

HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 17, 2022

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Thursday, February 17, 2022, 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 3 members in person and 1 member attending via zoom of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr. (via Zoom), Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons, Alderman Patricia Klee, Alderman Thomas Lopez.

Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly was recorded absent.

Also in Attendance:	Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
	Alderman Derek Thibeault
	Deb Chisholm, Interim Urban Programs Manager
	Pamela Davies, Grant Writer
	Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman
	Robert Powers, Police Sergeant
	Camille Correa, Transit Administrator

ELECTION OF CLERK

Chairman Lopez called for nominations for the Committee Clerk for the 2022-2023 term.

ALDERWOMAN TIMMONS NOMINATED ALDERMAN PATRICIA KLEE AS THE HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CLERK

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN TIMMONS TO CLOSE THE NOMINATIONS, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Moran, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Lopez	4
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING

5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED & FY2023 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS

Deb Chisholm, Interim Urban Programs Manager

Good evening. I'm Deb Chisholm. I am the stand in Manager for the Urban Programs Department. For some of you who are familiar with this time of year for Community Development Block Grant funding, Carrie Schena was previous Urban Programs Manager and she has left us for some greener pasture somewhere. I don't know how it could be greener but with that being said, I'm just sort of stepping in tonight to make sure that we keep the process moving. I can give you a little bit. I know that most of you perhaps not Alderman Thibeault and perhaps not Alderwoman-at-Large Timmons are somewhat familiar with how this whole process works. It is Community Development Block Grant funding and HOME funds that we're talking about tonight. Those are funds that are allocate to the city directly from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Because of our size, we are an actual entitled community. We receive the funding directly from HUD. Then it's your job to help figure out how we're going to disburse our annual allotment.

You can see from the document that I have provided today that provides some of the sources and uses of the funds for

this program. We have not received our allotment from HUD yet. Typically its' end of February beginning of March. So for now, those numbers will fluctuate. The number that you have there the 661 is basically what we received last year as funding. So fingers crossed we'll get that same amount or more for this year. So as part of the Community Development Block Grant funding, the funding can be used in a myriad of ways. The objectives are set by HUD and as Tom mentioned in the description of our public hearing tonight, the consolidated plan is a five year plan. This is year three of said plan. The best part about this part of the plan, and maybe this is my opinion, is the folks that are sitting behind me. What we're doing tonight is introducing what some of the projects are that applications came in from several nonprofits looking for funds for a bunch of different reasons. The Community Development Block Grant funding can be used for parks, it can be used for infrastructure, it can be used for pedestrian walkways, it can be used for housing, and improvements to either resident or non-residential buildings. Tonight you'll hear a little bit about that. I don't have a lot of details to give you and maybe you should be glad about that. Community Development Block Grant funding and HOME funds but if there are questions, I'm happy to either try to answer them or get back to you with answers. So that's what I have for you tonight. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Lopez

So it would be fair to say that this is a plan in sketch form because we don't know the exact amount of money and the presentations that will be coming at the upcoming meeting relied on that plan but the public comment is mostly just to in testimony in terms of what the plan looks like today and not in reference to specific parts of it. Is that correct?

Deb Chisholm, Interim Urban Programs Manager

Well if I'm not mistaken, the folks that are sitting behind me are representative of the nonprofits that submitted applications and the actual numbers of their request are on that list. But the numbers will fluctuate. Again, a lot of the stuff is percentage based and once we get the numbers from HUD, there will be some slight modifications. It's the responsibly of the Human Affairs Committee to make those determinations on how much money should go where. As you can see in that list, there are line items for housing, owner occupied for – another one on there for rental assistance perhaps. Those are numbers that you guys will work on to try to figure out. Once that is determined, there is an entire schedule. There will be a second public hearing and it will ultimately the action plan that we put together based on what your responses are, the action plan will be submitted to HUD telling them thanks for the money and here's how we intend to spend it over the next year.

Chairman Lopez

All right. That was the clarification I was looking for particularly because I don't want to give the impression we're having a public comment on something the public hasn't seen yet. This is the plan. There will be a second public hearing when we actually have a flushed out plan based on numbers received.

Deb Chisholm, Interim Urban Programs Manager

Right and all of the proposals that were submitted are available on line on the city's website. So you can read through those. Again, feel free to reach out to me if you have questions about any of the applications or how any of the numbers might work.

Chairman Lopez

Are there any questions from members of the Committee about how this process was working before we open this up to public hearing?

Alderman Wilshire

I have a question. Will you be available after the hearing to discuss some of these projects like the city projects?

Deb Chisholm, Interim Urban Programs Manager

Absolutely.

