

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ECONOMIC and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2011

6:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Council members: dePara; Co-chair, Martinez, A. Ayala,
Lyons, *Brantley, *Blunt
**=arrived late*

OTHER (s): Council members: Brannelly, T. McCarthy

CITIZEN'S UNION: Rick Cruz

CITY STAFF: Kelly McDermott, Central Grants

Non-profit and Other Applications numbers 42-85 Program Year 37 Community Development Block Grant Program Including CDBG, ESG, HOME and HOPWA

Co-chair dePara called the public hearing to order at 6:25 pm.

Co-chair dePara introduced himself and the committee members. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending tonight. He noted that Council member Brannelly and Rick Cruz, Co-chair of the Citizen's Union were present tonight.

He stated that program application numbers (42 through 85) would be heard tonight.

Ms. McDermott, Senior Manager Central Grants Office updated on the status of CDBG/Home and HOPWA funding budget. She stated that per legislation, it is currently under continuing resolution, it has been extended a few times and will be extended until April 8. She relayed that they are still unsure as to what the budget will be for PY37. She noted program administrators may receive correspondence contingent upon the final funding, noting that some programs might have to be terminated. She further stated that they are expecting a 30% reduction in program funding below Py36 funding.

She mentioned that the city council members have been lobbying on behalf of the city for CDBG funds and to minimize the impact to our city. She noted that CDBG is an economic stabilization tool that serves the neediest residents in the city. She said they could expect some formal communication as to the reality of what the total funding will be. She urged anyone with questions to contact her office.

It was noted that every speaker should write down their name and program # when they come up to speak.

He commented that each speaker would have three minutes to speak.

42 – Recovery Network of Programs – Horizons Roof Replacement

Request - \$22,000.00

Dorna Stover stated this program was established in 1972. It's a substance abuse treatment center and they provide housing for the homeless.

- Comment – Council member Lyons commented that \$19,600 was requested to repair bathrooms at the Prospect House shelter.

43 – Recovery Network of Programs – Prospect House/Heat Timer

Request - \$6,000.00

Dorna Stover stated the request was for the installation of a heat timer, to more efficiently control the boiler to consider the outside air temperature.

- Comment – Council member Ayala stated that there was already one proposal submitted for Prospect House for the repair of the bathrooms **Response – the roof at Horizons has since deteriorated.**

44 – Operation Hope – Affordable Housing Program

Request - \$16,000.00

The program representative wasn't present.

45 – Affordable Housing Centers of America – AHCOA Foreclosure Prevention Program

Request \$ 80,000.00

Doris Latore stated his application is to provide counseling and increase capacity. They currently have 1,000 people behind in their mortgage. She noted that it takes 6-months 1 ½ years to make a determination about a loan modification. They currently have two staff persons to handle 2,000 files. They are one of only two agencies that provide this service in the city. They see between twenty to twenty-five people per month, noting that a high percentage of their clients are from Bridgeport. They make up all income levels and consist of the unemployed. She emphasized that they help them keep their homes.

- Question – Council member Martinez asked if they receive funding from other agencies **Response – they apply for other federal programs. Once they figure out a person’s situation, they also research the Obama Mortgage Program for available lenders, however, they don’t receive any funds from that program.**
- Question – where are they located **Response – they are located on Main Street, where ACORN Housing used to be housed on the third floor.**
- Question – Council member Ayala asked the number of agencies they deal with and what percentage of clients are non-Bridgeport residents **Response – they help between 80-90% of Bridgeport residents; 10-15% are referred by an outside agency**

46 – Neighborhood Studios of Fairfield County – Accessibility for Stage

Request - \$30,770.00

Frank Derico stated that this program consisted of a community school for the arts. They provide all types of art instruction, visual arts etc., and they serve 1,200 students per year. They are ready to take over the former Holy Rosary School. He said it was hard to find a good spot for the program, but they finally found a location on Washington Avenue. They serve over 20% of children with disabilities, noting that it is important to provide as many opportunities for them to fully perform. The wheelchair access will allow them to fully occupy the space. When the installation is completed, it will become

a true community arts center that will be opened up to different groups to perform, make presentations etc.

