

HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

November 21, 2022

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Monday, November 21, 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: Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman  
Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

---

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

**R-22-072**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman John Sullivan  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshana Kelly  
Alderman Alex Comeau  
Alderman June M. Caron

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$58,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "2023 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANT PROGRAM" AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF MATCHING FUNDS**

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

ON THE QUESTION

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

So the grant itself is through the New Hampshire Department of Justice. It's a federal pass through. There is no cash match on this so the match that we have is actually salary. We exceed what are requirements on this grant. The grant is to help fund one of our domestic violence advocate and partially for one of the officers that's assigned to the domestic violence unit. It runs from starting January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2023 and runs through the calendar year of December 31<sup>st</sup> of 2023.

Chairman Lopez

In the context where you say we exceed the grant expectations by providing matching salary, can you tell us about the program itself and is this any different from previous years? Do you see like a community need for this particular

program? Can you speak to that?  
Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Yeah, I mean, there's definitely a community need. This is going - I looked at the record and it goes back to 1997 we've been awarded this grant. We've tried to have it increased because some of the things we need for the program itself, like we used to have headphones which were for our victims. That was funded through Verizon. Verizon stopped that program a couple years ago. So I've been going back to them asking for funds. It's been \$50,000 for several years now. It hasn't been an increase. Even though costs have gone up, we stayed at \$50,000 but they do fund training for officers and our advocates. They just sent me an email last week for some conferences that are coming up. One in Chicago, one in San Francisco that will be funded by the State itself. There will be no out of pocket for the PD on that training.

The program itself, our unit is comprised of two officers and two advocates. One of the advocates that's been with us for 14 years. We absorbed her into our budget last year and we hired a second one because of the unfortunately, there's a high need for advocacy for our survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. That's what they strictly just deal with is those victims there.

Chairman Lopez

Beyond the humanitarian considerations, have you found that having advocates and being able to connect with people that are struggling with domestic violence fallout have been helpful in conviction rates, getting people off the street that are dangerous, interventions, and that kind of stuff?

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Yes. I mean it goes unsaid. I mean they help with - one of the reasons why I think we do so well is because of the unit itself. Because what happens when you know you the person comes in, gets arrested, and then the victim sometimes is left out and doesn't know what's going on. This process keeps them in contact with us itself and we keep them up to date what's going on with the court case itself. They'll actually seek input from the survivor to, you know, how they want this case to be disposed of or you know how the end result for it. So they're empowered in that way, too. So it's a great program.

Chairman Lopez

As you say, it should go unsaid but recently we've had a lot of questions about line items, and why do we do stuff, and I mean many of us here have experienced with people struggling in the community. We know that the police do a lot more than just arrest and not arrest. That's an important - that's why you get the accreditations and the results that you do. But we also need to review that at the Committee level so that when it goes to the Board of Aldermen, we don't have somebody asking why this, why now, what happens if we don't do it? That kind of stuff.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

If we didn't do it, it would be tough to find that second position. We just got the second position last year so we'd be setting ourselves back if we didn't have that second position.

Chairman Lopez

If I recall, we added the second position because there was an increase in domestic violence during the pandemic and that doesn't look like its really updated.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Unfortunately, it's pretty consistent what we get for calls every year but the difference is the conviction rates and stuff that change. Unfortunately, you try to work with the same people over and over again but you try to get them out of that cycle. The majority of times, we can do that but unfortunately you get one out and then another one is right behind them unfortunately.

Chairman Lopez

And those relationships don't conclude on the calendar year.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Oh, yes. Yeah you mean the way they report it?

Chairman Lopez

The way they experience it. Like 23 budgets over, luckily everybody in '23 broke up.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Correct. Sorry, I misunderstood the humor.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I know, this is something that we've dealt with a couple number of years. I'm glad that we get the funding. You mentioned that it's kind of been level funded. Is that what you were like...?

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

Do you know how many years?

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

I went back. It was like five years so far. It could be longer. I can definitely send you an email tomorrow to get you the exact amount.

