

## HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 9, 2023

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Thursday, March 9, 2023, 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  
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

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

Also in Attendance: Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager  
Deb Chisholm, Sustainability Manager  
Kevin Pucillo, Grant Manager, Nashua PD

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### Chairman Lopez

Okay, tonight's meeting is going to be a little bit atypical just because we have a room full of non-profits that are planning on presenting their programs as part of our CDBG project. We do have a pretty full agenda besides that. So what we're going to do is ask any members of the public that want to make public comment not specific to an organization or presentation they will be able to do so first and then we're going to invite the non-profits up. I think Manager Long has a list of names and so everyone will have a chance to talk, present your programs, and we will kind of stay topically oriented. So if anybody has any public comment relative to the Committee's business that isn't relative to CDBG, feel free to come up and make it now.

### PUBLIC COMMENT – None

#### Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Thank you everyone for attending. First up we have the Mary Sweeney Home.

#### George Walker, Mary Sweeney Home

Good evening. My name is George Walker and here representing the Mary Sweeney Home. For those that aren't familiar with the Mary Sweeney Home, Mary Sweeney Home is located at 50 East Pearl Street. Back in 1972, they bought the old Sister of Mercy Convent that is situated on the corner of Spring Street and East Pearl Street. They converted that into a residential home and it provided apartments for 13 residents at the time. In 1980, they added a second building to that, an addition which added 18 units. So currently the Mary Sweeney Home is a 31 unit residential apartment building for independent, single, over 65, low income women. Current resident's age right now is between 67 and 94. As of next week, the Mary Sweeney Home will be fully occupied.

Our request is two-fold. One is to replace 20 PTAC units. 18 would go in apartments, 1 would go in an office, and 1 would go in a common area that we call the "library". The second request is to replace an antiquated security entry system. For those that aren't familiar with what a PTAC unit is, the technical name is a packaged terminal air conditioning unit which provides heat and air-conditioning. Basically, it is what you see in a hotel room. It's a stand-alone unit that provides both heat and air-conditioning. The reason it's only 20 units is because half of the building, the older section of the building, heat is provided by boiler systems. These 20 PTAC units would go into the newer addition that went in in 1980. Some of these units are between 15 and 20 years old. They're not very efficient. We're starting to run into some mechanical problems with them and that's why we're looking to do that.

The second part is to upgrade our security entry system. Currently, right now we have 5 doors that residents use to enter the building. They use a FOB system. That system is 20 years old. To program that, you have to program each door. So every time we have a resident or staff member change, we have to go and program each door with a laptop. The newer system would be able to be part of the cloud. We could make upgrades to that through a laptop but what it does for us is it provides us data on who enters the door, when they enter it, with a time stamp, and a date, as well as what door they used. I think that provides a little bit more security for the residents and it gives us a better idea who has been or is in the building. So that's the overall request. If there's any additional questions, I'll be happy to answer them.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. So at this time, we're just having people make comments. There is a lot of them. Alderwoman Timmons do you have a question?

Alderwoman Timmons

No, I don't have a question. However, I did visit the Mary Sweeney House and I know exactly what you're talking about. We have an obligation to our seniors to do what's right for them. It is just a comment. Also, there's some safety issues, quite a few. If the building is old and we have to do something for our seniors. Thank you for that presentation. I think you did it very well.

George Walker, Mary Sweeney Home

Alright I appreciate it. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

This is a little bit of an usual meeting. Traditionally public comment we let the public go and then whatever comes up comes up, but in this case, I guess we can allow a little interaction.

Alderwoman Kelly

I'm just thinking since everybody's here, I'd love to take full advantage of it. Usually one of the questions we ask that I've love to include is often times there is not money to go around so if you weren't to get fully allocated, how would you make up the difference or what part of your project might you prioritize?

George Walker, Mary Sweeney Home

So I would say that on the security system, that would have to be fully funded to pull that off.

As far as the TPAC units, we could reduce the number that we do. The 20 would do all of them but obviously if the funding wasn't there, we would adjust to how many we could do.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you very much.

Chairman Lopez

Thanks for the presentation.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Thank you. Next up we have the Senior Activity Center.

Margo Bell, Executive Director, Nashua Senior Activity Center

Margo Bell, Executive Director, Nashua Senior Activity Center, 15 Briand Drive, Nashua, NH. I want to thank you for letting us come here tonight. I know you have a big agenda so I appreciate the opportunity. We are a self-standing 501(c)3 and we were established in 1978. We are housed in this beautiful City building over on 70 Temple Street. We have been there since 2006. We are asking for support of roughly \$54,000 for a moveable partition for the card music room which is shared space. When we first went into the building, some allocation of space was allotted for a petition but monies were not available to put that in. So we can't have a music and a card game going on at the same time.

We currently have 9 card game groups and 6 music groups sharing the same space. Those two items, believe it or not since COVID, have really resurged and are growing. So that's an area that we would really like to develop. Funding of the sound proof moveable divider would allow increased programming and certainly enhance the City building. I brought Dick Leombruno who is an instructor, a member, to elaborate on how important this would be to those members. I'll just step to the side. If you have any further questions but I just wanted him to give his opinion as well.

Dick Leombruno

Dick Leombruno, 4 Nightingale Road here in Nashua. Thank you for your time. I really do appreciate it. I just want to sing the praises of the music department and let you know what's going on. We have several activities that I'm involved in. One is the T Street Ensemble. We have a group of people who come in. We actually do a 3 and 4 part harmony that we were just doing this week. I have conducted 3 or 4 music theory classes. I have another one scheduled and I have some people who are hanging around during that time slow right now just to do some individual projects that they wanted to learn more about music.

Tuesday morning we have a free-for-all. It could be 5 people there. There could be 15 or 20 people there. They come in do some solo singing. We have a lot of fun. People who want further instruction on the singing, we can fit that in at the same time and allow those people. Their goal is to participate in the Senior Show which we do once a year. So that's all happening in this room. The Harmonica Saints, you may have heard that name, they didn't survive COVID but Will Landry who heads that group has another group formed in this room and they're starting to get pretty good at what they're doing. So he hopes to take them back out into the assisted living places. The Silver Lining Chorus rehearses in the room. They go out and do a lot of work in the assisted living places. We use the space. We could use more instruction. We have outside people come in to do keyboard lessons. We have a man Bennish who sings in the lounge. I play with him. We call ourselves "the Basement Boys". We don't have any place to practice except in front of people in the lounge. Selfishly, we'd be more convenient just to schedule people and we could do some individual lessons at the same time.

So we're very active. I've been to all the senior centers locally. None of them have the music that we have going on here. I'd just like you to know that music is good for our spirit. It keeps us going. It's also good for the mind to keep ourselves active. We appreciate it. It would allow us a lot of free time to schedule even more activities than we have now. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Thank you for your comments. Alderwoman Timmons?

Alderwoman Timmons

I want, again, comment on the Senior Center. I've been there as well and as also the fact that Sweeney House is right down the street. I've heard music. I know what happens over at the Senior Center and you guys do a great job. So congratulations on your program because it's fantastic.

Chairman Lopez

They're also in Ward 4. Next up?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Thank you very much. Next up we have Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity.