- Question - Co-chair dePara asked if the funding will help them reach their goal for accessibility and to enhance the program **Response – yes.**

47 – United Congregational Church – Feel the Warmth Community Supper Director

Request - \$ 8,320.00

MaryAnn Masarech stated the program began in early 2007. They fee people 52-weeks per year and they have served 6,000 people and over 8,000 meals to adults and youth. She noted that it was common to see a spike in meals served at the end of the month, when many people are low on funds. They serve between 100 -120 people per week. They work with the CT Food Bank who helps them sustain the program and they have a volunteer workforce throughout the year. She noted that they are able to provide a meal at a cost of \$2.27 per meal.

48 – United Congregation Church – Feel the Warmth

Request - \$15,000.00

MaryAnn Masarech stated this request was to establish a food pantry, noting there currently isn't one on the south end; except for the one at St. John's Church, but they are only open a couple of times per week. The food pantry will enable them to support the families they serve. They receive funds from donations and they are trying to pull it all together.

- Question – Council member Ayala asked what day the meal is served **Response – they serve the meal on Thursday night from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. She noted that the food pantry isn't open yet.**

49 – United Congregational Church – Project Learn

Request - \$15,000.00

MaryAnn Masarech stated this was a new program that began during the fall. They have twenty (20) students who come after school to get tutoring and to participate in the enrichment activities surrounding the arts and music. It's a successful program and they

have received feedback from families that the students are doing much better in school. She noted that those that use the program are mostly those that use the food pantry.

- Question – Co-chair dePara asked if the request was for a salary **Response – the amount will be for two part-time salaries and materials. She noted they also received \$6,500 from the Council of Churches and that money is already committed for next year.**

50 – United Congregational Church – Feel the Warmth Food and Supplies

Request - \$28,708.00

MaryAnn Masarech stated this program feeds the community on less than \$2.00 per person. They purchase cost effective items and they work with the Council of Churches. The funding is for basic food supplies and a freezer that will allow them to buy in bulk and store food.

- Question – Council member Lyons asked what the difference was between programs #48 and #50 **Response – program #47 is for personnel; #48 is to stock the food pantry with dry goods for people to bring home; #50 is to purchase materials for the weekly supper program.**

51 – Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority Garbage Museum – Project ReNew

Request - \$16,800.00

Sotoria Montanari stated that the garbage museum focuses on recycling education in Bridgeport. The project is to provide recycling and education information in the five school districts. During January, a PILOT program was administered by Bridgeport schools and they initiated two recycling programs at Marin School and Johnston School. So far they have collected 212 lbs. of recyclables. The program also supports citywide sustainability measures and they serve the underserved population in those districts. She expressed that hopefully students will bring the message home to promote recycling. She said they will see a cost savings if the program is sustained. She noted the program is supported by the NRZ.

- Question – Council member Lyons mentioned that the program pays for itself. She asked if the funding will eliminate the need to request funds in the future **Response – once the program is in place and they expand it to all the**

schools; as long as they continue ongoing motivation, this should increase the recycling rates.

- **Question – has she approached the Board of Education for funding assistance
Response – no. Ms. Montanari indicated that she will present the program to the BOE.**
- **Question – Council member Blunt stated it was a worthwhile program. He said he liked the concept of education toward prevention. He asked if each school had a museum display of garbage
Response – it’s more of an educational component and they align with the National Preservation Program. They kick off the program in the classroom, so they are a partner piece in the supportive role. Council member Blunt agreed that the program should be presented to the BOE as another possible funding outlet.**
- **Question – Council member Martinez asked if she was aware of the recycling bank
Response – with work with the recycling bank in Hartford, they may collaborate with them, but there isn’t anything tangible yet. They have one full time educator, two part-time educators and herself. And they also have volunteers at the museum. They are located in Stratford.**

52 – Recovery Network of Programs – Prospect House HOPWA Housing

Request - \$130,634.00

Maria Tretz stated that the funding will be used to provide rental assistance to case management citizens living with HIV/AIDS and it will provide direct support services.

- **Question – Council member Lyons asked what assistance is provided for the six individuals
Response – they provide scattered housing for six (6) people who have HIV/AIDS.**
- **Question – how long are they allowed to stay in scattered housing
Response – they have clients who stay up to three years. The housing is located at Prospect House that has been in existence since 1963. The purpose is to have the clients eventually transition into permanent housing.**

53 – McGiveny Community Center Inc. – Youth Programming

Request - \$78,110.55

This program wasn't called by the Co-chair.

54 – ReFocus Outreach Ministry, Inc. – Bright Space

Request - \$12,480.00

The representative stated the request was for a night staff salary to assist homeless women with substance abuse and domestic violence issues. The program helps women with children and the purpose is to keep the family intact. The salary will help with aspect of the program.

