

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

June 30, 1988

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF PROVIDENCE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
REVIEW OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The City of Providence will receive approximately \$5,441,000 from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Grant -Entitlement Program. The Fiscal Year July 1, 1988 - June 30, 1989 marks the 14th Program Year for the Community Development Block Grant Program in Providence.

The Department of Planning and Development will hold a Public Hearing on June 30, 1988 at 7:00 PM in the Alderman's Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall, Providence, Rhode Island. At this hearing, the public is invited to review the Proposed Activities for the 14th Program Year. Programs will primarily benefit low and moderate income persons and areas. Eligible program areas include:

Housing
Social Services
Parks and Recreation Resources
Public Infrastructure Improvement
Economic Development

Copies of the Statement of Objectives are available at the Department of Planning and Development, 44 Washington Street, 3rd Floor, Providence, Rhode Island between the hours of 8:30 AM-4:30 PM. Copies will also be available at the Public Hearing.

If you have any questions regarding the Public Hearing, please call John Palmieri at 351-4300 ext. 604.

Thomas V. Moses, Esq., Director **Joseph R. Paolino, Jr.**
Department of Planning & Development **Mayor of Providence**

The Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning meet this evening upon the rise of the Public Hearing at 7:50 o'clock P.M.

PRESENT: Chairwoman DiRuzzo and Councilmen O'Connor, Dillon, Rollins and Lopes.

Also present are the Director of Planning & Development, Thomas V. Moses, John Palmieri, Art Hansen, Joe Caffey, Mark Merlino and Larry O'Connor; all representing the department. (Rose M. Mendonca, Clerk)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND TO FILE A STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING UNDER THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT.

Chairwoman DiRuzzo states the above Ordinance is open for discussion and the breakdown of the budget.

Councilman O'Connor questions as to whether that (referring to the chart presented of the distribution of funds) is the total of everything being allocated under this budget.

Mr. Moses responds that is correct. He referred to the prior year and the new program. He has tried to hold down non-profit housing developers. He said money cannot be used for operational costs (referring to the Olneyville Branch of the library), only if the library desires to purchase a building, or to renovate a building. These funds cannot be used for operational costs.

Chairwoman DiRuzzo states regarding the library, they are looking into the purchase of the Rhode Island Hospital Trust building located on Westminster and Dike Streets in Olneyville Square. Whether or not the library is interested is questionable. They believe they have a purchaser who will lease part of the building to the library. They are in a talking stage of purchasing. The trustees of the library have met with herself and Mr. Simmons on a number of occasions with regard to this building.

Councilman Dillon questions as to whether Chairwoman DiRuzzo is anticipating the library coming into fruition this year, to which she responds yes; the Mayor has allocated \$50,000. in this year's budget and \$50,000. in next year's budget. They are looking for an earlier opening than that, as they cannot wait the two years as the Mayor had said, in 1990.

She states that is a valuable resource in her area as many people cannot go into the City and do use the branch library. She continues on in detail with reference as to what had transpired so far regarding the library and states they are assuming that the library will not purchase the building, but will lease it. In the event these plans fall through, they will be constructing a new building.

Councilman Dillon questions as to why the Providence Foundation would not just give the building to the library.

Chairwoman DiRuzzo responds the matter was discussed, but they are not willing to give it to them. She further states she has worked with Tom Moses on this for the easiest answer.

Chairwoman DiRuzzo questions Mr. Moses as to whether money is being appropriated to the Womens' Shelter.

Mr. Moses informs her that he did appropriate \$22,000. last year but no money this year. It is a one-time situation, the Womens' Center. It had gotten into substantial financial problems, partly because they had taken on homeless women that were not eligible under this program to be reimbursed and were at a point of bankruptcy. The funds were provided on a one-time basis. His department has supported them on numerous occasions for grants. They have tried not to take on any new programs unless they were in the South Providence neighborhood. They put in the Urban League. That balances the area in the South side.

Councilman Lopes refers to his servicing the programs just in South Providence and questions whether Mr. Moses is assuming that there are no poor people in the rest of the City.

