**SPECIAL MEETING**
**BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN**
**(PUBLIC HEARING)**

**March 24, 1997** **7:00 PM**

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

Mayor Wieczorek called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Pariseau.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were nine Aldermen present.

**Present:** Aldermen Wihby, Reiniger, Clancy, Shea, Domaingue, Pariseau, Cashin, Robert and Hirschmann

**Absent:** Aldermen Elise, Sysyn and Soucy

Mayor Wieczorek advised that the purpose of the meeting was a public hearing upon the proposed Community Improvement Program of the City of Manchester including activities for the 1998- to 2002 period.

The Clerk presented the proposed Resolution:

> "Approving the Community Improvement Program for 1998, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefor, and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program."

Mayor Wieczorek stated we have made a change this year in the normal format because normally what we would do is present the Community Improvement Program portion of the budget along with our regular Operating budget in June, but with the change in the fiscal year and in order to get some of the projects going before the end of the fiscal year, so we can get them done say through the summer period, we have had to make a change and move this Capital Improvement Budget up. So, I'm going to request that Robert MacKenzie, the Director of Planning, please make a presentation.

Mr. MacKenzie stated thank you, your Honor, and good evening Honorable Board Members and general public. I would like to run through several parts of the CIP Program. What the purpose is and some of the highlights for this year which should only take about ten to fifteen minutes. I also have my staff here tonight in case there are questions that come up on specific

projects or if you want us to get additional information. I did want to start by generally describing what the CIP Program is. The City's Community Improvement Program is really a financial management tool and a planning tool that puts together, integrates all of the federal and state funding programs with the City's own Community Development funded projects and those can be funded either through City Cash or City Bond. It looks into the future, six years ahead in one annual appropriation year and then five additional years into the future and it's meant to give a long-term view of what the Community Development needs of the City, while also trying to minimize the tax rate impact. There are several specific purposes that the CIP Program was created for about 25 years ago. It coordinates the improvement projects, so if, for example, if the Highway Department is working on a sewer project and there is also other utility work going on those works can be coordinated through the CIP Program. It provides access by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the public to one body that has all of the federally-funded programs and all the other community improvement programs in the City. It provides streamlining accounting procedures through the Finance Department. It maximizes the use of federal and state dollars for projects that the community wants. It minimizes the tax rate impact of capital projects by looking five years down the road. It provides for long-range planning of capital needs. Nowadays, projects take several years through design, conceptual stages, final design, and construction. You have to look down the road several years in order to accomplish these projects. And, finally, it establishes a means of setting the overall community development priorities of the City. So, those are the basic purposes of the CIP Program. The actual CIP Program as you see in your three-ring binders and we also have copies for the general public if anybody would like a full copy of the CIP Program, is broken up into several categories. One is the annual budget, that is the amount that will be appropriated for FY98. There are five different components of that, five different charts. It shows the federal, state, and other funding programs. The HUD-funded programs which is a federal program, but it has more discretion than the other ones which are earmarked for specific projects and that's why it's broken out. The Cash-funded projects which is the smallest part of the CIP, but also one of the relatively more important ones, Bond projects and Enterprise projects. So, in essence, in the CIP you can see all of the projects from Airport to Water Works, all the community development and special projects of the City together in one CIP Program. The Program also has the multi-year which you'll see in the tabs there if you look at your three-ring binder has the next five years down the road. What are the major projects that are facing the City such as landfill closure, when will that have a tax impact as well as other opportunities for improvements five years down the road. The next portion is the CIP Program Guidelines. Those are the guidelines that were developed as a basis to determine whether we're falling within reasonable guidelines and those were developed in conjunction with the Finance Department, the Mayor's Office, and in review Bond Counsel. And, finally, the last part is the formal CIP Resolutions and that's in the last tab of your three-ring binder. I also just wanted to highlight how one of the tables actually looks, this is the General Obligation Bond portion. In each of the five categories, you'll see that they are generally categorized under Education, Safety, Recreation, Transportation, and Other categories. Under that you will see the CIP number which is referenced here in the Finance agenda, the actual project, who is administering the project, the amount requested by that department, and

the amount recommended by the Mayor as part of the CIP Program this year. So, those are the key elements of each of the five chapters of the annual budget of the CIP. I wanted to now give you a general overview of where the money's coming from and what it's going to be used for. I'll start out with where the funds come from. As you can see from this top pie chart a large chunk of the funds, over $30 million of a $58 million program come primarily from federal and state sources, and if you toss in HUD funds - $3 million - that's well over a half of the budget comes from federal and state sources. The Enterprise Program puts in slightly less than 25%, that would be your EPD Environmental Protection, your Water Works, and Parks & Recreation Enterprise Fund. The amount that actually comes from the property base portion which is the bond and the cash is actually somewhat less than 25% of the overall CIP Program, that's the bond and the cash portion right there. So, in total, it's just about $58 million. Where does the monies go to? You can see here that by far the largest share this year is transportation and environment and that's primarily because the Airport is undergoing major expansion of the runways and taxiways, roughly $23 million of that total $38 million is for the Airport expansion alone. There is also some fairly major sewer work being done. For example, the Cohas Brook Interceptor, so that is why that general category Transportation and Environment is so large this year. Then you have other categories - Education - which includes both physical plant changes, but also Special Ed Programs are included in that and then smaller amounts allotted to Community Management, Recreation, Public Safety, and Housing and Community Development. I wanted to just generally go through each of the five main categories and highlight those larger projects this year. Under the federal and state portion our Health Department runs several specialized programs and most of them are funded through the State and that totals about $710,000 under the Health Department. The School Department and these are not the physical plant changes, these are primarily the special school programs total just under $7 million and that includes your Special Ed funding, but also a number of other ones like Career to Work, Drivers Ed, and other programs. So, that's a large portion also of the total Federal, State and Other Grants. And, as I mentioned before the largest total portion of the federal and state is the Manchester Airport Authority, just over $23 million in both federal funds and MAA Enterprise Funds, their own revenues and that is going to be used towards ledge removal for Runway 24, property acquisition (St. Francis Church) and other properties, wetlands mitigation, relocation Cohas Brook will be necessary for a runway extension, relocating the primary access drive off of Brown Avenue, a bridge for Taxiway E, and the acquisition of homes on the west side of Brown Avenue. So, clearly that is the single largest chunk of funding and none of that is local property tax funding, that is all federal and Enterprise monies. Under the HUD programs, I just wanted to highlight some of the HUD programs and that totals $3 million, that's the next section. Youth Recreation by both the Office of Youth Services and the Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority is about $110,000. Rehabilitating lead paint properties which will be administered by MHRA is $48,000; a Pharmaceutical program is $37,000; Day Care run by the VNA Program $60,000; Downtown Parks Rehab Program which would primarily, I believe, be going to the Bronstein Park Rehabilitation would be $120,000; Manchester Historic Association, we'd be looking towards a loan in that case, a low-interest loan which would provide handicapped accessibility for the