- Question – Council member Ayala asked the number of offices they had
Response – they have one central office and four different programs.

Theresa Ramos testified as a former resident of the program. She shared that she was formerly in an abusive relationship and she found her way to ReFocus. She expressed that although it was hard at first, they got her immediate intensive outpatient treatment. She also attends Career Resources 20-hours per week. She said without them, she wasn't sure where she would be.

- Comment – Co-chair dePara wished her well with the next phase of her life.
- Question – Council member Martinez asked if the women are able to bring their children to the program
Response – the women can bring children 10 years old and under.
- Question – how many locations do they have
Response – they have four locations: Abbey's House, Focus Transitional, ReFocus Bright Space and ReFocus Promise House .

55 – ReFocus Outreach Ministry Inc. – Promise House

Request - \$85,369.00

The representative stated the program served six (6) people with HIV/AIDS. The facility is located on Pembroke Street. \$40,000 will go towards occupational costs and the remainder will go towards salaries. They received funding three years ago and they serve predominantly women, usually six women total.

56 – American Red Cross

Request - \$10,000.00

Stacey Hafen stated they were looking to put together emergency “Go Kits” for the elderly consisting of (900) residents. They will work with the Human Services Dept. to get the kits distributed.

- Question – Council member Ayala asked the number of Bridgeport residents that were targeted for this program in the past **Response – this is the first time the program has been done in Bridgeport and it’s for Bridgeport residents only.**
- Question – Council member Lyons asked if there will be a fee charged to offset the funding request **Response – the kit will cost approximately \$10.00.**

57 – Prayer Tabernacle Church of Love – Kingdomville

Request - \$85,000.00

Daniel Bland stated they have been an established church on the west end of Bridgeport for twenty years. The funding will be for an after-school program during non-traditional hours. It was noted that it’s hard for parents to find care after 6:00 pm, so the program will run from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm and from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The program is open to Bridgeport residents and they will also provide mentoring and a summer camp.

58 – Prayer Tabernacle Church of Love – CEAP

Request - \$167,000.00

Dan Butler stated the funding will be for a community enrichment program to provide job training for the underemployed and unemployed. They will also have job placement, financial literacy, resume writing etc. They are looking to serve the downtrodden and assist with job skills and funding for the infrastructure.

- Question – Council member Martinez asked who provided the training **Response – they are talking to local unions to provide their skills and other instructors that have a specific expertise.**

59 – Prayer Tabernacle Church of Love – Agape Soup Kitchen

Request - \$70,000.00

Mary Williams, Executive Director stated they have been in operation for 26 years, they are a beacon program of Prayer Tabernacle. They serve the public every Saturday between 11:00 am – 1:00 pm and no one is turned away. Meals are also delivered to the handicap. They served 11,000 meals last year – *she read the statistics that indicated there are close to four million people that are unable to have a meal.* She stressed that it is crucial to feed families in need. The funds will allow infrastructure improvements and appliances equipment to store large volumes of items. – *Ms. Williams shared that the late Bishop Moales had a great love for people and he served them well.*

- Question – Co-chair dePara asked for a breakdown of the infrastructure costs
Response – the funding isn't to cover food, it's for equipment and to expand the program infrastructure only.

60 – Downtown Cabaret Theater – Children's Company

Request – \$26,100.00

Hugh Halloran stated the funding is to subsidize the price of tickets that normally cost \$18.00; the funding will allow them to sell tickets for \$9.00. He noted that the program serves kids free access to two children's productions.

61 – BPT YMCA After School Program

Request - \$22,000.00

Tim Bartlett, Executive Director stated the funding is for an after school program. The YMCA supports the program at the south end center. The funding is for two programs that offer homework help, physical activity, sports and swimming. He expressed that the program improves student behavior and it allows parents to keep normal work hours, while the program provides for the kids.

- Comment – Council member Ayala stated that he was familiar with the use of the facility. He urged parents to make use of the program, because they provide a lot of after school services.

- Question – Council member Martinez asked the number of children they served **Response – they serve (80) students and they receive private funding from other sources.**
- Question – is there a fee charged **Response – there is a minimal fee charged.**

62 – Police Activities League – BPT PAL Programs

Request - \$20,000.00

Mike Morrella stated that they have served thousands of youth since 1958. They have various sports programs, such as; basketball, boxing, cheerleading, drum and bugle corps and summer programs.