Alderwoman Kelly

I mean it's not covered in the costs. I'd love for it to come through the costs, especially if you have an increased need. So I'd love to know.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Yeah, definitely.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. It's probably piggybacking off of Alderwoman Kelly's comments. When I'm looking at the Resolution itself, in the analysis it says the resolution authorizes city to accept the funds from the State of New Hampshire Department of Justice for the purpose of funding law enforcement. Upon passage of this resolution, \$82,825 of matching funds budgeted for this purpose will be transferred into the Police Grant Activity. So it sounds like the budget, the police budget anyways, we'll put the \$82,000 in there to kind of match that. So does that mean the \$82,000 plus the \$58,000 is approximately?

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Correct but that \$82,000 is part of the officer's salary.

Alderman Klee

Right.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Yes.

Alderman Klee

Right but it just goes into a different fund. In other words, you've been - if I may, I'm sorry. So just because of anybody who reads this, I want them to hear that we're not taking in 2,000. The officer is there which is moving his or her salary from one pot into another pot. Is that not? No?

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

No, it doesn't work that way. So the way that in the grant world, you have your cash match is your kind. So they allow you to show people that are working on the grants are the ways you can meet out that requirement. We have several grants that we use. This one here is just strictly the officer's salary. I'll give another example. We have the Highway Safety Grants. Again, what we do is there's usually it's a 75/25 split. You hear those like those splits they talk about it.

Alderman Klee

Right.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

So 75 is paid by the State. The Department is supposed to come up with a 25% but they allow us to use overtime or prep time, whatever it is you know, or even straight time on the officer. So what we do is we send our traffic unit out on to several directed patrols to get those hours to max at 25%.

Alderman Klee

Okay.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

So there's no extra costs. I shouldn't have used the word "overnight" because it's not an overnight either.

Alderman Klee

Right.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

They're all on straight time doing, you know, the work that is similar to what the grant is for.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. May I quick follow up? Just comment.

Chairman Lopez

Yes.

Alderman Klee

This is just a comment. I, again, want to echo Alderwoman Kelly's words and as well as Alderman Lopez. This is extremely important. I know a number of year's back I had a constituent who had been attacked by a significant other and didn't know where to turn. The police were there and helped her get through it. She had a young daughter at the same time too. So it's invaluable to have that assistance. As you pointed out, victims not just sitting there waiting wondering what's happening and so on. Someone was - whether actually or proverbially holding her hand and I think that's extremely important in this kind of a crisis. Thank you.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

I agree. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Alderman Timmons any comments? Anyone want to weigh in on it?

Alderman Timmons

I think the Officer know my sentiments on this. I've been dealing with him for a very long time.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-22-073**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman John Sullivan  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman-at-Large Shoshana Kelly  
Alderman Alex Comeau  
Alderman June M. Caron  
Alderman Derek Thibeault  
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$330,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "FY2023 OPIOID ABUSE REDUCTION INITIATIVE (OARI) GRANT"**

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

ON THE QUESTION

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Yes. So this one's through the New Hampshire Department of Safety Grant Management Unit. Again, it's a federal pass through. It's for \$330,000 roughly and it's strictly for overtime and fringe benefits for officers that are working on these investigations. As you all know, these investigations are long and they take different turns. They do include different types of hours that these officers or detectives work. We collaborated with the Town of Hudson on this grant. So it's not just our detectives. They also will send over officers to help us and we do vice versa. We'll go over to their town and help with their investigations.

It's strictly for - and it used to be just, you know, as we know the opioid epidemic that's been going on. It's been fentanyl. Now our big push right now is methamphetamine. So a lot of the investigations now are encompassing the methamphetamine issue that's been going on too.

Chairman Lopez

Some of us would have referred to it as substance use crisis over the past several years because it's like whack a mole. You have one major thing presenting, you guys do the interventions, you drive the pipeline, you adjust it but people still need recovery and they switch to another substance.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Correct, yes.

So these funds are good till next June. So we have to get it started soon because it's a lot of money that needs to be spent in a short period of time.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. First, I noticed that they said the fiscal impact is used to be for the specific - and there's no local matches required which is a good thing. But the thing I found a little bit confusing was we do this with the Town of Hudson. The monies actually come to Nashua and then we pay the Town of Hudson? Is that accurate?

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

It's just like stuff like that - remember the JAG Grant I was here last month for?

Alderman Klee

Yes.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

So it's the same exact scenario. So where Manchester's the grantee and we're the sub grantee?

