boomers. Furthermore, millennial lifestyle choices indicate a preference for multicultural communities with a diverse and welcoming attitude. I believe you heard this message clearly stated from NH millennials at the state welcoming week conference in Manchester last week. We will have to work hard as a city to maintain a strong enough workforce to retain the businesses we already have as well as stimulate growth. Every person that lives in our community is an asset we cannot afford to overlook.

Our volunteers are working with the ELL middle and high school students to empower and inspire our students from diverse cultural backgrounds to feel and understand that our community values their potential and is willing to help them break down any social barriers that may hold them back. The Nashua School District ELL Department and the Boys and Girls Club are helping to anchor this work. Social barriers to health are clearly named in the Community Needs Assessment and people of color are disproportionately affected. Feeling welcome and included in the community is an important factor that can impact long term health outcomes as well as academic success and future economic mobility.

These are the three key building blocks for a good quality of life and we want all of the children in our community to have equal access to them.

Other volunteers are working with the Chamber of Commerce to help stimulate economic growth by developing stronger relationships with the foreign born leaders and entrepreneurs of our community. Tracy Hatch, president and CEO of the greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce is a member of the leadership team of One Greater Nashua. As a direct result of the OGN Business and Civic goal group activities, Tracy has introduced welcoming strategies to her board of directors. The chamber has adopted One Greater Nashua goals into the Chamber's strategic plan because they see social inclusion and integration as imperative to driving their mission of economic growth and prosperity for our community. I know she is reaching out to you directly, and will share important data driving the Chamber's involvement in One Greater Nashua.

The third group of volunteers is focused on promoting civic engagement for new comers. Residents of Greater Nashua from all walks of life with diverse cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds as well as "mainstream" Nashuans gather regularly to learn and share with each other at the Nashua Public Library. This group of volunteers is actively reaching out to all members of our community that may feel isolated and disconnected and are actively welcoming them into our civic life. Jen McCormack, Director of the Nashua Public Library is anchoring this effort along with the Adult Learning Center and the Community College. The goal is to connect with people that feel disconnected or isolated by cultural barriers and help them discover how best to achieve their goals and utilize the skills and innovations they bring to our community. Transformations are happening every day as these residents learn, share and develop mutual understanding of each other. They challenge and inspire each other to take the next steps toward their goals. Participants are finding jobs, forming businesses and becoming more engaged in the broad community of Nashua.

Our coalition members understand that when people see Nashua as their home and feel welcome, this sense of belonging empowers them to achieve their goals. By participating in this network of neighbors, these volunteers are strengthening our community and building a positive atmosphere that promotes safety for all. Police Chief Andrew Lavoie along with Ed Lecius and Officer Carlos Camacho are taking important steps in civic engagement that promote strong and safe neighborhoods. Support for the welcoming resolution will help to propel their work and the work of others toward our shared goals for safety and reduced violence. We want Nashua to remain a leader in this effort.

We appreciate the aldermen's desire to fully understand what is being asked of the City through the adoption of this resolution. This is an important part of their role and we applaud them for their diligence.

We believe that the hesitations raised at the committee hearing are founded in mis-information and we would like to share some additional information and resources to help the aldermen feel satisfied in the value of the full original resolution.

We have submitted to you and Kimberly Kleiner, a statement from Welcoming America officials confirming the organization as non-partisan. The position confirms that there are no explicit requirements in our membership around what cities must do beyond those on the Welcoming Cities and Counties Commitment Form. Rather, the Welcoming America movement is a network of communities across the US that share Our One Greater Nashua goals and will be competing with us for that vibrant, diverse workforce of the 21st Century which we all need and desire and which will attract employers to our city. More and more cities like ours are joining the welcoming movement because they are facing the same workforce challenges we see in Nashua. Shortly, it will not be enough to simply say we are welcoming.

We must demonstrate, as a municipality, a strong commitment to creating a well-educated, multicultural workforce in order to compete in the global economy. The rich diversity of residents currently in our community that speak multiple languages is just one example of a currently untapped resource that can enhance our competitiveness in the global economy. Nashua main street businesses large and small like UPS, Triangle Federal Credit Union, Santander Bank and Remax are actively seeing bi-lingual employees because it is good for business. Early adopters of the Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative are beginning to see the fruits of their efforts in economic growth. The WE Global Network consisting of over 30 cities along the rust belt in the midwest have well documented both the opportunity and the imperative of welcoming and have data that demonstrate the fruits of the welcoming network. As Nashua makes a stronger commitment to welcoming practices, more of our multi-lingual neighbors will find opportunities that recognize and value this important skill set which will increase economic mobility for these individuals as well as stimulate new business for their employers. By joining the Welcoming Cities and Counties Network, Nashua will be making a firm statement that it is committed to holding itself to a recognized standard as a welcoming community. This strong partnership statement directly from the municipality will support many of our local nonprofit community partners to secure valuable state and national foundation grants to support their efforts. Corporations will actively look to the official Welcoming Cities and Counties membership list for future growth opportunities.

Our citizens are looking to you Mayor Donchess and our local officials to make an important choice about the kind of community we wish to become. We recognize as a coalition that there has been significant rhetoric that has polarized citizens around topics related to race relations and immigration. One Greater Nashua does not have a political agenda. We are simply concerned citizens that are standing up for the kind of community we want to live in: one where all residents feel a sense of pride and belonging; one where community members recognize and value each other as neighbors; one where all residents have equal access to the building blocks of a good quality of life. This starts when the community says to each of our residents, "We recognize the unique skills and opportunities you bring. Our community's strength relies on you. You are welcome and you are one of us." We are asking the aldermen to join us and support us in our vision of One Greater Nashua by making a strong commitment to being a welcoming city and passing the full resolution.

