

HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

December 13, 2021

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Monday, December 13, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber and via Zoom teleconference which meeting link can be found on the agenda and on the city's website.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. If you are participating by Zoom, please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting and your reason for not participating in person, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

The roll call was taken with 4 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly, Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright, Vice Chair, Alderman June M. Caron, Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire.

Alderman Patricia Klee was recorded absent.

Also in Attendance: Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

PRESENTATIONS - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-21-183

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$58,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "2022 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) GRANT PROGRAM" AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF MATCHING FUNDS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

This is just I think the 15th year in a row we've received this grant that helps fund our Domestic Violence Victim Advocate and part of one of our officers who is assigned to the Domestic Violence Unit. It's a federal pass through. It's a 75/25 split. Usually we more than meet our end with salary and benefits with this grant.

Chairwoman Kelly

Just out of curiosity is this the same amount that you've gotten in the previous years?

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

Yes it's been stagnant. I asked for more and I was denied. They said maybe next year there will be more funds available. I asked for another \$10,000 but I got denied.

Chairwoman Kelly

Well thank you for asking. Does anyone from the committee have questions?

MOTION CARRIED

R-21-184

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$34,600 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "2021 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL)"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

So this grant is strictly overtime and also we use it for equipment. There's no matching fund. This is a federal pass through and we use the grant for community policing programs, our neighborhood watch programs, the RAD program we have, and also for training. Right now we've been dipping into it for our training budget. So it comes in handy for us. The good thing about it's good for three years, so we're still working off of 2019 JAG Grant. That's pretty much it on this grant.

Chairwoman Kelly

Does anyone from the committee have questions?

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderman Wilshire

I thought I'd bring it up at this Committee and I know there's been some concern and talk about the Substandard Living Conditions Committee and how they haven't met because they haven't had anything to meet on. When this committee first started, I felt strongly that it belonged with Human Affairs but the aldermen who pushed for it got his way and it was set up as a standalone committee. This committee really does fit the bill or that subject matter. My goal is to try to merge the two. I don't know how anybody else feels about that.

Alderman Lopez

I appreciate that as a plan. I think the Human Affairs Committee conducts other business and brings attention by conducting that other business to issues of human affairs and then by having issues of substandard living conditions if people are discussing inequities and how they interact with their landlord, or challenges that are being faced in the

community where city ordinances would be effective, having it take place in this forum will also draw light to it. I think we had some very effective discussions on the Substandard Living Conditions Committee but the attention that it garnered and the drive to elicit change out of those discussions is probably better served in this forum.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you Alderman Lopez. Anyone else? I think that makes sense. My only thing that comes to my head is if the makeup were to stay similar would you and I both would have to recuse ourselves if there was anything specific to substandard in terms of the Children's Home or I'm on the Board of the Soup Kitchen.

Alderman Wilshire

Not any more than we would in this forum. So, no I don't think so.

Alderman Lopez

Particularly issues related to substandard living conditions most likely wouldn't be like the Soup Kitchen has a problem with addressing its tenants' water needs and that kind of stuff. Most of the issues, I think, substandard living conditions was facing were more landlord and homeless prevention issues.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. That's good to know. All right.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman Lopez

Sorry I'm not on the committee and I'm taking it over. I just wanted to announce to everybody because of the conversation we just had that next Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. on the steps of City Hall we're going to have the longest night vigil. It's part of recognition statewide of the homeless memorial day. So we'll be acknowledging those who passed away that have experienced homelessness and we'll be expressing solidarity and trying to come together to remind people that we are of the situation. We are trying to make things better for people who are homeless and to recommit ourselves to taking action on those lines.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Did you send out a flyer because I haven't seen one?

Alderman Lopez

We haven't finished the flyer. I have an interfaith group that's – I reached out to all the local faith based organizations so some of them are – had to send me their logos - but there was a plan to have one go out by tomorrow so that we'd have a week notice.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Lopez what time?

Alderman Lopez

6 p.m.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay thank you. I know I've participated in the past and it's somber but I really appreciate you putting it up top in mind for everybody. It's definitely something a lot of people (inaudible). It's hard when it's cold and dark like it is right now in New England.

Alderman Lopez

It's celebrated on the winter solstice which is literally the longest night of the year but thematically, any night that you're homeless seems like it's the longest night. SO that's why we recognize it on that particular day. It's part of a state-wide effort organized by Maggie Fogarty. I've been doing it for probably 15 years at least. I know Eileen Brady organized it

through the Soup Kitchen prior to me in Nashua and I think the overall effort is probably much older.

Chairwoman Kelly

It's a really interesting history. I think we just determined this was our last meeting of the year. So I just want to thank everyone on the Committee for being part of it. I think we did a lot good work this year and on to 2022.

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARON TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Committee Clerk