

HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

September 18, 2023

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Monday, September 18, 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
Alderman Patricia Klee, Clerk
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

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

Also in Attendance: Bill McKinney, Building Department Manager
Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager
Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

DISCUSSION

- City's Approach to Recovery Housing

Chairman Lopez

Mr. Bill McKinney if you'd like to come up to participate.

So I invited the Building Department and other city departments to come in and talk about specific areas such as this because in working with the different collaborative efforts to try to engage people who are unsheltered, do outreach, and coordinate multi-departmental approaches to things. We were also looking at some commonalities and it became evident that we don't actually have any mechanism for formally tracking what constitutes a sober housing program at least in those particular programs where we were discussing it. We don't exactly have a census and we don't necessarily have good collaboration so we thought it would be a good idea to start with what does the city do.

We did invite Gatehouse to attend and Public Health as well. There is some scheduling miscommunications so we're going to try to have that conversation in October but for now, Mr. McKinney I think it would be a good idea to talk about how the city approaches these situations and what our practices are.

Bill McKinney, Building Department Manager

Excellent. Thank you Chairman Lopez and members of the Committee. I really appreciate being able to be with you this evening.

As we all know, drug and alcohol addiction continues to be a serious problem in New Hampshire. It's important for communities to do what they can in order to provide and promote what services are available. Treatment programs are available but often there's a long period of recovery after treatment. Often a recovery program is very difficult to locate. Recovery programs are very much in my mind like physical therapy after surgery. This is what recovery homes provide and is reassurance and forward progress. No treatment actually occurs in recovery homes. Treatment is done prior and is completed and the individuals are then moved into recovery homes where they transition back to a drug or alcohol free life with support from peers. The need is great but the availability is limited.

Between 2015 and 2017, Nashua departments began encountering a new type of housing coming to the city. That was recovery housing. The use of an existing building to house several people who are in recovery after drug or alcohol addiction. Building and fire codes do not define recovery homes and as such, the use was very difficult to establish. Did not recognize any of the code and zoning doesn't recognize it very well either. At first, our city departments treated the uses of recovery homes as boarding or rooming houses. In those cases it requires sprinklers and fire alarm systems. Due to the number of unrelated individuals living in one dwelling. This can be a very costly retrofit and cost prohibited to a recovery home.

Due to our use classifications, city departments started experiencing less new recovery homes coming to our city or so we thought. We soon discovered from our fire and EMS partners that recovery homes were still coming to the city but we

just weren't aware of them. Essentially what was happening is recovery homes were going underground. This was a more dangerous concern to us than sprinkler systems. The Department of Building Safety, the Fire Marshal's office, Code Enforcement, and our Planning Department all put our heads together and worked to figure out how to best permit and treat recovery homes without violating existing codes or ordinances. We determined that the codes referred to family or related when classifying buildings as single or multi-family. However through our research, it was very difficult to find a clear, legal definition of family anywhere. The codes do not define it.

Based upon our review of the living arrangements which we visited several of the recovery homes and how recovery homes operate, it was determined by our departments that those residing in these homes were very like a family unit. They live as a family. It was determined that occupying existing dwelling units as is was permitted without changing the use classification of the homes or the building code. An internal process was developed that guides our plans examiners on how to treat recovery homes in both existing and newly proposed buildings. Very people know but it's a violation of the American with Disabilities Act to not permit recover homes or to reclassify the use of those buildings.

In addition, we've worked with our partners at the State and there's now a State amendment to the Fire Code that permits the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's office to issue a variance from sprinkler requirements that are found in the Fire Code. As long as certain criteria are met, that variance can be granted. One of the criteria is certification which has strict requirements to address life safety. Certification allows for random inspections of the homes by the certifying agency. Certification provides a level of comfort to code officials and currently, and we're hoping for more, but currently there is one agency that performs certifications for recovery homes and that's the NH Coalition of Recovery Residences (NHCORR).

