



**C.H.E.S.S. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING,
EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE &
COMMERCE**

Maureen Pollack, Co-Chair

Stephanie Sylvestre, Co-Chair

COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held in the Republican Caucus Room and on*
www.zoom.com

The CHES Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chairs Pollack and Sylvestre, and Committee Member Reps. Goldberg, Gross, McKeown, Walston, Wirz and Yaeger. Rep. Price was excused. Also in attendance were Reps. Camporeale; Janeene Freeman, Mayor's Office; Ralph Blessing, Land Use Bureau Chief; Joe Hickey, Grants Coordinator; Moira Sawch, Administrator – CDBG; and Arnold Knittel, Community Dev. Program Specialist.

Co-Chair Pollack called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Item No.	Description	COMMITTEE ACTION
1. CHESS32.011	RESOLUTION and public hearing: Approving Submittal Of Attached List Of Programs to the State Department of Revenue Services in Accordance with the Provisions of the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act. 03/16/2026 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons	APPROVED 7-0-1
<p>Mr. Hickey reviewed the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act tax credit program and explained that the City approves submittal of the list of programs to the State Department of Revenue Services. Representatives of applicant organizations addressed the Committee during the public hearing and described their proposed programs. The Committee discussed that the resolution was before it as one list, and that removing an applicant would require revised paperwork.</p> <p>A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-1 (Reps. Sylvestre, Goldberg, Gross, McKeown, Walston, Wirz and Yaeger in favor; Rep. Pollack abstained)</p>		
2. CHESS32.014	REJECTION: of an Allocation of \$2,100,000 to Heritage Housing, Inc./St. John Urban Redevelopment Corp to Redevelop 305 units of Affordable Housing at the St. John Towers Property. 04/20/2026 – Submitted by R. Blessings	FAILED TO REJECT 0-8-0

Mr. Blessing discussed the attached [PowerPoint presentation](#) and reviewed the Affordable Housing Trust Fund allocation approved in April for the St. John Towers project. He stated

that the existing towers have 240 units, are more than 50 years old and approximately 50% vacant, and that the proposed redevelopment would replace them with 305 affordable units at a range of affordability levels. He also reviewed the estimated project cost, funding sources, timing for financing, relocation, remediation and demolition, and stated that the \$2.1 million is available in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The Committee clarified that the motion on the floor was a motion to reject the allocation.

A motion to reject this item was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 0-8-0. (Reps. Pollack, Sylvestre, Goldberg, Gross, McKeown, Walston, Wirz and Yaeger opposed the rejection)

3. CHESS32.015 **PRESENTATION**; Presentation from the Mayor's Office for CDBG Program Year 52 **REPORT MADE**
05/04/2026 – Submitted by Moira Sawch
4. CHESS32.016 **REVIEW/FINALIZE**; the results from the evaluation forms for final recommendations for CDBG Program Year 52 **REPORT MADE**
03/24/2026 – Submitted by Moira Sawch

Ms. Sawch explained the process for reviewing and finalizing the CDBG Program Year 52 recommendations, including the public improvement, public service and administrative cost categories. She noted that nine public service applications also qualified for a separate Food, Housing and Supportive Services Grant, which could allow more of the limited CDBG public service funding to be allocated elsewhere. Ms. Freeman presented the Mayor's recommendations and stated that the Mayor supported all of the projects. The Committee then reviewed the evaluation results, Mayor's recommendations, category limits and scores, and finalized the public improvement, public service and administrative cost recommendations.

5. CHESS32.017 **APPROVAL**; of the CDBG Program Year 52 (2026-2027) Budget **APPROVED 8-0-0**
03/24/2026 – Submitted by Moira Sawch

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0. (Reps. Pollack, Sylvestre, Goldberg, Gross, McKeown, Walston, Wirz and Yaeger opposed the in favor)

6. CHESS32.018 **RESOLUTION**; authorizing the Mayor to submit the Year 52 Annual Action Plan fo the Community development Program fo the City of Stamford, Connecticut. **APPROVED 8-0-0**
05/04/2026 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons

Ms. Sawch reviewed the resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit the Program Year 52 Annual Action Plan to HUD. She stated that the Annual Action Plan incorporates the CDBG budget reviewed by the Committee and must be submitted to HUD for the City to receive the funding. The Committee also discussed HOME Investment Partnerships funding generally, including that it is not allocated by the Committee through this item.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0.
(Reps. Pollack, Sylvestre, Goldberg, Gross, McKeown, Walston, Wirz and Yaeger opposed
the in favor)

Co-Chair Pollack adjourned the meeting at 10:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Pollack, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)