

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED FY99 CIP BUDGET)**

March 23, 1998

7:00 PM

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

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

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were 14 Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Klock, Reiniger, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, Shea, Rivard, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann, O'Neil, Girard

Mayor Wieczorek advised that the purpose of the meeting is a public hearing upon the proposed Community Improvement Program of the City of Manchester including activities for the 1999 to 2004 period.

The Clerk presented the proposed Resolution:

“Approving the Community Improvement Program for 1999,
Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefor, and Authorizing Implementation of
Said Program.”

and noted that information relating to changes approved by the Board has also been made available for presentation and comment.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he was supposed to present a budget message relative to the Community Improvement Program, but left it in his office. He stated that in my inaugural speech I eluded to many things that I thought were important to the City of Manchester continuing to move ahead. Another big item that we had, of course, is what is happening with school. All of you know that we have a new middle school under construction and expect it to be occupied this September. In addition to that, in going to the middle school concept, I think most people realize that we have a problem on the west side at Parkside because there isn't adequate room really to take in all of the students from Parker-Varney. The addition to Parkside is a very high priority with me and I indicated that it was. However, saying that we put the money into the budget to do the architectural work, the engineering work, everything that had to be done to determine how it is going to be done. We also have some money in there, depending on what happens with the Chandler School operation and we are working on that. I don't know precisely where that is going to wind up, but I do have an idea where it is going to wind up and that could free up some money for us to move ahead with the Parkside project. The problem that we have with it is an architect has to take a look at that to find out if, in fact, you are going to go up or you are going to go out; what you are going to do. If there is going to be

construction done during the...you can't do construction on top of the building if school is in session. We expect that the architect will be starting on this project fairly quickly. If things go well, certainly it will be ready for occupancy in September of 1999 and it could be earlier if things go well and we are able to get some things done. My understanding is that a lot of people that are here are interested in that portion of the Community Improvement budget. Let me assure you that that is a very high priority here with the City. We are going to get it done. We are going to get it done as expeditiously as we can.

Mayor Wieczorek requested that Robert MacKenzie, Director of Planning, make a presentation.

Mr. MacKenzie stated thank you, your Honor and good evening honorable board members and members of the general public. Tonight I did want to run through, fairly quickly, some aspects of the Community Improvement Program, CIP. I am going to start by defining what it is, what are the different parts of the CIP, where the money comes from, what it is going to be used for, give you an idea of what some of the projects are, the key projects, and then go into the process and how it is going to be ultimately adopted by the board. You can see on the wall here, and if you picked up one of the summary packages you will see in one of the two summary packages some notes on the CIP. The first is what is a CIP anyway. The Community Improvement Program is a planning and financial management tool that integrates all federal and state programs with community development projects funded by bonds and operating cash. It looks six years into the future to insure that long-term community development needs of the city are met, while minimizing tax impacts. That is the ultimate goal and mission statement of the Community Improvement Program and I would add that it is extremely important for older industrial cities such as Manchester to take a long-range planned approach towards what is called the infrastructure. Mill cities in New England are struggling. I think Manchester itself is on the verge of overcoming those problems, but you have to have a planned approach to accomplishing that while not significantly affecting the tax rate. Tax rates can obviously affect whether people come to live in Manchester and whether businesses come to stay in Manchester. I am going to go through the different purposes. There are a number of purposes of the Community Improvement Program and I wanted to highlight those. It coordinates various improvement projects in the City and there is many projects going on. It provides access by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the public to information on all projects and funding. Before the CIP was created, there was various sources and various locations for these funds, but no one place where you could find out where all the community improvement projects were. It provides a streamlined accounting procedure. It maximizes the federal and state dollars for needed projects. It minimizes the tax rate impact on capital projects, provides for long-range planning of capital needs and establishes a means of setting overall community development projects. I would note that in the early 1970's, before the CIP was adopted, roughly 1/3 of the total operating budget of the city went to paying off debt. One of the long-term goals was to reduce that so there was more money available in the operating for direct needs. So now that 1/3 of the total debt is down to roughly 10% of the total operating budget is used for debt on this project. If you look through your packages, not the summary ones, but the actual table of

projects, there is five different tables. We separate out those five different tables for a reason. Table 1-1 is federal, state and other funds. These are funds that various departments, as well as our departments, apply for to get grants, loans and other monies. This money does not directly impact the city property tax rate. Table 1-2 is HUD funded projects. HUD is also a federal grant, but it has a little bit more discretion in how the community may use it. Again, this section does not affect the property tax rate of the city. The next Table 1-3 is cash funded CIP programs. There is a lot of smaller projects, and I use street resurfacing as one, that a community can't bond. That is basically a maintenance item. It is also too large to normally include in an operating budget so it is included in what is called the CIP cash portion. The next is bond projects. Both the cash portion and bond projects are the sections of the CIP that do affect the property tax rate. Finally, there is the enterprise projects. That is your Environmental Protection Division, Airport, Parks & Recreation now has an enterprise fund. These enterprise funds basically pay for both their operations and their capital projects through the various revenues that they receive. Also within the program is a multi-year CIP program that looks five additional years into the future to show what major projects we will be facing so that we can plan ahead when the time comes that we have to face those major projects. The final section is the CIP program guidelines. Again, those are guidelines that we have established to make sure that we minimize the impact on the property tax rate. Now I want to talk a little bit about where does all the money come from. This year, the proposed CIP program was about \$96 million. That is quite a bit higher than last year's CIP. This particular chart, and you may have it if you have one of the summary packages, shows in the first pie where the money is coming from. This pie chart right here. You can see that the largest share of the pie, about \$71 million comes from enterprise programs. What that is, is sewer use fees, but primarily those are fees generated by the airport. Passenger facility charges, revenues from parking, revenue from taxi cabs. The airport does generate a lot of revenues and those are used to fund both their operating budget and their capital projects that they are planning this year. Federal, state and other grants total about \$7.5 million. That will come higher once we get the ultimate numbers from the School Department. The School Department typically also gets about \$8-9 million of federal funds each year. Again, the specialized category HUD funds, the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Here you can see the amount of city cash, \$1.4 million and the bonds, \$13.96 million as proposed. So you can see out of the source of funds only about \$16 million or roughly 16% of the total CIP is based on property tax revenues. Where is the money going to this year? This generalizes where the money is headed. Again, you can see transportation and environment take up the largest share. That is because roughly \$57 million of the total CIP is headed towards airport improvements. You also have in there various sewer improvements, including the CSO program. Almost \$10 million is headed towards the schools and education. Then we have a little over \$1 million in health and human services, community management, public safety is about \$1.6 million, recreation, housing and community development. That gives you a rough idea of where the money is coming from and where it is going to. I would like to go into a little bit more detail on some of the key projects in each of those five categories. The first key area is federal and state projects. Two city departments that do an excellent job of finding monies, both state and federal, are the Office of Youth Services and the Health

Department. OYS gets approximately \$100,000 each year and the Health Department gets close to \$700,000 each year. They fund a lot of the special programs that are needed, both for youth programs and public health programs. The airport authority is also looking at \$2.8 million in federal aviation money. That will come down to resurrect the sound insulation program. That program has been very successful, but was not continued last year. This year, they are going to the next series of homes in and around the airport. We are also looking for the potential of a HUD loan for redevelopment of some of the buildings downtown. Looking at the HUD portion of the CIP budget, and that is the \$3 million section of monies that the city gets from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, we historically fund several of these programs. One of these, the Youth Recreation Program, is run by the Parks & Recreation Department and the Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority. This year, that will be \$117,000. There are also certain non-profit organizations that perform certain public functions that the city also funds. In this case, there is a pharmaceutical program run by the Community Health Center. This year, that is proposed at \$40,000. Another one of the non-profit organizations, the daycare run by the Visiting Nurse's Association, provides daycare for low and moderate income families, allowing those families to go out and get jobs when they might not otherwise have been able to. The neighborhood playgrounds rehabilitation. Within HUD eligible areas of the city, which means they have to be low and moderate income, HUD can fund various public facilities. Two parks that we are looking at this year are Enright Park and Harriman Park as potential use of the money. That is \$100,000 of HUD monies. Also downtown park rehabilitation, we are looking at completing the downtown parks. This year we are looking at Colevis Park between Chestnut and Pine Street. A large amount of the monies are also going to Neighborhood Housing Services this year to continue some of their initiatives. \$484,000 are going into programs such as home ownership and also acquisition of distressed properties and to keep their program going. Downtown revitalization. There is approximately \$630,000 to continue improvements such as occurred on Elm Street. We will be working with the Highway Department and some other agencies in implementing that program. There is money related to the Jac Pac expansion. The city did assist and retain Jac Pac and had a very substantial redevelopment and expansion of the Jac Pac facility, expanding 75 jobs. The city committed at that time, and we are funding that up to \$300,000 to insure that that happens. ADA compliance. The city does have to meet federal standards for providing handicapped accessibility. There is a committee composed of a number of individuals now working on that, Access Manchester, and there will be \$250,000 for various handicap improvements throughout the city, but certainly focusing on some of the schools that are in desperate need of handicapped accessibility. There is also various programs assisting the homeless. We provide assistance to New Horizons, Helping Hands, Families in Transition and The Way Home. Some of those agencies have been hit hard this year by cutbacks in federal and state funds and although we cannot pick up the entire slack that has been cut out, we have expanded the amount of funds and this year there will be \$119,000 to help in those homeless programs. The next category is cash, city cash. As I mentioned, there is about \$1.4 million each year that is directed towards special projects that can't be bonded. This year, there is also certain non-profit organizations that receive assistance. Alpha will be funded with a little over \$10,000 for their teen program.