Because of our approach in Nashua, code departments now have a very good working relationship with the recovery home providers. Throughout the State with many of our meetings we've been to, we're now considered a model program for others to follow. As of today, we have 28 certified homes. Eight of those are female only; 19 are male only; one mixes; and one LGBTQ; for a total of this provides for 377 residents. It's not very many for the problem we're seeing in the State. Also as of today, there are five other homes that are working with NHCORR to become certified and another six that are proposed for our city. When it comes to certified recovery homes, we have received no complaints from a properly and managed and certified recovery home. If we are receiving complaints, it's because it is not certified and they're not operating by the same standards. With those cases, we refer them to NHCORR and we get them working with NHCORR to become certified and follow their standards.

We continue to work with our State agencies and organizations such as the State Fire Marshal's office, NHCORR, NH Planners Association, among others. We're looking at additional amendments to State laws, codes, and zoning to address the shortage of recovery homes in New Hampshire. That's my history of recovery homes in Nashua. I would suggest that we possible have another meeting and I'd invite Kim Bock, NHCORR Executive Director. She was unavailable this evening but she's a great person to listen to and is a wealth of information about recovery homes. With that, I'll take any questions.

Chairman Lopez

Yeah and just to add on to that, we did plan on having Gatehouse and Public Health here as well as I've been talking to another sober housing program coordinator as well. So we did expect to have them here tonight but if we do move it to October, we'll have another opportunity. I know Harbor Homes is opening up some new ones too. Being able to talk about basically what kind of resources are available for people, what kind of resources they might need as programs to improve outcomes and all that kind of stuff. It's not necessarily going to be in the Code Enforcement realm but I think your input with that would be helpful for you.

Particularly in speaking for myself, I appreciate that you remembered to talk about what the basic practices and functions of recovery programs are because I kind of assume that everybody knows. One of the concerns that I have was particularly what constitutes one. Is it somebody who just is renting out and says this is a sober housing program you can't drink while you're here or is it an organization that's running it. There's oversight, there's supervision. I think you answered my question pretty effectively there where you acknowledged that a sprinkler system in the variance application does allow for that kind of connection and oversight and I think that's important so that organizations that are trying to do this or people that are trying to do this are connecting to larger resource networks. Is it fair to say that Code Enforcement becomes aware that you're having multi people living in such a boarding situation that it doesn't exactly qualify as a boarding house but does look recovery focus, then you also educate them as to what the resources are?

Bill McKinney, Building Department Manager

We do. Again, we refer any of the non-certified homes to speak NHCORR get educated about what their standards are. Nothing requires them to become certified but it's really a good process to go through. Again from our point of view because NHCORR operates, they do unscheduled visits to make sure that the homes are being kept up well, that home policies are being followed correctly, that there is no drug or alcohol use at all in the home, or with their residents. What we find is they tend to have at least two people per bedroom. It works very well because they support each other when they're in that time where they're having some difficulties with their addiction or still recovering from that addiction which some people may never fully recover from it but with the support from their peers around them, that's what we feel really makes the family unit that they have in the recovery homes.

Chairman Lopez

It's also really important to note and I'm glad you brought that up that when we look at that 30 day programs that people might have heard about in the public, those are basically dictated by insurance. There's no medical documentation saying that anyone can fix anything in 30 days. There are different types of detox and medical withdrawal supervision periods for different substances but when it comes to the types of behavioral interventions, and even case management, and structured peer supports, everything points to like taking much longer than 30 days. I noticed we've been running into a lot with when we were organizing the safe station program was that all the infrastructure for how do we support people beyond that initial intervention didn't really exist. So recover housing, sober housing those are alternatives as long as they're meeting the need and they are putting the need of the participants first.

Were there other members that had questions?

Alderman Klee

Thank you and I do remember when this was up in the State House, and conversations had, and my first inclination was oh no we're gonna have a bunch of people here. We're not going to have all these but then the more I talked to you and others, I realized how important to have these variances was. So I appreciate all your hard work and everybody else's. I also did not realize that it was a violation of ADA to stop recovery homes so thank you for that piece of information as well.

I worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs. I started back in the early '80s and I worked at the Bedford VA. We had a very robust recovery treatment program. So we had treatment program in-patient that lasted truly lasted almost 21 days and then we moved them to we called it "the house". It was a recovery home. At that point, they were there for six months and then they dropped it down to 21 days. Much like what Chairman Lopez just said, we actually had more failures because of it because they didn't have what came after it. So you may not be able to answer this. Maybe an answer that we have to do for Kim Bock. These recovery homes is there a particular timeframe? Is it just 30 days? DO you know or until they can get a job and get out on their own and so own if they did it?

Bill McKinney, Building Department Manager

The majority of the residents that we deal with and with the recovery home and certified home, we classify them as what we call "non-transient" which means the residents are there for more than six months.

Alderman Klee

Okay.

Bill McKinney, Building Department Manager

So it's an extended program and it gives them a lot of support.

Alderman Klee

Good. I really love that because I found that when they dropped it to a 21 day program at the VA, we were seeing them just coming back in. It was just a never ending circle so I'd love to see this.

Mr. Chairman to you, do we want to say that we will have Mr. McKinney as well as the others on the 16th of October that are supposed to be our next meeting?

Chairman Lopez

I mean you're invited. I'm not going to tell a staff member he has to show up.

Alderman Klee

I know. He might have some good input when he has Kim Bock. Is that the name from NHCORR?

Bill McKinney, Building Department Manager

Kim Bock, yes. I'm going to see if the 16th would be open.

Alderman Klee

But anyway, that's all that I wanted to say. I do appreciate all the hard work.

Chairman Lopez

This might be a question for the next month but in terms of criteria is the relationship between the people staying in the house and the program that's running it whether it's a program of one individual is that a lease or is that a program enrollment?

Bill McKinney, Building Department Manager

Excuse me?

Chairman Lopez

Is the relationship between the person staying at the house are they considered a lessee or a lessor or are they considered a program participant so they're not necessarily protected from eviction. There isn't that kind of agreement level.

Bill McKinney, Building Department Manager

I don't know all the legalities of how they do that. We refer to them as residents.

Chairman Lopez

My suspicion is it might actually vary from program to program. As I've seen them represented in the community, some places have an organization behind them and are definitely like this is our program, and we'll put a sign up, and you're staying at our program, and here's the list. Some other places may be attached to an offsite location. Like there may be a detox program or intervention center elsewhere and this is an extension of that. This is where they come for the longer term grounding and longer term support services to kind of get their vocational development back on track or whatever other associated factors might take longer. But then there's some places that are just like I'm a landlord and I want problem free tenants so I'm going to restrict and say you can come here but you can't drink just because I don't like drinking. Is there any kind of prohibition against a landlord telling their tenant what they can and can't do under those circumstances?

Bill McKinney, Building Department Manager

It is their home once they're into their dwelling unit. With recovery homes, they have strict rules. If you violate the rules, then you are asked to leave. They try very hard to work with all of their residents. They have a very strict no alcohol no drug policy use at all.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Like I said, I'm thinking of more informal situations where someone says okay well you stay with me while you're getting clean and whatever but then you know the honeymoon period is over and it's not that simple any more or even somebody who like I said wants to rent out but is very definitive about what kind of tenant they want. I mean if it's their home and they didn't sign anything prohibiting or agreeing to work in a program per say, then later on saying like no you need to leave. It seems like it would be a pretty messy proposal. Again, I think is better answered by the actual programs because I want more information on what's available in the city and what kind of stuff they do. I want to encourage any kind of collaboration that is possible with each other and then with the city to encourage those positive

outcomes. I think what your department is doing particularly in the philosophy that you approach it with where you recognize that we don't want them to go underground. We don't want to not be collaboratively working with them and we do recognize the need. I think your approach is very sound but obviously difficult to navigate sometimes.

Any other questions from the Committee?

