



## ***Housing/Community Development/Social Services Committee - Board of Representatives***

*Elaine Mitchell, Chair*

*Lila Wallace, Vice Chair*

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday October 21, 2014  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Democratic Caucus Room 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Government Center, 888  
Washington Boulevard

The Housing/Community Development/Social Services Committee met at the above time and place. In attendance were Chair Mitchell, Vice Chair Wallace, and Committee Member Reps. McNeil, Moore, Watkins and Giordano. Absent or excused was Rep. Mahoney. Also present were Rep. Adams; Tim Beeble and Eric Larson, Stamford Community Development office; Attorney Dana Lee; Cindy Grafstein, Mayor's Office; Ann Fountain and Sharona Cowan, Department of Health; Jerry Pia, Glenbrook Community Center; and Mike Cotela, Boys & Girls Club.

Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
<sup>1</sup> 1. <a href="#">HCD29.17</a>	REVIEW; Procedures ( <a href="#">Current</a> and <a href="#">Proposed</a> ) for Social Services Relocation. 05/23/14 – Submitted by Anne Fountain 06/17/14 – Held in Committee 07/22/14 – Held in Committee 08/19/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee 09/26/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee	<b>Committee Approved the Additionally on Undocumented residents by a vote of 6-0-0</b>

The committee briefly discussed the revised proposed relocation policy. Attorney Lee made the changes suggested from the Committee. He also stated there is a Federal Statute regarding undocumented tenants not being eligible for relocation benefits except for an extreme and unusual hardship. The Committee read the [additional language](#) on undocumented tenants and agreed to add to the policy.

A motion was made to include the section on undocumented tenants. The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0. (Reps. Mitchell, Wallace, Giordano, McNeil, Moore and Watkins in favor)

<sup>2</sup> 2. HCD29.18	REVIEW; CDBG Process 08/05/14 – Submitted by Rep. Mitchell 08/19/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee 09/26/14 –Held in Committee	<b>Report Made</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:00:58

Cindy Grafstein explained that over the years the CDBG funding has been reduced drastically but the work load has not changed. The Mayor would suggest reducing the recipients receiving money but increase the actual amount of funding to those programs.

The Committee agreed that it would be hard to choose which programs will receive funding. The Committee is not willing to make that sacrifice but suggested some change in the actual grant process that will be less time consuming. It was also suggested to put a line item in the budget for Social Services.

- <sup>3</sup>3. HCD29.19 REVIEW; One for One Housing Replacement Ordinance. **Report Made**  
08/05/14 – Submitted by Rep. Mitchell  
08/19/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee  
09/26/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee

Attorney Dana Lee said the Housing Replacement Review Board is not an active board.

Chair Mitchell asked that Attorney Lee look into adding additional language to certify refurbished/demolished units are replaced with those units' exact particulars even if the tenant decides not to return. Chair Mitchell wants to be reassured that the unit stays low income. The Committee also agreed to add the Board of Representatives to be part of the sign off process. Attorney Lee will check State Statute and return with his findings at the next meeting.

- <sup>4</sup>4. HCD29.20 REVIEW; Status Update re: Yerwood Center **Report Made**  
08/06/14 – Submitted by Pres. Skigen  
08/11/14 – Held at Steering  
09/08/14 – Held at Steering

Cindy Grafstein from the Mayor's office stated they are meeting with Yerwood representatives next week to discuss their plans. The City is controlling the construction at the site. The Yerwood Center has not been able to secure financial backers because of its present condition. She said the Mayor is looking for a concrete plan and if this is not ready the City is willing to step in and take over completely.

Chair Mitchell wants to make sure the building is utilized for the community and kids and not let outside agencies take over like the Lathon Wider Center.

- <sup>5</sup>5. [HCD29.22](#) APPROVAL; Transfer of \$56,384.57 budgeted funds from Professional Consultants lines to Salary line. **Committee Approved 5-0-0**  
09/15/14 – Submitted by Tim Beeble

Mr. Beeble stated this transfer is a result of decreased funding. The Money has been in the Professional Consultants line for a few years and the transfer is needed to secure salaries.

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:45:00

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp 01:12:50

<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:11:10

<sup>5</sup> Video Time Stamp 01:29:20

The Committee would like more of an explanation for the budget of the Community Development office and Rep Watkins will meet with Mr. Beeble to discuss.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a unanimous vote. (Reps. Mitchell, Wallace, Giordano, McNeil and Watkins in favor)

6. [HCD29.23](#) APPROVAL; Assignment of \$10,000 in Year 39 CDBG funding previously allocated to NEON for a summer camp program to the Boys and Girls Club of Stamford. **Committee Approved 6-0-0**  
10/08/14 – Submitted by Tim Beeble

Cindy Grafstein explained that NEON went bankrupt and left many parents and kids with no access to afterschool programs or summer camps. Some children were directed to either the Glenbrook Community Center or the Boys and Girls Club.

Mr. Pia, Director of the Glenbrook Community, center offered to help out. He received around 10 kids. He did receive money from NEON but not enough to cover all of their new expenses. He did give refunds to some parents choosing to go elsewhere. Mr. Pia stated they were only able to help with the after school program because they were not certified for Summer Camp.

Mr. Cotela from the Boys and Girls Club stated they housed 375 children for summer camp 2014, up from 300 year 2013. Mr. Cotela believed the increase came from the closing of NEON and the Yerwood Center. With this increase they had to hire additional staff.

Chair Mitchell would like documentation from both programs of expenses incurred.

A motion was made and seconded to approve this item pending documentation of expenses received from Glenbrook Community Center and the Boys and Girls Club. Said motion was approved by a vote of 6-0-0. (Reps. Mitchell, Wallace, Giordano, McNeil, Moore and Watkins in favor)

7. [HCD29.24](#) APPROVAL; Request by the Westside Neighborhood Revitalization Zone to modify its CDBG Scope of Services to allow them to engage the Women's Business Development Council, rather than hire an employee, to carry out their program. **Held in Committee 5-0-0**  
10/08/14 – Submitted by Tim Beeble

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elaine Mitchell, Chair

*This meeting is on [Video](#).*

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<sup>6</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:20:22