Alderman Klee

Right.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

We do everything now. So we manage the money. We submit all the reports and everything like that. They just submit their time cards to us and whatever statistics they have coming out their town because there's a couple different reports that get submitted monthly. We actually have a National Guard Crime Analyst who actually they lend to us help with this program. He or she, whoever are assigning to us are compiling reports on a daily basis when this gets rolling, because they're out there every day.

Alderman Klee

Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Just to clarify, you're saying there's a National Guard member assigned to Hudson?

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

No, no to the Nashua PD.

Chairman Lopez

Okay, that makes more sense. I was like we have a base here?

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

They send us a crime analyst for this this program itself.

Chairman Lopez

Earlier you had said this was mostly for overtime and fringe benefits.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Yes.

Chairman Lopez

So essentially, we're taking money from the State to augment the compensation that Hudson police officers get in order to collaborate with us to address regional opioid issues?

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Exactly.

Chairman Lopez

Okay.

Alderman Klee

I appreciate everybody working...

Chairman Lopez

Better than fighting with them and having to do it ourselves.

Alderwoman Timmons

Thank you. I do have a question based on 2021 versus now. Did the overdose rate go down in Nashua compared to Manchester? Because when I was listening to the news about a week or so ago, it said that Manchester was still very high. How does...

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

I apologize. I don't have my statistics but I did file the report. When I filed for the application, we talked about I compare previous years and it has gone up.

Alderwoman Timmons

It's gone up?

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Yeah, fatals and overdoses itself. So both categories have gone up in the previous year. During the pandemic...

Alderwoman Timmons

Of course, yeah.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Everything went down which was kind of misleading. Then everything spikes, obviously when life started to get back to some normalcy. So last two years, it's gone up.

Chairman Lopez

There isn't necessarily anything bleeding off all of that people who are struggling with recovery either. We don't have a safe station. We don't have an adequately robust enough referral source. I do know that we have a number of other programs that have been getting involved. I know Revive has really cultivated its program from its infancy, you know, a couple of years ago and rise above. A number of other sober housing programs work in the Nashua area. Do they collaborate with the police?

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

They do, yup. So it's all through drug court. If you're familiar with drug court. So you know the, it would be Captain Trefry now by Captain Kenney used to spearhead that. So whoever is the Detective Captain will be in touch through drug court. So unfortunately, you know, they come through the criminal justice system first before we can get them steered into the right direction they need to get to get to the right path.

Chairman Lopez

We do have Mayor's Opioid Task Force but it looks like it's largely focused on pre-emptive prevention kind of activities rather than case management or recovery based types of things.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. This is not necessary for the Officer. As a State Rep, one of the things that I get on a regular basis the AMR overdose reports and so on. We don't get that as Aldermen here so I've reached out and asked if we can start getting them here. Because I found as a State Rep., it was very helpful to have this information. Manchester, Nashua were both on those and I'd like to - I'll try to reach out to Chris and so on to see if we can get those reports. I think it would be very helpful.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

That's exactly who I get them from too.

Alderman Klee

Yeah he's really good at getting that information out. I was always surprised that I didn't get it as an Alderman but I got them as the State Rep. So I'll ask them, if they can add us.

Chairman Lopez

I do not miss getting the safe station alerts because honestly like getting them all day, every day, and throughout the night, you're just like geez there's people struggling every moment of the day everywhere.

Alderman Klee

This is just a collective report on I think it's a monthly basis that they put them out. They show the statistics the same time last year and so on. It's a fairly robust report so.

Chairman Lopez

Any final comments?

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Lopez

I noticed that Julian just walked in. We did accept the communication but if you'd like to speak to it or anything like that. I think the Committee would probably indulge that.

Alderwoman Kelly

I was just wondering if you wanted to move to the next - the table. I would take it off the table I think is what Julian is here to.

Chairman Lopez

Before we do that, is that you're looking for?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Good evening, Julian long. First of all apologies. I was attending the Citizens Academy, which ran over a little bit. Yes I have heard from our HUD Representative that we were strongly recommended not to submit our allocation plan until we've had the chance to receive technical assistance. I guess a lot of plans are getting rejected after submission. So unfortunately, I have not yet heard back from my several requests for technical assistance. So I am recommending at this point that we just continue to table this until I'm able to get that.