Alderman Timmons

I just have one question and I want to make a comment. I think the program is really good but I want to know 1) the success rate of this program and there'd have to be some type of rules and regulations or there'd be chaos. So though you want to be collaborative with the patients or whatever you want to call the complications but I don't want to use the wrong terminology but I think you have to have some type of support system there and some type of rules and regulations where they can't do certain things or they're cause a whole disruption or downfall of whatever they're trying to do. If some people can do these things, then we have to some rules that apply to everybody. Okay?

Chairman Lopez

So that may be beyond – I'm sorry – that's (inaudible) but then maybe municipal authority. Like I know one of the worst kept secrets like in emergency shelters is if someone feels like they're being mistreated or treated poorly, they can complain to the State via BAS and BAS has to investigate it and find out exactly what's going on but I don't know about an authority on that scale with regards to these programs. We're talking about some that might be actual programs. It might be a 501(c) III, they have insurance, some may be organized by a church, some may just be organized by a group of people that are trying to help each other. Is that fair?

Bill McKinney, Building Department Manager

Is what fair? Sorry.

Chairman Lopez

That there's different natures and organizations on a fundamental level. Some of them may be more formal than others.

Bill McKinney, Building Department Manager

Again, that would be for more legal to explain what the limits are to some of those organizations but I mean I believe any organization can set its parameters for what it expects from its clients.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. That can be complicated because I can go start a 501(c) III with my three friends, have two of them decide they're no longer going to be on it, and have like a yearlong grace period where I'm the only one running anything. Not a best practice and I think that's something we should keep an eye on because where it might be somebody trying to do good when it comes to like maybe a food pantry or something, they're collecting things, they're doing their best, and then things just don't work out with their board members and they have to go re-recruit. On the other hand if you have something where people are living in a program day to day and the financial decisions and the policy decisions are not necessarily getting the same kind of supervision, there's not very good oversight in a lot of organizations that are doing that kind of stuff. There's like no minutes in their meetings. There aren't policies so I think an organization can mean a lot of different things.

Are there any other questions? Alderman Kelly no thoughts?

Alderman Kelly

I'm good.

Chairman Lopez

Well thanks for your time. We appreciate you coming.

Bill McKinney, Building Department Manager

I do have a couple of handouts here if I could leave them with you. It think it helps to explain the certification program for NHCORR.

Chairman Lopez

Without objection, we'll just accept those and place them on file. Thank you for your time. We appreciate it.

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager
Re: Community Development Block Grant CARES Act Reallocation – HVAC Projects

From: Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager
Re: Urban Programs Department Updates – August 2023

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-23-153

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 Thomas Lopez
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF UP TO \$425,000 FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY, HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

Thank you for having me. So the amount that we're looking to get right now is just shy of \$290,000. I know it said \$425,000 under the grants we applied for. We thought we'd get about \$330,000. It came in at \$230,000 and that is the (inaudible) grant. So that's only used for the lengthy job investigations. The code name for it's been "Granite Shield" for the last five years or so.

The other two grants that we're looking to receive are also through Homeland Security. So Homeland Security because of COVID held funds and then released all the funds this past year. So 2021, 2022, and 2023 we just received this year. 2023 and 2020 were under the \$25,000 threshold. 2021 was approximately \$31,000 and this money is going to be used to purchase two drones that will be used strictly for our swat team. The drone capabilities are able to keep the members safe. The technology on these drones allow the drones to – we have drones right now but they can't do hallways. The technology of this one doesn't allow it to get sucked into the wall. It can cut through glass, and they can operate themselves, and they can stay untethered for hours. So if they have to do negotiations to get a barricaded subject out, they can do that. Those are the two drones we're looking to get.

The other grant is for "throw bots" they're called. They're cameras, again, with two-way capability to communicate with the person inside an area. You throw them into the room, or throw them into the window, whatever you need to do.

Again, keeps everyone safe. There's no interaction really besides the throw bot and that's to purchase two of those.

Onto the \$230,000 is for the – it's strictly – right now we have an uptick in methamphetamine so it's for methamphetamine and opioids and it's in corroboration with the Hudson Police Department too. So starting whenever we get the funds, it usually runs the last few years it's been running from January through June where the drug unit goes out and does their surveillance and wherever the really hot spots that we get any kind of crime tips on and they'll investigate those areas for drug activity.