Christa Tsechrintzis, Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity

Hi good evening. I'm Christa Tsechrintzis representing Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity. We are the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. We serve 14 towns throughout Southern NH, the Hillsborough County. Our programs vary from our home build, to our critical home repairs, and one of our most initiatives is the family support. Realizing we can't just sell a house and expect people to be successful. So we're working on building that program as well.

We finished a duplex on Paxton Terrace that we sold to two Veteran single moms. It was a really great experience and now we have a piece of land on Granite Street ready to build in Nashua. We are at a time of growth, new leadership, new president, and we brought in a new home repair manager, and a development coordinator. So we're growing, expanding our programs. We want to shorten our time builds so we're working on our volunteer management program, trying to get more people, we can build faster, we can get people into homes quicker. Our home repair program as well lets us help more families at a time.

We just actually had our application process for the new home that we're building and 85% of our applicants had children so they are families in our service area. Our Paxton Terrace families that moved in - one of the best parts

talking with right after, we were able to get them into their schools, start at the beginning of the school year, and within a month one of the moms told us their children were thriving. They were in the school they were meant to be at, they were stable. The parents felt like a sense of peace instantly. You could see that just with the home visits that we did.

We requested operating funds because we are at this time of growth and its partial funding of that would still be applied to all of our programs. Our request was a very small portion of our overall budget as well. It's pretty expensive to build these houses and operating is a little harder to find so that's why we put the request in for that. Any question on our programs?

Chairman Lopez

Alderwoman Timmons?

Alderwoman Timmons

Thank you. Thank you for all the things that you do. I do have a question regarding the selection process. Can you explain that?

Christa Tsechrintzis, Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity

Sure. So what we do is set a target date for the applications to open. We reached out to all the towns that we serve, put it out through the town welfare departments, we contacted each town hall, we put it out through social media, through our previous partner families. We had some referrals from there. We also contacted local agencies. At least three applications in our last process came from other agencies in the area of transitional housing in Nashua. So we reached out to those organizations. We have an application process open for a month, and then we close it, and then we follow guidelines by Habitat International that we have to let the families know within the following 30 days, and so we just closed that application process.

Alderwoman Timmons

May I have a follow-up?

Chairman Lopez

Absolutely.

Christa Tsechrintzis, Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity

We have a family selection committee on board and we work with a local bank to do income verification and things like that.

Alderwoman Timmons

Okay. Just one other question and that is regarding the other towns. How do they contribute to this particular fund, this pool of money? Did you get rent from them as well?

Christa Tsechrintzis, Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity

Yes. We put requests in through local private foundations, fundraisers, individual donations. We do reach out to donors in all of our service areas.

Alderwoman Timmons

Okay. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

All right. Thank you for your presentation.

Christa Tsechrintzis, Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity

Thank you.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Thank you very much. Next up is the Front Door Agency.

Chairman Lopez

Just a reminder to the public, all of these presentations are referencing a communication that we received and that will be attached to the minutes here. So if anybody is watching from home, trying to figure out what are they all referencing, what are these numbers, it's in the agenda right now and then it will be also in the minutes - a communication from Urban Programs Planning.

Rebecca Gagne, Front Door Agency

My name is Rebecca Gagne. I'm at 12 Concord Street here in Nashua. I'm representing the Front Door Agency. So we have a long-standing transitional housing program. We've been operating for over 30 years. It's a three-phase program. So we welcome families, single moms with children into a home located at 12 Concord Street. We have 8 families residing there and we're really trying in that stage to help them stabilize, find childcare, get their children into school. We are really pushing education that will lead to greater wages, and giving them opportunities for self-improvement, wellness, and really healing from their past traumas. Most of our families are coming from violent situations with family members and so just giving them a safe place to live while they're sorting through that.

Once they're in the program usually between 3 and 6 months, they're either going to school, finding full-time employment, and they're really getting stabilized. We then move them into one of our apartments. So we have 9 units in Nashua that they move into. I should also mention that we do have a program fee in phase one, its \$395. These apartments that we're moving them into are two and three bedroom apartments and the rent is \$400 for a two bedroom and \$425 for a three bedroom. So these are women who may be receiving public benefits who are usually in entry-level employment but really helping them with their budgeting and things like that. The thing when they move into their own apartments is they also have to pay their own utility bills. So we're working with them on that. They're all attending an intensive financial literacy program so that they can learn these skills and they can take these skills with them when they leave our program.

We also have a phase three program which is just providing affordable housing, case management for people who have graduated from a school program, who are working full-time but still don't make enough to afford market rent which unfortunately right now is many of them because it is so expensive right now.

So what we're here tonight asking for is we are looking to replace two hot water tanks and two high efficiency boilers. Kevin is our Maintenance Director and he can tell you a little bit more about why that needs to be done but they're really old. They're not running efficiently and so we would like to replace those. I think it will really help our residents with their utility bills because I'm sure by replacing it, it will be running a little more efficiently and cost effective for them as well. I think that's really it I guess. If you have any questions specifically about what needs to be replaced, Kevin would be happy to let you know.

Chairman Lopez

Kevin do you have any comments? Anything you want to add?

Kevin Gagnon

I guess I can speak a little about the necessity in terms of why they need to be replaced.

Chairman Lopez

Don't forget your name and address.

Kevin Gagnon

So this is a four unit building on C Street. Two of the units have been replaced over the last 10 years and the 2 in question are about 30 years old and they're just not safe. We worked closely with the City over the last - well I've been with the agency for 10 years and we've worked with the City on various projects - roofing, siding, windows, doors, you

name it, and we've got a good relationship with the City. Quite frankly, I try to do things right. We just had two inspections with this gentlemen - C Street and Vine Street over the last two weeks. Those inspections went great so I really try to do things right, and I try to keep up with the maintenance, and these boilers, it's just time. There's nothing that can be done to repair them at this point.

Chairman Lopez

Can you give your name and address?

Kevin Gagnon

My name is Kevin Gagnon. I live at 16 Broad Street in Hollis.

Chairman Lopez

If you don't mind just adding, what's the average life span of these kind of boilers? How often should they be replaced?

Kevin Gagnon

Well it's an interesting question because the ones that were built 50 years ago, they were rated to last 10 years, lasted 100. So the ones now they say you get 15-20, you're lucky if you get 10. I think they've done their job. Again if we could put \$500 to \$1,000 to make them more efficient which it's just not possible. We've had the chimney relined. We went through that expense. Again, we've updated a couple of hot water tanks, and expansion tanks, these type of things, valves, and stuff like that just to conform with code but these two particular systems it's just time they be replaced. So every fall I tell my boss, I said this could be the winter that they're just going to go and there's no fixing them at that point. That's pretty much where we're at.

Chairman Lopez

Any questions from the Committee?

Alderwoman Timmons

No but I do have a comment.

Chairman Lopez

Okay.

Alderwoman Timmons

Again, I read your application for the grant and I was impressed. Also I have got a lot of, lot of positive feedback from the public, the community which I'm out there all the time. So see your constituents or the people that use your facilities and it's always good, so thank you.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Thank you. Next up we have the First Church of Nashua.