Chairman Lopez

I didn't want to set a motion and then be like oh no.

Alderwoman Kelly

I didn't know if we technically had to have it on the table to talk about it.



Alderman Klee

Did he want to speak to his communication at all or?

Chairman Lopez

Mr. Long do you have any comments on your communication you would like to share? I believe Alderman Klee might have had some questions.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Good evening. I don't have any particular comments but I'm happy to answer any questions.

Alderman Klee

No, actually my questions were more for the plan itself.

On a side note if I if I may indulge, I do have a question about people asking more about the HOME Assistance Program and different things like that. I know that's not on the on the agenda at the moment.

Chairman Lopez

If I could interject.

Alderman Klee

Sure.

Chairman Lopez

If the Board is willing to get this moved to general discussion, then you can ask it.

Alderman Klee

Okay, then I can ask it at that point.

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES – None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

**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**

- Tabled at 10/17/22 meeting

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderman Klee

So if you just wouldn't mind doing a quick of what the HOME Program is. The topic has come up so to give you context, the topic has come up with the new taxes that have gone through there and many of the elderly are now paying where in

the past they may not have had to pay or it's significantly higher. People are looking for assistance anywhere they can. They've been told to go to Southern New Hampshire and so on and that's not the appropriate place to go. I'm not really sure that this would be either but it came up as topic. So for anybody that's listening, if you wouldn't mind kind of explaining what that program is.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Absolutely. So there are several things I think are worth mentioning. First of all, for the HOME Program - AMERICAN Rescue Plan Act funds which are the ones that are still in the allocation process. We're still working on an allocation plan. There is a component to that for tenant based rental assistance. That's something that might be helpful for folks who are on the renter side versus the homeowner side. Another source of assistance we have available is through the Community Development Block Grant. We have a housing rehabilitation program. So that's not direct help with taxes but if there are deferred home maintenance, especially things related to health and safety, we're able to assist lower income residents with that. That's for both homeowners and those who are renting.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. Yes, I think for some that have suddenly gotten a tax bill that they weren't expecting, they may be deferring some of this home maintenance as you pointed out and that might be helped with that so that they can make that tax fee.

Chairman Lopez

Or it could be an ambush because now their property tax goes up because they just improved the property.

Alderman Klee

Well no many people they've contacted me said I haven't done anything to my property in 18 years or 20 years. I was hoping to do something this year. So in a roundabout way, it may help them in a different way.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

So no yeah I encourage them to reach out to Urban Programs and see if they might be eligible.

Alderman Klee

You and Urban Programs. Thank you so much. I appreciate that.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes.

Chairman Lopez

In reference to my tongue and cheek comment actually, the best time to improve your house is right after the evaluation so you get like the most out of it before somebody says, oh, you fixed your stairs. That's worth like \$8 more a year.

I would definitely recommend that you talk to the other city departments so they don't refer people to HOME funds and you get people that are like coming to you with hope and you're like, well, that's not - we can't do taxes.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

No, thank you. I will.

Chairman Lopez

Probably good to identify some resource for particularly elderly people who would qualify for the exemption that they can apply for until January and maybe some guidance for the, you know, going to be the City Clerk and Assessing?

Alderman Klee

It would be the Assessing Department that I think that they have to file with.

Chairman Lopez

Just to clarify, like what to do if somebody can't really pay right away.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Absolutely. I'll follow up on that. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

All right. Any further questions for Mr. Long? Seeing none, thank you for joining us.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yeah, so apologies again for my tardiness.

Chairman Lopez

Oh, no worries. We're all happy to hear that you're involved in the Citizens Academy. It's a great program.

Alderman Klee

I think all of Community Development was there today.

Chairman Lopez

Oh good, we have staff members learning where everything is. Any other items for general discussion?

Alderwoman Timmons

Does Mr. Long have to run back upstairs to the Citizens Academy?

Alderman Klee

Do you need to go back upstairs?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes, once your meeting is all set.

Chairman Lopez

Okay, well we're really wrapping up. We have general discussion, and then public comment, and then that's pretty much it.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Alderman Patricia Klee  
Committee Clerk