facility, but also could be rolled into a long-term historic revolving rehabilitation fund that would be used to benefit historic properties in the City. The HOME Program which is this year the CIP Committee is working towards homeownership programs, that would be $498,000; Downtown Revitalization - Elm Street Reconstruction and increased parking and street amenities, of HUD funds is $1.25 million; Sidewalk Construction $100,000; and ADA Compliance $250,000. And, as you may know there is a new Access Manchester Committee whose supervising the priorities, there are a number of schools that certainly need handicapped accessibility, and those projects will be getting underway this summer. Under the cash portion of the budget which totals about $1.7 million although a portion of that is generated by the auto registration fund which I'll talk to you about in a minute. The Homemaker Services $30,000; Defibrillator Program of the Fire Department $60,000; Fund-In-The-Sun Program $39,000; Right-of-Way Maintenance which is your resurfacing program $250,000; Annual Parking Facilities is $743,000; an Employee Classification/Compensation Study $155,000; and Annual Maintenance which is used for major repairs of City buildings is at $200,000. And, the last of the categories the Enterprise programs. The major projects under the Enterprise this year is a Master Plan and Improvements at the Derryfield Country Club is proposed at $150,000; improvements at McIntyre Ski Area $250,000; improvements at JFK $250,000; Manchester Water Works Program of Capital Improvement City-wide is just over $2 million; the Cohas Brook Interceptor Phase II is at $8 million; and sewer improvements at the Green Acres and Woodcrest Streets area is $500,000. And, those are the highlight programs of the four categories. I did want to specifically show the Bond portion of the budget and highlight those graphically. As you are probably aware, the total Bond just under $11 million, the largest chunk would be the second-half installment of the Middle School Program $4.5 million. Next, the School Capital Improvement Program $1.8 million, we're looking toward the next phase of Central and West heating and ventilation improvements and also design for the Memorial Science Labs as the major parts of the School Capital Improvement Program. Street Reconstruction at $1.2 million; the next phase of the City computer upgrade $800,000; Livingston Park Phase II is $500,000; Notre Dame Bridge payment to the State $290,000; General Parks and School Recreation Area Improvements $150,000; Bridge Rehab which is primarily the Biron Street Bridge but it includes some money for the Amoskeag Bridges at $105,000; and West-Memorial Field at $100,000 and there are a couple of other smaller bond projects under that. To mention something on the Notre Dame Bridge because you're probably saying that was completed several years ago. We have gotten word from the State through the Highway Department that basically there are some additional charges left over from the project, I think we're going to be looking at that closely, but the State does indicate that we still owe about $290,000 to $295,000 on the project. So, that completes the five major areas of the CIP Program. I did want to briefly discuss the auto registration because there was under the cash $743,000 shown for the repairs necessary at the Center of New Hampshire Garage and the Board will have to make a decision at some point whether to proceed with that project either by bond, by cash, or perhaps consider not proceeding with that project. There have been other requests for changes and there are two, maybe three requests that I am aware of and I think those might be best reviewed by the CIP Committee which I believe is meeting Wednesday night. At

this point, that's all the formal presentation that I have. Again, my staff is here to answer questions, but I know that there is a fairly long sing-in sheet for the general public to talk.

Alderman Wihby stated the $743,000, what are we saying. We're saying that was going to be funded from that fund that we had and that was cash.

Mr. MacKenzie stated it was under the cash portion, so we either have to take it out or we will be paying cash, but that would have something of a tax rate impact.

Alderman Wihby asked what about the three months we did at the last meeting from July till October or whatever, what does that add up to.

Mr. MacKenzie replied, I did talk to Kevin, I wrote a note to Kevin Clougherty about that and he talked to me today, but they don't have specific numbers, but as you remember they didn't start charging the auto registration until October of 1996, so in effect, they will have a full 12-month cycle, it just started late.

Alderman Wihby stated but the money from July to October will go into '98.

Mr. MacKenzie replied, yes, there will be a small portion.

Mr. Girard stated in fiscal '97, Alderman Wihby, that fee was expected to generate about $1.2 million, so if you just take a quarter out, you're looking at three to four hundred thousand dollars that could be generated.

Mayor Wieczorek asked any other questions from any of the Aldermen before we start with the public.

Alderman Domaingue asked, Mr. MacKenzie, could you just review for me again the position right now of where we are with the Science Lab projects for Memorial High School.

Mr. MacKenzie replied, sure, I'd be happy to. The Memorial Science Labs are going to be actually the tougher of the three schools to work on because they all basically have concrete floors and a lot of the plumbing, etc. are under that. We will be doing design at this point. The best time to go out to bid is sometime next February and it will take a solid six months to get through the design process, so we'd be funding the design which should be complete sometime in February or March of next year and then we'd be coming as part of the next year's funding cycle to get the actual funding for that project, it's likely going to be probably $1.7, perhaps $1.8 million. So, it's a sizable project.

Alderman Domaingue stated the other two high schools have had renovations of their science labs, they have had brand new science labs and there seems to be a year delay in between their

projects and Memorial High School and I'm just a little bit curious because I have received several questions from parents about why those science labs are being put on a delay. Memorial High School is waiting and I'm waiting and why there was the delay is the question and I'd like you to answer that if you could.

Mr. MacKenzie replied that part of the problem is funding, in terms of getting the money to actually do the design work, part of the problem also is just the ability of the City to handle all of these projects. As you remember, West and Central were those schools that were put on a more difficult probationary status, I think they're on warning and Memorial was not on that same level, so preference was given to taking the two schools that had the most difficult status and taking care of those two projects first.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I remember news reports about the Nazaire Biron Bridge, when that project was completed last summer they couldn't complete the whole project and I thought it was a $200,000 problem for this year, for the State a $105,000.

Mr. MacKenzie stated you will see that we will be getting matching funds from the State to complete it, so it will be more than $200,000 and we'll be matching that with State funds. And, since we're on that topic, I would note that the Highway Department has requested a slight change in that of about $11,000 of the City portion that I will review with the Committee on Wednesday night.

Alderman Wihby asked, Bob, every request that you have is on here and if they're not funded they would just have no number recommended.

Mr. MacKenzie replied this does not show all of the projects that were not funded. There was in total, for example, on the Bond side with about $10 million available, there was about $30 million in bond requests.

Alderman Wihby asked could we have a copy of what was requested or is it real thick.

Mr. MacKenzie replied it is thick, it'll take a couple of days, but we could duplicate all the requests or at least the summary. The actual total requests are real thick. We could show from each department what their priority ranking request was.

Alderman Wihby stated I thought one department was coming to speak and I thought they were all set because I looked at the numbers and it looked like you had funded everything they wanted, but that's because you probably didn't fund them at all, so that is why it's missing.

Mr. MacKenzie stated they were prioritized and the Mayor normally tries to follow that prioritized ranking as far as the money will go, but obviously this project's further down on the priority list that we just don't have the money to get to.

Mayor Wieczorek stated just one question here pertaining to the fees for auto registration and it has to do with what some of the existing expenses that we have, Richard, do you just want to give them a quick...

Mr. Girard stated in addition to the $743,000 that's been included in the CIP Cash budget for construction to the Center of New Hampshire Garage, those fees in the current fiscal year also covered the debt service that is directly attributable to the garages and in fiscal '98 that debt service will amount to nearly $630,000. So, though we will have one full quarter of those auto registration fees coming to the City, the balance of that $1.3 million which is roughly $900,000, over $900,000 will have a direct tax impact; that $630,000 in debt service will have a direct impact on the tax rate regardless of whether or not the Board decides to proceed with the needed renovations to the Center of New Hampshire Garage. The Board should know that when they are considering.

Alderman Clancy stated over the weekend, I received many complaints about the Chandler School, about the conditions up there and the parents are quite concerned. Even though it's not in my ward, I was wondering, I didn't see it in the book at all as far as any renovations being done and stuff like that, so I was wondering where we stand.