Chairman Lopez

So that last category not literally buying opioids and methamphetamines, you're intending for the investigation, maybe the extra personnel.

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

Correct. If I said that I misspoke. I apologize.

Chairman Lopez

And then the drones, we all know about the giant drone which is like just sits over things like the Stroll and looks super impressive.

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

Yes.

Chairman Lopez

These are little ones that would go around hallways and help with like safe engagement and intervention. Probably would be nice to be able to get a look around the corner and make sure that there isn't someone's grandma walking through or whatever.

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

Exactly.

Chairman Lopez

And then the other one is just like cameras like baby monitors that you could check in there that you can talk through?

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

Exactly.

Chairman Lopez

Okay.

Alderwoman Timmons

Thank you Chairman Lopez. I think that's pretty cool. That's number one.

Second, I just wanted to know I'm always watching something on PBS and all those other – National Geographic and stuff like. I saw a water drone. Have you ever considered that?

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

So we could use something like that. We have a dive team where we're one of only two dive teams in the State. So usually you use it with the grant program is I usually solicit the specialty units and see what type of technology they're looking for and then I start looking for grants that way. We tried to get them. Communications right now they use like a tethering operation system which is kind of scary. You figure with all this technology out there they're using a tether to

say going up or going down. A lot of times they're in use (inaudible) here in Nashua so it's very dark and dreary so they can't even see in front of them. We (inaudible) it was a small grant. It was \$11,000 to communications. I'll bring that up to them. I know there's so many different technology but...

Alderwoman Timmons

No it's really, really cool because it's flying, they'll fly down, and it illuminates inside the water so, you know, murky water and stuff you can see stuff. I think that's the coolest thing and I was like we need that.

Chairman Lopez

The wastewater treatment has one but it's kind of dirty. It crawls around in the sewer lines to figure out where the cracks are. So we need two.

Alderwoman Timmons

But the point is we need everything humanly possible to protect our citizens and the Police Department actually.

Chairman Lopez

It does seem rather unfortunate that we would send a team of officers down the tether to go find like something someone chucked out the river.

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

Yes usually its evidence recovery that they'll do.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I had a couple of questions but the first one was around the drones. So I know that drones have changed and you have to actually have a pilot's license.

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

So has there been incurred like costs for your police officers to learn how to do that?

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

Yes. So all our drone members, team members are licensed pilots through the FAA. They go through a certification course. Everyone that's on the team currently right now is able to fly the drones. So they're all licensed pilots.

Alderwoman Kelly

And if I could follow up? I have happy to hear that you're getting some money for the opioid crisis. Not to make you stay here for an extensive amount of time but I was wondering how much does \$230,000 sort of get us in terms of this epidemic and where are we?

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

So funds in a good way though the funds were cut for (inaudible) so it is going towards treatment and stuff like that. I think last year the State got \$1.2 million. This year they got \$833,000. So we went from \$330,000 – since I've been the grant manager, it's been going up usually about \$20,000 each cycle. So I thought we were going to go up and then come to find out, it went down \$100,000. So usually the way I do the budget was to have guys out eight hours a week for 33 weeks starting from November 1 through June 30th. So that's how they work it. Like I said, they work with Hudson. Hudson sends over anywhere from two to four officers to assist and we'll work in collaboration with them. We'll go over to Hudson and help them or they come over here and help us. Hillsborough County Sheriff has been really good. They've been sending deputies down to assist too. There's always unfortunately always work for them.

Chairman Lopez

Just to clarify did I hear you state that you have seen the trend to be transferring money from harm reduction into enforcement?

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

No into harm reduction. So it's coming out of enforcement and going here.

Chairman Lopez

So it's going the other way.

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

It's going the other way yes.

Chairman Lopez

They haven't decided to actually just fully fund what's needed. They just keep dividing it.

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

Yeah exactly.