Sincerely,

Liz Fitzgerald

Liz Fitzgerald
Co-chair One Greater Nashua

Jared Barbosa

Jared Barbosa
Chair, One Greater Nashua

September 26, 2016

To: Liz Fitzgerald

I am pleased to share Salt Lake's experience in working with Welcoming America and the advantages of tapping into a network of supporting peers throughout the nation.

The Salt Lake region is a fast-growing, increasing diverse area. In responding to the needs of our residents, Salt Lake County recognized the opportunity to engage in the creation of comprehensive strategies to maximize the contribution of new Americans now, and in the future. To succeed our local initiative must build on national best practices. Salt Lake County's partnership with Welcoming America reaches its one-year anniversary this month. In spite, our community's independent spirit and our preferences of state/ local sovereignty, our partnership with Welcoming American is valuable. Welcoming America has provided us with the opportunities to network, valuable one-on-one technical assistance, and access to webinars.

Being a welcoming community is vital to our future. Similar to the National Association of Counties (NACO), the National League of Cities (NLC), Welcoming America provides programs/services, education development, research/data and communication tools to help you achieve your community's welcoming objectives.

I look forward to welcoming Nashua County to the network.

Sincerely,
Ze Min Xiao
Community Innovation Manager
Welcoming Salt Lake
Salt Lake County

From: James B. and Mary E. Cutter 889-4246
86 Palm St., P.O. Box 69-Nashua, NH 03061
Date: September 27, 2016
To: Alderman-At-Large Brian S. McCarthy, President BOA
Cc: Jim Donchess, Mayor and Steve Bolton, Corpor. Counsel
and Thomas Lopez, Alderman, Ward 4.
Subject: 1949 Plat Plan error at 88 Palm Street.

Dear President McCarthy,

We have had a problem with our neighbors, the Gilbertsons for a long time because the City building inspectors of 1950 and 1971 lead the Gilbertsons astray by approving building permits that did not have actual dimensions that violated the Plat ordinance.

Because it is a City error, we expect the city to correct it. See RSA 626:3, II, Effect of Ignorance or Mistake. This statute puts the blame on the building inspector/public servant who approved the building permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'J.E.C.' with a flourish extending to the right.

From: James B. and Mary E. Cutter 889-4246
86 Palm St., P.O. Box 69-Nashua, NH 03061.
Date: September 14, 2016
To: Alderman-At-Large Brian S. McCarthy, President BOA
Cc: Jim Donchess, Mayor, Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel,
Thomas Lopez, Alderman, Ward 4.
Subject: 1949 Plat Plan error at 88 Palm Street.

Dear Alderman McCarthy,

The 1949 Plat Plan ord. specifically states a plat has to show the actual dimension(boundary line) of the property. The Gilbertsons should have known their plat was wrong when they got approval from the city bldg. inspector; but, ignored it to claim our land.

The Gilbertsons did not obey the 1949 Plat ordinance and no one in government has done anything to correct the Gilbertson permit. Because of the importance to tax revenue Angelo Marino, Chief Tax Assessor had the 88 Palm St. tax map corrected.

Many people have heard my complaints and it has caused Nashua to lose thousands of dollars by the City ignoring us. It is a fact and common sense there are business people who want their business in a city or town that is good to their citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Jim' or similar, written in a cursive style.



Greater Nashua
**Chamber of
Commerce**
DARE TO SUCCEED

September 27, 2016

The Honorable James Donchess, Mayor
Members of the Board of Aldermen
City of Nashua
229 Main Street
Nashua, NH 03060

142 Main Street, Fifth Floor
Nashua, NH 03060

Phone: 603-881-8333
Fax: 603-881-7323

www.nashuachamber.com

Dear Mayor Donchess and Aldermen,

On behalf of the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce, I wish to offer our strong support for the original language of the resolution "Affirming the City of Nashua, New Hampshire as a Welcoming City and to Participate in the Welcoming America Initiative," which is being reported out of Committee this evening.

Our city's diversity enriches our lives, our businesses, our economy and our neighborhoods. Our Chamber stands proudly to celebrate and capitalize on our growing diversity; we believe so strongly in this work that in March 2016, we formally incorporated this as a goal in our Strategic Plan, which will guide our focus and our work for the next three to five years.

As our region's leading business organization, we see this as much more than a social issue – it's an economic one.

- Our newest Americans bring a strong entrepreneurial spirit to our community. More than 5,500 immigrants in NH are self-employed and nearly 21,000 people in our State are employed at firms owned by immigrants.
- In 2014, immigrants in NH earned \$3.2 billion, contributing nearly \$170 million to our state and local tax base, with \$2.4 billion in spending power.
- Immigrants are more likely to be of working age than our native-born population – an important asset as our State's population ages – and over 51% more likely to hold a graduate degree.

At the Chamber, we are actively involved in work with both India and Israel to explore opportunities to expand economic opportunities and investments in our city. Adoption of this Resolution, with a commitment to being part of the larger Welcoming America Initiative, sends a clear and compelling message of "Welcome, we're the best place to do business" to those exploring what our city has to offer.

Sincerely,


Tracy S. Hatch
President and CEO