Mr. MacKenzie stated it is an extremely difficult program. Chandler School is in very poor condition. There is a lot of planning that has to be done both by the School Department and others to see what facility options there are. The Mayor has allocated in the multi-year program $2.5 million to address the program in FY99. But, there's going to be at least a year's work of trying to figure out what type of facility do we need, what type of programs do we have, and what type of program should we have. So, there is money to address the issue.

Alderman Clancy stated I wish we'd give this serious thought about the conditions up there because I'm well-aware of the school. I've been up there myself within the past month-and-a-half and the conditions up there, the whole building is in deplorable shape.

Mayor Wieczorek stated there's no question about it.

Alderman Clancy stated like I said, I wish we could kind of move it up and have some thought about it.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I think they're working at it as quickly as they can. It isn't one of those things you can say, well, this is what we're going to do. There are an awful lot of people impacted by it that are involved in the project also and until we get some concurrence on what the final program should be, it's very hard to say we're going to do that when maybe what they will do is something else.

Alderman Clancy stated I know what you're saying. All I'm asking is that you give it some consideration.

Mayor Wieczorek stated we are very much aware of it and I've received some calls, too.

Alderman Shea stated I want to reiterate what Alderman Clancy said. I did receive several calls from people who have children in the Chandler School and I am familiar with that situation, your Honor, and I really think we have neglected that portion of our population. They are working in adverse conditions and all it will take is a major lawsuit up there and then things will start rolling quickly. In addition to that, I have called to your attention and I did to Mr. MacKenzie's attention the fact that in my ward, Ward 7, I have a serious traffic problem on Cilley Road and Taylor Street and I did speak to Bob about that and I do want to ask the members of the Board, when they do consider safety to include that particular item on their agenda.

Alderman Robert asked wasn't there a Hevey School option to deal with the Chandler School problems. Didn't we have a Hevey School option in an effort to deal with the Chandler School predicament. It seems to me we had a pretty good deal designed to carry us for a short term.

Mayor Wieczorek replied as I recall there was something on it. Bob, they did look at that, didn't the School Department look at it.

Mr. MacKenzie replied, yes, in fact, we had an architect look at it, the School Department did look at it, we did negotiate and the Mayor's Office negotiated with the Church on the Hevey School. Ultimately, it came down to the Church did want to retain certain areas of the school and the School Department had actual concerns about the space available in the Hevey School and ultimately, I believe, the School Board took an action that the Hevey School was not appropriate for the Chandler Program. But, we did explore it, we did have an architect reviewing it, developed cost estimates and we did review it thoroughly.

Alderman Robert asked was there anything in writing as far as the School Board is concerned as to their rationalization for not wanting it.

Mr. MacKenzie replied, I believe there was an action by the School Board that expressed their concern about it and I could certainly try and track that down if you'd like.

Alderman Robert stated I'd appreciate that.

Mayor Wieczorek stated they did take a vote on it, so it would be part of the record.

Mayor Wieczorek stated the meeting shall now be open to public comment; that each person when recognized shall come to the nearest microphone, state their name and address in a clear

loud voice for the record; that each person shall be given one opportunity to speak and comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak; that once all present have been allowed to speak should there be a topic not discussed those wishing to speak a second time shall be provided the opportunity to do so.

Jim Craig, 233 Linden Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
I'm here to talk to you about the Livingston Park Project and I am associated with a group of people from The Manchester Oval Society which is a group of private citizens, there's a couple of lawyers, an architect, an engineer, and a couple of coaches who didn't first find the need, but took up a long-standing need in the City for a track. Our initial focus is the track and that's what the second phase of the Livingston Park money is geared to, the track the thing that we've been working as a private group for a couple of years to bring to fruition and if you've been by the park you've seen Phase I and we're somewhat there. We've managed to raise, we've pledged to raise some money and we've raised a third of it and it sure would help if we could count on the City so that we can tell people that we are asking for money that the City is behind us and that the money is appropriated actually for the track. And, we're committed to raise the money, but we need, and I'm asking you that you fully-fund the track, the Phase II portion of the Livingston track. I was looking through the 1993 Manchester Master Plan and on page F12, it's talking about the Parks & Recreation and clearly back in 1993 this was done for the Planning Board, it indicates that in conjunction with rehabilitation and renovation of facilities the City will also need to use existing park lands to their full potential through careful and comprehensive planning efforts, Manchester will need to use what limited opportunities there are for developing additional facilities within park lands presently owned by the City. We have a project here which is doing exactly that. There's a lot of and I went out to the Intown Manchester, For Manchester Group a couple of months ago out at The Yard Restaurant and I saw a spirit there that people like us were willing to put our time and our money on the line to develop Manchester and I saw a lot of that out there and we're doing that. We've been working towards this goal for a couple of years, it's clearly a need that the City needs and this is a good chance for the City to put forth private/public joint venture for the good of the City. As you see, we've stacked the room here with people who run, who are going to use the track, there's no doubt that it's needed - Central and Hillside put out some of the finest teams in the country. Well, along with West and everyone else, but we have a recognized need that young people, older people need to exercise. We have a track and a half in the City. I say a half because West is not a full size track that can be used for meets. The City Master Plan indicates that the City needs four for the population. We have the room up at Livingston and that part of Livingston Park was getting run down. The other side where the baseball fields are was routinely used, but I've lived in Manchester all of my life and that's a nice park and there's no question about that, but it was getting a little seedy along the Daniel Webster Highway and these improvements, we feel, are going to bring the park back and it's going to be used for what it was intended to be used for. They'll be kids using it, it changes the look for awhile, but the intent with the Parks & Recreation is to green it up again. You've never seen a good-looking construction site, but it's

just a temporary phase. So, I'm asking you on behalf of the Oval Society and I think the schools and everyone who is going to use it and yourselves that you fully-fund this phase and I guess my three minutes are up.

Mayor Wieczorek stated it's going to take us long to get through this as people speak, if you would just not applaud, so we can just get through as many speakers as we can, I've got two pages here of speakers.

Mayor Wieczorek called upon Katie Gayman and stated first of all, for those of you who don't know, let me offer you our congratulations for being recognized nationally by *Parade Magazine*. If you didn't read it, it was there. Katie, just one question for you, are your parents going to save any tuition money on this.

Katie Gayman, 300 Steinmetz Drive, Manchester, NH, stated:
I'm here on behalf of the Central Track Program and I'd just like to point out that not only is Central in dire need of a track facility and a sports facility, but I think that our track program has earned the right to this type of a facility. Not only because our track program has been very successful in the past, but also because of our commitment to give back to Manchester. For example, in simply maintaining the Memorial Track, we usually set aside at least one day during the season just for clean up and anything necessary to keep up that track and to make it a nice facility for the whole City to run on and I remember a couple of years ago when it was resurfaced and I think mid-season it started becoming a little, falling apart, the resurfacing job, we had Mr. O'Neill and the whole team decided that we'd do all of our workouts on the outside lanes so we could maintain the facility in that manner. We've also, our team has also been known...we love Manchester and we've also been known to catch purse snatchers and we've done a lot for Manchester. We love the City and we're proud to be here and represent Manchester in every meet that we go into. So, I think that for our own track we'll continue this commitment and we'll continue to make Manchester proud. So, there's no doubt in my mind that this is a definitely worthwhile investment. Thank you very much.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I also forgot to mention that she excels in track, so it isn't just soccer although she received national recognition. I'm very pleased to hear that you did catch a couple of purse snatchers, but as I look at the Board here, I think if you were going to get anybody here they'd have a wallet or a purse.