Alderman Wilshire

Okay. Thank you.

TESTIMONY IN FAVORCraig Fitzgerald

Hi, Craig Fitzgerald speaking on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club Greater Nashua located at 1 Positive Place here in Nashua. So I wanted to introduce myself. I joined the Boys and Girls Club about 14 months ago as the Executive Director. I took over for Norm Bouthillette. I, myself, am an alumni of the club. I went there from age 8 to 18. So obviously first-hand know the benefits of the club. It's good to be back in Nashua working on behalf of such a great organization.

We applied for CDBG grant to help us with our sewer. For those of you unfamiliar with the Boys and Girls Club, it's a 50,000 square foot facility near Ledge Street School. Pre-COVID we served anywhere from 400 to 500 children a day. During COVID even when the school was shut down, we served between 200 and 250 kids a day. When the school was shut down, we provided remote learning during the day. Now the school is back and we provide after school learning. In addition to that, most of the high school swim teams use our facility. Multiple intermural sports come to our facility to use that. We have several drug prevention programs. Even though it's the Boys and Girls Club, we view our organization as a community center with anywhere from 500 to 700 people coming through – 1,200 unique kids on a given day and ranging from 65 to 70 percent of the children we serve come from low to moderate income families.

We have spent about \$2,500 over the last six to nine months keeping our sewers from backing up. Any of you without going into detail, any of you that are homeowners know that when the sewers back up, it's not a great situation. We've had multiple situations where we've had to cancel high school swim meets. We've had to cancel boys and girls club swim teams. We've had to cancel because the pipes run under our gym floor, we've had to cancel some activities. We want to stay open as much as possible, especially given the fact that we've just partnered with the Nashua School District and now all in school and out of school suspension children come to the Boys and Girls Club where they get academic assistance which it makes it ever more important that we stay open 24/7. Usually we could get repairs done during the day. Now that we're serving children all day long and night time, we can't have any shutdown.

We had multiple quotes. They range from \$12,000 to \$14,000. We had members from the CDBG Committee – I'm not exactly of his title – but he came out and walked through it with us. He assured us that we had done our due diligence and the hope is that you can support us with this \$14,000 so that we can permanent fix this, prevent any ongoing repair costs, and again keep our doors open. Any questions?

Chairman Lopez

Traditionally in a public hearing it's really just accepting testimony but we will be able to interview much more thoroughly in the actual committee meeting.

Craig Fitzgerald

Okay.

Chairman Lopez

So I appreciate your comment and we'll take the next speaker. As the Clerk was about to state, I forgot to announce that we had a three minute time. It was close. I think you were in the ballpark. But just giving everybody a heads up.

Alderman Wilshire

Alderman Lopez, that's during public comment not during public hearings.

Chairman Lopez

Okay.

Alderman Klee

Okay so we don't have to do it here? Okay, great.

Chairman Lopez

Anything you'd like to add? Then if the next speaker in favor would like to come up. Again, just introduce your name, your address.

Rocky Morelli

Hi, I'm Rocky Morelli. I'm the Executive Director of Opportunity Networks. We're on Perimeter Road here in Nashua. They're pushing 40 years now or so. We've been offering services to individuals with disabilities.

We're at a point now where we've been in our current facility since 1988 so it's really kind of needing some repairs and getting run down. So we're submitting for some assistance in that area. The city has been very helpful with us over the last several years putting together some major initiatives, helping with accessibility, promoting safety, building independence, really helping us establish better programming and quality of life for folks with disabilities. For the residents of Nashua who have children with disabilities, it's a life-long commitment and it's very taxing on a family, and we are very proud to offer them a safe and productive program for their kids to participate in which really assists them and living somewhat normal lives which becomes very important not just for the individual themselves but the network of people that are involved in their lives. We're very happy to provide that public service.

I'd like to give an endorsement to the Boys and Girls Club. I was a member there in the 1970s. So I'm an alumni. We were fortunate the building was new then so I can only imagine some of the challenges that they face. Also a graduate of Nashua High and I'm very happy to be able to provide service back to a community that's offered me so much. I'd like to thank all of you for the public service that you do. During these times of COVID, I'm sure I don't need to inform you how extra challenges have just been presented and continue to do the good work that's required. We've been an essential service. We've been open throughout the pandemic which has played very important roles for some individual families that wouldn't have had other places to turn. That's my quick in a nutshell kind of overview of our organization and the role that we play. Thank you for the past work and partnerships that you've done with us and hopefully we'll continue on that track.