Alderwoman Kelly

Interesting. Thank you.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. I'm sorry that we're losing money but I'm glad to see that it's going to the harm reduction that's obviously a really good – that's worked on treatment and so on rather than having to do the enforcement portion of it.

I want to thank Alderman Kelly. I did not realize that they had to have pilot licenses. That was a good piece of information to learn too and Alderman Timmons about the water drones.

My confusion is so for this particular resolution, it says up to 450 so what we're looking at is the 234 this year and then you mentioned the \$31,000 for '21?

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

So it's all been released at the same time. So all the funds are now – so what we were doing is the way these grants come out – I guess the way that Karen explained it to me because we've never done it this way in the past. The Fire Department does it.

Alderman Klee

Right.

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

They'll get an allotment of a pool of money to say so we pick Homeland Security grants because they're time sensitive plus we only get them for a certain amount of years even though we didn't have the grants for a year. Our time was already decided ticket so we're trying to get these grants out and spent. So that was the reason she went with Homeland Security so we can access the money. Usually I come in and have a grant and if you guys accept the funds, then we'll spend them right away. This way is so we have up to – it's only going to be like I said roughly about \$290,000 on this that we're requesting to access right away.

Alderman Klee

So 290 and then...

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

So it's 230, \$31,000 and change, and then \$34,000 and change. So 295ish.

Alderman Klee

Okay. Perfect. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Any more questions from the Committee? All right.

MOTION CARRIED

Alderwoman Kelly

I'm wondering if we need to amend to the appropriate amount because he said it was higher and our documentation...

Alderman Klee

No. It says up to.

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay. Great.

Alderman Klee

I realize that I saw that it said up to. So I knew we were good as far as that's concerned. We just kind of put it through as there was a possibility.

Alderwoman Kelly

I just wanted to make sure we were on the up and up.

Alderman Klee

Not probability, possibility. So yeah. If they want to send us more, we can take it.

Alderwoman Timmons

Detective maybe we can get the water drone.

Kevin Pucillo, Police Officer

I'll actually talk to the Captain tomorrow.

Alderwoman Kelly

That's a really good idea.

Alderman Klee

Thank you.

R-23-156

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 Thomas Lopez
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AMENDING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021-2025 TO AMEND ROUND 4 CDBG-CV FUNDING UNDER THE 2020 CARES ACT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. So you may remember that in summer of last year 2022 we allocated our round four CDBG CV funds. That's through the 2020 CARES Act. We did such a good job with rounds one through three that they gave us more money. Those were awarded to a variety of non-profits mostly operating expenses but there were three construction projects that received awards. They were all for HVAC improvements and that was United Way, Nashua Children's Home, and the Youth Council.

Subsequent to the award when we began the process of drafting our grant agreements for all the recipients and beginning the environmental review, we learned that for the United Way project it was actually not their offices specifically that was targeted for the HVAC work but one of the tenants in the same building. I want to say the salon that rents from their building. Unfortunately that is not eligible for CDBC. We had recently award very regretfully. We are proposing that the \$20,000 plus that was originally awarded to United Way be reallocated to the other two HVAC projects both which have come in above the grant awards that they received. Nashua Children's Home quite a bit above. The Youth Council a little bit above.

Alderwoman Kelly

So if you split it evenly does that hit both of their marks or does that leave the Children's Home still not hitting it and the other one kind of full? Does that make sense my words?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes Ma'am it does. So we're proposing to split it this way because of the nature of the work that needs to be done. Children's Home needs more than Youth Council does for their space so that's why it's just proportionately towards the Children's Home. So both projects receive as much as they need. Nashua Children's Home is still a little bit under what they need but it's under \$2,000 and they can bridge that gap.

Alderwoman Kelly

Awesome. Thank you so much.

Chairman Lopez

The Children's Home is a frequent flyer on the CDBG list but that's because their buildings are all 100 years old. So everything we can do to help them make their HVAC cost more economical is more donor dollars right in the hands of like making sure kids are getting the resources and supplies they need.