John Palmer, 209 Crosbie Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
I'm the Director of Athletics and Physical Education for the Manchester Public Schools which is nearly not as exciting as being an All-American Katie. This is an exciting time for athletics and physical fitness in the City. With the current development of the Livingston Park and the proposed plans for the West/Memorial Field. In the Spring of 1996, 249 boys, 265 girls from Central, Memorial, West, Hillside, Southside, and Parkside, a total of 514 athletes participated in track. If you add in the track teams from Trinity there were seven boys track teams and seven

girls track teams last spring. These fourteen track teams must use one track, the Memorial Track for any legitimate practice and for all competitions. The days that there are high school meets, the junior highs cannot practice and the days that there are junior high meets, the high schools cannot practice. Adding to this is the fact that the high school meets normally scheduled on Tuesday must sometimes be scheduled on Tuesday's and Wednesday's if two City teams have a home meet eliminating another day of practice for the teams. If we run into any bad weather, the problem compounds. Can you imagine 14 soccer teams with only one field for practice and games. A track also becomes a focal point for the area for fitness walking and jogging. Every evening in the spring and summer the Memorial Track, you can see many people taking a walk or jogging to stay in shape...citizens of all ages. I urge you to complete the Livingston Park Project as soon as possible and continue the plans for the renovation of the West/Memorial Field redevelopment, so that track teams and the citizens in each of the high school communities will have a track for the teams and a fitness for the citizens in that area. Thank you.

Theresa Madison, 415 East High Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
I'm also here on behalf of the Central Track Program. I'd just like to ask the Aldermen and Mayor to consider the proposed amount for Phase II of the track. I have four younger sisters who are heading into the Central Track Program and I'd really like to see them benefit from the proposed plan. To call attention to Katie Gayman once again, the All-American, I think she can tell you herself that as a State title holder in the 100 meter hurdles, the 300 meter hurdles, and having placed 7th in the entire nation in the 400 meter hurdles, it is not easy nor is it felicitous for her to have to try and jump over hurdles at top speed in the hallways of the James Building at Central High School while janitors try to sweep around her. One track is not appropriate for a City of this size and as it grows it will only become more necessary. So, I thank you for your attention.

Leslee Stewart, 205 No. Bend Drive, Manchester, NH, stated:
I'm the School Board representative from Ward 1 in Manchester. Tonight, I'm here as a member of the Manchester Oval Society. I've been working with that group for over two years. I'd like to thank you for your dedication and vision for the improvements at Livingston Park and I'm here to ask you to fully-fund Phase II at Livingston so that the hard-working student athletes at Central and Hillside Junior High Schools may realize their dream of an athletic facility. I thought you would find it interesting that these student athletes have achieved academically as well as athletically. Over 70% of them have consistently earned 3.0 or better while participating in sports. It's a real important part of our program in schools. Thank you for your continue commitment.

Norm Gill, 21 Renard Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
I'm here representing Manchester's Athletic Alliance, it's a running club. We're 70 adults and we train from April through October. I don't know if you're all familiar with the Memorial Track, well, on any given night it's a circus. We are trying to train, to relieve our stress that we have during the day, it's really difficult when you have about seven teams down there, the

football teams and they're running all over creation down there at the track and I'm trying to shift the focus a little bit. The adult's that are on there, we have...many of them have their children in the schools and one track is just not enough for the City of Manchester. It gets too crowded down there. We leave the track on a given night and we're more stressed than when we got there because at times we've almost had fights with the coaches because we're trying to keep the kids off the track while we're training and we only need a couple of hours on a given night. So, I'd like to stress that it's important the adults as well as the students and that we have another facility where we can train and it would relieve the stress at Memorial because that track, really it's n embarrassment to the City. When you go down there you invite other cities to come down for meets, the track is absolutely butchered and that's because it's overstressed, so what we need to do is we need to move along and get another track and get a west side track, as well. We've got to move along and make the City...we need to be proud of it when we bring teams in from out-of-state or out-of-the-city, so I wish that we can all get together and let's get the money in there and get the project on the road and it'll help the parents as well as the students. Thank you.

Kathy Camire, 149 Longwood Avenue, Manchester, NH, stated:
I'm here tonight as a parent and as a member of the Weston School PTA. I've come to request that you consider allocating funds for a playground for the Weston School. Currently, Weston has 764 students and the equipment they have to play on is a set of three monkey bars and three balance beams. The City has never appropriated any funds to put any equipment in this school. All of the other City schools, although some of them might need updating they still have current equipment that their children can play on, Weston does not. As we all know, recreational play is very important to the development of children and I wish you would all consider allocating some money for this important cause. I have here hundreds of signatures from parents and faculty at Weston School that support this and I'd like to leave these and thank you very much for your time.

Nancy Evans, stated:
Good evening, Mayor Wieczorek and members of the Aldermanic Board. I, actually, spend most of my time at 49 Ashland Street, at Chandler School. Although, I no longer reside in Manchester and seek permission to speak, although I'm not a resident. Chandler School currently provides Pre-School Special Education Programs for a total of 256 students, 60 of whom are currently educated at Smyth Road School because we no longer have room for them at Chandler. I'm here tonight to urge you to accept the Board of School Committee's recommendation to fund either the relocation or the renovation of Chandler School during the 1997-98 school year. Chandler School was built in 1905 and temporary classrooms were added to the site in 1975, I believe. The list of current building inadequacies, I think you've all heard about them, I won't go through them all, however, I do want to highlight some of my major concerns. Our temporary classrooms are so old that the exterior walls have moss and other plant life growing from the outside in. The electric heat on one side of the portable building no longer works properly and we have temporary heating hanging from the ceilings, so that we can keep the children warm. I am told that we cannot replace this heating system it is so out-of-date. Last year, the rear wall of the temporary portable building bowed out under the weight of snow cover and two-by-four's were added to support a temporary rafter to keep the roof from collapsing, that was very frightening. In the main building the heat can differ by more than 20 degrees from floor-to-floor, this is especially dangerous for many of our children with severe medical problems. Physically disabled children must be carried to the lower level for assemblies and gym or they must be dressed in their winter clothes and walked outside, down the ramp, and around the building to get back into the lower level to participate in school-wide activities. The mortar around the exterior bricks is so loose that I think neighborhood children have some of our bricks at this point. As there is no running water in the nurse's office she must use the janitor's large slop sink to wash up her hands, to clean children and instruments after treating children with medical procedures. Cold air and wind come directly into the building through our Plexiglas windows and gaps and cracks in the fire doors. The roof leaks during rain storms and when snow is melting. The stone wall that supports the main entry into the building has to be supported now by some metal posts that were gerry rigged along the side of it to keep our main entry from collapsing. Our teachers do not even have the privacy of a full-enclosed bathroom. I am very concerned about the safety and well-being of our students. Watching 3-year olds, some of whom have recently learned to walk go up two long flights of stairs takes my breath away on a daily basis. This school was closed down as a neighborhood school some perhaps 15 years ago as it was not longer deemed appropriate to be a school building and now we are using it for our youngest and most physically challenged students. Continued use of this building in its present form is an accident and perhaps lawsuit waiting to happen. Please do not put off any longer the decision to renovate or relocate the Pre-School Program. Thank you.

