

HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

October 17, 2022

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Monday, October 17, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Alderman Thomas Lopez, Chairman, presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman Thomas Lopez, Chairman  
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly, Vice-Chair  
Alderman Patricia Klee, Clerk  
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

Members of the Committee absent: Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.

Also in Attendance: Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager (via Zoom)  
Kevin Pucillo, NPD Officer

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**PUBLIC HEARING**

**HOME PROGRAM AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARP) FUNDS (PY22: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)**

Chairman Lopez

Mr. Long would you be interested in doing a presentation for us?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

This is Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager. I apologize for not being able to be there in person. I'm in Baltimore attending a LEAD conference. Regarding the HOME ARP Plan, so we received a special allocation of HOME program funds through the American Rescue Plan at Home Program Funds for affordable housing developments and associated services. The ARP funds are specifically for developing affordable housing for certain qualifying public populations identified by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Those are homeless residents, residents at risk of homelessness, residents fleeing domestic or sexual violence, and residents at the greatest risk of housing instability.

The plan has been revised since its first presentation to the Human Affairs Committee last month. The summary of the revisions are some funds were added to the nonprofit capacity building and tenant based rental assistance categories of funding and also based on comments and feedback from the Aldermen also added with a preference for projects serving homeless residents and residents at or below 30% of area median income.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. So that's the extent of your presentation?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yup. So of course, I'm very happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Lopez

Now with regards to the public hearing and the public comment period, what is the timeframe with which the public can offer additional ideas, or recommendations, and how does the public hearing affect that?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

So the public hearing is not the only way to provide feedback. In addition, we have a public comment period that is running concurrently right now and feedback can be sent by email, by telephone, by postal mail, or someone who would like to come in person to discuss in my office. I'm also very happy to do that. Whatever is easiest for residents to do.

Chairman Lopez

So I want to explicitly clarify these should be mailings sent to Julian Long, email sent to Julian Long, attempt to contact Julian Long not other members of the Planning Department or Economic Development office?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

That is correct. They should be addressed to Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager.

Chairman Lopez

Okay and ideally any other city staff member who are collecting this information would be passing it on to you as well?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Absolutely. I encourage all city staff to forward comments to me and also direct people to me directly.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. So with the presentation done, are there any clarifying questions in the part of Committee members?

Alderman Klee

Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman and I think this is the point that you were getting at. So the public comment and feedback to you is just that. That's not making an application for any of the funds or so on. It's making recommendations as to where the funds could possibly be used. Is that correct?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

This is Julian Long. Yes, Ma'am that is correct. Right now, we don't have a grant application. We don't have any funded projects or scheduled projects. We were required to put together an allocation plan before we reached that step in the process. So this is just a very general funding, outline of like these are the types of projects we are interested in funding. The categories are fairly broad like affordable housing developments, administrative expenses, tenant based rental assistance.

Alderman Klee

Just a quick follow up. Yes thank you so much. I really appreciate that. So anytime that we're seeing any monies that are kind of appear to be allocated or anything like that, it's just a holding place, correct? We will follow up with a final plan when we're given the blessing and so on, is that correct?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

This is really well - after we finalize and adopt our allocation plan, we will put together a call for grant applications based on that plan and saying, you know, if we end up allocating a million dollars' worth of affordable housing developments and \$500,000 for tenant based rental assistance that those aren't actual numbers and plans just placeholders for example. Then we would put out the call for application saying we have \$1 million available for X project. We have \$500,000 available for wide projects and then from there, we will receive grant applications, and then those grant applications will be reviewed and presented back to Human Affairs Committee for review.

Alderman Klee

Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Not to be too much of a heckler but if we do allocate money for affordable housing, I'd love to see some sort of language clarifying that it will be kept for affordable housing. The word won't disappear.

Alderwoman Timmons

Thank you. One of the things about affordable housing, there's some confusion about exactly what you mean by affordable housing. Can we have some kind of clarification? What do they mean by affordable housing, the income

level that you may qualify for affordable housing because saying affordable housing for some may not be affordable for others? So I would like some clarification on affordable housing.