Mr. Moses responds, no, he is not assuming that. They have made an effort to support all of the multi-purpose centers through out the City. The Urban League was funded through the South Providence Revitalization Committee. They made a determination that the Urban League has provided better services. South Providence Revitalization Committee is not receiving funds, and it is not recommended for funding.

Discussion ensues relative to the funding of a certain amount of money for Theatre for Emily, to which Mr. O'Connor considers the possibility of support by the Department of Human Services.

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Mr. Moses states that is under the jurisdiction of Frank Sullivan. It is not funded through this program, but through another program. That was the intent.

Considerable discussion ensues relative to Frank Sullivan and the Department of Human Services and the time element in which it will be known as to when the funding for Theatre for Emily will take place.

Councilman O'Connor suggests that the Chairwoman communicate, through the City Council, with Mr. Sullivan and the administration to find out what funds are anticipated, how the funds are allocated and who makes the decisions for the Department of Human Services, as the money involved is Federal dollars. He would assume that the City Council or a branch of government would have input in accepting the dollars. Probably Mr. Sullivan should be brought before this committee at a future time to see where these dollars are going. It is his opinion that Federal dollars should have some authorization.

On motion of Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Lopes, it is voted that the Department of Planning and Development be directed to look into the possibility of using any lag money to fund the Theatre for Emily.

Councilwoman DiRuzzo informs the representatives of the Department of Planning and Development that she was disappointed in the yearly paint program. She is unaware if there will be money this year.

Mr. Moses responds they have a small amount of money allocated for housing assistance. They are planning on this year going out with the same type of paint program as last year. It will take place in the Spring of 1989.

Questioned as to how many applications for the paint program are pending at this time, Mr. Hansen states they do not keep any applications. They have serviced everyone that came in and requested a paint job. In 1986, they did 511 homes in the city. It was a pretty intense program, and most paint jobs last 3 to 5 years. It was \$600,000.00, not an expensive program, and they will schedule it again. They try to do it every three to four years, and at the present time no one is waiting.

The members review and discuss the Rental Rehabilitation Program at length. Mr. Moses explains that the Community Development Program is not just a low income, it is low and moderate, and other objectives are in the program. The reason they are involved with the Preservation Society is to restore buildings.

Discussion ensues as to the Elmwood Burglar Alarm money funded, and Mr. Moses explains the procedure and manner in which the money is funded.

Councilman Lopes refers to the Women's Development Corporation, the money being funded, and states he has a strong problem in his area with that corporation. He has spoken to her in the past couple of days, and all

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Alma Green gives him is problems. He does not see her working as positive. She has something like 12 units and others that are three-family units in his area. He has had problems and telephoned her, and he does not find her being responsive.

Mr. Moses reviews with the members the monies to be funded in this year's budget and explains in detail, each distribution.

Councilman Rollins brings up the South Providence Revitalization Committee; the money funded in the past, and the subject is discussed at length.

Discussion ensues as to members of the committee meeting with Mr. Moses and his representatives in January of 1989 to review next year's budget prior to submission.

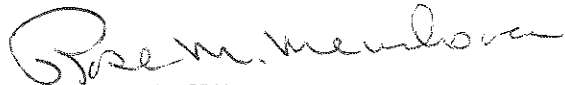
On motion of Councilman Dillon, seconded by Councilman O'Connor, it is voted to approve the foregoing resolution and transmit same to the City Council with recommendation of adoption.

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE OFFICIAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
1988-93.

Mr. Moses explains that passage is needed for the Capital Improvement program, as the City Plan Commission has to prepare their figures in conjunction with the city budget. This matter has been reviewed at prior meetings of the Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning. It is a five-year program which is annually updated.

Ensuing a discussion, it is voted on motion of Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Lopes, to approve the foregoing Ordinance and transmit same to the City Council with recommendation to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Councilman Lopes, seconded by Councilman Rollins, the meeting is adjourned at 9:50 o'clock P.M.


CLERK

Copied JB

Compared EH