63 – GBAPP Inc. – Housing for Success

Request - \$71,077.00

Trina Barnes stated the funding was for a comprehensive transitional home for those under the care of CDF. They renovated the interior of the building in 2007, but there are other areas of the building that need attention, such as; replacing the sidewalk and cleaning out the HVAC ducts.

- Question – Co-chair dePara asked if any estimates were submitted **Response – they received three bids and the funding request was based on the average cost of the three bids.**
- Question – Council member Martinez asked the number of people they served **Response – they serve eight (8) women and children. The program is for women to reside after they give birth.**
- Question – Council member Ayala asked if they received any money from DCF **Response – yes, if the program is full, DCF will pay for one day, per diem.**
- Question – Council member Brannelly asked if GBAPP owns the building **Response – yes, they have owned the building for three to four years.**

64 – CT Zoological Society – Wild Assemblies at BPT Schools

Request - \$15,500.00

The program representative wasn't present.

Program #'s 64 through 67 Voided

68 – Bridgeport Tabernacle SDA Church – Community Development Initiative Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen

Request - \$24,200.00

Shirley Williams stated the request was for the food pantry and the soup kitchen. They have been in operation for 8 ½ years and the food pantry has operated for 2 years. They are the only one in the west end to serve Bridgeport residents. They also offer rent security and utilities assistance. The funding will go towards stocking the food pantry. They deliver to seniors and shut-ins. They also receive credits to hold a health fair and they provide nutritional counseling and money management. And they provide emergency assistance for displaced families. She asked for continued support of the program.

- Question – Co-chair dePara asked where the funding would go **Response – a small stipend goes towards food and they pay for the rest of the food themselves.**

69 – Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises – Mattress Recycling Project

Request - \$163,000.00

The program representative wasn't present when the program was called – they arrived later during the evening - see page _____ for the details.

Program 70 – voided

71 – New Beginning Ministries – Children's Corner

Request - \$ 60,000.00

The program representative wasn't present.

72 – The Village Initiative Project – College Preparatory and Life Skills Program

Request - \$46,400.00

Teresa Wilson, Director stated the purpose of this program is to take students on college tours across the country.

Aaron Turner – shared that he was a former student of the program and he gave the program credit for him, his brother and sister attending college. He noted that the program takes time to encourage all students to attend college, unlike the encouragement they often don't receive in high school. He urged support of the program.

Shalicia Laws expressed that she is a former graduate of the program. She expressed that she was honored to be there to tell them how the program has blessed her. She stated that college wasn't her initial goal, however, when she met the director of the program, she changed her direction. She has attended and completed college and she is currently working towards her master's degree.

Calvin Jones, Assistant Director and former student stated that the program mentors high school students and assists them to enroll in college. The program engages the students in conversations and teaches life skills. He expressed that he believed all students should have some form of higher education. He stated he has graduated from college and he's currently employed as a senior manager at People's United Bank. He said the program helps students achieve their goals.

- Question – Co-chair dePara commended the students on their success having attended and completed college.
- Question – Council member Lyons asked if the Board of Education helped the program financially **Response – they receive a \$5,000 per year from the BOE.**

Shawn McBride stated she was a graduate of Fairfield University and Harvard University. She's a business major and her focus is information systems and analysis.

- Comment – Council member Ayala stated he was very impressed with what the student's have accomplished. He further stressed the importance of them giving back to the community.

73 – Ralphola Taylor Community Center – YMCA Youth and Family Services

Request - \$57,953.00

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Ms. Baptise stated this program has been in existence for over 32-years. Their goal is to enhance the lives of the youth they serve. She mentioned that many parents work two to three jobs, so the request is to provide an after school program and offer activities for fifty (50) students year round. They will provide life skills, evening recreation etc. She relayed that when the center isn't open, youth are exposed to all kinds of trouble.

- Question – Council member Brantley asked if they were closed on Tuesday and Thursday **Response – yes, they close at 5:30pm and they are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday until 10:00 pm, closed on Saturday.**

74 – Community Capital Fund, Inc. – Small Business Loan Fund

Request - \$250,000.00

Carolyn Gonzalez stated they are a certified community development financial institution that was created in 2005. They provide financing for small business and they have financed over eighty (80) businesses to date. She relayed that there are many areas downtown that they have provided loans to. The request is to continue to fund the small business loan program for small and start-up businesses. The average loan is \$150k. She further noted the most recent business entities that they have made loans to, which she said promotes successful businesses.

