

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

JUNE 15, 1993

The Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning meets this day at 6:00 o'clock p.m., in the Conference Room of City Hall.

PRESENT: Chairwoman DiRuzzo, Councilwoman Nolan and Councilman Mancini.

ABSENT: Vice-Chairwoman Young and Councilman Fenton.

Also present is John D'Amico, Deputy City Solicitor; Tom Deller, Deputy Director of Planning and Development; Barbara A. Poirier, Second Deputy City Clerk and Lesley M. Albanese, Assistant Clerk.

RHODE ISLAND OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

TOM DELLER: Every two years the State publishes what is known as the Overall Economic Development program. The City is allowed to submitted any project that fits one of the three criteria. Those are projects that we could qualify for economic development grants and loans for public works and development facilities. Or any project that could be deemed as a technical assistance in preparing for a economic development program or any project which could be construed to be a public works impact project and that is a project which would create jobs doing the construction of that project. The State has decided at this time to amend the plan earlier. Usually they do it every two years and they decided to amend it earlier. And they asked cities and towns to submit a list of projects that they would like considered. The - - - upon receiving this notification went through every project that was requested and we put together the resolution in front of you that lists 21 different projects that meet one of those three criteria. This does not mean that the project is approved, this does not mean that it will get funded. What this does is if there is federal funds available under the Economic Development Administration, it enables us to apply funding. Before that application can be submitted to the federal government we are required to get a resolution from the City Council authorizing us to submit that application. However, we can not apply for assistance for any project unless it is listed in this document. So, all we are asking the Council to do is pass a resolution to list projects in the Overall Economic Development program.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: I see nothing here from my neighborhood.

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MR. DELLER: As I noted the other day, Pat we tried to get everything and we missed some. We can add and I would ask...

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: Right now...

MR. DELLER: You have to amend the resolution to include that. If there are any other projects that any other Councilperson feels would meet the criteria, we will add it and we need to add it on the resolution as item 22, 23 and so on. And we will submit it to the State with the necessary three pages of paper work that most go forward with it.

COUNCILMAN MANCINI: What is item number 7?

MR. DELLER: It was just one when we prepared this document back in April that was floating around at that time and we included it on the the list.

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: Let me just talk about Scuccato for a minute. As you know this is one that has been before the Urban Redevelopment Committee and there were many questions that were asked in regard to this project. This proposed, well I guess it isn't proposed anymore. This company which is presently in Esat Providence, correct?

MR. DELLER: Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: They have now purchased the property in Councilman Dillon's area as I understand. That is heresy, at least that is what Mr. Woerner gave me. The information that we have requested from this company much of it has come to us, however, some that Councilman Dillon in particular has asked on behalf of the Finance Committee has not been responded to. So, there is still some questions that need to be answered with regard to this particular project which they are not responding to and we wonder why.

MR. DELLER: I have no idea why but they were seeking 108 Financing, if I am not mistaken. And all, as I said all of this listing does would enable them, enable the City to seek on their behalf economic money from the Economic Development Administration. But, we could not file such an application until we came back before this committee and have this body approve that application. All this does is list it in the plan which makes it eligible and I know

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that is some additional information that is being sought. It has not come forth from my understanding and that is relative to the 108 and I understand concern.

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: They are looking for \$3 Million Dollars that is a lot of money. Because of that I am concerned that it is on this list because their not cooperating with the information that we want them to make available for us. Why should we include them on the list?

MR. DELLER: While there is two reasons. One, including them on here does nothing except makes it eligible for applying to the Federal Development of Economic Development administration for funding. The second is that if they were on list and funding was available we could apply for the City to grant to them we wouldn't have to loan them the 108 funds.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: Tell me what this America Street School Artists' Housing is?

MR. DELLER: This was a proposal that was floating around that was prepared by the Providence Plan Housing Corporation is create - - housing much like it has been done at the former Re Avenue School.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: It is on the demolition list.

MR. DELLER: It is on the demolition list that is correct. This is a proposal that has been floating around. As I said we have listed everything that has been floating around. So, that if funding comes along and we can apply for it before the building is taken down, we will, If the building is taken down then we will not apply for it.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: What about Feinstein School would that qualify?

MR. DELLER: I am not sure. What is Feinstein School?

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: The Alan Feinstein School for public service.

MR. DELLER: Would that qualify for being in that program.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: Yes.

MR. DELLER: What are they looking to do have a facility?

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: They are rehabing a facility.

MR. DELLER: Yes that would be eligible.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: Then I would like to amend two. I would like

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to put on the Alan Feinstein School for Public Service and I would like to put on City Arts.

On motion of Councilwoman Nolan, seconded by Councilman Mancini, it is voted to add Alan Feinstein School for Public Service and City Arts to amend the foregoing resolution.