James Gamache, 259 Cedar Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
I've been a resident of Manchester for over 31 years and I am also a member of T-BOND which is Take Back Our Neighborhood. I'm here tonight to protect the future of my son and other

residents that live in the Community Enterprise Zone. It's a shame to have only one track in the City of Manchester and that's why I am here tonight to support Phase II, the full-funding of Phase II of Livingston Park. My son, in a couple of years, will be going to Central High School and I want the option to be open to him to have a track so he can run. While he's running to have an option for me to either to across the street to get an ice cream or go to Dorr's Pond to go fishing, or even to take my mountain bike around the trails at Dorr's Pond. When I was a child that's where I enjoyed going. My parent's used to take me there every weekend to go swimming, to hit a few balls in the park, to go fishing, to do all those kinds of things, and I'm here tonight to protect, like I said, the future of my son. So, I ask the Mayor and Aldermen to please approve Phase II funding. Thank you.

Susan Dixon, 444 Manchester Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
I'm here to present to you concerns of other families and myself about our children's safety at Chandler School. A pre-school for three, four, and five year olds. Chandler is a 90-year old building which requires work to prevent further deterioration, it's also in need of many renovations throughout the school in order to conform to modern codes and design practices, especially terms in life safety, accessibility for its disabled student population. Why is it that the youngest children in the school system are in the least safe building that Manchester has. Some of the major issues are improving the heating system, the basement level has cold air rushing in when the doors open to let the children in. The only thermostat for the building is located on the main floor and on the upper level there are times when the windows are needed to be open to make the rooms comfortable. Fire escapes are dangerous and not up to code, stairways have inadequate stair rails, steps are too high, corner posts are padded with foam and duct tape. There is the need for an elevator, there's inadequate space for gym class. I'd like to show you some of these problems. Could you please take a look at these photos which I took last Friday, so they're very current. This is the outer exterior which Nancy Evans spoke of that there are posts stuck here, these are the fire escape areas which are dangerous and outdated, this is the entrance way where all of the cold air comes in when they let the children in from the buses. In the children's bathrooms there are no fire alarm strobes. If there was ever a fire and you were in the bathroom, some of the kids are deaf and can't hear, how would they know to get out. This is the teacher's bathroom that we use. It's a child-size toilet. In the Child Find Office, the secretaries need to unplug the phone and bring it to another room so another person can talk on the phone if they need to. This is peeling pipe, exposed pipe, tons of peeling paint that is coming off and God knows if there's still lead in it. This is a window on the ground floor which air comes in, dirt comes in, the windows are not safe, they're not energy efficient, and the ground floor where the kids have gym it's a very low ceiling, there are exposed pipes and wires, there's peeling paint so if the kids play a game with a volleyball or something and it hits the ceiling, paint falls on the floor, there's paint chips there. There's a board here against the wall that has telephone wires and stuff and as you can see kids can just stick their hands under there, on the sides it's not protected, not enclosed. There are several things...floor that was unfinished, there's peeling paint on the ceiling, there's electrical wires that is probably two or three feet underground and sticking out of the wall, it's in a classroom. Fire doors have cracks in them,

there's more peeling paint. This is where all of the kids can go, this walkway here they can walk and touch the paint. This is my son's room, there is paint peeling, there's Plexiglas windows that they can't even see through. When they ask what's the weather out today, they have to open the window to see that. The staircase are inappropriate. This is a sink...the plumbing is awful. They covered up a faucet and a drinking fountain for the kids so that can't use it, they put a plastic bag over it. This is not appropriate for our young children. There's more peeling paint, there's cracks along archways. In the modulars they've got so much cold air that was coming in the windows that they sealed the windows, so now they can't open the windows to get fresh air. This is the heating vent that was allowing cold air into the bathrooms, so they put cloth and duct taped it. This is the heating lamp that Nancy was talking about earlier suspended from the ceiling so that when the kids sit in a circle they're like baking under the sun lamp, but when they leave that area they're freezing. I would like to submit them. I've spoken to several parents and teachers about the school. Many are concerned with their child's safety each day. Personally, I worry about my son falling down these stairs and getting seriously hurt or getting a hold of paint chips which may still contain lead or passing out from heat exertion due to classrooms being so hot. If it wasn't for the wonderful staff at Chandler, I think more people would probably be speaking out about the concerns at school. How these teachers work in this type of environment each day amazes us. Please seriously consider doing something this year for relocating 256 pre-schoolers to a safer environment. All of these children and staff members at Chandler School deserve a better learning place. Thank you.

Jon Mires, 217 Harrison Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
I'm here on behalf of the Central Boys Track Team to speak in favor of Phase II of Livingston Park Program. I was going to speak why the track is necessary, but I think you've all heard enough about that and I don't want to reiterate those items, but I think it is important to remember that not only will student athletes benefit from this, but also the Athletic Alliance Club such as that and the general community is looking for a safe place to job or walk. I think the main thing that needs to be done is that the full amount be allocated for this project. This is the only way to make it a worthwhile investment and if this is done the completed facility will make this track the focal point of high school track in the State and I think that will benefit all of the student benefits in the City for many years to come as well as the community. Thank you.

Jim Decknick, 337 Lowell Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
I'm here on behalf of the Chandler School parents and as Alderman Shea had pointed out earlier - what's it going to take to do something with Chandler. Many of you have talked about it for many years, this has been bandied about for at least five years that I know of. What will it take to do something with the school, hopefully, it won't be as Bill suggested a lawsuit. We wouldn't want to have that happen. We've got a building there...there's an architect's report that was published November 4, 1996, that essentially states that the building is a secure and sound building. What it will take and they recommended three options to repair the building. A full repair being about $1.4 million. The City of Manchester has walked away from many buildings in the past. I'd hate to see them walk away from this. We live right across the street

from this building and it has a lot of merit, the programs have a lot of merit. Nobody contests that. I don't think anybody contests the fact that the building is not up to snuff. I guess the only thing we need to address is that tomorrow some children are going to be in that building and they're not going to be able to breath right, they're going to have cold air coming in. There may be gym class and we're going to be wheeling children out the back door and bringing them downstairs, that happens every day a decision isn't made. So, I'm urging the Committee here to review what the School Board has proposed and to put emphasis on the Chandler School. Thank you.

Robert Baines, 70 Rosemont Avenue, Manchester, NH, stated:
I was daydreaming for a while when I heard my name, I thought I was being called for an interview or something, just joking. Gotta keep your humor. I wasn't sure how that would go over, but not too bad. I'm here this evening to speak on behalf of the West/Memorial Field, however, before I do so I'd be remise because often at public hearings I've talked about the real heroes of education in Manchester being at Chandler School and I wonder how many of us would tolerate our children being taught under those conditions. I would urge you to visit the school, to see what people are contending with there and shift priorities and I'm embarrassed to be talking about what I have to talk about when that is an outstanding need for education in our community. However, as many of you know we recently have come across an opportunity through the availability of the former Naval and Marine Center on Main Street to acquire that property and we have been working over the past two months with representatives from West High School, the School District, two of the Aldermen on the west side, people from the Parks & Recreation Commission, City Planning, and the Mayor's Office to devise a plan to fully utilize the space that will become available and I'm not sure, will that be discussed on Wednesday evening, Mr. MacKenzie, do you know.

Mr. MacKenzie replied probably not Wednesday evening, no. But, at a future Board meeting.

