

**ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, May 23, 2016**

The meeting of the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee was held on Monday, May 23, 2016, at 6:33 p.m., in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Municipal Office Building. The following members were present: Commissioner Markley, Chairman; Commissioners Philbrook, Johnson, Kane, Bynum. The following officials were also in attendance: Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator; Melissa Mundt, Assistant County Administrator; and Wilba Miller, Director of Community Development.

Chairman Markley called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and all members were present as shown above.

Approval of standing committee minutes for March 28, 2016. **On motion of Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the minutes were approved.** Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 1 – 16589...APPROVAL: 2017 CDBG GRANT APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Synopsis: Recommend funding the following agencies with 2017 CDBG funds, submitted by Wilba Miller, Community Development Director. This is in keeping with the grant application process which was approved by the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee on March 28, 2016.

Public services:

- Mt. Carmel for the Willa Gill Center operations - \$148,000
- Liveable Neighborhoods for operations & administration - \$20,000
- Wyandotte Homeless Services Coalition (WHSC) for Continuum of Care management – \$52,575
- Doing Real Work for Court Advocacy Services - \$50,000

Public facilities & improvements:

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- Bethel Neighborhood Center for the 7th St. entryway - \$131,000
- Mt. Carmel to assist in the renovation of eight transitional housing units - \$111,100
- UG Public Works Sidewalks/ADA ramps in the Stony Point area - \$58,000

Wilba Miller, Community Development Director, said as you can see, attached to my RFA was a list of seventeen organizations that applied for funding. Again, we had a review committee, separate from myself, review and make recommendations to me. We have come up with two sections, Public Service and Public Facilities and Improvements.

As you know, the Public Service activities also include the agencies that normally have been annually funded. They did apply through the process just like everyone else did. We have recommended that they all be refunded again for next year.

The only amount change was Doing Real Work asked for \$60 some odd thousand dollars and we recommended only \$50,000.00.

Then, on the Public Facilities and Improvements we're recommending that Bethel Neighborhood Center be funded for the 7th Street Entryway; Mt. Carmel to assist in the renovation of eight transitional housing units, and a small portion to Public Works for sidewalks and ADA ramps in the Stony Point Area.

Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator, said, Commissioner, just out of full disclosure; I am on the Board of Directors of Bethel Neighborhood Center. In fact, I co-chair the fundraising effort on the part of the Board to raise money to do our facility expansion. I just wanted to put that into the record. I have not been involved at all with the CDBG process, but I am a member of the Board of Directors. **Chairman Markley** said thank you, Mr. Criswell.

Chairman Markley said I will just state for the record and I think I've said this before. Doing Real Work, I have no problem with that agency, but the first time they came before us several years ago the Commission who sat at the time said we're going to fund this once and then you need to find other funding. They have come back for money twice more since then. Personally, I still would like them to find other funding. If everybody else is on board with giving them funding again, again it's not who I'm going to die on. It does frustrate me that we continue to add agencies to our list for funding when we have less and less funds instead of giving them seed

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money and then asking them to go out on their own which is what we really need to do if we're going to be sustainable.

Commissioner Philbrook said I agree with you on that. I think we need to make it plain to them that they need to be out there fundraising for that. They do a great job and I've heard from the Judges that they really are happy that they're in there helping out and it's made a big difference in incarceration.

I'm happy that we're using them for that reason and it has helped a lot, but I agree with you that they need to be looking for some other funding and not expecting to come back next year for that.

Commissioner Kane asked could we send a letter saying this is what the standing committee said. We sent the message before, but I don't think we had any paperwork following up behind it to say hey we love you, but. That might send a message to them. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I agree. Thank you for that suggestion.

Commissioner Bynum said I don't disagree with what you've said, Commissioner, but we've put this into an application process. We've said CDBG is an application. I just wonder how can we tell one group.

Ms. Miller said I do have some additional information that may help you. I talked to Judge Ryan recently about the agency, just as well as I talk to others. He and Crystal Sprague have given them some measurable goals. He'd like to finish it out this year to see how the measurable goals are before he would make any recommendation either way. So, that may be helpful, but that doesn't help us today. **Chairman Markley** said that is excellent information though. It's good to hear that we're adding them into our collection of goals.

That's one of things we discussed when they first came forward was we didn't feel like we had any control over this group, but we were giving them a chunk of this very limited amount of money. I like that in that it kind of gives us something to go back to and say we gave you money, we want to see where you are and how you're using it.

Commissioner Philbrook said I guess what crossed my mind is that this group is supposed to be actually in some way saving money for the City because we have to pay people to do additional work if the folks don't come in on time, additional clerk work, arresting, all of that sort of thing.

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I'd like to kind of see how much money we are saving by not having to process these folks over and over again because of lack of understanding. Basically, doing good work is to help folks understand what it means to show up for what you're supposed to be doing and show up when you're supposed to be, and pay your fines and that sort of thing so you don't end up in jail.

Ms. Miller said I could offer, maybe, Municipal Court giving us a six month report before the budget's adopted, maybe on what they think they have accomplished this year so far. **Commissioner Philbrook** said that would be nice to kind of give us a little feeling for what's going on because maybe we need to integrate this sort of thing permanently into what we do and we fund it if it's saving us money.

Commissioner Johnson said just to tie into what Commissioner Philbrook is speaking to, the question I think then, it begs, is if we do not fund this, then how does that then effect both the incarceration in terms of human resources as well as financial resources. If we're in fact saving money, then if we're not funding this are we then going back to spending more money in those particular areas. I think we need over the next, it's critical, and I must emphasize this, it is critical over the next 12 months that we do a very intelligent analysis of this organization to see how tangible the effects are in terms of the good work that everyone says that they're doing. We need to be able to put that into some kind of concrete analysis that quite honestly might move them into the department budget of another group within the administration of our County. That's just my comment on that.

Chairman Markley asked additional comments either on that topic or any of the other recommended expenditures. **Ms. Miller** said if approved, this would go to the June 9 meeting to full commission. **Commissioner Philbrook** asked it was June 9, not June 2. **Ms. Miller** said June 9. Does it say June 2? I apologize.

Action: **Commissioner Philbrook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve and forward to full commission.** Roll call was taken and there were five "Ayes," Philbrook, Johnson, Kane, Bynum, Markley.

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Chairman Markley said I'd just like to say to Ms. Miller that this has been a much smoother process. Over the years every year CDBG has become less painful. That has been true this year as well. I appreciate all of your work on this.

Chairman Markley adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

mls

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