Joe Blike, First Church

Good evening. My name is Joe Blike. I resident at 25 Bicentennial here in Nashua. I've got Brian Crawford here from Family Promise and also our Pastor Andy Armstrong. Many of you know that First Church is at the top of Library Hill. It's a pretty prominent church in Nashua. We have a long history of supporting both the Nashua and various different charities. We've actually been at that building since 1894 but most people don't realize we've been in Nashua since 1635. So we have a long history in the City.

Chairman Lopez

Longer than the City!

Joe Blike, First Church

Yes, that's right. We support routinely many agencies like the United Way, the Front Door, the Soup Kitchen and Shelter, the Stepping Stones, and also Family Promise. We were one of the founding congregations in 2000 that set that up. We already support some low income and transitional housing through both the Front Door and the Family Promise. We have four apartments right next door to our church that we lease right now to Family Promise. We have in the past leased some of those to Front Door. We provide to Front Door their building that they have for their offices, which we also own right next door.

However, the need for additional units continues and especially for two and three bedroom units that are in very short supply and/or very expensive. Most of the units we have are one, or one and a half bedrooms, two bedrooms. I'll note that about seven years ago, we had a capital campaign at the church for some of our own needs. We raised over \$2 million and we dedicated a third of that to the various charities in Nashua like the Front Door, Family Promise, and others. So our congregation is very dedicated toward supporting the charities.

So what are we looking for at 32 Orange Street? That property was originally one of our parsonages. It has been rented as a single family property for about 30 years but it's in need of a lot of repairs and refurbishment. We thought that a more effective way to deal with that property would be to convert it to 2 to 3 bedroom apartments that we could rent out through Family Promise. We will sign a long-term lease with Family Promise either 20 or 30 years, so we're committed to this for a long period of time. We will continue to own the property and will provide the maintenance and upkeep on it as we do for the other properties that are on our campus such as the 35 Concord, and the Front Door property, and our own sanctuary.

I'll let Brian talk a little bit about Family Promise in a little bit but I did want to point out some of the advantages that we see in this property and the proposal. Number one - we already have units that we're managing in this area. It's part of what we consider our campus and both Family Promise and Front Door and others help us manage that property. The location is really ideal for young families in particular. It's right at the top of Main Street. It's right on the bus line. It's walking distance to schools and playgrounds. We try to keep it a very safe environment. We have added up some additional security on our own campus in the past couple of years and we intend to expand that a little bit more so we can cover the entire agency.

One other sort of ancillary benefit when we did our capital campaign a few years ago, we put in a commercial kitchen in our building. We've already had a couple of the non-profits use that commercial kitchen to teach some of our clients and some of their clients how to prepare good home meals, how to do very healthy types of things. So it's just another example of why we can put ourselves together with people like Family Promise and others to help the overall community. Brian I'll let you talk a little bit about Family Promise specifically.

Brian Crawford, Family Promise

Thank you. I'm Brian Crawford. I live at 18 Fairhaven Road. I'm the President of the Board of Trustees of Family Promise. Family Promise is a program here in Nashua that supports formerly homeless families - so an adult and a child. Two years ago, we refurbished the former Infant Jesus School and we now have about 20 something families living there. They typically stay for about 11 months and then they move out on their own. First Church has been a tremendous partner of ours for 20 something years. As they said, they were a founding parish and they do provide housing for both some of our graduates but also some people that we support through our diversion program. If there are people that need help but they don't fit into our program, we find a way to help them.

I think everyone here knows affordable housing is a crisis in Nashua right now. In particular, the biggest problem is large capacity 2 bedroom, 3 bedroom. So we think this is a great program and we intend to sign a long-term lease. We know that we can fill those overflowing. We can fill way more. So we thank them for their support and we think this is a great opportunity. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Thank you for your efforts and your presentation.

Joe Blike, First Church

Any other questions?

Chairman Lopez

Alderwoman Timmons?

Alderwoman Timmons

Just a comment. I like the comradery that the non-profits have with each other to piggyback and use each other for whatever program you need to be done for the citizens of this City and that is commendable and warms my heart. If you can't find solutions that one non-profit, you can go to another, and they work together collaboratively, and it's just a fantastic thing to do.

Chairman Lopez

I'll echo that sentiment. I was commenting to Alderman Kelly at the beginning of this that I mean Nashua everybody is here to apply for grant money. Everyone is collegial about it. They're having chats ahead of time. It's good to see people again. Those kind of comments and that really reflects the collaboration and cooperation that you see in the City. The first Wednesday of every month we have the Continuum of Care meeting up here in the auditorium and the auditorium is full. Like all the organizations come to collaborate. So it's very, very good to see this kind of cooperation, collaboration. For taxpayers, it's good for their wallet. I mean if you guys are all working together tackling issues that the City doesn't necessarily have to exclusively try to handle through City welfare and other things, that's better for everybody. You do a better job and we appreciate that. Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

I just wanted to thank you for your creativity in terms of pivoting and trying to meet the need of the affordable housing crisis that we have in the City. It's one of my biggest things that I like to talk about and get people motivated to make some real changes. So I appreciate the project.

Andy Armstrong, First Church

I'm Andy Armstrong, 12 Mapleleaf Drive. I just want to say that two stated admissions of our congregation are hunger and housing. So in the last five years, we basically revamped our entire campus to provide transitional and diversion housing. So this is the last piece of the leg, so to speak, taking a look at the imprint of our campus and what we can provide. So thank you for hearing us out tonight.

Chairman Lopez

It's encouraging. Thank you.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Thank you very much. Next we have Stepping Stones.

Kathy Farland, Stepping Stones

Hi. I'm Kathy Farland from Stepping Stones. Our address over there is 3 Pine Street Extension in Nashua. We have put in two grant proposals this time. One for operating funds to help keep the center running. We have had so far this year just to give you an idea, we've had 46 youth in. Fourteen of them new in the 49 days we've been open so far this year which is almost 500 visits in just that time. So there is clearly a large need for our services. I wish there wasn't but there is. So we want to make sure that we're there for the youth when they need us.

The bigger proposal that we are requesting is we are requesting funds for our new Level Up Program, which is actually housing for our youth. We had been offering day services, case management, via all the other services that the youth need but we haven't been able to give them a place to sleep up until now. So we are actually in negotiations for a dorm building at Daniel Webster College where we would actually be able to house through all the four levels of the program 102 youth. So it would be a tremendous amount of just so many of the kids that we would be able to help get off the streets that are sleeping at night when they leave the center now are going out in sleeping bags, and tents, or sleeping in their cars, and it's just so hard for them to make any progress living like that. So being able to offer this would be a huge opportunity for them to be able to take those steps forward and help solve a big problem with the City as well.

So we are looking for a grant to redo the work that needs to be done on 15 townhouses that is on the property. That is actually at the level four of our program. So it would be emergency housing, and then pre-transitional housing, transitional housing, and then the town houses. With each of those steps, the youth will have to have met certain



benchmarks. They will have to be paying a small amount of rent as they go forward up until the townhouses where without any vouchers or without any social services, they can afford to move to those likely with a roommate at close to market rent. So our whole goal, our whole mission at Stepping Stones is for these youth to be able to become self-sufficient. We want them to be able to wean themselves off of those services so that by the time they're done the program, they have a year's rent at a location. We can give them a good landlord reference, they are close to already paying market rent so they should be able to move into an apartment from there, and that they've learned all the skills that they need along the way to be independent and to be successful.