Youth Council can you tell me are they still renting? Are they still located on Pearl or did they move?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Yes I believe they're still renting their space.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. So that's a little bit more of a complex situation. I guess I'm a little curious how that works if they're renting the space but now we're funding improvements to the space. What if they stop renting the space?

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

I would need to check my files but generally what we do in cases where an organization is leasing versus owning their property. We ask that there be a long-term lease in place. I want to say that's the case for Youth Council but I would need to double check to ensure that that is the case.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. If are we talking about any other like therapeutic program, I would also point out that they can recoup revenue pretty quickly through billing versus the Children's Home which probably doesn't have that revenue structure. The Youth Council works very much in the community and probably doesn't actually always get that. I know a number of their case managers are grant funded and offer services that are well beyond immediately billable services. I think if we can help them, we can help them. I just want to make sure that the help we give them is tied to their continue occupancy of that location.

Any other questions from the Board? All right.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES – None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

Julian Long, 229 Main Street. If the Committee would like me to do so, I'd be happy to reach out to the NH Council on Recovery Housing to invite them to present before you. I realize that maybe the questions you had for Mr. McKinney I believe that they would be able to answer for you.

Chairman Lopez

Yes! Thank you for the offer. Like I said, I think my intention as Chair is to make sure we are doing our diligence. If any kind of resources is needed from the city, we know what those different parties are but also we're making sure that the different authorities and resources are talking to each other so that we cannot be involved.

Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager

I'll see their availability for some of your upcoming meetings.

Chairman Lopez

Thank you very much.

Alderwoman Timmons

Thank you.

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to announce to the public something that I shared here earlier and that is that the Nashua Historical Society is looking for people to interview relative to WWII. It could be stories from WWII by those that

served, or by family members who stories have been passed down to them, memorabilia, anything that they'd like to share. They're creating a WWII room that they are setting up. It's quite nice but they want to be able to publish stories and information about those that served and experienced even that time.

Chairman Lopez

Just a quick announcement on my part because I know you guys are going to think of it. The You Tube goes out tomorrow unfortunately but to anybody who's watching, please spread the word and the Aldermen sitting in the chamber. Tomorrow is the special election in Ward 4. We have a primary so we can get a State Representative in place. We need a good turnout. Our poll workers are going to be there all day from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. so please come out and vote if you're in Ward 4 at Ledge Street for our future State Representatives. You can register on the spot if you recently moved or if you haven't been pre-registered for voting and get it done by November 7th.

Alderwoman Kelly

I was going to say the same thing. I was also going to thank you for the information about the Historical Society. I have two family members who have interesting stories so I'll see what I can find.

Alderman Klee

Thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

I heard there might be archival footage.

Alderwoman Timmons

I want to correct something I misspoke on that said September 13, 2023 Board of Aldermen meeting. I'm going to say that at every meeting. I misspoke regarding the \$2 million at Wednesday's Board of Aldermen meeting. My intentions was to say that you are asking the city for \$2 million in your ongoing lawsuits against the city. I will state that at every meeting. So I misspoke.

Chairman Lopez

The lawsuits that were dismissed?

Alderman Klee

He mentioned the lawsuits that were dismissed.

Alderwoman Timmons

Well they might have been dismissed now but I mean this is what I know that she asked. Okay. And I misspoke.

Chairman Lopez

Okay. I wasn't sure because September 15th we got a list of those actions that were dismissed by the Judge because some of them were just. They made fun of the Judge having lunch. It kind of ranged around topics.

Alderwoman Timmons

The point is that she did ask for \$2 million. That was my issue that she asked for the \$2 million of taxpayer's money and in transparency, the citizen of this city should know that she did cost them money whether in practiceness or not it's irrelevant but I did misspeak. She did ask for \$2 million and I'm correcting that and I will correct that at every meeting until we get to the Board of Aldermen meeting the next week – the 28th the next one?

Chairman Lopez

Okay. Get the word out. Any other comments?

Alderman Timmons

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Alderman Patricia Klee
Committee Clerk