There is also park improvements identified and those are not the larger scale rehab projects which can be bonded. Those are the smaller projects that somehow fall between the cracks. There is \$50,000 earmarked for smaller athletic field rehab, neighborhood playgrounds, small improvements that typically the city may not otherwise be able to do. There is also monies in there for planning for a skateboard park. Regis Lemaire at OYS has been working with a number of people trying to identify locations for a potential skateboard park. There is money in this year's program to address some of the planning and design. Fun in the Sun is another program that is run. That is funded with \$40,000. The resurfacing monies, the amount of money that is used to put a fresh topcoat on many of the streets, it is proposed that that be doubled this year. Last year in the CIP it was \$250,000. It is proposed that it be doubled to \$500,000. Another city cash project, traffic signals at Jewett and Valley Street for \$65,000. Also, annual maintenance. That is the funds that Public Building Services uses to make repairs and minor improvements to many of the municipal buildings and schools. That is funded at \$225,000. The next is the bond and I would like to show another slide here to identify key bond projects. The bond projects are the ones that the Board has the most discretion on using. As I mentioned before, most of the other programs, from enterprise to the federal funds, are directed and can only be used for specific purposes. So, the city's bond monies are the amount that the Board has in terms of discretionary use of those funds. Of the roughly \$14 million that was proposed this year, \$2.9 would be used for economic development in relation to acquiring the property for future research and development and industrial development on Hackett Hill Road. The largest portion of bond money would be going toward school improvements. As you can see, \$2.5 million is identified and earmarked toward the Chandler preschool program and \$2.35 million is earmarked for the school capital improvement program. That, we believe, will take care of improvements, the Phase I improvements here at Memorial High School which will include not only Science Labs, but other important areas, upgrading art rooms, guidance areas and administrative areas. It was clear that you could not do all the work proposed in one year. We have a very short construction season. School gets out in June and then resumes in late August or early September. We are looking to break that into two major phases with the first phase occurring this year. Other projects within that school capital improvement program are the Phase III of heating and ventilation improvements at West and Central High. There is improvements for the tech ed facilities at the existing junior highs, Hillside, Southside and Parkside and also design monies, as the Mayor mentioned, for the ultimate addition at Parkside Junior High School. So those are the key parts of the school capital improvement project. The next category is park improvements. That included both neighborhood park improvements and also some major improvements at Livingston and West Memorial Field. Street improvements is the regular street reconstruction program which is at \$1 million and there are some other funds for other parts of the street reconstruction so called TIP projects. TIP projects, we pay for 20% of the eligible project and the state pays for 80%. The major project the city is looking at now in terms of state money is the reconstruction of Candia Road. We have money for both computer and telephone upgrades and certainly the Fire Department is in desperate need of a new telephone system. Communications is at the heart of their operation and they desperately need a telephone system. Other projects are bridges, sidewalks and parking. Some of the

parking improvements we are looking at include those areas at the Hartnett Parking Lot. Then there are other improvements, Fire Station improvements, both the first phase of improvements at the Sommerville Fire Station, that also includes monies for emergency backup generators at two fire stations in the city. The other funds included motorized equipment replacement, that is your major vehicles, your fire trucks, dump trucks, your larger vehicles that can be bonded. The other projects, fitting up of City Hall, design for a police station addition and improvements, \$100,000 of improvements at the Pine Grove cemetery. So those are the major bond projects as proposed this year. The final category, as I mentioned before, was the enterprise projects. Certainly out of this year's program a majority of the projects fall under this enterprise. The Manchester Airport Authority at roughly \$57 million has the lion's share of the CIP program. They are looking at major terminal expansion as you probably read in the papers. There are new airlines coming in and they have currently run out of room to provide service for those airlines. In addition, parking is at a premium and they are looking at building a parking garage and expanding their long-term parking in other locations. They are also in the process of property acquisition, relocation of Kelly Avenue and extension of runway 6/24. That runway will be extended so that they can put their major service on that runway while their main runway, runway 1735, is being reconstructed. So certainly that is a major portion of the CIP. All of the monies used for that are coming from various federal funds, revenue bonds, as well as past bonding based upon PFC's which are passenger facility charges. Other projects under the enterprise, the Parks & Recreation department has a relatively new enterprise program. They are looking to fund the Derryfield Country Club improvements, \$250,000. Fairly major improvements at McIntyre Ski area, \$470,000. A couple of different projects at Gill Stadium for \$325,000. Improvements at JFK Coliseum for \$110,000. Again, the improvements and the bonding for those improvements are paid for by revenues generated by those particular operations. Other projects under this category, Manchester Water Works, typically makes improvements. They have a program of \$3.2 million. Their major one is making improvements to the high service water storage area on top of Oak Hill. The city is also embarking on the CSO program. There is \$4 million earmarked at this point, even though negotiations are still underway with the EPA, we are tentatively earmarking \$4 million for separation of the Combined Sewer Overflow System. Also, there is design for Crystal Lake/Mammoth Road sewers, \$300,000, and the last of the major enterprise programs, energy efficiency and other improvements in all of the schools totaling \$3 million. That bond will be paid for by energy savings created by basically going to all of the schools and updating the lighting system and the heating and ventilation control systems. By doing that, they can use the savings to actually pay for all of those improvements of the bonds. Now what I discussed is the proposed Mayor's CIP program. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen have already been hard at work through both the CIP committee and the full Board in making certain changes. I did want to highlight those, at least the major changes, before we go on. The Board has been looking at developing the riverwalk, which you may have read about. They have earmarked \$1.5 million in city bond money and also identified \$500,000 in privately financed bonds would be matched to that. In fact, they have said that in essence that \$500,000 match has to occur in order for the city to bond \$1.5 million. The downtown building improvement program, \$150,000 would come out of the

downtown fund that was created several years ago. The Board also added \$110,000 in CIP cash for various park improvements. That included improvements at Precourt, Youngsville, Stevens and Prouts Park. They also approved a request to consider the purchase of the Amoskeag Hydro Dam for power generation for \$20 million. The airport, during the process of the CIP program, the airport also came back with some additional requests totaling \$30 million. Of that, there was about \$15 million for additional property acquisition, \$10 million for program construction management, and an additional \$5 million for the parking garage. At this point, that concludes my presentation, your Honor, and I will be available, along with my staff, to try and answer any questions that you may have.

Mayor Wieczorek advised that 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 give 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.

Mary Sliney, 20 Merrimack Street, Manchester NH, stated:

Thank you Mayor and members of the Board. My name is Mary Sliney, I am the Executive Director of The Way Home, which formerly was known as the Security Deposit Loan Fund of Greater Manchester and I wish to express support for the activity in the housing and homeless area that is contained within the budget. We certainly need as much assistance as possible and I just wanted to take a moment to draw your attention to the irony of good economic time. The opportunity we have now is also difficulty for some people whose incomes do not keep up with rising rents. In the last year, we have seen rents go up anywhere from 15% to 50% for those who are least able to pay these increases, many of whom were already paying more than 75% of their income to their housing costs. Many of these people, for whom I am speaking this evening, have been long-term Manchester residents, have been working in jobs locally and participating in the community. For example, one woman came to our office in January seeking assistance to find more affordable housing. She had the same job for 10 years. She was a mom raising two children and she had been living in the same apartment for eight years. Her rent just went up \$110/month stretching an already stretched income. It is very important that the city keep in mind that during this period of economic growth there are many people who are being forced into homeless shelters because they cannot afford to pay the rent. Any assistance that can be provided in the area of affordable housing and in support for those programs that are assisting people to get back on their feet and into apartments of their own is very needed. Thank you very much.

John McDonald, 22 Walnut Street, Manchester NH, stated:

I would like to give my support to what you are doing in the area of homelessness and call your attention to the fact that unlike the stereotype of the homeless, a lot of the people that are currently in shelters like New Horizons are there because they cannot find affordable housing.