75 – Bridgeport Community Land Trust – Community Garden Expansion

Request - \$108,000.00

Sara Tonney stated the program manages twenty-two (22) existing gardens. The funding will be used to build fourteen (14) more gardens. She expressed that there have been recent requests to do more gardens. The priority is to make sure that the land is planted properly, so they need a staff person to oversee that. She mentioned the farmers market that is located between North Avenue and Park Avenue, where they sell different wares. They also provide a free community meal. She added that they are generous with the produce that they give to United Congregational Church. It was further stated that the program fits in well with the green initiative in the city.

- Question – Council member Lyons asked for clarification if the request was to fund 12 or 14 garden sites per the description where it reads 12 garden sites **Response – Mr. Halsted said there was a request for two more garden sites at Roosevelt School and Eleanor Franklin School.**

76 – Sickle Cell Disease Assoc. – Education

Request - \$ 10,000.00

The representative thanked the committee for their past assistance. She relayed that they haven't been able to conduct adequate outreach education, noting that the funding is to assist with outreach. She noted that during the summer, the money that was allocated was used. She stated that sickle cell is a serious disease and education is prevention. She recalled that last summer they conducted presentations at eight summer programs, where they reached (290) children in the 5th through 8th grades. Most of the children are unaware what sickle cell disease is. They plan to return to the programs this year to conduct pre and post testing.

- Question – Council member Lyons stated she was a big advocate of outreach to assure that the kids are tested. She asked if the funding will be for the testing only **Response - \$7,000 of the funding will be for the outreach educator and the other portion will be dedicated for supplies.**
- Question – out of the (292) kids educated, how many have been tested **Response – due to the financial situation last year, no screening has been done. Screening is done for those that have never been tested. Currently they are networking with community health centers to gauge the number of people never tested.**
- Question – how do they decided who should be tested when they go into the schools **Response – they do a screening that the parent has to sign off on. Once a child is tested, if they are found to carry the sickle cell trait they need to aware of it, because if two people get together that have the trait, there is a high incidence of their child developing sickle cell disease.**
- Question – Council member Brantley asked if they still held the walk-a-thon **Response – yes, they will be holding their 20th walk-a-thon in September in New Haven and they are looking forward to sponsor donations. The first meeting for the walk-a-thon will be on April 6.**

77 – Ark of Christ Ministries International – Community Counseling Center

Request - \$15,000.00

Gloria Smith stated this program helps people stay substance free. The funding is for improvements to the bathrooms and to install a new fire alarm and to connect a recently City of Bridgeport

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installed sprinkler system to the fire department alarm center. She stressed that it's important to have a safe place for their clients. She said they can remain in the program from one month to a year, until they feel secure enough to go out on their own. It was noted that Heidi Cavaliere does a great job running the program and she's extremely dedicated to the women in the program. She urged support of the program.

- Comment – Council member Lyons suggested that she contact the Bridgeport Fire Department to find out if they could assist with the improvements needed
Response – the city gave them money and the sprinkler system was installed, but they need to hire an electrician to connect the system to the fire department.
- Question – Council member Ayala asked the number of estimates she submitted
Response – the electrician will cost \$15,000, she didn't submit a formal estimate.

Comment – Council member Ayala asked her to submit the estimate by next week.

- Question - Council member Martinez asked the number of women they house
Response – they house four (4) women, they have room for eleven (11), but they're zoned for only eight women.

A former client of the program stated that it is a good program and Gloria Smith runs a good house. She expressed that the program has helped her life a great deal.

78 – African American Historical Association of Fairfield County – African American Museum and Cultural Center

Request - \$100,000.00

Llewellyn James stated they were located at 880 Broad Street. He expressed that the museum will add a great economic addition to the downtown area. He said they hoped to become completely self sufficient through contributions, advertising and marketing. They will have modern state-of-the-art technology.

- Question – Council member Martinez asked where they were located
Response – they are located at 880 Broad Street across from Housatonic College. The building is currently vacant and they lease it with the option to purchase.

Comment – Council member Ayala extended his assistance with the project if they need help.

79 – Southwestern AHEC, Inc. – Keeping Kids Smiling in Bridgeport

Request - \$2,500.00

Joan Lane stated the funding is to provide assistance to keep kids smiling in Bridgeport. They are a 501-C company and for the last five years, they have coordinated the “Smile” program to link kids without insurance to receive dental care at local dentists in the community who are eager to provide the care. They identify kids in need. If they don’t speak English, they try to put them together with a dentist that speaks Spanish. She expressed that children that don’t receive good dental care, often suffer low self esteem and they don’t do well in school. They also researched other funding sources, such as; Delta Dental and CT State Dental, they are waiting to hear back from those organizations to find out if they are eligible for funds. She stated that she knows funding will be limited this year, but this is the only program that provides this service in the city.

80 – Ark of Christ Ministries International – Ark Community Residence and Counseling Center

Request - \$6,700.00

The program representative wasn’t present.

81 - Ark of Christ Ministries International – Ark Community Residence and Counseling Center

Request - \$18,466.00

The program representative wasn’t present.

82 – PIVOT Ministries

Request - \$17,000.00

The program representative wasn’t present.

83 – Taste and See Outreach Ministries – Facility Renovation

Request - \$106,715.00

Ed Mitchell stated they house (175) men from the Bridgeport Area who have substance abuse and behavioral problems. They funding is to renovate the facility per zoning issues. He explained that he couldn’t provide any estimates, because

their computer needed repairing, but he will submit them when it's fixed. He said that most of their clients have trouble getting employment due to their past record, so they try to build their self esteem and help them become productive in society.

84 - Taste and See Outreach Ministries – Lease, Utilities, and Insurance Payments

Request - \$50,000.00

Ed Mitchell stated the funding is to increase emergency shelter for twelve (12) beds. The funding will also help to pay the lease, utilities and insurance payments.

Comment: Kelly McDermott stated the application indicated a request for CDBG funds that is incorrect. She advised Mr. Mitchell to come to her office to discuss the matter, per CDBG policy regarding appropriate funding.

85 – East End Community Council – Nutrition/Health

Request - \$10,000.00

Ted Meekins, Chairman of EECC stated they were a 501-C organization. The funding is for the food bank. They have been in existence for over ten years and they are a stabilizing factor in the community. They feed 2,000 families and deliver over (200) meals per month. They are open daily and people come for a meal on Thursday. They assist people that have fallen on hard times and they don't only come to eat, they also bring their problems with them. They partner with the CT Food Bank and they are certified to run the food pantry. He said during the summer, they bring kids to the park and to ball games. The funding will also help with operating expenses, rent and utilities.

- Comment – Council member Lyons said she visited the location and has seen the progress they achieved in the east end area, noting that she is a resident of the area.

This program was on the agenda from the March 23 public hearing:

13 – Child and Family Guidance Center – Strategic Intervention for High Risk Youth

Request - \$40,000.00

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Eduardo Sedan stated the funding is to prevent drug use among at risk youth. Referrals come from schools, teachers and other sources. They work with the youth and their families to help them improve attendance and grades and they encourage the parents to advocate for the child. They also advise the parents to seek other assistance from social services.

The program representative arrived late to request funding for this program:

69 – Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises – Mattress Recycling Project

Request - \$163,000.00

Adrienne Houel stated this program will create between 15 and 20 jobs at the facility for low-income chronically unemployed residents. They will partner with Family ReEntry Inc. to create a self sustaining mattress recycling facility in the south end of Bridgeport. They will receive \$40,000 for the start up of the operation.

Rosa Correa stated the program will be a community effort to create real jobs. She explained the project is mandated by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to hire people that are under employed, unemployed and ex-offenders. She expressed that the project will help those to reconnect to the community, noting that family is key to the success of rehabilitating ex-offenders. They workers will arrive to the facility in a van and be transported back. They will monitor them to make sure they aren't using substances and a crew chief will be assigned to oversee the workers. The program will also provide weekly counseling.

- Comment – Council member Ayala thanked them for creating the program and working hard on it. He stated that anything they can do to revitalize an area was a good thing.
- Question – Council member Lyons asked what other sources they were seeking funds from **Response – they will receive funds from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, who financed St. Vincent DuPaul to bring the technology here. They also applied to other federal agencies for funding, they're waiting to hear back.**
- Question – Council member Martinez asked who will run the program **Response – they hired a project manager. The work site is located at 459 Iranistan Avenue that is the old Eastern Bag & Paper building. They have a lease agreement with the owner of the building.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MARTINEZ SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The public hearing was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services