

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

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Tuesday, February 24, 2009

5:30 PM

Aldermanic Chambers

Consolidated Plan/CDBG City Activities 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

Feb. 24,

**09-10 Consolidated Plan/Community Development Block Grant
City Activities Hearing.**

Co-Chair Blango called the hearing to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber of City Hall. Present were co-chair Edmonds-Sepulveda and Aids. Smart, Jones, Clark, Plattus, Brison, Lemar, Calder, James-Evans, S. Rodriguez, J. Rodriguez, and DePino.

The speakers were:

Elizabeth Smith from the Office of Management and Budget was called to the table. She was asked by Co-Chair Blango to discuss the eligibility of Neighborworks/Mutual Housing. She said she looks for eligibility above all. She said HUD concurred that the agency was probably ineligible. She said most of the work described in the application was new construction. In response to Chair Blango, she said the current application would need to be discarded and completely redone. (The agency provided the Board of Aldermen with a revised application focused on rehab work.)

Edgewood Montessori School: Linda Townsend (software makeup). She said it is an early childhood education and development program. It is having trouble finding teachers. Students are selected on a first-come, first-served basis with a sliding fee scale.

LCI (City Activity): Andrew Rizzo, executive director, discussed Acquisition, Demolition, Disposition, Property Management, Emergency Repairs, Public Improvements, Relocation, and HOME. He said Acquisition will work in conjunction with the new Economic Recovery/Neighborhood Stimulus program. The Rehab program will also work in conjunction with the new program, getting foreclosed properties rehabbed and into the hands of homeowners. Emergency Repairs has been an active program in the winter with home-heating issues. He said LCI has already spent \$100,000 this year on relocation from fires, condemnations, etc.

Health Department: AIDS division director Matt Lopes discussed the AIDS program and HOPWA. Paul Kowalski, environmental health director, discussed the lead abatement program. Distributing written materials, Kowalski objected to any attempt to divert these funds to other agencies. He said this was a bad idea and the program is not as flush with cash as some may believe. He noted that this year's grant reduces his staff by one position. Kowalski also discussed the city's asthma program, saying it is a patchwork of various programs in the health department.

Parks Department Community Gardening Program: Doreen Larson Oboyski, coordinator of the program, accompanied by an entourage of supporters. She said this is truly a grassroots program, making community gardens viable and vacant lots beautiful. The Greenspace program involves vegetable farming. Janette Thomas, 205 Ivy Street, passed out photos of community gardens. Nan Bartow, 480 Edgewood Avenue, said they all came to support Oboyski on behalf of their communities.

Elderly Services: Dom Dimenstein, acting director said he would like to see the program get more money for travel activities. He said Elderly Services receives private funding from several sources.

City Plan: Karyn Gilvarg, executive director, said CDBG-funded employees in her department work primarily on planning. They have leveraged at least \$66 million in federal funds. They have a Brownfield program and have worked on River Street and the Dover Beach projects. They are improving the Geographic Information System, and continue working on Route 34 planning, Farmington Canal line, and creating more sustainable land-use policies.

Interim Assistance: Jennifer Pugh, deputy chief administrator, and Margaret Targove, police planner. They said Interim Assistance offers a temporary shelter program of up to three days. It was recently used after the downtown fire. The program operates in conjunction with the Red Cross.

Economic Development: Christine Bonnano, deputy economic development administrator. She discussed the Neighborhood Economic Development program which works with business groups and special services districts in order to improve many of the city's commercial districts and boulevards.

Emergency Shelter Grant: Ronald Manning, deputy community services administrator. He said the program operates with the support of Community Mediation, Columbus House, Emmanuel Baptist homeless shelter, and the Homeless Resource Center. He said that CDBG funding to his departments is down a little this year, but they plan to continue similar spending priorities.

Adjourn: 6:30 p.m.

A tape recording of this meeting is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Mercier
Legislative Aide