Zach Paone, Stepping Stones

Hi - Zach Paone, 7 Breck Drive, Merrimack, NH. I just wanted to thank the Human Affairs Committee for hearing this request. It's a non-profit world with many people relate, things change all the time. I know when I wrote the initial request, it was for one property and then an opportunity arose. Honestly when it did arise with this Daniel Webster property, I realized really what we're looking at doing here fully fulfills the commitments of the CDBG Committee in terms of being able to appeal to low income individuals, in terms of being able to provide housing, and fully complete the wrap around services that we've been proud to offer so far. So thank you.

Chairman Lopez

It's pretty incredible you guys are looking at a project as such a young organization. I mean the capacity for emergency shelter placement for youth is sorely needed. So that would be very much welcome in the community. It's worth commenting, too, you're literally having them in a college campus or former college campus. That's pretty good visualizing for what their future could look like if they can get out of the crisis that they're in right now.

Kathy Farland, Stepping Stones

That's what we're hoping for. As far as the partial funding goes too if we were to receive partial funding for it, we would just have to spread out the amount of the townhouses that we would able to renovate at one time but we would still hope to get them all done eventually.

Chairman Lopez

Alderman Kelly do you have a question?

Alderman Kelly

I also just want to thank you for the work that you're doing. 102 youth is incredible.

My questions were just around so you were talking about the Level Up. Is that 102 from the beginning to the end or is that all transitional? Like what is that?

Kathy Farland, Stepping Stones

No. That would be from beginning to end. So it would be - let's see if I can remember all the numbers. Emergency housing would be 24, pre-transitional housing would be 26, transitional housing would be 22, and the townhouses would be 30. So as they continue to reach their benchmarks, they can move up to less people. So with the emergency housing, it starts with 6 in a room. The pre-transitional housing goes to just 2 in a room. Transitional housing is just individuals in their own room and then the townhouses would be likely just 2 people living in a 2 bedroom townhouse apartment. So they have their – I can't think of the words as I'm nervous - but it gives them reasons to want to continue to move forward with the program because they're getting better things as they go.

Alderman Kelly

If I could have a follow-up?

Chairman Lopez

Yes.

Alderman Kelly

Thank you. Sounds like an incredible program. I'm really excited to see it come to fruition. It was a long time ago that I was at college but I remember my dorm didn't have a kitchen. So are you putting kitchens for them, or are you going to have a main kitchen? How is that going to work?

Kathy Farland, Stepping Stones

So there are actually two kitchen spaces. One on each floor. So the lower floor will be the pre-transitional and emergency housing and there's a kitchen area there. The second floor also has one as well which is the transitional housing. So they will have their own. There's also big living areas on each floor. There's a RA apartment in there and then there's two additional single units that we will be using for RA spaces as well.

Alderwoman Kelly

Great. Kitchens can get costly. Just making sure you have everything you need. That's great. Thank you so much. I'm excited for the project.

Chairman Lopez

Alderwoman Timmons?

Alderwoman Timmons

Again another great program. I do have one question. Once the program is up and running, do you believe that they would generate these apartments will generate revenue in the future to keep Stepping Stones going?

Kathy Farland, Stepping Stones

Absolutely, yes. The rent that we should be getting from between the apartments and the transitional housing units should cover all of our expenses at the college plus help to fund the drop-in center. So it won't completely fund everything but about 75%.

Chairman Lopez

I mean you're a non-profit. You're not supposed to make your riches.

Kathy Farland, Stepping Stones

It would be nice if we didn't have to – if we could be completely self-sufficient but we are working on it. Anything else?

Chairman Lopez

Great work. Very good presentation. Looking forward to this. Just a reminder to everybody here, these are projects that are proposed as far as the CDBG budget. It's money that comes from Urban. Urban Manager Long will probably touch on this in the full meeting part. We haven't had the aldermanic resolution yet. So we're just having the opening round of presentations and descriptions of what would be proposed and then we can kind of review it once we are a little further down the process. Manager Long do you want to refine anything I just said for accuracy or introduce the next group?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

No. I'll just mention that CDBG stands for Community Development Block Grants and those are funds that the City receives through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Next up we have the Nashua Children's Home.

David Villiotti, Executive Director, Nashua Children's Home

Hello. My name is David Villiotti, Executive Director of Nashua Children's Home located at 125 Amherst Street. I'll tell you a few things about Nashua Children's Home. We were founded in 1903 as the Nashua Protestant & Orphanage Association. So we've been around for 120 years at this point. We do a few things. One is we provide housing for young people that are unable to live with their families for a variety of reasons. These are children referred by New

Hampshire's Child Protective and Juvenile Justice Agency. Kids that experience any level of trauma, have been physically abused, sexually abused, and subjected to domestic violence, subjected to excessive substance use. So we work with those youngsters to help them with better coping mechanism and hopefully move on to more productive adult lives.

At this point we are set up to provide housing for 46 of these young people between the ages of 7 and 18 years of age. About half of those kids are City of Nashua residents. Most of those kids are identified with special education needs and for those youngsters that we can keep at Nashua Children's Home and attending Nashua Schools, the savings to the taxpayers of this City financially are about \$50,000 per year as opposed to what the cost would be if they were placed in an out-of-district special education program.

We also provide our own schooling for youngster's that are referred by the school districts. Our most recent program, 20 years old at this point, is our Transitional Living Program where we work with a population of young people that are at particular risk of homelessness. These are young people between 18 and 22 years of age that are basically on their own. They're challenged with the perils of adult living, with the challenges of adult living as 18 year old with zero financial support from their families of origin. Working with local people on the adage that we have is that geography is our enemy. We work much more effectively with local people keeping them involved with their families with their community.

The transitional living program the only public funding that it receives is from the City. It functions primarily with charitable grants and donations. So it's funded almost entirely by private charitable dollars. I'm actually embarrassed to tell you that I came tonight prepared to speak to the operating project that comes to the City, not prepared to talk to the CDBG project. I was frankly a bit confused about that. I know our CDBG proposal I believe was for window replacement at our 86 Concord Street facility. I actually got my signals crossed around the purpose of this meeting tonight and came prepared to speak to you about the operation of the Transitional Living Program and asking for continued funding for that project, which again the funding from the City is the only public funding that goes to that project.

#### Chairman Lopez

So I would reassure you that we will definitely be talking about this in several meetings to come. Nothing for HUD is ever just oh it's easy. So there will be the resolution sent to the Board, they'll be a public hearing on it when the actual amount of money is identified and dispersed. So several meetings.

#### David Villiotti, Executive Director, Nashua Children's Home

I forget whether refreshing my memory that it was for replacement of our fire panels were about \$10,000 a piece of work. That's the project that's entailed. Thank you.

#### Chairman Lopez

Any questions from Committee Members?