Mr. Baines continued by stating that future plans have been devised to look at the long-term use of the facility looking at one of the critical needs being parking in the area and a plan will be forthcoming which will eventually make available about 100 additional parking spaces as well as an opportunity to create six tennis courts and upgrade the football field and the track. And, just to correct a misimpression that may have been conveyed in a newspaper article this morning that there is a track at West High School. There is a cinder track, that is sort of like saying you have a bathroom if you still have an outhouse, it is not a suitable facility for practice, it is not a regulation size track, and really does not have any viable use. Just like the students at Central our students as I left school at quarter of five this afternoon, the girls track team was in the hallways of the school, that is where the athletes at our schools practice. I was once knocked over by one of those athletes coming out of my office, so it is a critical need and I hope as you look at the long-term plans that you find a way to fit this project into the long-term development needs. We feel that the plan that has been developed will significantly address the athletic, recreational, educational, and parking needs of the west side of Manchester and it will

significantly boost the entire neighborhood by making an adequate facility to them and I look forward as that plan comes before you, an opportunity to sit down with some of the West High people. We had thought originally, we had some miscommunication...this hearing was going to be Wednesday night, so our athletes and Booster Club members and people from West High were scheduled to be here at that time. And, in closing, I want to thank the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for their support of the upgrades at West High School in terms of the science labs and art classrooms and the heating and ventilation. As you know, recently we were removed from probation and we do not have any sanctions against us at this time and this is due to the support that you provided in addressing some of the critical needs of the school along with some very hard work of the faculty and the administration dealing with the issues
of assessment and support from the School District with some critical funding issues. So, we thank you for that on behalf of all of our students and parents who look to you for the kind of support that we need to have a first-class educational program at Manchester High School West and thank you very much for the opportunity to speak with you this evening.

Dennis O'Dowd, 40 Dwight Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
I'm here tonight as President of the Weston School PTA. To expand very briefly on what my associated Kathy Camire said earlier. I simply want to express my hope that you will appropriate adequate monies to improve, as soon as possible, the Weston School playground. The current state of the playground equipment and the area is frankly pitiful. School recreation areas must not only be safe, but should provide an environment that encourages physical activity and play. In fact, during the warmer months the playground area becomes the classroom, so to speak, of the school's physical education teacher. I'll conclude by pointing out that the Weston School playground do provide a needed recreation area for the children of that area, generally of Hanover Street, Page Street area. Thank you for your consideration.

Nury Marquez, 83 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
I'm the Executive Director of the ALPHA Alliance here in Manchester. And, I just want to say that I empathize with your position and I wish you a little bit of King Solomon's wisdom and perhaps a bit of the Midas touch and you have a difficult process ahead of you. I'd also like to commend the work of many other people here in Manchester in working to improve our community. My most important possession is my education and I value that greatly and so I ask you to consider the improvement of our Manchester schools. The youth of our community, many of whom are here today are, I think, a perfect example of the future of Manchester and we need to show them that we care. However, I'm here to speak tonight on behalf of the ALPHA Teen Program. As you know, it is during the after school hours that latchkey youth are most likely to engage or be tempted to engage in other than healthy activities and that is where ALPHA comes in. We provide a structured, academic, and personal development program that not only keeps 125 kids off the streets every year, but also provides them with the aforementioned activities to ensure that they received continued positive enforcement that they have already learned in school during the school hours. In addition to working with the youth, we involve parents at almost every step of the process and assist them with learning ways that

they too can reinforce this positive improvement in their youth. I ask that you contemplate bringing ALPHA support close to our fiscal year '94 level as possible. Please view this as an investment in the youth of our community. Thank you.

Carol Gayman, 300 Steinmetz Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
They say a picture is worth a thousand words, so I just wanted to share a scene that I was able to witness down in the Millyard about a month ago that I think has some bearing on tonight's hearing. It took place in the top floor of one of the abandoned mill buildings and there I found in a cold, dark, old building with paint chips all over the wooden floor and there's even pigeons nesting inside on some of the window ledges, I saw four Central High athletes who are preparing for the spring medley relay at nationals. These girls were lucky enough to come in sixth earning All-American honors at the national event and that's quite an accomplishment, I think, for girls who only have a Millyard in which to practice and I think these girls as well as all of the other Central athletes who devote themselves time and time again to their sport, they deserve much better. Central, as most of us know, is the oldest high school in New Hampshire and it's also the only inner-city high school in the State. There are many inner-city youth at Central that are served by Central High School who really lack the financial ability to have any other recreational programs available to them after school and without high school athletics a lot of these youth will become what is called now "at risk students". So, it's to our greatest benefit to serve all these youth and to provide a facility for all of them. It's beyond question that high school athletics plays the major role in developing our youth into protective and responsible citizens. So, with that in mind, I would hope that you will fund this fully and please don't even cut the $50,000 because it was originally scheduled for $550,000 to do this. I'm also the Hillside Track Coach and when we travel to away meets at Londonderry and Timberlane, for example, I see the look in my athlete's eyes, they're astonished at the facilities that their peers have available to them. These facilities, I feel, are visual displays of the commitment these communities have made to their youth and their future and I feel like we need similar displays for our youth. On my way over here tonight, I was thinking of we came to Manchester and didn't really know why, but I'm so happy we've been here because it's a really neat place to live and I thought what made it a neat place is probably the people that live here. The people like Joe O'Neill and Stan Spirou who care about our youth and give tirelessly of their efforts in their behalf. It's also a City with a lot of vision and a lot of hope right now and I feel like we're on the brink of greatness. As Jim Craig pointed out there was great outpouring of support for the Intown Manchester and the For Manchester efforts that are now underway. It's a City of great promise and I feel that right now is the time for us to start fulfilling that promise for our youth and I ask that you fully fund the track program so that we can begin to host regional meets in Manchester and show all of New England what a neat community this is. Thank you.

Regis Lemaire, Director of the Office of Youth Services, stated:
Mr. Mayor and Members of the Board of Aldermen, in terms of my CIP budget and if you take a look at it, you'll find that all of my funding has always been in the other category rather than asking for City funding. About two months ago, I was approached by the Courts, an Alderman

on this Board, the Manchester Police Department, the Employee Assistance Program, and our office sat down to devise what is called an Alcohol Court Referral Program and what we need is some seed money to start this program up which would basically be a court-ordered program that would come to our office. A youngster would go through four sessions, he would have the option of going through four sessions or paying $250 the first time, the second time at this moment that would be a $1,000 to pay on alcohol and this would be for any youngsters under the age of 18. They would be required to attend this program, they would have to pay a fee of $100 to our agency, that is why I say it's seed money because I see eventually this program funding itself over a period of time. Even if we had 100 youngsters we'd be looking at $10,000, so we're looking for $18,000. This is not money that basically we were looking for. Our specific office is a partnership with a number of agencies in Manchester and I see this as good for Manchester and I hope you consider it.