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: Any discussion? Let think before we vote. All those in favor? Aye. Those opposed? The ayes have it.

COUNCILMAN MANCINI: Tom, did you say we could add to this even after we pass this resolution?

MR. DELLER: No, you have to do it now. You see they usually only do this every two years and they did this last year. And all of a sudden they came out and said they were going to do it this time updating.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: Who was on it last year?

MR. DELLER: Well, we never got notice last year so there is nothing in this book for Providence. And that completely eliminates us from any funding.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: The Venda Ravoli Industrial Facility is that the Silver Lake facility.

MR. DELLER: Silver Spring.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: I'm sorry Sliver Spring.

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: There is nothing in Silver Lake here.

MR. DELLER: We tried to do all the projects that were out there that fit the criteria. If there is one that we are missing we will gladly add it.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: The Silver Lake Recreation Center is not here.

MR. DELLER: It is already funded.

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: It is being built, it is up.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: Foundry Open Air Market?

MR. DELLER: The Economic Development Joe Abbate group came up with this as a proposal to - - some areas.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: Wiggins Village Commercial Center?

MR. DELLER: The two existing commerical buildings that are looking to rehabilitate those.

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: There is nothing on going in the Olneyville

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area that I know of.

MR. DELLER: If you can up with something we could, I mean this was a list of projects that have come before us.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: How about the Childrens Museum, I thought that was a dead issue.

MR. DELLER: The Childrens we are still discussing with them about if they want to be in the City of Providence. They feel that they should be here and we are doing a site analysis, the right way this time to try and indentify potential sites for them. We have four or five that we are working.

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: Is there anything else on the CGBD that we could add on here?

MR. DELLER: I believe we went through most of them.

(Councilman Fenton joins the meeting at this time)

COUNCILMAN FENTON: I don't have anything to add.

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: Do we want to make a motion.

MR. DELLER: I think Councilwoman Nolan would like to add one more. She is thinking about it.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: Does it have to met this same criteria as the Community Development Block Grant.

MR. DELLER: Their a different criteria. Job creation.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: Well, I have to add Shining Light Health Center which would create over 200 jobs.

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: What is that?

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: Aids, HIV. They are not getting any CDBG but if they have a chance to go for federal money and that is what they need to be on this list.

MR. DELLER: For EDA money? For job creation?

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: They are going to employ about 200 people.

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: Would that be a project to put on here.

MR. DELLER: These is two types of job creation. One, is where they create long jobs and other is short term jobs through the construction. So, if they can create jobs through either of those, they are eligible.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: I do have one. It would be the Hope Street Business District.

MR. DELLER: What are they going to do with that?

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COUNCILMAN FENTON: Revitalize that area.

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: That is what I meant when I asked about Olneyville because I have got the Valley Street Revitalization.

COUNCILMAN FENTON: If I could add. I mean I don't know if you want to do this .....

MR. DELLER: Can we do it this way instead of doing individual business districts lets do neighborhood business districts. There is 26 of them in the City.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: Our streets always seem to get lost in the process and we don't ever have any big announcement about....

COUNCILMAN FENTON: If you could find \$2,500 for another - - on Thayer Street, I would like to see the Hope Street Business District.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: It's not giving anybody any money, it is just enabling them to be able to go for federal money. So, lets make a list. Hope Street Business District...

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: Valley Street, I need help with my businesses in Olneyville what do you want to call it. We still have a balance of funds. So, that is still not completed, but we can put it on the list can't we?

MR. DELLER: Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: And the same holds true with Pocasset Plaza, Plainfield/Pocasset Revitalization.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: Josh, we already added City Arts, Feinstein and I am going to put Shining Light Health Center and ....

MR. D'AMICO: Name them.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN: Hope Street Business District, Valley Street Revitalization, Broad Street Commercial District, Pocasset/Plainfield Business District, Eagle Park Business District, Douglas Avenue Business District and Shining Light Health Center....

MR. DELLER: I also have Olneyville Business District.

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: Absolutely. We should also do Hartford Avenue Business District.

On motion of Councilman Fenton, seconded by Councilwoman Nolan, it is voted to amend the foregoing Resolution.

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CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: All those in favor? Aye. Those Opposed?  
The Ayes have it.

On motion of Councilwoman Nolan, seconded by Councilman Mancini,  
it is voted to approve the foregoing Resolution as amended.

CHAIRWOMAN DIRUZZO: All those in favor? Aye. Those Opposed?  
The Ayes have it.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Councilman Mancini, seconded by Council-  
woman Nolan, it is voted to Adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

*Barbara A. Gaisie*  
CLERK

*Besley M. Albanese*  
Assistant Clerk