I'd also like to just commend the staff here that you folks have at City hall and throughout the city. They've been fantastic to work with, and very knowledgeable, and very helpful in helping us work through the maze of the different requirements of the program. Thank you.

Carol Baldwin

Good evening and thank you for this opportunity to talk about our grant application. My name is Carol Baldwin and I'm the Executive Director of the Adult Learning Center. We are located at 4 Lake Street. We provide services year round out of what used to be the Crowley School. The building was erected in 1924 and served as a public elementary school until the mid-1970s. It was then empty until 1986 when then Mayor Donchess deeded the building to the Adult Learning Center.

Since 1986, the building has undergone extensive renovations including replacement of the 1924 boiler, all the hallways and classrooms have been modernized. In the last several years, we've made the building 100 percent accessible through the addition of two lifts. We've added new flooring. We're constantly repainting. We've added AC in many classrooms. We've added some security and cameras systems. This past year we replaced all the old light fixtures with energy efficient LED lighting. We take great pride in maintaining the building and keeping it clean and bright.

The City of Nashua has helped us with improvements over the years such as repairing the retaining wall between us and Rotary Park, and most recently providing funds for us to repair our windows. At this time, we are asking for assistance to replace our roof. Our rubber roof is at least 22 years old, it may be older. Ironically shortly after I hit the send button the grant application following a rain storm, our long-time facilities manager Bob came in to find the ceiling tiles on the floor in the upstairs bathroom. He cleaned it up, got a contractor to look at it, and as soon as it's dry we'll be patching it. We received three quotes. After reviewing the quotes, we decided upon one and then we contact the city project manager Mike Jungers who came out and agreed with us. Mike and Bob went up onto the roof, although I personally have never been there and never will. Our request is for the seed money to begin fund raising for the roof. It has been our experience that once private donors see that we have support from the city, they are more inclined to donate themselves.

This October the ALC will be celebrating 50 years of service to the community. We are in the process of planning an event to take place in the science building at Rivier University. This will also be a fundraiser. Our theme will be "Cheers to 50 years of learning and literacy". Once we have a new roof in place, our next step is to add solar panels. We have a proposal for Revision Energy and plan to work towards installing them in 2023. Our goal is to prepare our building for another 50 years of service to the community. Thank you for your time.

Chairman Lopez

Thank you very much.

Michael Reinke

Hi my name is Michael Reinke with the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter. I live at 35 Locke Street and the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter is located at 2 Quincy Street. We also have shelters at 58 Ash and 29 Kinsley. I rise today to speak in favor of our application for a new flooring at 2 Quincy Street. Quincy Street if you've ever been there in the morning, we'll serve between 50 and 70 people for breakfast. During the day for pantry Monday through Friday, we'll have anywhere from 40 to at times over 100 people coming into the pantry for free food. Then between 70 to 200 people coming in for dinner. In addition to that, this same facility provides backpack supplies for kids to go back to school as well as a Thanksgiving box for celebrating Thanksgiving as well as the winter holidays as well.

A lot of people coming through the building but that's not actually the biggest problem with the biggest with the floors. The problem with the floors is that we have literally thousands of pounds – tons of food going around on those floors every single day in what are called "U-boats". They look like big long things that you might lie on to get underneath a car or something like that. They're actually for carrying food. Those things chew up floors. So then even though we've been now for about 8 years, the floors are in need of replacing. We have actually already raised I think it is \$11,000 to \$12,000 and we're looking for the city and the CDBG funding to help us get the rest of the way so that we can have good solid floors to walk on, and people can get access to the food they need, and whatever else assistance they need to get out on their own. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Any additional public comment in favor?

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION - None

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR - None

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION - None

The public hearing was declared closed at 7:21 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Chairman Lopez

I call to order a regular meeting of the Human Affairs Committee at 7:22 p.m. Would the clerk please call the roll?

ROLL CALL

The roll call was taken with 3 members in person and 1 member attending via zoom of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr. (via Zoom), Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons, Alderman Patricia Klee, Alderman Thomas Lopez.

Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly was recorded absent.

Also in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. Just on the items to be acted upon, I'm wondering if for R-22-004 if the date is correct because it's written as a 2021 bomb detection technology equipment grant or funding. I'm just not certain. It looks like when I read it's 2022 and it goes to 2024. Maybe it's from last year. I don't know.

The other one is R-22-003. I think that was for the \$150,000 for the arts programs. I wrote it down on the paper. I don't

have it up on the screen. I was wondering when you discuss it how the money gets distributed on that and this may not be the right meeting to address that but that's just something I was interested in. On R-22-007 the \$98,000 grant from HHS to Police for COVID-19 vaccination aide grant 2022. I'm wondering how that gets used. It looks like it's a State program but my thoughts on vaccination is it's really leveled out, it's stalled out. How does that get used? Is it something for local or is it something for State? Those are my comments and that's all I have to say. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Any other members of the public wishing to make public comment?

