



City of Racine

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Meeting Minutes - Final Community Development Committee

Mayor Gary Becker, Chairman
Director of City Development Brian O'Connell
Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Donnie Snow
Public Health Administrator, Janelle Grammer, Alderman Q.A. Shakoor, II, Alderman
Gregory Holding, Alderman Thomas Friedel, Alderman David L. Maack, Alderman Sandy
Weidner, Alderman Aron Wisneski, Benjamin Hughes, Ken Lumpkin, Lee Martinez, Carol
Wallace, Betty Larsen, Sammy Rangel

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

6:00 PM

City Hall, Room 205

Call To Order

Chairman Gary Becker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- PRESENT:** 12 - Sandy Weidner, Q.A. Shakoor, II, Brian O'Connell, Gregory Holding, Aron Wisneski, Benjamin Hughes, Gary Becker, Thomas Friedel, David L. Maack, Ken Lumpkin, Donnie Snow and Betty Larsen
- EXCUSED:** 4 - Lee Martinez, Janelle Grammer, Carol Wallace and Sammy Rangel

Approval of the October 16, 2008 Meeting Minutes.

Alderman Friedel moved approval of the October 16, 2008 meeting minutes, as distributed. Alderman Weidner seconded. Motion carried on a Voice Vote.

08-2772

Subject: (Direct Referral) Allocation of 2008 and 2009 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds. (Res.08-1154)

Jim Huycke, SAFE Haven of Racine, explained the rationale behind the Homeless Assistance Coalition's revised allocation recommendation. Alderman Holding and Chairman Becker urged that the participating organizations use the funds to address deferred maintenance and repair items to the maximum extent possible. Alderman Friedel urged the organizations to factor in the number of people served into future allocation recommendations.

A motion was made by Alderman Friedel, seconded by Alderman Maack, that this item be Recommended For Approval. The motion PASSED by a Voice Vote.

08-3002

Subject: (Direct Referral) Request of Racine Interfaith Coalition for Local Option funding. (Res.08-1155)

Raquel Freeman, Racine Interfaith Coalition, reviewed the Coalition's request for \$35,000 for the Violence No More program and explained the urgent nature of the request.

Alderman Shakoor said he feels children learn violence first at home and asked if Violence No More will address that aspect of the problem. Bishop Lawrence Kirby, St. Paul Baptist Church, explained that the program is comprehensive and offers help for youth and their parents. Alderman Maack said the proposal is for a program new to Racine and Bishop Kirby responded that the Coalition has been developing the program for months. Ms. Freeman said she hopes to have the program in place by June 2009.

Alderman Maack said that a lot of violence seems to be gang-related and urged that the program include an intervention component.

In response to Alderman Wisneski's question, Bishop Kirby said the Coalition needs funding now because violent crime rates are high in Racine. He pointed out that the Interfaith Coalition is partnering with other organizations in this program.

Alderman Friedel asked if the Interfaith Coalition will be seeking funding for only one year. Ms. Freeman responded that the Coalition's goal is to spin off Violence No More during 2009. She added that Violence No More may seek funding on its own when it is independent of the Interfaith Coalition.

City Administrator Ben Hughes asked if Violence No More would be viable without Local Option funding. Ms. Freeman responded that the Interfaith Coalition would still provide program services, but they would have a lower priority.

Alderman Holding commented that he does not feel it is appropriate for an organization to seek Local Option funding for a new activity. Alderman Maack commented that it is difficult for a new activity to receive funding during the annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation process. He suggested attaching conditions to the Interfaith Coalition's request, if approved. Alderman Shakoor noted that a program similar to Violence No More was in place in the mid-90's and encouraged the committee to approve the request now so the Interfaith Coalition has time to organize before summer. Mr. Lumpkin said city officials challenged the faith-based community to help solve the problem of violence in Racine and Violence No More is the response.

Alderman Friedel noted that the average CDBG-funded public service grant for 2009 is a little under \$30,000 and asked if the Interfaith Coalition could have a viable program with a lesser amount than their original request. Ms. Freeman said the Coalition could supplement the City's grant with funding from other sources.

A motion was made by Alderman Friedel, seconded by Alderman Shakoor that this item be Recommended For Approval.

The Vote was as follows:

Ayes (11): Becker; O'Connell; Snow; Shakoor; Holding; Friedel; Maack; Weidner; Lumpkin; Hughes; Wisneski

Nays (1): Larsen

The motion PASSED.

08-3003

Subject: (Direct Referral) Request of Housing Resources, Inc. for Local Option funding. (Res.08-1156)

Chairman Becker reminded the committee that Housing Resources, Inc. had not received an allocation of 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding because it was thought that they might qualify for funding under the new Neighborhood Stabilization Program. He said that expectation turned out to be untrue and that Housing Resources has now requested Local Option funding for its homebuyer and foreclosure prevention counseling program.

Mark Schultz, Housing Resources, Inc., reported that his organization added foreclosure counseling last summer and that they are trying to keep people out of

foreclosure through education, technical assistance, and advocacy. Alderman Holding commented that the foreclosure crisis has had a large impact in Racine.

A motion was made by Brian O'Connell, seconded by Alderman Maack, that this item be Recommended For Approval. The motion PASSED by a Voice Vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Heck, Assistant Director of City Development*