

City of New Haven
Meeting Minutes (Short)
Joint Community
Development/Human Services
Committee

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Thursday, February 12, 2009

6:00 PM

Aldermanic Chambers

Consolidated Plan/CDBG Hardware hearing

ORDER APPROVING THE CONSOLIDATED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FY 2009-2010 INCLUDING PROPOSED ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG), HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP, HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA), AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG) COMMUNITY PROGRAMS.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes

**Joint Community Development-Human Services Committee
2009**

February 12,

Consolidated Plan - Hardware Hearing.

Co-Chair Blango called the hearing to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber of City Hall. Present were co-chair Edmonds-Sepulveda and Aids. Smart, James-Evans, Lemar, Clark, Brison, J. Rodriguez, S. Rodriguez, Jones, Plattus, Calder, and DePino.

The speakers were:

City Seed: (Software makeup) Jennifer McTiernan was accompanied by Billy Bromage of Fellowship House. They said the food program served over 15,000 low-income clients. They have a machine that takes food stamps. They have a meal program at Fellowship House that serves 35 lunches and dinners. They are working to provide farm-fresh food to inner-city neighborhoods.

Spanish-American Merchants Association: Frank Alvarado described the agency's efforts on behalf of its members. It is a business advocacy and support program focused on Grand Avenue. Computers and taxes are among the classes offered. They teach the Quickbooks software.

Greater Dwight Development Corp: Nienya Corley said the money will be used for a citywide homeowner assistance program which helps provide repairs and safety improvements to dwellings. They have expanded their efforts into surrounding neighborhoods.

Hill Development Corp: David Alvarado. (hardware and software). He distributed written materials. He read a statement, asking the committee to overturn the city's decision not to fund the organization. He said the audit is done now. He highlighted the agency's good works. They have completed and sold two houses and also did one rehab and sold it.

In response to Ald. Smart, he said the audits were late partly due to internal issues and partly due to a dispute with a contractor.

Marrakech: Jay Korman. He said the organization was started by two Yale students in 1971. The idea was to integrate individuals with disabilities into the community instead of institutionalizing them. They have group homes and have been developing affordable housing. The funds would be used to maintain or repair one of the facilities. Ald. James urged him to contract Project Moore, which may be able to provide workers.

Greater New Haven Ecology Project: Rebecca Holcombe. They hope to build a harvest pavilion where fresh grown food will be stored and served. The students will provide some of the labor.

Edgewood-Elm Housing and Edgewood Village: Avi Hack testified for both agencies, accompanied by Harold Hack. He described various affordable housing rehab projects being undertaken by the agency in the Edgewood-Elm area. They also work on neighborhood beautification, security improvements, cooperation with police, and general community improvements. In 2009, they will rehab houses on West Park Avenue and Elm Street. Edgewood Village owns and manages many of the properties redeveloped by Edgewood-Elm. They have planted many trees. They will also be doing landscaping and outdoor lighting.

Beulah Land Development Corp: Darrell Brooks. He discussed the agency's affordable housing program for first-time homebuyers. They are currently working on a project called the Orchard Street Redevelopment and also working in the area of Munson and Shelton streets.

Hill Health Center: Robert Kilpatrick and Lois Tyson (hardware and software). They said the hardware will be used to refurbish a building and the software will be used for the Early Childhood Stimulation Program. The building will get a new façade, several examining rooms, and more parking. The ESP program helps socialize children from the neighborhood.

Neighborworks (formerly Mutual Housing): Seila Mosquera and Shenae Draughn. They displayed a large map. Mosquera apologized for the confusion over new construction which caused the city to deny funding. She said any funds awarded will be used for several housing projects in the city. Some of them are house rehabs for first-time homebuyers. The agency works in Fair Haven, Westville and West River. Draughn discussed the agency's efforts in Fair Haven. There was a discussion of the apparent mistakes on the agency's application.

Habitat for Humanity: Bill Casey. He described the sweat-equity housing program which serves predominantly working poor families. They rehab or build the houses near each other in order to create community. House and land acquisition are a major challenge.

Adjourn: 7:04 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order briefly to hear from James Paley, executive director of Neighborhood Housing Services, who arrived just as the committee was adjourning. He described the 29-year-old agency's history of rehabbing houses for low-moderate income buyers. They are taking advantage of the poor economy to acquire some properties. The meeting adjourned again at 7:07 p.m.

An audio recording of this meeting is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Mercier
Legislative Aide