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Deb Chisholm, Interim Urban Programs Manager
Re: Citizens Advisory Commission Updates

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

From: Deb Chisholm, Interim Urban Programs Manager
Re: FY2023 HUD Annual Action Plan

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-22-003

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF UP TO \$150,000 FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (“ARP”) FUNDS INTO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT ACTIVITY “GRANTS TO LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES”

ON THE QUESTION

Pamela Davies, Grant Writer

Hi, I'm Pamela Davies. I'm the city and School District Grant Writer. This funding is from the American Rescue Plan National Endowment for the Arts. We have been awarded \$150,000 which we will then be a pass through organization (inaudible) subgranting this to area arts organizations. Any recipient would have to be a 501(c) 3 and be eligible to receive money from the federal government. We did write into the grant the option to hire a grant administrator if we don't have the capacity to administer this program ourselves. E don't see that being an issue so we should be able to subgrant those (inaudible) as well but if for some reason things change from the time that we applied for funding or the time that we accepted it, we do put those funds set aside within the \$150,000 to hire someone hourly to handle this.

Laurie had asked what the process was for subgranting this. We were granted the funds on the strength of our past subgranting that we've done through the Nashua Arts Commission. So we plan to use that same model to subgrant these funds to art organizations in the city.

I should talk about what the funds can be used for. So these aren't just specifically just for arts projects. It's not arts project at all actually. The funding can be used for salary support full or partial for one or more staff positions, fees or stipends for artists or contractors who are supporting the general operating expenses of its organizations, costs for health and safety supplies for staff, visitors, or audience members, facilities costs such as rent or utilities and marketing (inaudible) costs for these groups. So essentially it's keeping the doors open for the organizations in the city.

We have two full years to expend this funding. We would have to expend it by November 30, 2023. The only other things I have to say about this unless there are any questions are that Amy Deroche and Lindsay Rinaldi were both instrumental in putting the information together to get these funds. We are 1 of 67 cities or arts organizations who are receiving these funds.

Chairman Lopez

I have a couple clarifying questions if you don't mind. In terms of administering this is this directly administered by the city assuming we have staff because it would be completely absurd if we suddenly had a bunch of staff members from Community Development and Urban Planning leaving. Is it administered by the city or is it administered maybe by like the Nashua Arts Commission or some other entity?

Pamela Davies, Grant Writer

Well currently Amy Deroche had said that she has the capacity within Economic Development to administer this program and to kind of usher this through the Nashua Arts Commission that we model for subgranting already. We do have the option. We set aside \$16,000 per year out of the \$15,000 to be used to hire someone hourly to be able to administer it. If we don't end up needing that that money would (inaudible) the subgranting bucket and could be subgranted to arts organizations. Amy said she has the capacity to do it so that is our plan but that's our backup.

Chairman Lopez

Amy do you have any comments on that? Okay and I infer when you say "usher" you mean if it is going to the Nashua Arts Commission then decision making and documentation of the awards and all that kind of stuff could be probably reflected in their minutes and a decision of that body?

Pamela Davies, Grant Writer

Correct.

Chairman Lopez

Okay.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Chair. I am the liaison on the Arts Commission and I just wanted to make sure that we clarify that it's not necessarily for arts meaning that for artists or something to that nature but it does have to go to nonprofit art agencies. Is that not correct?

Pamela Davies, Grant Writer

What do you mean by "nonprofit art agencies"? I just want to make sure that I'm answering that correctly.

Alderman Klee

Well you referred that they had to be 501(c) 3. That means that they have to be a non-profit. If I remember correctly, it does say "grants to local arts agencies". So it couldn't just go to like the United Way. It has to go to local arts agencies, correct?

Pamela Davies, Grant Writer

Okay. Yes and no. If there is a 501(c) 3 that has a history of doing projects with other things, they could be eligible but we wrote this initially with the plan to just focus on arts organizations. If someone were to apply and for example they have a history of doing a lot of art based programming, they could potentially be eligible but our focus is the arts organizations that we (inaudible).

Alderman Klee

Okay, thank you.

Chairman Lopez

It's my impression that this seems to be designed because people have been like this isn't just going to pay artists. Is this designed and intended more for performing artists?

Pamela Davies, Grant Writer

No any arts organization.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Any other questions from the board?

Alderman Wilshire

Pamela you did say this are ARPA funds or American Rescue Act Funds?

Pamela Davies, Grant Writer

Okay. That's fair.

Alderman Klee

Yeah I did actually did want to make one more comment. It is quite impressive that we are 1 of only 67 that were granted these funds, which goes to show that we have a strong and health art program within the city and surrounding area. I commend Amy, and Lindsay, and all of the others on your magnificent committee that did so much work to secure this grant. I know this is a first time that you ever applied. That they've ever actually applied for a grant. It is quite impressive that we got it. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

For myself and my comments, I have always felt that there's a very strong link between a vibrant community and its arts scene. I am glad the Economic Development office is engaged and sees the value of art. I'm glad that the Arts Commission is going to be involved and that we're doing what we can to help make sure that creative voices in our city are also being assured through the pandemic and the times behind us. They bring a lot of vibrancy. They bring a lot of opportunities for creative ways of looking at the world and I think our city benefits from that in many ways.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Moran, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Lopez	4
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED

R-22-004

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
- Alderman Alex Comeau
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd
- Alderman Tyler Gouveia
- Alderman John Cathey
- Alderman Derek Thibeault
- Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$40,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY “STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM” INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY “2021 BOMB DETECTION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT”

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO RECOMMEND FINAL APPROVAL, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Moran, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Lopez 4

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

ON THE QUESTION

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Good evening everyone. Thank you for having me. To address Ms. Ortolano’s question, the grant was applied for back in 2021. We didn’t get notification that we actually received the award until August and were green lighted October 28th. We have until 2023 to spend the funds but we anticipate purchasing all that equipment hopefully within the next few months. It’s a Homeland Security Federal Pass through grant. Sergeant Bob Powers here with me tonight to speak to any technical questions on the equipment itself and why it’s needed. We’re one of two hazard device units in the State. We also provide mutual aide to surrounding communities. We were down at the Boston Marathon back in October too. So I have Sergeant Powers here to answer any technical questions on the equipment for (inaudible) work doing.

Chairman Lopez

I realize this is likely to be very sophisticated technical questions but is that the bomb robot we’re talking about? It says bomb detection equipment. Is that like a dog, or is that the robot, or something else?

Robert Powers, Police Sergeant

So what this equipment is a hand-held explosive detection equipment. My name is Sergeant Robert Powers and I’m the Hazardous Device Commander from the Bomb Squad. So what this is a hand-held device and it allows us to take either trace or bulk samples of suspected explosives and do preliminary on-scene testing. It’s getting to be a standard througho9ut the hazardous device community. It brings us in line with our partners with the police and other hazardous device unit in the State so that we have more inoperability in responding to calls throughout the State.

Chairman Lopez

Any questions from members of the Committee?

Alderman Klee

Just to clarify, I do see in the analysis but are there any local matches for this grant?

Robert Powers, Police Sergeant

I’m sorry, no. There is no match. I’m bad on that.

Alderman Klee

That’s okay. Thank you so much.

Chairman Lopez

In light of our – my Chairmanship resulting in voting before the presentation, I would just like to redo that vote if possible. Alderman Timmons just to kind of streamline this, can you make the motion to recommend accepting?

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN TIMMONS TO RECOMMEND ACCEPTING OF \$40,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY “STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM” INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY “2021 BOMB DETECTION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT”, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Moran, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Lopez 4

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

R-22-005

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

AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS AND EXECUTION OF GRANT AGREEMENTS WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR GRANTS UNDER THE URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 1964, AS AMENDED, FOR FISCAL YEARS 2023 AND 2024

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Camille Correa, Transit Administrator

Good evening. I'm Camille Correa. I'm the Transit Administrator for the Nashua Transit System. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this evening in regards to the filing of applications and execution of grant agreements with the US Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration. In fiscal years 2023 and 2024, the legislative year 2022, we are asking for those two years that we are able to apply for and execute grants with the Federal Transit Administration. Do you have any questions of me?

Chairman Lopez

We have a history of accepting these grants in the past, do you know? This isn't a new grant?

Camille Correa, Transit Administrator

That's correct. This is just the request to file or apply for and execute the grant agreements. As we move forward into fiscal years 2023 and 2024, we will actually apply for specific amounts for grants depending upon the budget year. This is trying to get ahead to make sure that we are able to apply for the grant in the future as those years come upon us.

Chairman Lopez

Just for my own clarification Madam President can weigh in if she sees me heading in the wrong direction. We will be giving you permission to apply for the grants. We would still have to make motions as a body to accept them?

Camille Correa, Transit Administrator

As part of our budget season, yes absolutely. It will part of that.

Chairman Lopez

Okay that should cover that since we do have a spending cap and the cap for the grants before they enter into the

budget, etc. Any questions from members of the board? Seeing none, I'd like to entertain a motion.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE OF R-22-005, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Moran, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Lopez 4

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

R-22-006

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

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN ADDITIONAL \$377,873.50 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO TRANSIT GRANT ACTIVITY
"FEDERAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY ("FTA") OPERATING GRANT"**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Camille Correa, Transit Administrator

Hello. Thank you. Camille Correa, the Transit Administrator for Nashua Transit System. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to today regarding the acceptance of an additional \$377,873.50 from the State of New Hampshire. What we have found is that the Department of Health and Human Services has provided a particular grant for people above the age of 60 to ride the fixed route service and this particular grant helps to pay for the fares so that seniors ride for free. It is a service that they ride utilizing a senior card that they sign up at the transit center or they show their ID to show their age. We have a lot of seniors that participate in this program and it's really great for people have a fixed income and do ride to and from work, or want to go to the grocery store, or whatever that location may be within the community along the fixed route service. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this evening and we do appreciate the fact that we can apply for these grants and it is for two years. It's on a reimbursement so what we expense based upon the number of people that ride and then we expense the State to get reimbursed for that.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. Just a quick question. You said that it's based on reimbursement. Do we ever – this is not a new grant. We get this on a regular basis, correct?

Camille Correa, Transit Administrator

That is correct. It is not a new grant and this is just to apply for the actual grant for these two years in advance because we have to do the legislation here and then the State has to take it forward for their committees as well. So we try to do it in advance.

Alderman Klee

May I follow up? Do we ever go over what we legislate for to have to come back? So in other words, in this one we said it's very specific of \$377,873.50. You said that it's a reimbursement so we're going to bill the State to get reimbursed up to this amount of money. Do we ever go over the up to?

Camille Correa, Transit Administrator

I've only seen last year's ridership and reimbursement and it did not happen last year.

Alderman Klee

Thank you.

Camille Correa, Transit Administrator

You're welcome. Thank you for asking.

Alderwoman Timmons

Thank you. This is a great program and I know people that use this program. My question is are there enough seniors in Nashua that utilize this? If so, does it account for half of the money that you have here \$377,000 because I know you use both the Nashua transit system – the bus system, as well as the ride system? I don't really know if any seniors actually get – I know they get the little orange tickets that they give for bus rides but my question is do they pay for rides to other places like to the doctor's and stuff? Is there any type of reimbursement from the seniors itself or this is totally free?

Camille Correa, Transit Administrator

The seniors who ride the paratransit system do pay a fare. The seniors that ride the fixed route service who have the senior ID card or show the age of 60 and older do ride for free or they do not pay a fare. The State pays for their fare. Yes Ma'am.

Chairman Lopez

Just for the public's knowledge and correct me if I'm wrong, paratransit is a point to point. You sign up initially with the bus company, you are able to be verified for eligibility, and then you scheduled rides with notice whereas fixed point is there's a bus route and you have to go to the bus stop. You're picked up and you're dropped off where the bus goes?

Camille Correa, Transit Administrator

Exactly and same day service. Otherwise, the seniors would have to call for an appointment and schedule in advance. This allows for a lot of flexibility or same day especially if the weather is better on a certain day than others and they choose oh I'd rather go tomorrow rather than today and that flexibility is there for a senior to make those decisions. The service is 6 o'clock in the morning to about 10:30 – 10:45 at night Monday through Friday and 9 to 10:30 on the weekends.

Chairman Lopez

Is that both paratransit and fixed route?

Camille Correa, Transit Administrator

That is fixed route for this service. Paratransit is Monday through Friday. We do have ADA complimentary paratransit service for persons who are unable to access the fixed route service due to a physical or mental impairment and that service like Alderman Lopez has stated is an application process that people can call us or go on the website – ridebigblue.com to receive that application, fill it out, turn it in, and based upon the qualifications that are outline from the federal; government as to what denotes whether or not a person falls into that program, the van would pick them up within ¼ of a mile of the fixed route service and take them to and from places along the fixed route service within ¼ of a mile at the time that the fixed route service operates but there is a fare for that.

Chairman Lopez

Any further questions Alderman Timmons?

Alderwoman Timmons

No that's it. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Any other members of the board wishing to ask any questions? All right would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman Moran, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Lopez 4

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

R-22-007

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
- Alderman Alex Comeau
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd
- Alderman Tyler Gouveia
- Alderman Derek Thibeault
- Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
- Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$98,250 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "FY2022 COVID-19 VACCINATION AID GRANT"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

It's Kevin Pucillo again. Thank you for having me. To answer some of the questions, so we were approached when the State – or actually we got the surge in COVID cases back in early January or late December early January – the State had the testing site if you remember on Lake Street by St. Joe's. They were doing between 450 to 600 tests a day there. The traffic could be a nightmare. They were blocking Lake Street which was tough for school buses, for trash pickup, and everything like that. The State called us for assistance and we did site security and traffic control. So the program they had allowed us to have 1 to 2 officers per day. It only lasted about 3 weeks. They moved from Lake Street to Crown Street. Once they moved to Crown Street, the traffic flow was better and we stayed there for about a week. It just wanted needed and we stopped the traffic patrol and site security there. The amount that we put in for was a budget that they asked us to put in which would have been two officers per day from January 5th to March 1st. It was more like a draw down account if we were to continue going. I don't have the exact numbers. It's probably right around the \$15,000 range that we will be seeking for reimbursement and the rest of the funds that we actually really never got so it could be returned.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Chair. I just want clarification on Office Pucillo. So basically you're saying that we're accepting the \$98,250 but we probably won't see that. We'll only get the actual costs which you think was closer to \$15,000. Is that correct?

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Correct.

Alderman Klee

Okay so even though that we accept this, it may not be quite all that much money. The actually costs...

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Yes exactly. It's not even close to it. Again, the way it worked they didn't think they would be moving. The city found another site on Crown Street which actually ended up being a lot better for the traffic flow. Obviously it was off a busy road. As you guys all know, going up and down Lake Street we got a couple of storms that made it very difficult for people to actually get in, and snow removal. There were some days it was a complete nightmare to be there for the staff and for the patients that were trying to get tested. Then it went to Crown Street, the traffic – less people were actually getting tested and the traffic flow worked a lot better and we just weren't needed.

Alderman Klee

Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

We just had less crime basically. I appreciate your testimony. Any other questions from the members of the Committee?

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. I always appreciate when you go after grants. You think you're going to spend it. You think the need is there and then all of a sudden home test kits come out and you don't need to go to the line to get your COVID test. Kudos for going after those. I appreciate that.

Kevin Pucillo, Patrolman

Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Good forward thinking. Well we've had the motion, we've had the discussion, Clerk if you could call the roll.

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

Yea: Alderman Moran, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Lopez 4

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chairman Lopez

I have a brief item. We did have several discussions about the dissolution of the Substandard Living Conditions Committee. So part of that discussion was the recognition that maybe some of the responsibilities and roles that were fulfilled by the committee would be met by this committee instead. So I do intend to reach out to relevancy departments to kind of start with a calibration presenting on things that are major issues relative to housing, security, stability, rent assistance. We've in the past had the Public Health Department for example and Code Enforcement come and talk about different issues that they face and what steps the public can do. So I will be attentive to that to honor the fact that we don't have a dedicated committee to it. If members of the public are experiencing substandard living conditions - Alderman Wilshire please feel free to correct my wording – or if they're having issues relative to housing quality, then you can reach out to me and I can try to get relative departments to come and speak to what they're doing and we can kind of look at

those. As a subcommittee of the Board of Aldermen, we are also driven by legislations. We have plenty of legislation to do. I don't plan to just fill up all of the agendas with discussion where we don't have any actions to take. Since this is a discussion, do any other members of the committee have specific things that we should be exploring or have avenues that you want me to get started on?

Alderman Wilshire

I have a question. Is the committee going to get a schedule like we got before of due dates, and public hearings relative to CDBG?

Chairman Lopez

That's a very good question because we would want to bring into context when I decide to bring it on the departments.

Deb Chisholm, Interim Urban Programs Manager

I can provide that first thing tomorrow. I'll send you an e-mail. It's got, of course, Carrie put it together before she left and I follow it daily. Yeah I'll send that out to you tomorrow.

Chairman Lopez

Thank you. So we would have to be sensitive to our own capability to do the work that's put forward us but also sensitive to the urgency of issues that were brought to us as well.

Alderman Klee

In the past, Ms. Chisholm just to drive you a little crazy. In the past, Carrie has also provide us with kind of with a spreadsheet so that we could follow along and it kind of helped us as we talked and would say maybe this person can't give them everything they want because as you see just from your list alone, there are more wants than possible monies to go with them. Hopefully we'll get more. So it helps us to go along and say please okay we're going to give them \$25,000 not \$30,000. We can make an adjustment on it and then we get to see the bottom line quicker. So if that can be provided at the same time.

Deb Chisholm, Interim Urban Programs Manager

Right and I can make that available to you as well and it will certainly be helpful once the actual dollars come in from – once we know what our allotment is from HUD then it will certainly be easier to track with each time you guys make some decisions, we can use that spreadsheet to keep track of how things are changing.

Alderman Klee

It's a great tool for us so thank you.

Deb Chisholm, Interim Urban Programs Manager

You're welcome.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. I want to start off by thanking you Chairman Lopez for you know listening to my questions, and making note of them, and offering some answers for me. It was helpful and I got to learn a few things. I appreciate your approach to pay attention to that.

I would like to talk to you all a little bit about record keeping in the city. Any place I can have an audience that I can address how our records are kept I would like to do so. I really feel that we do not have the central location for our minutes or open access records for all groups in the city that are keeping those records. The one area I'm most concerned about is Economic Development. You know I tried to get the minutes several times for BIDA and for Downtown Improvement Committee. They're just not really available. I was directed to the Clerk's office. The Clerk told me they're stored in the Economic Development office. The problem with that is you allow records to be stored in an office that isn't open, isn't really staffed. It's not appropriate. Records that are supposed to be in the inspectable on any given day during normal work hours have to be in a place that's open and accessible. Behind a locked door in an

office that really doesn't have but two people doesn't work and e-mails don't work. I was pretty much chased away yesterday in trying to get those minutes from the Economic Development office without even being able to ask where they were. I think that's a violation of the law in and of itself. I was told I needed an appointment. Actually I tried to get an appointment and I was denied an appointment. I shouldn't need an appointment to access open public records. You should be able to walk in and get them especially when City Hall is open.

The other think I want to address is how the public input was provided for the barriers. You know I was so specific in sending Right to Know requests in and just general questions to the Economic Development Director and Alderman O'Brien who headed the Infrastructure meeting. I really feel that I was deceived. I got the run around. I mean Alderman O'Brien on the meeting on the 26th said that there is an organization that's been around probably since the inception of Main Street and we're relying on them for citizen input. He didn't say who the organization was. I didn't know who he was talking about. I've never been to a Downtown Improvement Committee meeting. I had to write a Right to Know and they wouldn't answer the question. So two meetings were held by that Committee and also Alderman O'Brien sent me an e-mail that said that...

Alderman Klee

30 seconds

Laurie Ortolano

...(inaudible) and pay attention. Just so you know, I did and it was never put on the calendar. So keeping my eye on it was not effective. I really feel there's a lot of underhanded things happening here in the city with our information and with our public meetings and we need to change that. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Okay any other further public comment? Seeing none.

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Chair. One of the things I look forward to every year is the CDBG grants and working with our staff and the other groups that come in. Sadly we usually can't give 100 percent of what everybody wants or needs but there are a lot of compromises that we work at and give as much as we can to help them meet every aspect of it. I'm looking forward to doing that again. I'd like to thank President Wilshire for once again putting me on this Committee. Thank you.

Alderman Wilshire

You're welcome.

Chairman Lopez

I have a personal comment. So I worked at the Soup Kitchen for many, many years and then my career took me different places but I always tried to kind of keep my hand in to kind of help out when needed. There's always a shortage of emergency shelter staff and people who can work with people with different challenges that might be encountered. So until recently, I was on the per diem staff for on-call emergency worker but due to my role chairing meetings here, I have resigned from that position just to make sure that there is no concerns about conflicting interest, or conflicts, or anything like that. So any future CDBG applications – I know board members will do their best to announce and disclose any kind of financial conflicts of interest. So I just wanted to make sure that I was getting out there first with mine.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. I am not on this Committee but I do work for Nashua Children's Home as you know. They have applied for CDBG money. That's all I have. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Appreciate that. Also for the general public that's watching, you may have deduced that I am legally blind. So I rely heavily on my Clerk over here to tell me no one is raising their hands up. I appreciate all of the silhouettes who showed up for public comment. If members of the Committee feel like I'm not quite catching them, it would be appropriate to just verbally say Alderman Lopez to get attention. I wouldn't consider it to be interrupting a meeting or anything like that. It would just be I didn't see your hand and we were recognizing maybe I'd process information more effectively audibly.

Alderman Moran

Just going off of what Chairman Lopez and Alderman Wilshire has said. I own a psychotherapy practice in the city and we have been in talks with the Soup Kitchen to pursue an MOU to provide those services after office. Nothing is signed. There's nothing in agreement to say I'll probably refrain from making decisions on the Soup Kitchen if there is an active

MOU in place.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO ADJOURN, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Moran, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Klee, Alderman Lopez 4

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Alderman Patricia Klee,
Committee Clerk