Chairman Lopez

Mr. Long, and you'd like to feel that?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes. This is Julian Long again. So the general home program you're looking in the range of up to 60 to 80 percent of area median income. These ARP funds are different though and special because of the qualifying population. In general what's considered affordable is 30 percent of someone's income towards housing costs. That's the rough estimate. Generally accepted that is considered affordable for that. So a lot of these populations that HUD has identified as qualifying populations for these particular funds, they're going to be under 80 percent of area median income. They might be at 60 percent, or 30 percent, or even less. So what's affordable for these populations? It's going to depend on the qualifying population. It's going to look different for homeless residents for example then probably those fleeing domestic and sexual violence. So it's a bit of an unsatisfying answer for which I apologize but there will be slight differences population to population and project to project.

Chairman Lopez

So my understanding Mr. Long, and you can correct me, is if we use the definitions for this particular mechanism instead of saying that "affordable housing is 40% of the median income", which in Nashua is very high because we have a lot of people working over the border or owning properties and kind of driving it up. This looks at the individual's income level and in some ways maybe more flexible. If you're dealing with a domestic violence situation, that person does have to relocate but isn't necessarily subject to the same income limitations that other people might be depending on what their situation is. The identifying characteristic is what they're experiencing not the economic problems that they're addressing.

For me, the challenge with affordable housing is it's such an umbrella term that includes workforce housing and includes low income housing. People tend to equate affordable housing with low income housing but it's not. It's the affordable housing threshold is much higher than those. So when we're talking about affordable, we could be talking about people who have two to three times as much income as the people we're all imagining we're helping. Does that sound accurate?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes. I will point out though, we also based on comments from last month's meeting, there is now language in the allocation plan specifying your preference for projects that serve homeless residents and residents that are below 30 percent area median income. So those projects, you know, by definition of the populations they would serve are going to be much more affordable than, you know, projects that are at the upper end of what is broadly considered affordable.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. All right. Thank you for the clarification. Seeing no more hands raised on the Aldermen, we can now take public testimony in favor. Just to kind of preface how this works, you would come up to the podium. When we call if you're in favor, you're coming up and you're speaking at that point to be in favor. You identify yourself by your name, and your address, and then go ahead and speak say your part. After that, we'll do testimony opposed for whoever opposes funding for helping the homeless. Then we're going to testimony in favor again and then there will be testimony opposed again. So if you would like to make a public comment, come up to the microphone in favor of the plan that we're developing, come on up to the microphone, give your name and address, and then make your comments.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR

Kathy Farland, Executive Director of Stepping Stone

Hi. My name is Kathy Farland. I'm the Executive Director of Stepping Stones in Nashua. We are a homeless youth drop in center. The address there is 3 Pine Street Extension in Nashua. I had some questions about this program in particular, especially since it seems to be based specifically from what I'm hearing more towards actual homeless

people which is the population that we work with. I have actually been trying to get information on this ARPA program for oh eight months, maybe longer. I don't seem to be able to get a whole lot of information as to how to get involved or to apply for it. I do understand from what Julian just said that it sounds like they're starting the application process but I would like to make it known that we are looking to provide transitional emergency housing and permanent supportive housing for our homeless youth and that we are very interested in being able to apply for these funds to help fund those projects.

Chairman Lopez

Do you have any questions through the Chair to Mr. Long while he's on the line?

Kathy Farland

I think just that I would like to speak to him at some point. He sounds like actually the right person that I need to be speaking to. So if I could set something up for a time to do that that would be great.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Julian can you give your contact information?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Absolutely. This is Julian long. Yes the easiest way to reach me, especially this week where I'm at a conference, is by email. My email address is [longj@nashuanh.gov](mailto:longj@nashuanh.gov).

Kathy Farland

Thank you very much. I'll reach out to you this week.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

I look forward to talking with you.

Chairman Lopez

All right. Additional public comment in favor. If either of you would like to speak, you're welcome to come.