Don Hunt, 30 Mechanic Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
I'm representing the Youth Opportunities Unlimited Program from the Manchester YMCA. I am asking for continued support for that program. It's a program that's based in the Beech Street area, working with students after school, and as was mentioned a little earlier the time period between 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM is when students are most likely to get into trouble. The Youth Opportunities Unlimited Program was researched and developed by UNH Cooperative Extension and makes use of the sharpest cutting edge research available to create a comprehensive program for youth and teens. It starts when they're in kindergarten and goes all the way through 12th grade and provides a cooperative approach working with the parents, the teens, and other community service agencies. The impact with the program on the students...two-thirds feel they could turn YOU staff person if they had a problem, 41% of shy students became more outgoing, 38% of students that were considered to not have a lot of friends made new friends, 47% became more cooperative and followed the rules. This is really significant if you're dealing with students that are having trouble in school. One hundred percent of the students say the program helps them feel more proud of themselves. Ninety-six percent of the students and families said that their relationship in the home became better because of the program. Equally significant...eight families indicated that they did not move out of the Beech Street area because of the YOU Program. It helps on all levels and creates a stronger, healthier family and a strong, healthier community. So, I hope you'll continue your support. Thank you very much.

Mary Sliney, 20 Merrimack Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
I am the Executive Director of the Security Deposit Loan Fund of Greater Manchester located at 20 Merrimack Street. And, I first of all want to take the opportunity to thank the efforts of this community in addressing issues of homelessness and the housing needs of the very low-income population. I would also like to challenge us to go as far as is necessary to meet some very critical needs of members of our community. The face of the homeless is often invisible in our City. In our consolidated plan, we indicate that there are 9,000 individuals living below the poverty level, we have fortunately been designated as an Enterprise Community because of the

existence of poverty in our community and homelessness is directly linked to poverty because if you can't afford to pay the rent, the landlord needs to evict you period. Without housing you have a hard time getting on your feet, to keep the job, keep the kids in schools, and address the issues. In my organization, we receive calls from over a thousand households a year seeking assistance with their housing needs. We, as much as possible, attempt to work with people before they become homeless and this is very, very important because it costs a lot more money once a household, a family, an individual actually become homeless. It's also becoming more critical at this point in time because we're facing a very, a tightening housing market which means if you're a property owner and you have a dozen people interested in your apartment, you're not going to look at someone who's been evicted because they were unable to pay their rent, if you can choose someone else. The property owners have also developed their own credit bureau called the Landlord Connection and if you have been evicted because you've been unable to pay your rent, you're listed with the Landlord Connection making it much more difficult to compete for getting back on your feet and getting into an apartment. It also costs money to shelter people who have become homeless and our shelters have been filled to overflowing so that sometimes City Welfare has to pay for rooms in a local motel which is not the most cost-effective thing, it's much better to be able to prevent individuals from becoming homeless. We submitted a request and have received some support in the CIP budget to address the needs of individuals who are actually homeless because of the HUD fund called the McKinney Homeless Prevention or Emergency Shelter Grant Fund and we hope to do as much as possible with what has been allocated to address the needs of people who are actually homeless or under eviction, so that their needs can be met and they can become self-sufficient, contributing members of the community. Unfortunately, though, the restrictions under the other source of HUD funds the Community Development Block Grant money did not make it possible for, in this proposed budget, for an allocation for those folks who are not yet homeless, or not eligible for the Homeless Prevention funds because of the fact that they are on the edge, they may be in substandard housing, they may be paying 80% of their income for their rent and on the verge of losing their housing if some intervention does not take place. If it is at all possible in the future planning process for some support to go to assist those individuals, it would go a long way and it would be a very cost-saving measure. As a small non-profit, we work very hard to raise money from diverse sources, from foundation grants, from the United Way, from private fund-raising efforts, and to...and I wanted to indicate as a last step a withdrawal of one of our requests which was support for a donated furniture project because we were fortunate to raise through foundation grants adequate funding for that project for this year. With the donated furniture project, we expect to draw $100,000 worth of contributions of furniture that we will deliver directly to formerly homeless families in the City of Manchester, so that when they start over their initial cost for their housing can be significantly saved. We began finding many, many families who would end up getting an apartment, but they would not have the money for the furniture and their kids would be sleeping on the floor, so we are happy to withdraw that request and hope that funding for other homeless needs can be met within the budget. Thank you.

Jack Lightfoot, 99 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH, stated;
I am from Child & Family Services. I'm here this evening to speak in support of an allocation for a Child Care Coordinator at Child & Family Services. Child care is an important part of the fabric of Manchester, it is an important need for a strong economic development end as we address Welfare reform and people are going to work they need to find child care. The Child Care Coordinator's position is one that has existed as a partnership between Child & Family Services and the City of Manchester since 1989. It is being moved into the CIP budget in order to strengthen the planning capacities and the roles of the Child Care Coordinator in helping the City and the citizens of Manchester and the employers of Manchester identify child care needs and address those child care needs. The Child Care Coordinator is a part-time position, but it works very closely with other child care programs at Child & Family Services and in the State. We receive funding from the State, from private employers, and from private foundations to address a broad range of child care needs including helping parents find child care, helping recruit and train child care providers, conducting needs assessments, working with employers to find ways in which they can help their employees find child care, working with child care providers to identify as I say and address needs specifically. Recent projects have included a survey of child care providers in the City to find out where they see where the gaps are and just for your information 86% of the respondents to that survey reported that there is a very great shortage of infant and toddler child care for children under the age of 2 and that is a critical area for Welfare reform especially if we are going to have mothers of young children leave Welfare and find work. We are also working with school-age child care providers to strengthen those programs that several people have already talked about in terms of what kids do after school, they need a variety of activities to keep them out of trouble to help them become productive adults and we are working with a variety of school-age programs to address those needs which include both programmatic issues as well as transportation issues. We are trying to make sure that we make the maximum use of existing resources without having to devote money to expand capacity where that doesn't need to be done. We recently had the 8th Annual Greater Manchester Child Care Fair which attracts hundreds, actually thousands of people over the years to a display at the Mall of New Hampshire to display kinds of activities, kinds of wholesome activities that are available to children in the Greater Manchester area and I hope you'll support the project. Thank you very much.

Karen Rosenberg, 1032 Chestnut Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
I'm here in my role as the Project Director of New Hampshire Legal Assistance's Fair Housing Project. I don't want to take too much your time, but I want to thank you for your support. What we are proposing to do as part of our Fair Housing Project and for the City of Manchester is to hold four to five community meetings to talk about housing discrimination, how to recognize it, and how to prevent it. We've had a grant last fiscal year and have so far served about 54 individuals, community meetings, and hundreds more people through mass mailings, sending out public service announcements and press releases about these important issues. Unfortunately, housing discrimination exists here and I'm hoping we can do our part to eradicate it and I'm here to answer any questions you may have.

Alderman Wihby asked is that the $4,700.

Ms. Rosenberg replied yes. Thank you.

Gloria Holmes, 555 Canal Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
I'm talking on behalf of ALPHA Teen and I think this is a very important program that is helping youth, it's not just working with Hispanics, but is working with Americans. This is a good indication of integration and also this program is providing academic, tutorial, counseling, family mediation, substance abuse, and healthy decision-making skills. So, this is a very important program and I hope you can support the program this year. Thanks.