#### Alderwoman Timmons

I do have one question. Thank you for the presentation even though it wasn't what you wanted to speak about but since you brought it up. The Transitional Housing Program, the 18 to 22 year old young people – young adults - the house that's front of the Children's Home is that the same facility that these children (inaudible).

#### David Villiotti, Executive Director, Nashua Children's Home

Yeah, well basically the Nashua Children's Home, the main facility, is at 125 Amherst Street. The Transitional Living Program is at 123 Amherst Street. It's abutting the main property. It's a 5-unit apartment building. So it houses up to 8 young people. Again when I speak to people about that program, sometimes I talk to community groups and I will ask a question. How many of you have sons and daughters 18, 19 years old? All these hands go up and I say how many of your sons and daughters even with the advantages and privileges I would assume they would have had growing up would be able to live on their own without a check from you every week? No hands go up then. But those are the challenges that the young people at Nashua Children's Home are confronted with. They've been really dealt a tough hand in life and now they're 18 years old, on their own, in extreme risk of homelessness, and this program provides housing, it provides ongoing staff support and guidance to help those young people become productive adults. More or less softening their transition to adult living. But yes it's 123 Amherst Street.

Alderwoman Timmons

I've never seen anyone come or go out of there, so I wasn't sure if it was open. But you assured me it's open. Thank you.

David Villiotti, Executive Director, Nashua Children's Home

Right. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

An organization that has been operating as long as the Children's Home is it's as easy to think of them just as orphans that are here but a lot of Nashua citizens that do a lot of really good work in our community came from Nashua Children's Home and benefitted from working through your programs.

David Villiotti, Executive Director, Nashua Children's Home

Absolutely. Some of those people have spoken very publicly about what Nashua Children's Home meant to them in their lives and their productivity as adults at this point.

Chairman Lopez

A heck of a credit to your program. Thanks for the presentation.

David Villiotti, Executive Director, Nashua Children's Home

Thank you.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Thank you very much. I should mention as well that my office recently did site visits to their transitional housing and it also went really great.

Chairman Lopez

Did you bring Code Enforcement with you?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

No, but we did do inspections based on our City Housing Code.

Chairman Lopez

It's understood that you guys do due diligence too to make sure when people are presenting programs that they're viable, they sustainable, and we're not having people come up with first draft presentations, and that kind of stuff. So the Urban Planning Department is very supportive of non-profits as they develop these types of things.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

We certainly try to be. Next up we have the Nashua Police Athletic League.

Shawn Nelson, Nashua Police Athletic League

Good evening folks. I'm Shawn Nelson, 35 Sullivan Street, here representing the Nashua Police Athletic League. Known to many by Nashua PAL. The project ahead on the application is all life safety. So for folks that don't know anything about PAL, everything that we're doing is strengthening youth with an anchor to connecting cops and kids. So we do that in a variety of different ways. We have sixteen different programs. All the funding that we're talking about would be directed to the Youth Safe Haven which is located on Ash Street. If you're not familiar with the tree streets, it's the tougher part of town. It depends on how you slice and dice the data. Anywhere from 10% to -20% of the crime in our City is happening within a half mile of the PAL building. So there is always a need and there's always plenty of young people running around the streets.

So life safety. The issue that we have at the building now, we just received two years ago a group called Building on Hope. They chose one non-profit in the State of New Hampshire every other year and they chose Nashua PAL. So we were very fortunate to receive that funding and the building is shinier and more beautiful than it ever was. We raised about \$300,000 to what ultimately ended up being a \$2 million renovation to the building that was done by volunteers. This amazing group called "Building on Hope". They're all contractors, and designers, and trades folks that come in and do these transformations. So the items on the list here are the things that didn't make that list. They're life safety, they're those where one pipe ends and nobody wanted to touch the older one to make the connection, that type of stuff including the fire escape in the back of the building. We did have some folks come and add some stabilizing steel beams to the structure but nobody wanted to scrap and paint it because it's potentially lead paint and other things. So the project at hand is the stuff that didn't get done in this amazing renovation that we're hoping we can get support for through this process.

Chairman Lopez

Any comments from the Board. Alderwoman Timmons?

Alderwoman Timmons

Well of course I do know everything about PAL. Thank you Shawn. Congratulations on winning the State Championship.

Chairman Lopez

I definitely think PAL is very much appreciated. There's a lot of news recently about sports, and difficult confrontations, and all that kind of stuff happening, and having the Police Athletic League having that positive interaction with Police is key, and giving children a positive way to express themselves athletically, and then also in the inner city neighborhoods where a lot of your initial police contact might be seeing your cousin, or our uncle, or someone talking to police. That can be very intimidating and it can be very disenfranchising. So having positive interactions - Police Officers shooting hoops with the kids, mentoring them, ice cream with the cops, that kind of stuff. That's really, really valuable and helps maintain good relationships with a population that really, really needs it. Thanks for your work.

Shawn Nelson, Nashua Police Athletic League

Thank you Sir. Thank you all.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Thank you very much. Next up we have Marguerite's Place.

Hannah Stohler, Executive Director, Marguerite's Place

Good evening. I'm Hannah Stohler, Executive Director, of Marguerite's Place. We're at 87 Palm Street. Marguerite's Place is in its 29<sup>th</sup> year of operation. We run three core programs: transitional housing for women and children experiencing homelessness. We have 20 apartment units, 10 onsite on Palm Street which is phase one, ten offsite scattered across the City that supports families who are experiencing homelessness. Family homelessness is on the rise. My other colleagues in the room who serve those families will tell you the same thing. In 2019, we had 40 applications for that phase one. Last year, we had 124 with no more capacity, less capacity actually because it's taking longer for families to move on based on the housing market.

We also run a licensed quality affordable childcare program. To our knowledge, it is the lowest cost childcare program in the City of Nashua that has the quality rating that we have, which is the highest offered by the State of NH and that is based on the mission and belief that we know. Tons of studies will show that early childhood education is a differentiating factor in long-term outcomes in a child's life. Unfortunately, too many families have to decide between literally taking on the cost of a second mortgage or not giving their children that access to childcare which also impacts low income parents ability to build their career. We serve 30 children in that program. A common misconception that it is only for our housing residents, it's actually about half housing residents and half community based families most of whom are within a half mile radius walking distance from Marguerite's Place. So tree street families as well and 90% of whom are classified as extreme low or low income per the HUD standards of this grant request.

And lastly, last year we launched our community programs which consist of group programming for families across those programs. We really saw a need for this post-COVID. It was a universally isolating time for everyone in society

but for families who were within our housing programs are amongst some of the most isolated in our community having recently fled domestic violence, exiting recovery program, leaving incarceration, single parents who are now parenting for the first time in their own space with nobody, and its lockdown. So we started these group programs which were just a reason to get everyone together but also a time where parents can build skills together and those range from financial literacy programming, career, and educational development programming, mental health support. We have a really popular parent support group with a local child psychologist where parents build skills together and sometimes family fun night. We went to the Silver Knights game this summer which was a blast. That is a new program that we launched last year that we hope to grow and given more space, opportunity, to expand to families who are not currently enrolled in our program.

So that's the fun part. My grant request is not the most glamorous one on the docket tonight. We are seeking four hot water heaters, 10 new toilets – I told you not glamorous, and three bathroom vanities and bathtubs. What's unique about our transitional housing program is that for our phase one program it is still individual apartment units. What I tell anyone coming by for a tour is what's wonderful about it is so many of our families have literally never had their own space for themselves. We had a woman move in last week who has been sleeping in her sister's walk-in closet for the last three years with her four year old. And so they all of a sudden have bedrooms, and every unit has their own washer/dryer, bathroom, kitchen, living room. It's really unique and wonderful, and is part of the reason why our phase one is a little bit longer term than some other programs because it is a full apartment unit.

Downside to that is we have 10 sets of washers and dryers to maintain, 10 bathtubs, 10 hot water heaters, you name it. So the hot water heater request is the 4 remaining that we haven't replaced in the last four years because they've either gone unplanned or we were told they were near their expiration date. Those are expensive to replace and we take the heat and hot water of our residents very seriously, so we have been on top of that. Then we have had ongoing toilet and tub leaks in certain units and that is just based on most of those are original to when we purchased the buildings in 1994. So that is what we are seeking support from. If the whole grant was not funded today, we have prioritized those. Our wonderful vendors and facilities guys have given a list from one to ten and what's going to blow up first, and what's going to blow up last, and we will attack them in that order. Thank you. Any questions?

#### Chairman Lopez

One of the things that you touched on was that family homelessness is very prevalent. There has been a struggle with family homelessness for a long time as being recognized and it's important for us to recognize taking families and helping them stay intact through the experience of homelessness is crucial to children growing up in intact families. So in the past where maybe the father had to take the oldest son and stay in single male accommodations because there wasn't room for a larger family or multiple spaces. Programs like Marguerite's Place, like Family Promise, and Front Door Agency keep those families intact. They help support single parents that are going through - I mean it's hard enough to be a parent, and it's hard enough to be a single parent but being a single parent and working through homelessness and extreme poverty conditions while trying to raise children with a semblance of a childhood is very difficult. It takes a lot of work and takes a lot of support from the community. So you guys are doing really, really good work and I would not consider making sure the toilets are working for any household with children to be anything but very, very important.

#### Hannah Stohler, Executive Director, Marguerite's Place

Thank you and I appreciate you bringing up Front Door and Family Promise. I think one of the greatest parts of Nashua which you echoed before is the collaboration when we don't have space we call one another and families from their programs are within our child care programs so we are all invested in supporting those families in the best way that we can.

#### Alderwoman Timmons

Thank you. I agree with Alderman Lopez with everything that he says. I'm not going to repeat that but I do have one question. How long does a family stay in transitional housing?

#### Hannah Stohler, Executive Director, Marguerite's Place

Sure. So we don't have a hard cutoff. In our phase one, it averages two years. Since I have been with Marguerite's Place since 2019, I have seen a family in and out within eight months because they needed that reset time to stabilize their finances, and were able to move on, and I saw a family who was there for just over three years. It's very individualized to what their goals are as long as they are actively engaged in the case management process which is pretty rigorous. We will not exit someone unless they are moving forward on.

In our phase two programs, which is the ten scattered site condos across Nashua that averages five years. Those programs are leased and rented at well below market rate about ¼ of market rate and we slowly increase income over time so that people when they graduate they're able to access market rate or many times home ownership which is huge.

Chairman Lopez

Okay to reflect on that collaboration when I was working at the Soup Kitchen, an example of a family was one staying at Marguerite's Place that worked with the financial assistance programs and the Front Door Agency ultimately were able to go to their education programs and in an eight month period they both got their LNA's, they transformed their careers, they learned English, and because of the Latch Program which I don't think is still in existence anymore, they were able to save and put a deposit on a house. They moved right out and considering the size of their family that was pretty important. So the collaboration really does work and it is very, very beneficial to the City of Nashua because it's a difference between our City welfare budget as it is now and like a \$10 million program. So we appreciate all the work that you guys do. Alderwoman Kelly do you have any questions?

Alderwoman Kelly

No, I'm good. Thank you.

Hannah Stohler, Executive Director, Marguerite's Place

Thank you.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Thank you very much. Our last presentation will be from the City's Community Development Division.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

Good evening everyone. This is always an interesting night particularly because I'm in this chamber quite a bit and feel relatively comfortable and often don't this evening particularly because there are so many impressive organizations within this room doing incredible work within the City. So when talking about what we are requesting as a City for our CDBG request, it often pales in comparison when it comes to the impact that these groups are doing or having in the community. But nonetheless, I'm here this evening to request some funding and want to speak briefly to it and answer any questions you might have. But I certainly understand all the efforts that have been presented to you this evening.

I'm here on behalf of the Economic Development Division and a request for \$50,000 for a façade improvement program. It was last in place within the City of Nashua between the years of 2013 and 2014 and created and resulted in the improvement of about 10-15 facades in the downtown that were either owned by low to moderate income individuals, business, or property owners, or were in areas that were determined to be of slum and blight and needed relief. There's several examples I point to just to name as an example are JaJa Belle's and Fay's Custom Cabinetry. Excellent work was done there but again, there are 10 to 12 other entities that received funding and were able to improve the look and feel of their businesses downtown and really hopefully put them in a more advantageous position from a business perspective.

Again, this request is to re-establish that program in an amount of \$50,000. We believe, particularly myself and Director Cummings, this is a particularly opportune time based on the reinvestment, and investment, and new development happening in the downtown area. We recognize it's also been an incredibly challenging time for folks and particularly business owners coming out of the time of COVID and the public health crisis associated with that. Many of our businesses in the downtown area found it very difficult to survive and we think this is a particular important opportunity to provide them with some much needed support particularly those that are either run by low to moderate income individuals or in buildings that are owned by low to moderate income individuals and yes there are some in the downtown core.

While we have not defined specific program guidelines, what I would recommend should this program be awarded is a maximum of a \$10,000 award that we would expect we would have many smaller awards and again, these would go to the improvements of signage, facades, or other exterior elements and structures downtown. There will be a qualification and review process lead by the Economic Development Division in partnership with Community Development and of course Urban Programs and then those qualifying would in fact be awarded monies. They would have a contractor come in to do the work and we'd hopefully see some much needed investment in these properties in

the downtown area.

I just want to say to close and I'll be very brief here that I'm extremely excited about this opportunity. Again, this is a unique time in downtown Nashua where development is happening in an unprecedented way. We're seeing residential development and associated business development really happen right before our very eyes and we think this opportunity is an important way to enhance that. I do just want to quickly say that in the event that the Committee needs to make modifications to the funding amounts that the agencies are requesting this evening, we would be happy to accept a reduced amount if that feels appropriate but we do think that some level of reward in implementing this program would be a very positive step forward for downtown Nashua. Happy to answer any questions you might have.

Chairman Lopez

Considering the façade on that building over there fell off and displaced a bunch of residents, I can kind of see why you might be looking in that direction. Just as a point of clarification when you say JaJa Belle's was a recipient, do you mean JaJa Belle's old location which is Vibe Yoga?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

That is correct. Yes that's correct.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Any other questions or comments from the Board?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

Chairman Lopez

So this was a little bit of record for public comment on the Human Affairs Committee. So we will I guess if there's no further presenters, we'll move on to our actual business. But I would like Urban Programs Manager Long to come up and kind of encapsulate the process for us just so that participating agencies that have come here to make public comment can kind of get a sense of whether they should remain, observe, you're welcome to or whether they're on the clock and we can save some non-profits some money.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes of course. So you are all very welcome to stay further. It's a public meeting. It's not on the agenda to discuss your grant applications however. The first step of that will be legislation that is going to the full Board of Aldermen on March 14<sup>th</sup> and from there will be referred back to Human Affairs Committee and they will be discussing your grant applications as part of the overall process of reviewing the draft action plan for FY2024. That will likely be at the April meeting. There will be a formal public hearing after the Board of Aldermen has done its first review of the resolution and that will be very well publicized. I'm also happy to email you about that as well.

Chairman Lopez

March 14<sup>th</sup> is pie day. Anybody like to come and make public comment so you can get your slices of pie. You'll have to go to the second one unfortunately, the one at the end of the meeting because we can't act on it other than refer it. Just want to make sure you know what the timeframe is and where your efforts can best be applied.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes and we're required to submit our annual action plan by May 15<sup>th</sup>, so this process will be wrapping up sooner than the overall City's budgeting process. I will keep you informed of every step of the process of what body of the City is reviewing it, when they'll be done with the review, any recommendations I'll let you know, and keep you well informed. If you have any questions at any point feel free to call or email me.

Chairman Lopez

Okay, thank you very much.



Aldерwoman Kelly

I'd like to make a comment first. Before everyone leaves, I just want to thank you all for coming in and echo what Director Sullivan said around all the work you're doing in the community.

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager  
Re: Community Development Block Grant Fy2024 Grant Applications - UPDATE

From: Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager  
Re: Urban Programs Department Updates – January/February 2023

***There being no objection, Chairman Lopez accepted the communications and placed them on file.***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

**R-23-085**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman Alex Comeau  
Aldерwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons  
Alderman Derek Thibeault  
Aldерwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$58,753 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, EXOTIC SPECIES PROGRAM AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF MATCHING FUNDS**

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Lopez

Do we have any presentation on this?

Deb Chisholm, Sustainability Manager

Good evening. Nobody wanted to stay and listen to this? So this is really my annual approach to Human Affairs Committee. We are very grateful for the last several years to have been offered 50% of the cost of our aquatic invasive species management program on the Nashua River. This coming season we'll be hiring a contractor to apply the aquatic herbicide to the Nashua River portion just north of the dam where the boat launch is at Mine Falls Park extending all the way up to just about Hollis Crossing Condominium Association on that side, on the Hollis side, and then on the Nashua side would be Cheryl Street in the Rogers Mobile Home Park. There's a cove in there that also gets the application. It has been very effective and it's really about making sure that we do this every year. If we didn't have this funding from the State, we would have to find it elsewhere because it's really a vital piece of keeping that waterway viable.

Chairman Lopez

And as this is a matching fund that means that we're also transferring an allocated amount from our budget previously to meet that match?

Deb Chisholm, Sustainability Manager

Right. We have some contractor funds in the Sustainability general fund budget.

Chairman Lopez

Any questions from the Committee?

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-23-091**

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

**AMENDING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 RELATIVE TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (“CDBG”) HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS AND RENTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMS**

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Good evening again. So this one is pretty basic. So we have a Housing Improvements Program and a Rental Improvements Program. The Housing Improvements Program is for the home ownership side. The rental is for the renter's side. Both serve lower income residents and both are funded through CDBG. We tend to have more demand for the home ownership side and we're getting low on funds for that. So that this Resolution requests that we move \$25,000 from rental side to homeowner's side.

Chairman Lopez

And this reflects the amount of demand that you've seen for these programs?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes.

Chairman Lopez

How are the programs presented to the Public?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

So there's a page on the City website that discusses both programs and they both go through our office.

Chairman Lopez

I imagine you collaborate a little bit with building inspectors and code enforcement?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes. So our Project Administrator Mike Jungers is the primary staff person who works on that and has a construction background.

Chairman Lopez

Do you collaborate with any of the non-profits that might have large scale voucher programs? I think maybe renter's don't own the property, so they don't know I could go to the City and ask for more and that kind of stuff and be able to tell the landlord like I have a broken stair rail. I have x, y, or z thing that needs to be fixed but you don't need to raise my rent to do it. You could talk to the City and maybe I thinking for people with fixed incomes maybe that resolves an issue that they would have that they're unaware they have a resource for.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

No, that's a great point. I don't know offhand whether we've reached out to the non-profit agencies that are also landlords but I'll ask my staff if that's something we've done in the past and if we haven't, absolutely will do that going forward.

Chairman Lopez

I would like to apologize to the Nashua community for sending out all the people who run those programs. That was a mistake but maybe talking to them during part of the CDBG Program might be a good idea.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes, we regularly have conversations with most if not all of those agencies.

Chairman Lopez

Any questions from the Committee?

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-23-095**

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

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$25,231.25 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "FY2023 BULLET PROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM"**

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Lopez

I see we have a presenter.

Kevin Pucillo, Grant Manager, Nashua PD

I am the Grant Manager for the Police Department. I'm here to discuss this grant that we get every year. This grant helps the PD with vest replacement and also buying new vests for new officers that come on. The grant pays for 50% of the value of the vest. The vests are \$1,009.25. There's a 2-year State bid but the vendors can actually go to the State to - which happened two years ago after we have applied for the grant - they had raised it almost \$200. It does help keep our budget line item down with this grant. So this for roughly about 50 vests for officers. Again, most of it's

for replacement. The vests that we wear are only good for five years and then we have to replace them. So the majority of them are vest replacement and then we do forecast for retirements and people leaving. So that's also considered in that amount. It is a match by the Department so it's 50/50. It's a 50% cash match by the Police Department. It's already budgeted for us.

Chairman Lopez

Alderman Kelly you have a question?

Alderman Kelly

They always answer the question before. You got the answers all out there. I will ask one. You say you replacement them every five years. Is there like earlier if there's an incident where someone's vest is actually used within...?

Kevin Pucillo, Grant Manager, Nashua PD

So there is times where we didn't hire so that kind of messed with the forecast. So we want to obviously spend all the grant funds. We try not to go too far in advance because you have a five year life span. You don't want to be replacing at four years because now again, you're kind of defeating that the whole purpose of saving money.

As of right now, I think we're going to be all right for this year's grant. That was the one that expires this August and that was one where we didn't have a bunch of hires. We are now on pace to catch up but that grant is going to expire. Some of the vests are due August 11<sup>th</sup>. I think we have almost 30 vests that are due to replace but I have to place the order eight weeks out and that's before the budget ends. So we're trying to work that out right now.

Chairman Lopez

So if I'm understanding this correctly, it's not a match in the sense that we have to give the exact number or we don't get the money but we're going to pay twice as much if we don't?

Kevin Pucillo, Nashua PD

Correct. Correct.

Chairman Lopez

What do you do with the old vests? Sell them?

Kevin Pucillo, Grant Manager, Nashua PD

No. We dispose of them. We treat them like car seats or baby seats. You don't want to put something out because, again, it's a safety issue. If the manufacturer saying it's good for five years, like oh we retread them to someone else. Yeah and it came from the Nashua Police Department. The liability so yeah we dispose of them.

Chairman Lopez

We appreciate you not getting us sued. Alderman Kelly?

Alderman Kelly

It's funny that you said that because that's actually what I was going to use that for my example. If you're in an accident, you have to replace that car seat. So I was wondering if the same applied to vests.

Kevin Pucillo, Grant Manager, Nashua PD

We haven't come across that in a long time. We won't talk about it.

Alderman Timmons

I just want to make a comment. We love supporting the Police Department. So that's an important safety feature that you need. Bottom line.

Kevin Pucillo, Grant Manager, Nashua PD

It is an SOP so the officers are always wearing their vests. So you hear those horror stories where they weren't wearing armor. We're required to wear our vests or we're in trouble.

Alderwoman Timmons

They're pretty heavy though.

Kevin Pucillo, Grant Manager, Nashua PD

Yeah, they get heavy.

Chairman Lopez

Thank you for the education. If no further questions.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you for being so patient too.

Kevin Pucillo, Grant Manager, Nashua PD

No problem. Thank you very much. Have a good night.

**MOTION CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE R-22-060**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Lopez

Motion is on the Table, Manager Long would you like to tell us about it?

Alderwoman Kelly

No we have to agree to remove from the table.

Chairman Lopez

All in favor of removing it from 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**

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Lopez

And now Manager Long may present.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Thank you very much. Yes. We need to submit our allocation plan to HUD by the end of the month in order to keep the funds. That is why I request that it be taken off the table.

Alderman Kelly

Sorry about that.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Nope, not at all. So in one of my many, many communications to you, you should have received a link to the updated version of the allocation plan. We finally were able to receive our technical assistance that was highly advised from HUD. The main thing was the plan got quite a bit longer. They recommended that we expand our data and analysis. It didn't really change much in terms of the conclusions. It is a more robust dataset now justifying why we've proposed the allocations that we have.

The other major change was in the original draft of the plan there was about \$81,000 included under non-profit operational category. That has been removed from the revised draft of the plan. After discussing with the technical assistance providers, it seemed to make more sense for it just to be non-profit capacity building would serve the purposes that I originally intended for non-profit operating.

Chairman Lopez

So if anybody trying to follow at home, that's on page 30 of the minutes. Any additional questions from the Committee? Alderman Timmons?

Alderman Timmons

Director Long I don't remember why we tabled it in the first place.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes. It was because our HUD representative strongly recommended that we receive technical assistance for the plan before we submitted it. It was unfortunately a fairly lengthy process to receive that technical assistance after we requested it but that did finally happen in January of this year.

Alderman Timmons

Okay, great.

Chairman Lopez

So adjusting to capacity building versus operating has the advantage of helping non-profits that are trying to rebuild after the pandemic kind of put their pieces back in order without necessarily subsidizing those that don't have a sustainability plan. So I can see the advantage of that but were there any applicants who were relying on this because they couldn't meet their operating needs?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

So we don't have any applicants yet because we have to submit the plan first before we can actually put out the call for

applications. Cassie building is more for non-profits who would be new to the realm of affordable housing. In particular, I think Stepping Stones would possibly be an agency that would be interested in this since they're expanding from their drop in center model to entering more of the housing world.

Chairman Lopez

I'm a huge fan of their work and very much needed to have more organizations expanding to meet the need rather than - obviously we can't do business as usual where we have people who are homeless on Main Street, and crises going on up in Manchester, and all that. We have to be nimble but I thought I would bring it up because I did hear several organizations say they were applying for CDBG money for operating because that's the only place they can.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yeah if the Committee feels strongly about restoring money to non-profit operating, I think that's certainly justifiable and I don't have a super strong preference on that.

Chairman Lopez

Personally, I would be inclined to wait for someone to actually make that case rather than just assuming it's out there. So I think the work you are doing is good but I definitely hear the opinions of other Committee members. Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

If I could. Thank you. That's an interesting point and then we did hear quite a few of the non-profits say that they were looking for operational budgets. So the way that the plan is written now they would not be eligible for it if they wanted straight operating budgets?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

That's correct. It would have to be in some form of capacity building which certainly could cover operating expenses as long as they were part of building their capacity to provide the housing programs.

Alderwoman Kelly

Can I do a follow up?

Chairman Lopez

Absolutely.

Alderwoman Kelly

That could be a little squishy. Could building capacity being I'm bringing on some new staff members?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

No. I don't think that's squishy at all. I think that's absolutely legitimate.

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay. Do you feel confident that moving it over won't have a significant effect on some of the applicants that might be coming through?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

I think I feel comfortable with this. I think of what agencies might need in terms of pursuing home ARP funds. If they need funds beyond just supportive services or rental assistance, I think it would be in capacity building versus general operating.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

And certainly one is also – I'll say we want to submit a strong a plan as possible but we do have the ability to amend the plan after it's submitted and approved if for some reason we feel the need to do so.

Alderman Kelly

And you're on a timeline right now.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes. We must submit by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Alderman Kelly

Great. So we should leave it alone for now.

Chairman Lopez

Alderwoman Timmons any input?

Alderwoman Timmons

No. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Motion to recommend final passage of R-22-060.

**MOTION CARRIED**

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderwoman Kelly

I wanted to make the comment I was trying to make when the rest of the people who came forward for public comment were speaking. Just that I wanted to echo the great work that the non-profits in Nashua do and so much of the care that they bring to all of their different pieces that they work on in the City. It's encouraging to hear that everyone hears how much we need affordable housing and so many of them are working very specifically to try to make sure that we can meet that community need. It's always hard being on this Committee because we have to decide who will get all the money and who cannot and doesn't always fit all of the needs in front of us. So that is definitely hard. I always am buoyed by hearing all the work that they're doing.

Chairman Lopez

And they find a way. They work together and they collaborate very effectively. I would definitely recommend anybody who's been watching this meeting or participating in it that may want to get more involved definitely check out the Continuum of Care meetings. They're the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the City Auditorium. I attended all of them when I was working for non-profits that were part of them. As Alderman since like pretty much everybody who was in the room who has located in Ward 4, I still attend pretty regularly and help Chair the Employment Committee. So there's a lot of really good work that goes on there and none of it would be possible without a team effort and a lot of people who are collaborating. So definitely something to check out.

Quick comment I wanted to make. Operating Enduring Welcome is helping one of these non-profits try to help continue its mission of helping build stronger community between civilians and veteran's. So we're buying St. Patrick's Day dinner for Veteran's. You can go to Joanne's Kitchen if you want to pitch in for that. It's like \$7.00. You buy a corned beef and



cabbage dinner for a veteran who is staying at the Dalianis House. So definitely a great activity to check out and a way to celebrate the holidays in a slightly different way to spread your luck. No further comments?

Alderman Timmons

No.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN TIMMONS TO ADJOURN  
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Alderman Shoshanna Kelly  
Committee Clerk, Pro Tem