TESTIMONY AGAINST - None

Chairman Lopez

Additionally if just a description of process, we will close this public hearing. We will have this meeting which also has a public comment period and you can just make general public comment on things we have as long as it's germane to our general agenda. Then there will be another opportunity at the end of the meeting as well to make public comment.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR - None

TESTIMONY AGAINST - None

**MOTION BY ALDERMEN KLEE TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING  
MOTION CARRIED**

The public hearing was declared closed at 7:15 p.m.

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**REGULAR MEETING**

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager  
Re: Urban Programs Department Updates – September 2022

***There being no objection, Chairman Lopez accepted the communication and placed it on file.***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

**R-22-069**

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman Alex Comeau  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman June M. Caron  
Alderman Derek Thibeault  
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$34,936 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "2022 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL)"**

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

ON THE QUESTION

Kevin Pucillo, NPD Officer

Sure. This grant we get it every year. We're actually the subgrantee. Manchester receives the grant on behalf of Hillsborough County. I think the grant is a little over – I'll give you the exact numbers breakdown of it.

Alderman Klee

\$34,000...

Kevin Pucillo, NPD Officer

No. So the way it breaks down for the County itself, it's over \$200,000 - \$227,000. Manchester gets \$192,433. We get \$34, 936 and Hillsborough County gets \$7,000. That's how they break it down.

So these funds are strictly used for overtime or equipment. We use it for a lot of our programs that we run our community policing events, our crime watch meeting. Big push right now, we used to do a lot of our sex offender registration over time through this compliance checks through this grant. We've been getting a lot of money from the federal government. So we've kind of shift focused with our PRICE which is civilian reaction to after shooter event. We have a huge, huge demand for that right now. I think we're booking out till springtime right now. We have 17 schools here in the District so we're getting the schools first through this training. So I have that money allocated for officers to go and participate during those training events. We use the equipment for all kinds of different event for stuff from, you know, our honor guard uniforms. Just recently, we've added four new members to our ceremony unit and they're roughly about \$1,000 apiece, which weren't in the budget, and so we used these funds to purchase some new Honor Guard uniforms for the officers.

So it helps us a lot with making that bridge between not using - depleting our overtime budget as it is and this is all the grant money we use for like I said, the crime prevention, community policing events, and we do a lot of that stuff because you guys don't know because you guys don't know but you see Gaphardt and I out a lot. So that's what this money is mainly used for.

Chairman Lopez

If I could ask a clarifying question about the sex offender monitoring. I have noticed a lot more, in my mind, people that are potentially being sent back for not reporting and that type of thing and I know reciprocity is not good for

anybody. So is that something where you are reaching out to them and being like hey you're not correct on where your address is and all that stuff.

Kevin Pucillo, NPD Officer

I can speak. I used to do the sex offender registration when I was at Detectives. What they're doing now is they're sending out – and I did when I was there too. We go and we do compliant checks. So the Detectives in the Detective Bureau will go out, make sure that they have the addresses. The address is supposed to be correct. They have a certain amount of timeframe to report a different address change. But the officers will go there, make contact with the vendor, and make sure that they're at that correct address. If they're not there, they find out why and then they'll check with, you know, because they have to let us know what kind of car they're driving. If they have phone numbers, different phone numbers, social media, new employment so we do keep a pretty good hold a watch over them I should say. Just like you said, that's reciprocity. If they move up from Massachusetts, if they're coming from another State, it's still the same thing. Whatever they register there, there'll be the same tear here.

Chairman Lopez

Okay and then with regards to community policing, I would imagine that the pandemic has kind of impacted that pretty heavily. You're putting new programs together. I happen to live like a block away from the PAL center so I know you have a strong presence where we are. But are there other areas of the city that you particularly feel like we need to do a better job and is there a way for Aldermen to help you connect with those groups?

Kevin Pucillo, NPD Officer

We have different grants for different stuff that I do. So I don't want to speak about other grants but the other grants I have do target different parts of the city. So not this grant really does - so it would be like our National Night Out which is a big event we have every year. A lot of the touch truck events, you know, the Wheels and Wings events. We get requested - Merrimack it's funny. Merrimack has a trick or treating event for their nonprofits. They invite us to go. The Apple Fest - I think this was the first time he hasn't contacted – usually at the Apple Fest, we went to Old Home Day over in Hollis with our SWAT vehicle. So those are the events that we go to and that's what the grant is really paying the officers salary to do. So the overtime salary.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Any additional.