Mary O'Shaughnessy, 109 Sunnyside Street, Manchester, NH, stated:
My concern is the Chandler School. My son does attend there, however, he is in the modular classroom, not the main school and I just kind of want to share with everyone and also my feelings on the schools, the conditions that are very poor. My first priority, of course, when my son was there, he is there was that his progress in the classroom, the program itself is excellent and he's doing very well at Chandler, we don't have a problem with that. However, when I did look around and when you drop your child off at school and you see that he's doing great, but when you look around or you go to the gym class and you go to pick him up and you look around and you see the conditions, it's really quite sad that in this City that, I don't consider myself a real high and mighty and high-income person, but I don't know, just to have them exposed to those conditions are awful. In the modular school over the teacher's desk and in supposedly the teacher's restroom there are these good size vents that are square and two of them the teacher's have stuffed and sealed with duct tape to keep out the drafts. This was a suggestion from another teacher to my son's teacher because this is what they did at their summer home on a lake. The gym class - there is no gym. It's a very small room where the kids gather on Friday mornings, they do the best that they can. The only other point that was not brought up besides the windows being sealed up are no longer going to be opened this spring, so there's no fresh air to ventilate that classroom, you do have students that maybe are not potty trained all the way and sometimes you just need to change the air of the room and it cannot be done. You can open the back door, but it is unsafe to leave it open ajar because kids move very quickly and they'll be out of that door in two minutes. The hanging heating lamp that's just a nightmare, it hangs over the circle area where the children sit and I would hate to have that lamp fall on anybody, it's very dangerous, it heats up, it gets very hot, it's just like a tanning lamp. The only other thing that nobody really brought up was how clean the school was. It's really not clean. There was a child in the classroom that sometimes they get sick, you clean up the best you can. This child was sick before Christmas vacation, there is still a stain on that rug that has not been properly taken out. These are children that are kneeling on the floor getting their coats and hats on or are sitting down talking to a teacher...she's hugging them, she's kissing them, she's saying how are you, and they're on filthy rugs. This rug has not been cleaned or has only been cleaned once in five years. Now, we all know that at home we clean our rugs more

than once in five years, this is ridiculous. The teacher herself had a personal vacuum cleaning that she brought in to clean up after the morning class, they have popcorn, she cleans up, she's very dedicated. You cannot help get involved and keep things clean. I don't know if I should say it or not, but I think the janitors were using it at night because they didn't bring a heavy-duty vacuum cleaner over from the main school. An electric broom does not take care of cleaning the entire room for a good cleaning. This is just a little pick-up, an electric broom to pick-up popcorn and construction paper while the electric broom's broken because...I don't know what these people are using to clean this classroom, but it's dirty. So, you have a classroom that's dirty, that's not properly cleaned, the windows can't be opened for ventilation. These kids are three and four years old, hey, they have allergies too. I mean, they have to have some kind of air here and breath in. We know as adults it gets hot in here, you want to step outside, they cannot step outside. All I can say is that Chandler School is a wonderful program, with wonderful teachers, a wonderful principal. You're not going to have many track stars in the three and four generations if we don't get something done at Chandler School. We need to clean up, we need to have you guys visit there, to walk around...this woman took pictures. We just need you guys to come and look and really take a look at what's going on at Chandler School. Thank you very much.

Letters were received and entered into the record as follows:

41 Poplar Street
Manchester, New Hampshire

I am a member of Doors Pond Preservation Society and we are very concern all these trees you are cutting.

We attend your public meeting about the improvement of Livingston Park and we were very concern about Dorr's Pond. No one seem to be too concern about the pollution of Dorr's Pond. Ron Johnson said they were going to thin the park out. Did they? No, it look like a tornado hit the area very hard.

Also we took a walk around Livingston Park on June 3, 1996 and again he said they will only thin out some area. They will only cut about 1/2 acres of trees. I believe they cut more than 1/2 acres of trees.

Our society was established to restore and protect Dorr's Pond and the wildlife in the area. When you cut all these trees do you realize what you have done to the wildlife, you destroy their winter nests.

On March 7, 1997 there was an article about tree flak in the Union Leader. Clem Lemire said it is not new at the tree flak deal. He received a lot of flak when they cut a few dozen trees in July of 1975. He claim there still will be 80 acres of woodland and 25 acres of pond and wetland left at Livingston Park at the project. They were 135 acres of woodland and 25 acres of pond when they bought the site from Amoskeag Manufacturing Company for $25,000.00 in 1936.

In another word you have already destroyed or cleared out 30 acres of trees. How many more acres of trees for the bike path are you going to cut.

They are still going to cut more trees because of the bike/walk trail which will circle the park along Daniel Webster Highway near the shore of Dorr's pond. Ron Johnson claim they are going to thin the area out. That is not true, the bike trail will be 20 feet wide near the shore land and they still will have to cut more trees. Some of the area of the bike

trail will be too close to our pond some of our biker/walker will throw their trash in our pond. It already polluter we do not need this. We need these trees to filter our pond and filter our air. Also it gave oxygen to our pond which it needs badly. The bike path will have to go near a wetland area. Area they going to fill the wetland which they can not? Or are they going to build a bridge for the bike path?

I believe there is a shore line protection act. According to our state there are not suppose to cut trees within 250 feet of any pond or lake. Is there another law for the City of Manchester about this?

Our society is very concern about this. I already spoke to Ron Johnson, he said they are only going to thin out this area because it going to be along the sewage line on the Daniel Webster Highway. It is a five year plan to improve Livingston Park, by the time they will build this bike/walk trail our old or more pine trees and our once beautiful pond will be going forever just like Nutt's pond did in 1978.

Do not wait until the trees are all cut and later complain it will be to late, you certainly cannot glue the trees together again. It took many years for these trees to grow.

Right now they is no trees for our resident to enjoyed at Livingston Park. I spoke to quite a few of them. They are very concern, how are they going to protect themselves from the sun on very hot days?

Some of our resident buy pizza or ice cream and enjoy themselves under a tree for shelter against he hot sum. Some member of our society met the them Governor Steve Merrill at the park last summer. He had a ice cream cone and was sitting at a picnic table. He told us he enjoy the park very much. I wonder what he is thanking about our treeless park now!! By the way these trees were not planted 60 years ago by WPA. These trees are natural grown. My father and my uncle help with the building of the swimming pool in March of 1938. In fact we been living in the same area over 64 years in back of Dorr's Pond. And as a abutter we do not want the area to become treeless. Also we want our pond to be restore. It is a health hazard for our children and resident to be around Dorr's Pond. It should be restored first before you do any improvement around Livingston park. I believe we are #8 on the list of improvement at Livingston Park. You are not too concern about our pond. You rather destroy it instead of restoring it. Our society wrote to Alderman Wihby on July 30, 1996 and also on October 22, 1996. I believe he is not to concern about it. He probably think it is a big joke?

Also on May 6, 1996 I wrote a letter to each of our aldermen and our mayor about this situation. We became a society on May 20, 1996 and I became a member. Dorr's Pond Preservation Society is trying very hard to save our pond. We even apply for a nonpoint source grant from the NHDS.

s/Blanche Grondin, Secretary
Dorrs Pond Preservation Society

New Hampshire Minority Health Coalition
1415 Elm Street,2nd Fl.

The New Hampshire Minority Health Coalition is writing to you on behalf of the ALPHA TEEN Program. We are concerned about a loss of funding to this vital community program for youth. We are requesting support for the program as it appeals for reinstatement of the 38% funding level of FY95 which had been cut. At the CIP (Community Improvement Program meeting scheduled for March 25, the ALPHA TEEN program has requested to be on the agenda regarding this manner. We ask that serious consideration be given to this request. Thank you for your time, recognition and support of this concern, we trust you view it favorably.

s/ Sandra T. Hicks
President/Coordinator
New Hampshire Minority Health Coalition

Mayor Wieczorek advised that all wishing to speak having been heard, all comments shall be taken under advisement with reports to be made to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen at a later date.

There being no further business to come before the public hearing, on motion of Alderman Domaingue, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to adjourn

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk