

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

JUNE 16, 1983

The Committee on Finance reconvenes this day at 5:00 o'clock P.M. in Committee Room "A".

Present: Chairwoman Brassil and Councilman Dillon, Councilman Easton, Councilwoman Fagnoli and Councilman Farmer.

Also present are Finance Director Baron, City Internal Auditor Woerner, Alex Prignano and Frank Romanelli of the Finance Department.

Present are Council President Paolino and Councilman Annaldo. (Rose M. Mendonca, Clerk).

RELATIVE TO BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 1983- 1984.

Stephen J. O'Rourke, Deputy Director of Mayor's Office of Community Development is present and Chairwoman Brassil reads the following communication from him relative to Community Development Funds.

Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.  
Mayor of Providence  
55 Eddy Street  
Providence, R.I. 02903  
Phone: (401) 351-4300

**MAYOR'S  
OFFICE OF  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT**

June 13, 1983

The Honorable Carolyn F. Brassil  
Chairwoman, Committee on Finance  
c/o Providence City Clerk  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Councilwoman Brassil:

This is to respond to a letter forwarded to me by Mr. Stephen Woerner, the City Internal Auditor, for the Finance Committee.

In the letter was a list of items I presume you would like to know whether the Community Development Block Grant may be used to finance. I've reviewed the list and feel that many of the items could be financed with CDBG funds under other circumstances. However, several of the programs listed are categorized as public service programs (social programs) and the City is already at its statutory limit for funding these activities. Several of the activities listed are programs that are regularly funded through the city budget and therefore are not eligible do to the so-called "maintenance of effort" criteria established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Simply put this means that any project previously funded by the unit of government during the preceding 12 month period may not be financed with CDBG funds.

Bridge repairs could possibly be eligible depending on the degree of work to be done. If it's a major long-term repair, the project can be funded. However, if the project is actually maintenance it is not eligible. You should be aware that other Federal funds are available for this type of project.

Building demolition is an eligible activity and this agency will allocate funds this year.

I personally checked with the HUD representative in Boston and she has informed me that Jobs Bill funds may not be used to pay workers released from employment.

I hope this response answers your questions. If I may be of any further assistance please contact me.

Sincerely,

*Stephen J. O'Rourke*

Stephen J. O'Rourke  
Deputy Director

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Mr. O'Rourke reviews each recommendation in the Community Development expenditures.

He states the Community Development amount is 7.2 million dollars. The recommendations for the Jobs bill has to go to the City Council.

He informs the members \$350,000 under the Community Development Block Grant is for neighborhood facilities and reviews the various expenditures.

He states they will fund \$50,000 for building demolition, maps for Department of Planning and Urban Development and City Assessors; the Arson Task Force comes under public service program; \$1,035,000 in public safety programs is probably covered; bridge repairs would be eligible if they are major repairs; Community Mental Health has been funded all along; the Historical Society the same; Restoration of City Hall, and Bob Dodge; the Heirtage Commission got nothing last year, they are probably eligible under public service if it is interpreted as educational; Providence Public Library if they are instituting new programs; Code Enforcement qualifies if it is related to Community Development activities to coincide with HUD .

Mr. O'Rourke is excused at this time.

Robert Dodge the employee, that is refurbishing the Council Chamber is present and submits a copy of a letter transmitted to Finance Director Baron and the Mayor requesting \$602.00 a week as union painters receive.

Questioned by Council President Paolino as to when he will finish painting the Council Chamber, Mr. Dodge responds December of 1984.

Discussion ensues as to the length of time Mr. Dodge has been working and when the Chamber will be completed.

Mr. Dodge is excused at this time.

The Members review the budget book and Councilwoman Fagnoli states she finds it difficult to cut certain departments as they really don't know if they can function with the cut.

Councilman Easton submits the following recommendations to the budget book.

Cut \$120,000 from Item 0 - Mayor's Office

Page 49 Item 131, heat light and power, cut \$60,000

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Page 59, Traffic Engineer, some of the installation of Parking Meters could be paid from Mayor's Office of Community Development or the Jobs Bill.

Discussion ensues as to charges for parking meters and it is voted, on motion of Councilman Dillon, seconded by Councilman Easton, to recommend that the Traffic Engineer charge twenty-five cents per half hour upon the installation of new parking meters.

It is the opinion of the Members that due to the high cost for the purchase and installation of the new parking meters, money should be derived from the meters.

Councilman Easton continues:

Page 77, Public Works - Street cleaning, cut \$75,000;

Page 82, Public Works - Highway & Environmental Control cut \$65,000 from asphalt;

Page 84, Cut \$100,000 from Snow Removal;

Personal Services Overtime under Snow Removal, cut the bottom line by \$100,000.

Page 92, Public Property, Check on transfers to community centers, custodians laid off from the City;

Under repairs to buildings, cut \$100,000.

Page 94, Recreation Department, cut \$108,611 from Item 0.

Page 93, Item 166, lease at 1 Reservoir Avenue, question administration re: lease.

On motion of Councilman Dillon, seconded by Councilwoman Fagnoli, the Committee recesses at 7:50 o'clock P.M. to reconvene at the Call of the Chair.

*Rose M. Menloian*  
Clerk

Copied *J.M.A.*

Compared *J.M.A.*