



To: John J. Louizos Chairman, Board of Finance
From: Thaddeus K. Jankowski Director, Office of Public Safety, Health & Welfare
Date: April 6, 2015
Subject: Social Services Commission Coordinator Position

During the Office of Public Safety, Health and Welfare budget presentation you requested additional information regarding the city's new Social Service Coordinator. As you know, the Social Service Coordinator was hired approximately 5 months ago. Prior to the Coordinators arrival, the city had no centralized management of social service agencies in the city and lacked the ability to oversee community programs which support the economically disadvantaged and the minority communities in Stamford. Your support of this very important and necessary resource to address these community needs was appreciated.

As part of last year's budget presentation the role of the Coordinator, priority projects and accomplishments to be expected was presented. The following have been accomplished to date:

- Within two weeks of being hired, the Coordinator applied for a \$800K Community Service Block Grant – Community Action Agency (CAA) funding - to assist residents in obtaining job skills and training for future employment.
- Conducted a preliminary assessments of local nonprofit organizations
 - Identifying and quantifying the precise social service resources currently in existence and available to meet the needs of the community.
 - Determining how to best facilitate formal and informal collaborations both to optimize the use of available resources and to leverage additional ones.
- Assumed the role of the City's Affordable Housing Manager (AHM) and in that capacity has identified new processes to address concerns related to ensuring the ongoing regulatory integrity of Stamford's Below Market Rate (BMR) housing program.
- Is addressing a range of other social service issues related to housing, community and nonprofit organizations, such as:

- Serving individual constituents on a regular basis, resolving issues and helping them understand the rules that govern a wide range of housing and landlord-tenant issues.
- Representing the Mayor's Office in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process.
- Working on sustainable models for the future viability of local community centers
- Assisting Smith House in negotiating third party agreements to increase census of private pay admissions.
- Renegotiated an agreement with Inspirica for an overnight warming center during severe cold weather protocols. The Coordinator renegotiated the cost from \$1200 /night to a flat \$9,000.00 fee for the winter months saving the City more than \$40,000.

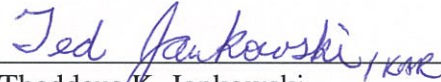
To understand the importance of the Coordinators role here is a further profile of the duties of this position:

- Coordinating social services with community, nonprofit and social service agencies;
- Assisting organizations dealing with vulnerable population(s), including elderly, minority, low income, homeless and disabled;
- Representing the Mayor and Administration in coordinating social services with community, nonprofit and social service agencies.
- Promoting social welfare policies and strategies and coordinating between the City of Stamford and the many nonprofit organizations (over 150) in the following areas:
 - Social, mental and physical well-being
 - Youth development programs
 - Senior programs, housing and transportation
 - Homelessness and sheltering – Inspirica, Pacific House, warming centers
 - Low income and affordable housing – BMR, Stamford affordable housing manager
 - Sustenance programs for the hungry – working with food pantry
 - Human rights
 - Housing task force liaison
 - Housing grants
- Outreach with Federal/State/Local agencies and outside organizations (assessing agencies and existing funding).

- Responsibility for the overall functioning of the Social Services Commission, Fair Rent investigations and hearings, Human Rights (discrimination) investigations and hearings, community outreach, agency and outside organization liaison.
- Assisting in obtaining grant funding, identifying alternative funding sources and support for key community agencies.
- State/Federal/Private support and agency partnering programs.
- Acting as the Mayor's representative in the Community Development Block Grant process.
- Service as a member of the Smith House Board of Directors, acting as the day-to-day point of contact between the Smith House Administrator and other management personnel and the City.

Once again thank you for your ongoing support for this very important position which supports and advocates for the welfare of those most in need in our community.

Respectfully,



Thaddeus K. Jankowski
Director of Public Safety, Health and
Welfare

cc: Mary Lou Rinaldi, Vice Chair
Gerald Bosak
Salvatore Gabrielle
Richard Freeman
Dudley Williams