Alderman Klee

Actually, two questions. One is I see quite a disparity between Manchester and Nashua as far as the funding is concerned - \$192,000 to \$34,000. It doesn't quite seem fair. Even the population, I don't think...

Kevin Pucillo, NPD Officer

Yeah, they're over 20,000 more than us.

Alderman Klee

Yeah it seems to be quite a bit difference there. Is there a reason for that do you know or?

Kevin Pucillo, NPD Officer

This is my technically my first term with the JAG because I'm new to my position. So I'm gonna reach out because when I saw that number too. I'm not sure because they manage everything but it's not a - we take grants and we manage them all the time. So it's not a matter of us not applying ourselves. It's been established well before me and then well before that my predecessor. I believe we've been getting this grant for over 10 years, maybe even longer. So I don't know what the arrangement was before we applied. It was kind of eye opening when I saw that discrepancy too. I was like wow they get a big piece of the pie and we get this littlest sliver.

Alderman Klee

If I could just follow up on that. That was just kind of my question was did we not get some other paperwork in there?

Kevin Pucillo, NPD Officer

No and it fluctuates. So last year, it was down to \$30,000. I think the year before it was 27. It's come back up a little bit. So I guess it has been as high as 50. So it depends on - when we spend, usually we spend every single dollar too. We never turn anything down because there's always something. Like I said, we had a big push at the end. We had a couple - we had to get a generator for our drones. That was purchased with that money too. That was \$2,400 for a generator just for the drones. Like I said, it was another I think was just under \$3,000 for those uniforms.

Alderman Klee

And just the last question that I have, if I may. Thank you. I read the analysis here and it did not speak to having to have any matching funds. So this is just a straight up \$34,000 whatever extra money.

Kevin Pucillo, NPD Officer

Yes, my bad. Yes.

Alderman Klee

No that's okay. It doesn't say in the analysis, which usually means it's not there. Just for those that are listening and want clarifying, there's no city monies that are spent. This is above and beyond your budget. So thank you

Alderwoman Timmons

Thank you Chairman Lopez. One - my colleague took the question right out of my mouth but I was like wow that's....

Chairman Lopez

She did give (inaudible)

Alderwoman Timmons

She knew I was going to ask that question

Alderman Klee

I could feel it.

Alderwoman Timmons

Yeah but I want to make a comment. We are the second safest city in the country and you must be doing something good. I'm gonna support this because I always support things that's gonna make us safer. So congratulations on that and keep doing what you're doing because it's working.

Kevin Pucillo, NPD Officer

Thank you. Appreciate your support.

Chairman Lopez

Alderman Kelly any comments, any questions?

Alderwoman Kelly

I'm good.

Chairman Lopez

All right. I'm generally inclined to support this as well because I love our safe city and I know that particularly last night we appreciated having them in the neighborhoods. But also, it's kind of nice to get our federal tax money back every now and then. So I guess we'll just move to a vote.

**MOTION CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes. Okay. Give me just one moment and I will double check on how long the comments period runs till. I will also say, you know, certainly we want to move expeditiously because the sooner we do this, the sooner we get funds out the door. But it's not necessary that you take it off the table tonight necessarily. We are still pending a request for technical assistance from HUD to assist us with allocation plan to make sure that when we submit it everything - all the T's are crossed, all the i's are dotted, and the plan gets accepted. So I am happy to defer to Human Affairs Committee's preference here.

Chairman Lopez

I will say from personal experience that dealing with Housing and Urban Development is its own level of ritualistic witchcraft. Like they have their own terms, they have their own processes. It's a little ridiculous. So I can understand there being a hang up.

Alderwoman Kelly

Yeah and my understanding is that, you know, we oftentimes will put on the table while we do these public comment periods. So once Julian Long has the answer on one that's supposed to be open to, I have some questions and I wonder if we should entertain them now.

Chairman Lopez

We could do that under discussion.

