

**City of New Haven**  
**Meeting Minutes (Short)**  
**Human Services Committee**

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Tuesday, May 5, 2009

5:30 PM

Aldermanic Chambers

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ALDERMANIC NOTICE - NEW HAVEN

The Human Services Committee of the New Haven Board of Aldermen will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 in the Aldermanic Chamber of City Hall, 165 Church St., re:

Order of the Board of Aldermen of the City of New Haven Accepting and Approving the List of Proposals and Organizations Applying for Eligibility to receive Donations under the 2009 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act.

RESOLUTION FROM THE NEW HAVEN PEACE COMMISSION ENDORSING THE "TREES OF PEACE" INITIATIVE AND COURAGING ALL INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CITY TO COMMEMORATE SEPTEMBER 21ST AS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE.

RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERMEN AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A CONTRACT TO THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF HEALTH/STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$46,792 FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM TO INVESTIGATE AND RESOLVE REPORTED CASES OF CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING AND COMPLAINTS OF HIGH LEAD LEVELS IN NEW HAVEN'S HOUSING STOCK.

These items are on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk, Room 202, 200 Orange Street, New Haven. Per order: Charles A. Blango, Chairman; Attest: Ronald Smith, City Clerk.

For a disability-related accommodation, please call 946-8122 (V) or 946-8582 (TTY) at least three business days prior to the meeting.

## MEETING MINUTES

**Minutes****Human Services Committee****May 5, 2009**

Chairman Charles A. Blango called the meeting to order as a workshop at 5:44 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber. Present were Aids, Jones, Smart, and Brison.

(1) From the Community Services Administrator submitting a resolution authorizing the application to and acceptance of \$46,792 from the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health, Department of Public Health, for the childhood lead poisoning prevention and control program. (Submitted 4/20/09)

Appearing on behalf was Paul Kowalski, deputy director of the Health Department. He said this is a one-time grant negotiated between the health directors' association and the state health department. The allowable blood level of lead in children was lowered, so this grant is to help the cities deal with the larger number of cases that will result. It will also help pay for staff and supplies for the public information event at Lighthouse Point Park on June 14th.

There was a general discussion of the lead abatement program for homeowners. Recipients have to be in good standing on local taxes and any tenant must meet income guidelines, Kowalski said, and usually there need to be children living there. Over 900 units have been abated in recent years. He agreed to provide the chair with a written description of how the abatement program works, and a breakdown by area of the homes abated. Kowalski said he could provide this in a map format. He said he would be glad to give presentations on lead paint programs to any community group.

(2) From the Acting Executive Director, Livable City Initiative, submitting an order approving the list of proposals and organizations applying for eligibility to receive donations under the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act. (Submitted 4/20/09)

Cathy Schroeter, deputy director of LCI, appeared on behalf. She said two organizations had late applications and asked the committee to amend them in. These were the Hill Health Center and the Connecticut Children and Family Center. The chair asked why they were late. Schroeter explained that the deadline was early this year in order to have two readings at the Board of Aldermen. There was a discussion of further late applicants. The chair is to be immediately notified of any, in addition to the ward alderman for the agency.

3) From the New Haven Peace Commission submitting a resolution endorsing the "Trees of Peace" initiative and encouraging the City of New Haven to commemorate September 21st annually as the International Day of Peace. (Submitted 1/5/09)

Appearing on behalf was Alfred Marder, 20 Mumford Road, chair of the Peace Commission. He was accompanied by Aaron Goode of Cottage Street, another Peace Commission member. Marder said that the International Association of

Peace Messenger Cities last year suggested that all cities plant a tree on the Day of Peace, Sept. 21. This was done last year, and the tree was dedicated to the late Thomas Holahan, former Alderman and first chair of the Peace Commission. Since then, Cambridge Mass. has suggested that cities plant a tree in each of their neighborhoods. The Peace Commission will plant one per year in each neighborhood. This year, they will plant one in Newhallville. Goode said they would welcome the participation of the aldermen in each neighborhood. They are also working with Urban Resources Initiative and looking at various sites in Newhallville. They have approached the management team and a youth center. There will be plaque with text accompanying each tree. They are hoping to approach churches for support. The Parks Department has been very helpful.

Chair Blango said he was disappointed that aldermen representing Newhallville were not included in the planning process. He invited them to work with the aldermen in the future.

In response to the chair, Marder said that as a practical matter the trees need to be planted earlier in the season than Sept. 21. Ald. Jones said she would like to see the program expanded, and she asked to see the list of people they contacted in Newhallville. Marder agreed to supply it. He also passed out fliers to a May 14 lecture on William Lanson, who helped build the Farmington Canal. The chair raised the possibility of further support from the Board of Aldermen. In response to Ald. Brison, Marder said the tree would not be dedicated to an individual but possibly the community or victims of violence.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

On a motion by Smart, seconded by Brison, the committee voted by voice to issue favorable reports on all three items, including the amended Neighborhood Assistance Act list.

Staff was asked to follow up with Kowalski and to organize an informational workshop for the committee prior to next year's Consolidated Plan process.

Adjourn: 6:46 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Mercier  
Legislative Aide