Alderwoman Kelly

Or we could take it off the table and we could discuss it and then put it back on.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. That was fine. Well is this a formal motion?

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO TAKE R-22-060 OFF THE TABLE  
MOTION CARRIED**

**R-22-060**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.  
Alderwoman Shoshanna Kelly  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman June M. Caron  
Alderman Derek Thibeault  
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**ACCEPTING FUNDS AND ADOPTING AN ALLOCATION PLAN FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM FUNDS RECEIVED  
THROUGH THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT**

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I know Julian that you were working on looking at the comment period. So I have a question but I want to make sure that you're not still digging.



Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

The comment period runs through October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. So we do need to put it back on the table it sounds like.

Chairman Lopez

So just a note for the public, Mr. Long is on two different accounts right now because with Zoom you can make sure you have a more solid audio connection through your phone. So we can see him but what shows up on the video probably just a big icon of a phone but there's two different windows here.

Alderwoman Kelly

So I'll proceed with my question if that's okay.

Chairman Lopez

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

Alright so first of all, I wanted to say thank you for the work. Obviously, it works a lot like other things that we do in this Committee and there's been a lot of back work and conversation with the community. As someone who prides myself on knowing what's going on with affordable housing, it feels right to what I've been hearing from the community.

The one question I had, and I know we're kind of using the budget that we've got to move things around, I noticed that you're putting most of the money in this temp plan into actually building units, which I think makes sense. However, we're only putting \$100,000 into helping those who might be struggling right now to pay rent. I was just wondering, given the state of what things are going and how long it takes to actually build new units if we might want to consider putting a little bit more into rental assistance right now knowing that people are, you know, dealing with higher electric bills, and all those things, and trying to get into housing.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes I'm very open to that consideration. Part of this whole process is getting feedback on the draft and see - I'm just bringing it up to see if that category is one of the ones where we have a limit. It is not. So I'd be very interested in hearing thoughts on kind of where we might want to take money from and shift it into the rental assistance category.

Alderwoman Kelly

If I could do a follow up Alderman Lopez?

Chairman Lopez

Yep.

Alderwoman Kelly

So thank you. I appreciate your openness of thinking about it. Do you have any sense on how - we have lots of different ways. Someone calls, they say they need help, Welfare can help. Do you have any idea on how that process might work? Are we recovering rent once? Are we covering lump sum? Like go out and use this for now. Do you know how it's worked in the past?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

So I would think that this process would be actually separate from our welfare and instead, it would probably work through raising funds through to nonprofit agencies who are already providing rental assistance and/or those who are

interested moving into that field versus the city itself providing the funds directly to residents.

Alderman Kelly

Okay, great. I don't necessarily feel like I need to make a motion now to change this since we know we have to do public comment but I would love to just have a follow on conversation and talk about it when this comes forward for the full Committee to review again.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Before I call on you, I just want to clarify some things. So the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care typically coordinates with city welfare. The Board of Health oversees what Public Health's activities are and does a monthly report on that. Alderman Moran is, in fact, the liaison to both. The coordinated entry system is typically a referral point for city welfare. They will try to get nonprofit organizations to connect with the individuals if possible and then if there isn't additional support, then they will under specific circumstances provide assistance. They will also monitor for case management, compliance and, and other different factors. So I encourage everybody on the Board to attend both the Board of Public Health meetings at least two or three times a year and the Continuum of Care because this is an area of very specific work, which is always ongoing because the partners are changing, the population's need is changing, and the dynamics are changing. So it's never something that you can give a quick and immediate answer for.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. I'll let Alderman Timmons go first.

Alderman Timmons

I just want one clarification. I'm the liaison for the Health Department.

Chairman Moran

So it's well represented on this Board at least.

Alderman Klee

Thank you so much. I want to echo Alderman Kelly's words but I do have a question. I think you may have answered it and I'm just not quite getting it. I believe that we should be putting more money into the tenant based rental assistance. I think that's going to help. I like the idea of somewhat of getting it out of the city. Mr. Long how would this program work if we use a third party for that? I mean are they going to be getting administrative funds to administer that or would we just - because they do this program, we would give them a grant and because they already have an ongoing program? Is that how it would work?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

At least some of this, I'm afraid I don't know. Historically, we haven't done rental assistance with our HOME funds. So to set this up, I would need to do a little bit more research to figure out what the HUD requirements are for this. I do think it would be in the form of a grant to an agency and probably the punch would be for the direct rental assistance it would not cover their administrative fees but that's something I'm afraid I would need to double check on.

I'd also like to take opportunity to go back to an earlier question. My apologies. Regarding affordability limits, I should have added back then also that the HOME Program has maximum that you can charge for rent based on unit size. So there's absolutely a cap for properties that are specific with HOME funds.

Alderman Klee

This may be off and if that's the case, I can take it offline and ask. I've recently - and I'm bringing it up because you mentioned the affordability of the max rent. I've recently come across those people, and I know this particular case was a Section 8 housing but they had to leave where they were living because the landlord decided to raise the rent and kind of push them out of that category. Thank goodness the City was able to work with them and find them other housing but that's not always the case. He's a very forceful person and so on. So when we're talking about this affordability of max rate, do we have enough housing currently that people would be able to qualify for and that this money if we did do this rental assistance? I mean is it just rental assistance for any rate of rent or is it rental assistance

within that affordability max rate rent? Did I say that right?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Again, I'd have to take a look and make sure it's not addressed in the regulations for the HOME Program. I know the home rental limits. That applies to projects that are assisted with the affordable housing development funds. I don't know offhand whether that also applies to direct rental assistance. I would have to check on that but certainly it's an issue. Even the affordable rental rates as specified by the HOME Program obviously aren't affordable for everyone. So we have the ability to put stricter restrictions than what HUD allows. There may be a question of whether projects can, you know, go forward with that level of strictness but we do have flexibility in that regard.

Alderman Klee

Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Mr. Long if I might make a recommendation, it might be helpful to talk to Michael Reinke and Heather Nelson who Co-Chair the Continuum of Care. During my description before, I was focusing more on what city welfare does but as we know the Continuum of Care is a collection of organizations that are collectively applying for HUD funding. So they may have specific performance measures that we could use. I know in meetings past Alderman Moran had brought up that if we're going to grant money out, we should be able to track what they're spending it on and that they're actually having results. There may be some - it makes sense to ask people who have been doing it for 30 years if we're starting into a new area.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. Mr. Long I have heard that there are people who have been potentially supporting, you know, their rental housing through COVID relief funds and that was the other thing that was in the back of my mind that that's going to run out and that we may have more need on our hands, which is one of the main reasons I was I was looking at this. Have you heard that as well?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes. Certainly that's something that everyone in the affordable housing world has been tracking very closely. There was. I'm sure you all know, eviction moratorium at the very start of the COVID 19 pandemic followed by a lot of federal funds dedicated toward rental assistance. A number of those programs, however, are winding down now. The funds have been expended and so certainly a lot of people been asking questions. Okay, what comes next? Certainly our funds to be a part of answering that question.

Alderwoman Kelly

And I think that was my thinking was I think there's going to be quite a bit of shift once that runs out and making sure that we assess and help people now as they need it, and, you know, in the future as we build units.

Chairman Lopez

And to Alderman Kelly's point, I would add that we're probably would have been looking at a bubble created by a lot of rapid rehousing money that came into the city around 2018/2019 and we would have started to see those programs expiring, except a lot of them are able to find additional support through pandemic relief. So we really do want to keep our eyes on that to make sure that we know exactly how many people are going to be struggling and what the demand is going to be in specific areas.

Any further questions on the part of the Committee?

Alderman Kelly

No further question. I just wanted to thank Mr. Long for his work and think, you know, this is a really interesting piece of what we have to do in this city than help get people back on their feet and build housing so people come live in our great city. So I know that we will during this comment period get as much information and make sure this plan is the

best for everyone involved. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Appreciate your comments Alderman Kelly. As I am a walking example of someone who is technically disabled but not just because you receive a fixed income at some point where you go through different crises and you need interventions and that type of thing, doesn't mean as a city we should ever believe that such a large population of people who have struggled and have need don't have the potential to become very, very valuable and very, very supportive, productive citizens. I always feel like we need to put a lot more investment in that transition process than recruiting people from distances or other efforts that are underway.

Do we want to put this back on the table?

Alderman Klee

I think we should.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO RECOMMEND TABLING R-22-060  
MOTION CARRIED**

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Chairman Lopez

I would like to thank the other two members of the public for coming. They were very supportive of issues addressing homelessness and the need for that in this community but not everybody is used to being up in front of the microphone and having people looking at you and all that kind of stuff. So I appreciate them coming out, and meeting with us, and talking to us.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Chairman and people will get tired of hearing me say this but I'd like to thank all of those that came out on Saturday to the Riverfest.

Chairman Lopez

It was a heck of a weekend.

Alderman Klee

It was. We were blessed with the best of weather, the best of volunteers with Alderman Lopez at the helm. I would love to just give everybody's name but at the moment my name is blanking. We did good for the very first event. We helped the duck derby sell more ducks. I believe that they helped bring people over to us as well. I think it was a win/win situation for everybody. Looking forward to having the second one in June next year. We'll just have to negotiate a weekend within that two other people have to negotiate are sitting in this room. I think June is going to be a good month to do it at. It will be the anniversary month of when this city became a city as well as when Nashua and Nashville split up and went back together. Stay tuned for more information about this beautiful t-shirt. It will be sold. We have some left over. It's a Nashville, New Hampshire established in 1842. I hope that we'll see you next year. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

It's a very unique piece of history. I recommend everybody look it up.

Alderwoman Kelly

I, too, wanted to say what a great job on the Riverfest. I got too sneak in quickly and see everyone out. It was a beautiful day so thank you for that.

I just wanted to comment about the homelessness thing again because I know we've been talking about it but I actually enjoyed the Tree Street Block Party and I will tell you that probably five people came up to me and talked to me. Some (inaudible) under Stepping Stones, some were working through homelessness themselves, some people who have been seeing it as an increasing issue that they're having to deal with talking with people downtown. I think

it's really important the work that we're doing now to make sure that we can eradicate it because everybody needs a safe place to live.

Alderman Klee

Actually the two people that were here were at the event on Saturday too.

Chairman Lopez

So that's why we do block parties. I know. I am famous for my little Tree Streets Block Party but it's an opportunity for people to come and meet each other and particularly engage with us as politicians and feel like they're connected to the community, they're empowered to speak to be part of things, to make decision makings, and particularly for people who are struggling on the boundaries of the system and the expectations that this is a country where anything is possible but the reality is not easy is really important to have that kind of access to people, and community members, and leaders, and resources.

Also I would just comment since Stepping Stones did make public comment, I would encourage everybody to check out their programs on line. One of the things I particularly like is that they interview former members and they give you good, regular snapshots of who is struggling in Nashua, what kind of things they're struggling with, and it's a good way to kind of keep a human face to these big issues that we talk about. Like there's X number of people dealing with this, or this criteria for that, or this category, and bringing it back to the individual cases and what they're doing. Hearing the stories that people that are able to figure out solutions, and supports, and resources is very inspiring and it reminds us all that we can do more, and doing more will make a difference.

Alderman Timmons

Thank you Chairman Lopez. I, again, want to thank you guys for doing a wonderful job last Saturday. I was impressed. I met a lot of Ward 3 constituents and I learned a lot talking to them all day. It was a beautiful day. It was a gorgeous day. I did talk to some of the people that were homeless and I felt really bad and I know that we can do better. I know that we can do better by the food insecurity, the housing problem. I was kind of disappointed with The Loft because they're so expensive. I can't afford to live there myself. I learned a lot and thank you for that wonderful day because without that, I wouldn't have met some of those people that may not have voted for me because they couldn't vote. They were looking for a place to lay their heads or they're looking for a meal. So voting is not an issue. It's getting a place to live is an issue. I appreciate the fact that Alderman-at-Large Kelly is working on the homeless and all you guys as well because we need to do something. It's sad. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Well thank you everybody.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO ADJOURN  
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Alderman Patricia Klee  
Committee Clerk