New Horizons holds 57 people. That is what they are licensed for. During past winters they have been 20% to 30% over that. This year, with a mild winter and some of the regulars who camp out not coming back on anything close to a normal rate, they have been running at least double every night. There is rooming houses that have traditionally accepted city assistance and been priced at \$60, \$65, & \$75 a week that now a glorified broom closet is \$80/week. It does two things. One, it makes the landlord a lot of money and two it exceeds the price that City Welfare has for a ceiling on what they will pay for rent. So they don't have to deal with City Welfare and they don't have to deal with marginal tenants. I don't know what more you can do, but you know the emphasis if we are going to resolve the housing problem has to be on housing that people can afford. I am aware of 15 people that I know of personally at New Horizons who are working steadily or getting disability who cannot find housing that they can afford if they want to do such luxury things as eat also. Thank you.

Lou D'Allensandro, 332 St. James Avenue, Manchester NH, stated:

I have resided at 332 St. James Avenue for the last 27 years. I want to speak in strong support of the addition to Parkside Junior High School. In order to remain consistent educationally by adopting the new middle school concept, the addition to Parkside Junior High School is absolutely mandatory. We have a situation now that if allowed to proceed will produce an inconsistency in terms of educational development for our youngsters in the City of Manchester. That must be corrected. The addition to Parkside, and I am pleased that the Mayor has that as a priority item, must really be moved up. We can't have inconsistency in the way we educate youngsters on the east and the west side. I might say that all of my children attended the Parker-Varney School, attended Parkside Junior High and attended Manchester High School West. In order to maintain a quality education, we must have consistency. By accepting the middle school concept, we want the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades to be self-contained in one building. We won't have that situation on the west side next year. We have got to have it if quality education is to persist in Manchester. Our business community has said, without equivocation, without quality education we can't have a labor force that can support sound economic growth in this city, in this state, and in this nation. So we are committed to quality education and I am committed to it on the west side and I am sure that you people are also. That addition is absolutely essential. The parents of those youngsters deserve the same opportunities as everyone in the City of Manchester and I know that in your wisdom you will see fit to handle that situation. We know that we must deliver that addition. We must deliver that addition. The school is overcrowded at the present time. We have three 6th grades or four 6th grades at the Parker-Varney school. That can remain for another year, but that is it. We have got to have that addition and that addition has got to come expeditiously. I thank you very much for your attention and hope that we will be looking at the addition to the Parkside Junior High School at a dedication in the very near future. Thank you.

Arthur Adamakos, 1196 Union Street, Manchester NH, stated:

Good evening everyone. My name is Arthur Adamakos. I actually have two residences in Manchester. I pay taxes at 1196 Union Street, however, I can most often be found at 1 Crusader

Way, the building you are now sitting in. The reason why I am speaking to you this evening is quite simply I want to make sure that you are aware of what the circumstances are regarding the Memorial High School renovations. There are three reasons why we need to do this project. The first of which is space. We are expected to get 100 more students next year, 100 more students the following year, and that does not include any agreements we already have or will have with Auburn or Litchfield. Quite frankly, we are going to be trying to fit a size 6 foot in a size 5 shoe because we do have the smallest square footage of high schools in the city and yet we will be asked quite shortly to maintain the same size as West High School. Within two years we will be at 1,800 students in a smaller building. The second thing is consistency. Just like School Committee Member D'Allensandro mentioned before, our Science Labs need the renovations. You will be happy to know, your Honor, that even though Memorial High School has the oldest Science Labs in the entire city, they are the best maintained. Our teachers, for quite some time, have spent an extraordinary amount of effort to make sure that our Science Labs are in good shape. They were built in 1959, 1960, whereas the other two schools were built in 1967 and 1968 and yet we are still waiting for our Science Labs while Central and West already have the new renovations to their Science Labs. The last thing that is more important to me than anything else is accreditation. When I was hired by the Board of School Committee three years ago, it seems like just yesterday, but three years ago they told me one thing and one thing only. Get the place accredited. Fully accredited. When I inherited the position I now have as Principal of Memorial School we were in the rears of 5 out of 11 standards by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Right now, we are only in the rears in two areas, assessment which that piece will be done by October of this year and the last I need your help on. It is school facilities. By March 1 I have to have answers for them as to how we are going to approach the problems we have with our facilities. What I mean by that is this. We have a music program that is expanding and yet we only have one classroom to deal with it. We have 117 students in our band for next year and we are looking at 130 the following year and a band room that cannot have more than 80 people in it. So we have a problem there. Our guidance area has been a problem for so long, as a matter of fact when it was built back in 1960 we were thinking about 900 students and yet Memorial now has 1,600 students attending our guidance area. It was a problem in 1984, was not addressed and needs to be addressed in the 1994 report so we need an answer for that. Storage is a problem at Memorial. There isn't any. So I am very concerned about these three issues. I need your help to finish off the project by March 1, 1999. I have to have answers for the New England Association. I don't want Memorial High School to be one of six NH schools to be on probation status of over 100 because we can't deal with the facility that we have here. Thank you very much.

Dianne Genesky, 144 Mooseclub Park, Goffstown NH, stated:

Good evening your Honor and the Board. I have letters here from parents of the children of the VNA Childcare Center. For the record, my name is Dianne Genesky and I am Program Manager of the VNA Childcare Center. If I could just submit these letters from the parents in support of the program (given to Clerk Johnson). As Mr. MacKenzie had said before, the VNA Childcare Center is very unique. We do offer a salary scale where the parents can, according to

their gross monthly income, receive what their tuition enrollment would be. I have a letter here from one of my parents that would more than generalize what we do at the VNA Childcare Center if I could read that to you. At the same time, I also have a parent who will be speaking, hopefully, right after me. This is a letter from a woman named Brandy:

“As a single parent, I can’t begin to say how important the program at the VNA Childcare Center has been to me and my son. I pay for his daycare on a sliding fee scale. Without this help, I probably would not be able to work and pay taxes. Daycare would take too large a percentage of my take home pay to justify working at all. The program at the VNA Childcare Center has greatly benefited my son. Through the terrific learning environment at the center, he is receiving a superior foundation for school. He is constantly singing songs he has learned in sing-a-long. He is also learning about animals, different colors, letters in the alphabet and is working on numbers and number association. In addition, he greatly benefits from the breakfast and lunch programs.”

We serve a breakfast in the morning. We serve a lunch in the afternoon and we also serve a snack. I would like to thank the Board for the recommendation from the Committee on Improvement in town here and I would also like to thank them for all of their previous funding in the past and I hope that you continue to support the VNA Childcare Center as it is a substantial, a great program in this community and I would hate to have it not funded anymore. If I could please, I hope that Melissa Dale is next your Honor. Could I have her speak in support of the program as well? Thank you for listening.

Melissa Dale, 51 “C” Street, Manchester NH, stated:

My son Brian is five years old. He has been at the VNA Daycare Center since he was 11 months old. After four years I can say that the quality of care my son receives is outstanding. My son is a happy, secure and well-adjusted little boy. Developmental and social skills are amazing. As his mom I would like to take full credit for his achievements, however, my son spends 9 hours a day at the VNA and the credit for his achievements are to be shared with all who are responsible - the caregivers who are with him all day teaching him right from wrong, how to share, to use his words and not his hands, to write his name and learn his letters. My son is always coming home with a new song to share with me with pictures of new letters that he learned that week or the Christmas, Valentine’s or Mother’s Day presents he made all by himself. Last Friday he brought home a pet rock he painted all by himself and named and Sporty. The sense of accomplishment and pride that my son brings home with each project reinforces for me the quality of his caregivers and the quality of the curriculum that is being provided my son at the VNA, a balanced day of learning and fun. My son has formed loving bonds with each caregiver he has been placed with throughout his development stages at the VNA. Although I will admit that I did not know my son would feel so loved and secured when I placed him at the VNA, I made my decision to place him at the VNA because it was a center I could afford. I realize that may sound cold and uncaring, but in my financial position at that time, it was my motivating factor. It is not a decision I have ever regretted. If the VNA had not had the sliding scale tuition program, I would not have been able to afford quality daycare for my son. Being a single parent, the VNA program enabled me to become a contributing member to our city instead of a burden to its taxpayers. By that I mean that if I did not have affordable

daycare available, I would have been forced to become a welfare mother. It has recently come to my attention that the Aldermen and the City of Manchester's Community Improvement Program have recommended funding the VNA for the coming year. My son and I thank you for this. This funding will help to insure that our children continue to receive nutritional meals. It will assure that the quality and curriculum offered to our children won't be sacrificed and this funding will allow parents like myself to afford quality daycare. I am in the majority of the parents of the VNA. Most of us are single parents raising our children on one income and this funding allows our children the quality care they need and deserve. Thank you very much.

Darrell Wozniak, 111 Gove Street, Manchester NH, stated:

Good evening. I am the parent of a 4th and 1st grade student at Parker-Varney School and I am serving as Secretary of the Parker-Varney PTG. I am here this evening in support of the Mayor's request for funding of the much needed addition to the Parkside middle school. Over the last few months, there has been much discussion about this issue by members of the Board of School Committee, school administrators and concerned parents. Much of this discussion has centered around the implementation of the middle school concept in the upcoming school year and it is recognized by an overwhelming majority of all concerned that the addition to the facility at Parkside Junior High School is vital to the success of this program and is long overdue. The proposed funding for this project must be part of the CIP budget for the next fiscal year and nothing short of this must be approved. We ask that this Board appropriate the necessary funding with unified support. Thank you.

Ted Krol, 135 Becker Street, Manchester NH, stated:

I am a parent of two children who currently attend Parker-Varney School and I am the current President of the Parker-Varney PTG. I strongly urge that the budget approved include full funding for a complete addition to the Parkside Junior High to be completed by September of 1999. This addition is long overdue, is vital to the implementation of the middle school concept, and is essential to the students of the west side. Anything less than an addition being ready for September of 1999 would be unfair to the children of Manchester and detrimental to the educational system of our city. To insure that next year 6th graders at Parker-Varney share in the same benefits of the middle school concept that the rest of the city will have, we have two options. We can bus the 6th graders, which is over 100 of them, to an already overcrowded Parkside Junior High whose physical plant and faculty and staff are way overburdened, or to keep them at Parker-Varney, which we are supporting at this time, and work with the School Department to insure that those kids share in those programs with the middle school concept, whether all of those concepts are brought to Parker-Varney or whether those kids have to be shipped to Parkside for certain parts of their day or their week. Whichever way we go, as parents we will work with the School Department to get these kids the best education they can, but clearly both those options are unacceptable. If we have to do it for one more year, we will do what we have to do but this has to stop and that addition has to be done and completed by no later than September of 1999.

Diana Booth, 46 Patterson Street, Manchester NH, stated:

Good evening. I am here this evening for two reasons. First, I am a concerned parent of a current 5th grade student at Parker-Varney School. I would strongly encourage you to support the CIP budget proposal to fund the much needed Parkside addition. With the addition of approximately 100 6th grade Parker-Varney students attending middle school this fall, Parkside is in much need of additional classroom space in order to maintain quality education. Secondly, I am here on behalf of a disabled student I work with who currently attends 5th grade at Gossler Park School. She should be attending Parkside Middle School this fall, but because the school is not handicapped accessible, she is forced to attend another middle school outside her neighborhood and leave the comfort of her friends that understand and accept her disabilities. If this much needed addition is approved with handicapped facilities, including an elevator and ramps, she and future disabled students from the west side would be able to attend their neighborhood school. I would urge you to make this addition to Parkside top priority. Thank you.

Susan O'Brien, 679 South Main Street, Manchester NH, stated:

My husband and I have three children enrolled in the Parker-Varney School. All the schools on the west side have circulated a petition regarding the addition to Parkside which briefly states the following:

“We strongly advocate that Community Improvement Program funds be directed now for the addition to Parkside.”

We appeal to all of you now for our children and for the children of our future. I would like to submit the petitions from Northwest and Parker-Varney (136 signatures of parents/guardians given to Clerk Johnson).

Ed Wade, 720 Coral Avenue, Manchester NH, stated:

Thank you, your Honor. I speak here this evening both as a Parkside Principal for the past 13 years and as a taxpayer of this city. My primary purpose this evening is to ask that a 15 classroom addition to Parkside be completed in time for the opening of school in September of 1999. Parkside opened its doors in 1967 as a brand new junior high school, along with the other two junior high schools, Hillside and Southside. However, Parkside was built with two floors and the other two junior high schools were built with three floors. The *Union Leader* reported at that time that the maximum student enrollment for Parkside was 500 to 550 students. For the past 10 years, the student enrollment has increased to the present 770 students and it will increase to 859 next September. During these years, I have had to make the following accommodations to educate the west side children and I will graphically describe these accommodations. One, the educationally handicapped classroom was originally built to be a coat room. The walls are painted blue and it is commonly referred to, both literally and figuratively, as the blue room. Two, our computer classroom was a storage room for the industrial art supplies. The special needs grade 7 and 8 classrooms are both located in one

room, a physical education storage room. The 6th grade special needs classroom is one located in a room which has been divided twice with the learning disability room. Two learning disability classes share a half a room. Parkside is now serving over 100 learning disability students. Parkside has one art room which can be used. There are actually two, however, the other art room has to be utilized as a regular classroom. The other art teacher has to travel teaching art in a cart style throughout the building. Parkside currently has one Science Lab classroom which can be used. We are teaching Science in regular classrooms without sinks and without sufficient electrical outlets despite several requests. Our student assistant program person is located in the custodian's room with a constant humming sound from the transformer on the wall. It is time to end these inequities. City officials have historically treated the children and parents of the west side as after thoughts when it came to school planning and buildings. During the past 10 years, Parkside has had to deal with overcrowded conditions, an inferior school building and a pinched curriculum. Years ago, the School Board was deadlocked 6-6 on whether to build an elementary school on the east side or an elementary school on the west side. The Mayor cast the deciding ballot to build the Weston School on the east side. It then took the city planners 12 years to placate the west side parents and their children by building an undersized Northwest Elementary School. A few years later, Parkside was forced to absorb three 6th grade classes from Northwest. All residents of Manchester take pride in the recent revitalization of the city and credit has to be extended to the present city fathers, however, along with that revitalization of the city is also a responsibility to fund the city's educational facilities sufficiently in order that the city children are provided with a quality education so they can take pride in their schools. The parents of the west side, this evening, are suspect of utilizing portables to educate their children and with good reasons. Portable buildings reinforce the fact that once again they are the city's after thoughts. Portable classrooms in the City of Manchester are testimonials to poor city planning and inadequate funding of educational facilities. Educators and parents of the west side fear that the portables will remain forever in place as have the portables which have been standing between Parkside and Gossler for over 20 years. The ancient portables are now eyesores and like the pyramids of Egypt, once they stand they never move. In conclusion, I respectfully request that the city fathers make the decision to build the addition to Parkside to open for September, 1999. The children, parents and teachers of the west side deserve much better. Thank you, your Honor.

Karen Lesmerises, 153 Buck Street, Pembroke NH, stated:

I represent the VNA Childcare. For the past five years, the childcare has donated floor space for the Parent/Baby Adventure Program of which I am the Program Manager. We have been extremely appreciative of this generous pooling of resources and support. The Parent/Baby Program is a group parenting education for parents with newborns and many of our parents are able to avail themselves of the services of the childcare. As a nurse with the Visiting Nurses for more than 15 years, I experienced the Greater Manchester Childcare Association's transition into a VNA sponsored program. Since that time, we have always been proud of the services that we provide to the children of the working people of Manchester. It is wonderful that the City of Manchester has provided financial support to this worthwhile community project and, therefore,

has been vital to its continued growth and development over several years. I just want to say thank you and I thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Kevin Collimore, 59 Dallaire Street, Manchester NH, stated:

(Provided printed material to Clerk Johnson for distribution). Thank you for this opportunity to speak to all of you. When you get the printed materials and you turn to pages 4 and 5 you will see why I am here tonight. My name is Kevin Collimore and I have a business address of 111 Amherst Street in Manchester and I am proud to say that I am a member of the volunteer group of people called the Cultural Arts Quadrangle, which simply put is a grass roots group of people who have businesses around the Hartnett Parking Lot and Victory Park in downtown Manchester and are working to improve and beautify that area. The group was formed to, as I said, beautify the area and all the business that surround that area are pitching in to make their businesses look better. We have the Manchester Institute there, the City Library, Devine, Millimet & Branch, the Historical Society, Grace Church, St. Joseph's and a lot of businesses there are making every effort to beautify the area. If you look at page 4 you will see what we intend to have put into place for the Hartnett Parking Lot. Why the Harnett Parking Lot? It is a simple answer. The Hartnett Parking Lot has fallen into disrepair and it is an eyesore. There is substantial erosion to several of the sides of the park which is undermining the support for the sidewalks and creating a potential for personal injury, as well as damage to the city sidewalks. There is no handicapped access and, in fact, I was listening to the comments of Mr. MacKenzie from the Planning Department and he was talking about the goals of the CIP being long-term development, minimal tax rate impact, overall community development priorities and ADA compliance. This project has all of those elements in it. There is also a constant problem at the Hartnett Parking Lot with people walking up the sides of the embankments destroying what little landscaping there is and creating an additional potential for personal injury. I am not going to read through all of this. I have provided that for you and out of consideration for time, but I think the blanket statement can be that the Hartnett Parking Lot stands out in stark contrast to the surrounding businesses and services that are being offered to the public and coupled with the lack of handicapped access, I think that the parking lot deserves our attention. Why us? Why the CAQ as we call ourselves? Because we are grass roots people. We are volunteers who have been attending a year of meetings and in conjunction with our landscape architect, Paul Mansback, have designed improvements for this parking lot on our own time and out of our own initiative. We have already obtained corporate sponsorship to put up banners for the growing popularity for the Farmer's Market and we have also obtained corporate sponsorship for improvements and beautification of Victory Park. So all of these things are coming from grass roots organization and deserve the support of this Committee I believe. There are attached letters of support from I believe all or close to all of the businesses that surround the park and the parking lot who have looked at the design that we are proposing. Why give this money? I have heard a lot of compelling stories and a lot of compelling ideas tonight about where should the money go. I think the best reason for why our request should be considered is because, it is an old phrase, but you get bang for your buck. I think that the city is close to turning the corner, again quoting Mr. MacKenzie. I think that there is a renewed interest in improving the city and

I think that this Committee and the people of the city should support people who are taking an interest in developing and improving the area in which they live and work. Additionally, we can provide volunteer services. Our committee members are very dedicated. We have already spent personal time out there cleaning the parking lot, putting bark mulch down and making the place look better. Again, coupled with corporate sponsorship and our ability to put our time, ingenuity and creativity into getting additional grants from other sources, we will try to keep the impact down as much as possible to the city. We are seeking an additional \$120,000 to be allocated to the Hartnett Parking Lot. I understand that the current funding proposal is at \$100,000. This would enable us to not only improve the landscaping and the infrastructure, but to put in a handicapped access ramp which is clearly shown in the picture there and to put in lighting and to put in landscaping and to let us do some of the stuff that we can do with our own hands and our own time and ingenuity. I encourage you to support this proposal and take a little bit of time later when you are in need of something to put you to sleep you can look over the materials.

Patricia Cornell, 787 Montgomery Street, Manchester NH, stated:

I have been a guidance counselor at Parkside Junior High for the past 21 years. You have heard how many people tonight are concerned about the addition at Parkside. I had to schedule a new student today for the 8th grade who had to be placed in a basic math class which is a low level math class where the students need a little bit of extra help. They have a hard time in math. I cringed when I did it because I was placing him in a class of 32. Thirty-two students in a class that lasts 43 minutes you don't get very much extra help. All of the basic math classes at Parkside have 30 or more students in them. It is not fair to the students or to the teachers who care about doing a good job. We just trained students and faculty for the peer mediation program which is a program where students help students resolve conflicts to make the school a safer place to be. You need a table, four chairs and a place where the students can talk confidentially. We have to fight for space to do that. We can't find any free space at Parkside during the day to do that. We would like to do a morning TV show with a video camera that we won and show it when Channel 1 ends in the morning. We can't find space in the morning to do that because the speech therapist gets to school at 7:30 a.m. so she can do her therapy in the conference room. I am begging you to try and find the money so that the construction at Parkside could be built before the fall of 1999. We have lived with these crowded conditions for long enough. I think we could live with construction going on so that we could move into it even during the middle of the year next year.

Daniel Healy, 111 Manning Street, Manchester NH, stated:

Good evening. I am Vice Chairman of the Board of School Committee. Superintendent Tanguay was unable to attend the meeting this evening and he asked me to read this letter dated March 19 and submitted to the Committee:

The Honorable Raymond J. Wiczorek
City of Manchester

814 Elm Street
Manchester, New Hampshire 03101

Dear Mayor Wiczorek:

I will be away from the School District and unable to attend the Community Improvement Program Public Hearing on March 23, 1998. Consequently, I have asked School Board Member Daniel Healy to read this letter at that Hearing and submit it to the Committee.

As your Superintendent of Schools, I would be remiss in my responsibilities if I were not to address this Hearing on behalf of Manchester's students, citizens, and School District. As Superintendent of Schools, I would respectfully request that this Committee reconsider the priority of Parkside Junior High School's addition and give this project first priority.

Manchester can be proud to have been named the nation's sixth best city. We must keep in mind, however, that there is a price to pay for achieving such a position. Our schools are one of the major reasons families are attracted to our City. These same schools have been dealing with increased enrollments for many years. Manchester's continued growth of families with school age children is constantly impacting our schools.

In September of 1998, the City will open the new Henry J. McLaughlin Middle School and will convert its three existing junior high schools to middle schools - Hillside Middle School, Middle School at Parkside, and Southside Middle School. These four schools will educate all of our sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, who range in age from 11 to 14 years old. The Board of School Committee and the School District are excited and enthusiastic about the opening of four new middle schools.

The middle school educational concept will better accommodate the unique intellectual, emotional, physical, and social needs of our early adolescents. Teams consisting of teachers from different academic areas, common planning time, and team building activities help create a greater sense of community and identity within the school. Flexible scheduling allows teachers to join together to provide in depth projects and school activities to show the connections between subject matters. Teachers also meet each day to review the academic progress and social adjustment of their students. This greater attention to student instruction and behavior provides a coordinated and more effective approach to communications with students and their families.

Decision making always considers the uniqueness of the emerging adolescent, whether it be in the areas of curriculum selection, instructional practices, teacher organization, or student services. The educational goal of our middle schools is to create a smooth and gradual transition for our young adolescents from the self-contained elementary school classroom to the departmentalizing high school environment.

Based on the current enrollments in our schools now, there will be over 3,700 students attending our middle schools in grades 6, 7 and 8 in September of 1998. Even with the new McLaughlin Middle School, all of the City's middle schools will be over capacity when school opens in September.

Parkside Junior High School has been struggling more than most with overcrowding. The three elementary schools which feed into Parkside - Gossler Park, Northwest, and Parker-Varney, have also been dealing with increased enrollments. For almost twenty years, Gossler Park has been sending its 6th graders to Parkside. Northwest, the newest elementary school opened in 1987, has also been sending its 6th graders to Parkside since 1989.

Parkside is a school which was opened in 1967 to comfortably educate 550 students. As of February 28, 1998, Parkside's enrollment was 756 students. For the past six school years, Parkside's enrollment has never been less than 671 students and that was for the 1992-93 school year. Parkside's enrollment is projected at 859 students for September of 1998.

Parkside will benefit from the re-districting for middle schools occurring on the East Side of Manchester. Parkside is currently a magnet school for two classrooms of Non-English Speaking Students, who are currently bussed to it from the Hillside and Southside districts. It is one of our goals that all the middle schools offer the same programs, thereby allowing students to attend school in their own neighborhoods. Also, as part of the re-districting effort, all students will be returned to their neighborhood schools, thereby freeing up approximately thirty additional student spaces at Parkside.

Middle Schools will provide an improved educational experience and environment for our students. It is very important that all of our students benefit from the new middle schools and their instructional programs. All of Manchester's students, East Side and West Side, should and must be given this opportunity. This requires, at a minimum, adequate classrooms and facilities for grades 6, 7 and 8.

The overcrowding at Parkside has been ignored for too long. It is understandable that the parents of Parker-Varney fifth and sixth graders are concerned and reluctant to send their students to Parkside. The students and residents of the West Side have already waited long enough for this school addition. They definitely need and deserve the Parkside addition.

Our schools are an integral part of our community. They are our investment in our children, their future, and the future of Manchester. As a Manchester resident and as your Superintendent of Schools, I would most strongly urge that this Committee reconsider the Parkside School addition and give same first priority.

Respectfully,

s/Normand A. Tanguay
Superintendent of Schools

Robby Rix, 1161 Union Street, Manchester NH, stated:

I am basically here to speak on behalf of all skateboarders in Manchester in favor of a skateboard park and to make sure that the money for the skateboard park is appropriated. Having a public skateboard park would keep kids from skating in front of private businesses and would cut down the incidences such as running into people or just getting in the way. As of now, there is no, skateboarders have no where to go. The police always ask us to leave certain areas which forces us to go to different areas causing us to get kicked out again. Skateboarding is growing faster and faster every year. More and more younger people, and even older people are now getting started in it. We never meant to cause a nuisance to anybody. It is a sport just like any other sport, just more individuality. We do have a petition with over 200 signatures that we will try to make available as soon as possible.

Lorraine Lamontagne, 389 Thornton Street, Manchester NH, stated:

I have lived on the west side all of my life. I was born about four blocks away from where I live now. I came here to represent Parkside and their endeavor to receive an addition to the school. It is a much needed addition to Parkside and if we want it to be a middle school like the other schools on the east side. Parkside is also receiving 6th graders from both Northwest and Gossler. The only school that is not sending anybody there is Parker-Varney. So for all intents and purposes, Parkside has more or less been the middle school for a long time. It is

unacceptable to me to have portables there as a temporary solution because portables tend to become a permanent solution as evidenced by the portables that are in place at Gossler School and they have been there for well over 20 years. So I would strongly urge all of you to support the addition to Parkside as we need it frankly because the school is overcrowded as it is and we have to have the same education for the students on the west side as for the students on the east side. Thank you.

Jim Decknick, 337 Lowell Street, Manchester NH, stated:

I have three children that are in the school system right now and currently one of my children is at Chandler School. We are active in the parent group there. We are active at McDonough School as well and I am also active on the State PTA as well. I applaud the efforts tonight with regards to the advocacy for the Chandler children, particularly with regards to the bonding of a new facility. By all rights, we have had many meetings where each of us, probably a lot of the faces here and many out in this audience, probably realized the conditions at Chandler and there has been some efforts that way, particularly with regards to the Easter Seal Program. So, first of all I applaud the efforts with regards to the bonding that is necessary. Second of all, with regards to the Easter Seal, sometimes you've got to be careful for what you asked for because sometimes you get it and we particularly asked to have the children removed from an unsafe environment which is good. Easter Seals is a good temporary situation and I must use that word temporary since the situation is better than at Chandler, but there are problems with that facility as a long-term so I just wanted to make sure that we are all aware that should be considered temporary. One quote from the department principal, Nancy Evans, was that plans to develop programs that use Title I funds, tuition from the Side by Side Program and Head Start must continue in order to meet the federal requirements to educate preschool students in natural environments. To accomplish this end, more space is needed than a mere duplication of what currently exists at Chandler. Putting these plans on hold much longer invites litigation from parents and others who want their preschool age children educated alongside children without disabilities. The last thing I wanted to bring up was I applaud the efforts with regards to redistricting. There was a tremendous amount of parent involvement with the Board that Superintendent Tanguay had brought together. With regards to Chandler School and the bonding for the new facility, I might bring to mind that a lot of facilities have been considered. Lake Shore, Brown School and a number of others. One in particular that I haven't heard since I saw the architect's report back in October of 1996 was actually complete restoration of the facility at Chandler School which the copy of my architect's report done by PH Architecture indicated that it would have been \$1.6 million to completely renovate that facility, including the disposal of the two portables so I might throw that out as a topic of discussion and also offer parent involvement from myself, my wife and other members as a parent liaison with regards to the new facilities.

Sue Dixon, 444 Manchester Street, Manchester NH, stated:

I am here to talk to you again about Chandler School situation. There have been many talks about Chandler School, Lake Shore Hospital location which has fallen through. So much time has gone by and we are still left with nothing. The end of the school year is only three months away. The school children and staff have been separated in two buildings this year. Part of them in the antiquated Chandler building and the other half at Easter Seals. Even though the rooms at Easter Seals don't have chipped paint falling off the walls like Chandler, the room sizes are way too small. Out of the 12 rooms leased by the School Department at Easter Seals, only 2 of them meet the requirements for this program. There are still 6 more classes which need to be moved out of Chandler. We know that you are trying to move the kids out of there now into the Easter Seals facilities, but is this really the ideal location? The room sizes are not adequate for therapy. There are no bathrooms in the classrooms. No adequate changing areas for the teachers to use. They have to go all the way down the hallway every time a child needs to go to the bathroom. This is a waste of valuable teaching time. There is very limited parking space at Easter Seals. The playground area has to be shared with the daycare that is in there which means that they don't get to use it on a daily basis. The Child Fine Program hasn't even been considered. I haven't heard any talk about this at all. Where will they be placed? They play a very important part in this program. Our children are being shortchanged. It is time for you to show what your priorities are when it comes to Chandler. The kids, the staff, the parents, have been hearing this for years. I am not talking months, I am talking years. My kids have been there for four years. Something needs to be done and now is the time to make something happen. Let this be the last year that there is any kids in a deteriorating Chandler building. If you are using Easter Seals as a relocation for the Chandler classes, it should be for maybe a one year lease or a temporary basis. Don't say that it will be temporary and then just leave them there for 5 to 10 years. We have gone through this with Chandler. We have seen this. We have heard this. Lets make things happen this time. Either spend the \$1.5 million to totally renovate the existing Chandler building, maybe add on to McDonough, there is all kinds of things that can happen here. If the money is there, lets use it. You know these children have been waiting long enough and it is time that we start paying attention to them. There has got to be a better alternative than cramming everyone into these small classrooms at Easter Seals as a permanent placement for these children. They do deserve a better learning place. In conclusion, I would like to give you a handout of a more in-depth information of the Easter Seals situation and what the needs need to be met (provided to Deputy Clerk Johnson).

Stephen Donohue, 573 Vinton Street, Manchester NH, stated:

As a parent of a middle school student next year, as well as a middle school educator, I would like to address some of these space issues. Many people have spoken tonight on the west side need for additional space. It is without a doubt very real now as we speak even today and of course more pressing for the future. As we go to the middle school concept, it is important that we have effective spaces with which to team our students; places that we can meet in the buildings as groups of students and provide instruction. In addition, as we move 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in the buildings together, we need to be able to move students around the building

from time to time at the beginning and the end of the day and to go to lunch and to do that space is very important. In addition to the needs and the very serious needs of the west side, I would like to point out that next year on the east side of the river, the approximate enrollment exceeds by 300 the building capacities of the three schools on the east side so that not only the west side has serious enrollment problems, but we on the east side as well are facing those and they need to be addressed in the very near future. As principal at Hillside, I need to speak on behalf of our parking lot needs. As we increase our student population by 125 students next year, we will increase our staff. We presently do not have enough room in our parking lot, which on a bad day after a storm looks a little like a demilitarized zone because there are so many potholes and it looks like it has been bombed on the west side of our parking lot. We ask, I know that this is in Parks & Recreation budget in the next two or three year plan, but as we move to the middle school concept I would like to be able to address it sooner and to say it would be able to be addressed sooner so that both staff for the middle school at Hillside, as well as parents, can have a facility that they can come to at night, safely park their cars, be able to see where they are going and be able to get in and out of the building.

Shari Hastings, 468 Candia Road, Manchester NH, stated:

As a member at-large of the Board of School Committee, I felt compelled to address the CIP public hearing on behalf of our city students. Manchester is facing a major problem with overcrowding in our schools. As you are aware, our school district will switch to a middle school concept in September. All of our middle schools will be over capacity when they begin classes in September. When classrooms are filled beyond their capacity, it is unfair to the teachers and students, however, it is the students who will suffer the most because they will not receive a quality education which this city has a duty to provide to them. The residents of the west side of Manchester have long awaited the addition to Parkside Junior High and with the overcrowding situation at that school, this addition can no longer be put off. Therefore, I urge this Committee to reconsider the priority of Parkside's addition and make it the number one priority.

John Flanders, Union Street, Manchester NH, stated:

I would like to start by thanking all of you for your past support of the Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services. I am the Deputy Director of Manchester NHS located at 434 Union Street in Manchester. Through your support, we have been able to rebuild the center city. Our mission is to strengthen Manchester's neighborhoods and we have done that in three ways and we are continuing to do that: 1) through the promotion and support of home ownership; 2) through the conversion of blighted properties to quality, affordable housing opportunities; and 3) by developing resident leadership to improve the quality of life in the center city. Home ownership not only transforms neighborhoods, it really transforms lives. A neighborhood that was once scorned by many is now seen as a place where the American dream of home ownership can come true for the hard working families of Manchester who chose to call this

place their home. I would like to quote a resident of that neighborhood who wrote to us awhile back and she said "Dear Manchester NHS: Thank you for all that you do in the center city. This is the first year that I noticed people stopping on the street to wish each other a Merry Christmas." That was her quote and I think that is very telling about the types of transformations that go on in the neighborhood when you increase home ownership and you increase people's stake in the community in the places where they live and it is the residents of Manchester and the residents of these neighborhoods that tell us that home ownership is important to them. We are the only agency in the city that offers the training, the education, the counseling and the financing and the technical repair assistance to make home ownership possible and to make home ownership affordable. These activities of Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services have increased the home ownership rate in Manchester and they have helped us attract new home owners to the City of Manchester. We have converted blight properties to home ownership opportunities and we are stabilizing the neighborhoods, sparking reinvestment. When somebody buys a home, they go to the hardware store, they go to all of the local businesses and they buy things for that home. That sparks reinvestment in the center city and it also, and I would like to highlight this, it increases the city's tax base through the upgrading of properties and through the upgrading of people's stakes in the neighborhood. So, I thank you for your support and I ask you again strongly to continue your support of this very important program to help people in Manchester realize the American dream of home ownership because through the realization of the American Dream for our citizens, I think we can show that that is the strongest part of this being one of the best cities to live in America. Thank you.

Sandra Paradis, 33 Karin Street, Manchester NH, stated:

I am a School Board member for Ward 8 and I had resided for 45 years in Ward 9 and I am 14 years in Ward 8 so I know south and southeast Manchester quite well. That is 60 years almost. I realize that you cannot recommend nor fund everything that is on this CIP budget and I realize that south Manchester and southeast Manchester also though in the past have sort of gotten shuffled around to accommodate other projects and I, as a, you know, how do you say it, my heart is at Memorial shall we say. I had two younger brothers who graduated from here and I had three children that graduated from Memorial so my heart is at Memorial and I want to see Memorial going as it is going now and that is positive, thumbs up I'll tell you. I was on the accreditation team a few years back and as Mr. Adamakos mentioned some of the items that he has to agree on and speak to the accreditation team next March, I would like to address a few of those. The facility itself here needs renovations. They need new guidance rooms. We need new Science Labs. Some teachers have done without ventilation in their Science Labs. We have had several leaks over the past I don't know how many years and they have been fixed a little bit here and there and we need them badly. As Mr. Adamakos referred to, they are almost 10 years older than Central and West were and I really feel very strong about having these Science Labs and the rest of Memorial renovated and maintained. I just would like to urge you to definitely try to see your way to support this project and put it as one of the top priorities and please don't shuffle us around again and put us somewhere down here. Some of you were not

on the Board at the time and this doesn't reflect the Board in general, just that I know by going to CIP meetings that items are sorted and items are prioritized and sometimes they are lowered one or two, either a year or two years or three years or whatever like that. The teachers here are very dedicated at Memorial. I can come over to this school at 5 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. and go into a biology class or a Science Lab class and I will see teachers there helping students so they can attend a college the following year. These teachers will give them extra time and also one of them even did that for my daughter who went into the medical field to become a nurse, spent extra time after school in order to help her in her senior year because she had decided quite late to go into that field and we have got to give credit to these people who have been working under some circumstances where, as I have said in the past, some of the experiments were even done out towards the window in the winter time because we did not have proper ventilation or hoods in the Science Labs. So I support Mr. Adamakos. My sentiments are with him and my concern is for the students of Memorial. I strongly urge you to put this high in your priority list. Thank you.

Claudette Brown, 139 Dubuque Street, Manchester NH, stated:

I have been a west side resident for 20 years and I have three children in the west side schools. This week, my husband and I sent a rather lengthy letter to each of you explicitly describing our grave concerns for the overcrowding at Parkside and the inequalities that are there. I am not going to go into it. They were eloquently described by Mr. Wade and Mr. D'Allesandro as well as many others and I wish to thank Alderman Shea and Alderman Girard for acknowledging our concerns and providing support. Tonight, I am here as a PTG board member for Gossler Park School and as a parent volunteer for Parkside Junior High and I would like to present a petition to add to Northwest and Parker-Varney's names signed by concerned parents and educators who not only want the funds appropriated for architectural studies, but also for full funding for the prompt construction of the long overdue and very sorely needed addition to Parkside (petition with 47 signatures of parents/guardians and educators given to Deputy Clerk Johnson). Our children really deserve to be educated in appropriate classrooms, not closets and storage rooms. So on behalf of Parkside and Gossler parents, students and staff, I am asking that you please vote yes on the Parkside addition.

JoAnn Mulligan, 49 Ashland Street, Manchester NH, stated:

Good evening. I am currently serving as the interim principal at Chandler School. Thank you for allowing me, tonight, to speak on behalf of the children of Chandler. It is clear to me that a great deal of time and energy has been spent, especially over the last year, looking for solutions to the safety issues presented by the Chandler building. I think we are all in agreement that it is time to relocate the preschool program, but as you consider relocating, I would ask that you make decisions based not only on the safety issues that are so prevalent at this point, but remember that these children have other very basic needs that will also have a significant impact on their learning. Two of these needs that come to mind include adequate classroom space, as

well as access to basic bathroom facilities. The temporary move to the Easter Seal building would certainly provide a safe learning environment for our children, but I would like to call your attention to the fact that most of the classroom sizes are currently too small to accommodate the kinds of activities and equipment that the specialized program has and clearly there are not enough bathrooms and certainly not in close enough proximity to the classrooms to keep us from using a very valuable resource, our educational assistants, merely as escorts and bathroom supervisors when they should be spending time doing valuable teaching activities. In your efforts to provide a temporary solution to the current safety issues, we all understand that you will not be able to help us create the ideal preschool program at this time. Right now safety is paramount, but I ask that in your determination to put the problem of Chandler behind you and move on other priorities that you not lose sight of the basic needs that will determine the adequacy of the preschool program over the next few years. The move to the Easter Seal building may be a temporary solution from the perspective of city and school officials, but these critical early years are not temporary in the lives of the preschool children. This is the only preschool experience that they will have. You can guarantee their safety, but at the same time please insure that they will receive the strong, early start that will set them up for successful quality education throughout their years at the Manchester public schools. The consistency that Mr. D'Allensandro and others so passionately described must really begin at the preschool level. Please don't forget the Chandler children. Thank you.

Mark DiCampo, 65 Bath Street, Manchester NH, stated:

Good evening Mayor, Board of Aldermen. A lot of you I recognize and a lot of you I have come before you before with things. However, I just got a few things that I would like to mention at this point here. First of all, I agree with Mr. D'Allensandro and the principal of Parkside. They need help over there. They need the expansion and as far as the schooling is, yes we have some good schooling up here but then we got some schools, high schools, that turn around and if a child hasn't got a high IQ they push him aside to turn around and take care of somebody else instead of a child that is needy, that has a learning disability. I have witnessed this on several occasions, plus my own. Also, we have got all these schools that we had up here in Manchester that are not being used, but yet you as Mayor and Aldermen want to demolish other things and put up new buildings. Why do we not turn around and take some of these buildings, look at them, study them good, if we have to tear them down, tear them down and rebuild where they are because we need it. Yes, I agree there. Years ago, a lot of you probably know when you went to school we had two and three story buildings to go to high school and stuff like this. We don't have to go with a single concept right now. Yes we have handicapped people up here. I agree. Lets keep them on the first floor where they can be adequate to it but lets keep some of the other teachers and students up into other classes. Lets build up and not new places. We need the help, but we have not as parents and as learners, it did not hurt because we had buildings high and schools with two and three and four floors to them. I came from one that had three floors to it. My high school had four floors to it. There is nothing wrong with that. And the other thing that I am a little bit upset with, how the Board of Mayor

and Aldermen can turn around and tear down all these trees and we are running out of space and not plant new ones. We have got all these projects we started and now we want to start some more instead of finishing what we have. Livingston Park. We have started it and we haven't finished it yet and now we want to do something else. Sure we got bonded money to come to these places to do these things like the riverwalk which is important. I agree, but we have to come up with a certain amount of money to make them come up so we can pay. It is an even keel. We cannot turn around and keep going from one thing to another thing and not finish what we started. It is not adequate. The runway. Everybody complains well I am glad I don't live in Boston, MA. I don't want to go down to Logan Airport, but yet you, as Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Airport Authority turn around and take down these trees. They say they need it to make the runway extended. Mother Earth put those trees there. God, the creator, put those trees there. They take all the carbon monoxide from the area, but yet you tear them down and don't put new ones up there. Now they want to put a three story garage up there. Fine, but we don't need it. Lets cut down some of these cars that are going up in there. We have expanded South Willow Street three or four times because the people wanted it. Now we have traffic problems up there coming down. We are going to have more traffic problems when they try to make this airport like Logan. Why not spread the wealth around Manchester? Manchester is a main source of it. We are the suburban and they are the others or vice versa, whatever it is. We have to turn around and look after Manchester. We are running out of space in Manchester. We have got no land that we can call home. We have got wetlands that we are taking away and there is not very much that is being put back. What about the creatures, God's creatures, the woncoms, the tomcoms, the little four-legged ones, the two-legged ones, the birds? What are they going to do for life? I hope the *Union Leader* and you people of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen will heed my words as well. We are going to destroy Manchester if we keep letting it go. Lets finish one thing at a time. I offered my services to several people on the Board of Aldermen and I mentioned it to the Mayor, your Honor, that if you need any help I would be glad to work with you and nobody has contacted me and said well geez Mark do you think you might be able to help us out here. I have offered to help. I may not be some of these smart ones around here that has gone to college and they got degrees and stuff like this, but I talk from my heart, from my inner self, not from my brain. Lots of times we should talk with our brain but our brain can turn around and make us tell lies as well. What comes from the inner soul above you, around you, below you, we have to turn around and honor. We have to honor Mother Earth, God, the creator. We cannot keep taking from this land and not put back. We have got these buildings, yes, Parkside I strongly think they need the extra room. I agree. I have been there. I have done it. I have saw what they had to do with. I have got a special needs child up there that has a learning disability. I know what they go through and I wasn't offered by anyone to come down here and speak for them. I came to speak here for myself and the people. Now I urge that the *Union Leader* and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen will take my words and heed them and try working with them. Lets not start something and let it go and go to something else. Lets finish one or two things before we go to something else. Sure we have progress we want the city to grow, but how far do you want it to grow, like Boston? Then we will have lots of problems up here.

James Gamache, 259 Cedar Street, Manchester NH, stated:

Good evening Mayor and Board members. I have been a resident here of Manchester over 32 years and I am a third generation resident. I am here tonight to express how I feel tonight and how I feel is I used to go to school at St. Augustins and when they turned it over into an elderly home I remember that area that I live in now and it used to be a great neighborhood you know. My father lived there and brought us up as kids in that neighborhood and we used to be able to go outside and talk to our neighbors and just say hi, how are you doing or Merry Christmas or you know anything. Today, you walk those streets at 259 Cedar Street or Auburn Street or Spruce Street and you are starting to see some of that spark back. You know five years ago you didn't see that. All you saw was prostitution and drugs and all that sort. So I am here tonight in support of Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services for the work that they have done in the center city and in my neighborhood. You know where there used to be crack houses today they are condominiums. Today there is a park where my son can go and play. Five years ago there was none of that. There was violence. There were shootings. There was prostitution and drugs and all of that stuff. So I am urging the Mayor and the Board members here to give Manchester Neighborhood Housing what they are asking for and to continue your support. Thank you.

Richard Davis, 123 Pleasant Street, Manchester NH, stated:

Thank you, your Honor for the opportunity to speak this evening regarding the potential to negotiate the eventual acquisition of the Amoskeag Hydro Plant and the land surrounding it. Let me say that although the future of the Amoskeag Hydro and its properties certainly influences what happens within the Intown district, I am really speaking tonight from the point of view of an energy planner which is what I used to be before I got into the downtown development business. Because I brought this opportunity to the attention of city officials last year, I felt obliged to explain to you, the Board, my thinking and my motivation. My primary objective in bringing this proposal to you was to try to get the city to keep its options open, to investigate the acquisition of the Amoskeag Hydro and to negotiate it. I noticed last year in the Union Leader that PSNH was offering to auction off its generating facilities as part of an agreement with the state over deregulation. The Amoskeag Hydro Plant was listed in that article as one of those plants that was potentially up for sale. Secondly, I had also read in the paper last fall that local companies, such as Jac Pac and Freudenburg were considering relocating to other areas in the United States because of the high cost of electricity. In fact, a division of Freudenburg did later relocate to Indiana and the reason cited by its management was the fact that lower energy costs could be found there. Thirdly, I began to wonder what happens to our future development options if PSNH unloads its assets here in Manchester. I believe that PSNH has had an excellent record of community reinvestment and community involvement here in Manchester. Certainly, I think our intown district has been a beneficiary of that, but if PSNH were to sell off its assets, it is going to be to an out-of-town and probably to an out-of-state power company. Certainly it places a significant part of our future in the hands of an outside corporate entity. An outside corporate entity with no particular connection to our development plans for the river, for

the riverwalk, or for our aspirations for the community as a whole. Now on the positive side I would just say that hydroelectric power is about the cheapest and cleanest source of power available. If a kilowatt hour can be produced for 6/10 of a cent and then resold for three cents, this offers a tremendous opportunity to a community like Manchester. Manchester could consume its own power or chose to use it as a development tool to attract high tech industries like Jac Pac and like Freudenburg. These are some of the issues and some of the questions that occurred to me last fall as I brought this proposal forward and I thank you for the opportunity to present it to you.

Douglas Gherlone, 204 Chase Way, Manchester NH, stated:

I thank you for this opportunity to speak. I serve on the service committee for Intown Manchester, as well as Board of Trustees of the Manchester Historic Association and these tie into my remarks in regards to supporting what Mr. Davis just said in regards to the Amoskeag Hydro Plant. I am here as a concerned citizen, but one with considerable expertise in the area of small power plants. I spent 15 years as a senior officer with what is now Citizens Bank but then it was First NH financing power plants nation-wide and, in fact, received a number of awards from the US Department of Energy for facilitating them. I also served as treasurer of the New England Independent Power Producers Association and as such have dealt with firk, verpa, lepa and all the other alphabet scoops that you would care to name. This is not for self-grandiloquence but simply to hopefully add weight because I am offering my services pro-bono to the city in regards to taking a very hard look at the feasibility and relativity of actually acquiring the plant. It would be self-supporting so no funds would actually be required out of the taxpayer base and it really does require that we take a very, very hard look at that. Energy costs have and will continue to defeat our best efforts to attract new business here in our city and I think a good example is what happened when we were able to keep Jac Pac here but unfortunately lost a piece of their business out to Illinois. The real estate associated with the plant has a value and a life to be carefully considered as well. I also served two years as President of the National Association of Review Appraisers and I will again offer pro-bono my time and work in reviewing any appraisals that the city may require to be done if they are to take a serious look at acquiring that plant. Finally, to allow such an integral part of the city's past and its future to fall into outside hands is absolutely unthinkable and future generations may and justly so damn us for failing and I will take the line from Dead Poet Society, "Carpe diem" we really should seize the day.

Kris Gradewicz, 36 Larch Street, Manchester NH, stated:

I am a parent of a Manchester student. I am a graduate of the Manchester school system, Weston, Hillside and Central and I have come to speak about the overcrowding again. Yes, Parkside is overcrowded and I applaud all the efforts to get them their addition. Now the School Board is discussing portables for the other middle schools next year. We really don't want portables, we want additions also. Portables are like putting a Band-Aid on a gapping wound. You are not going to get anywhere. We are not losing our population. We are growing. Stick a portable there, it is going to be there for 20 years. Build. Fix it. Why was a middle school built

500 students too few to house our overpopulation now? If you are going to build at Parkside, build well. Build enough so you have room to grow. Don't settle for what you need now. You are going to need more and you are going to need better. These kids are growing. I live with them. And Mr. Wade, I need to remind you that Weston was not built, it was remodeled and we are now overcrowded and our kindergarten is at Smyth Road because we can't handle them. Our 6th graders don't have the choice of staying like Parker-Varney. They have to leave because our kindergarten is coming back. What can we do? We need to build. Don't put a Band-Aid on a gapping wound. We need to fix it and I hope our budget includes all the extra staff and assistance these teachers are going to need to handle, at bear minimum, 1,093 students at Hillside alone. Good evening.

Frank Weaver, 136 Beech Street, Manchester NH, stated:

I would like to thank the Mayor for that interesting introduction. We may use it in our movie. Peter, what do you think? I originally planned to say a few words about how much I have enjoyed being in the inner city the last year and being a part of it, but what I have heard since I came here tonight concerning education brings us right back to the same problem doesn't it? There just isn't or doesn't seem to be enough money, but yet there are more and more children that need our attention and this problem is just not going to go away. These other nations of the world are not going to tread water while we learn to swim. We have got to make education our first priority by any legal means possible because we are not alone out there. There is a whole world fighting for prominence now. We are not number one anymore. We are competing as we never have before for the very soul and leadership of the world. Please, gentlemen, gentlewomen, make education our top priority. Thank you.

Peter Ramsey, 418 North Gate Road, Manchester NH, stated:

It is quite late and I will take about 30 seconds. I am here on behalf of the riverwalk concept. The only reason to vote for the riverwalk is because of economic development. It will bring it. It will help the city in the long-term and that is all I want to say to save time. Thank you very much.

Maureen Beauregard, 106 Market Street, Manchester NH, stated:

I am with Families in Transition and I wanted to speak to the funding for the homeless programs. It was mentioned earlier that the funding has been cut and Mary Sliney stated clearly that the rental, that the affordability of housing is just going through the roof and I would like to echo those sentiments and I also want to thank the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for their support in previous years and hope that you continue to support not only Families in Transition but the other homeless providers that make up the continuum of care here in Manchester. Thank you.

Sylvio Dupuis, 451 Coolidge Avenue, Manchester NH, stated:

It seems like I was Mayor many, many years ago, but I still remember the Honorable Bill Cashin so that makes me feel good. Just a couple of things. Number one I want to commend the Board

of Mayor and Aldermen for the opportunity that you provide under the CIP Program and let me tell you that I am very impressed by the list of items that are funded and the range of items that are funded and the kind of work that the city does. It seems that after hearing about the needs of the school children and all of the things that the thing I am going to talk about for half a minute may not be very important because you could look at it as a sidewalk. When I told my wife tonight that I was going to come and chat a little bit about that she said you are going to go and talk about the sidewalk and basically that is what riverwalk is. If you look at it as a sidewalk it would be very difficult to fund it. If you look at it as access and if you look at it as a link between the north and south corridor of the city, if you look at all the things that this will do in terms of economic development then it is not a sidewalk and it is not a riverwalk but it provides something that this community needs and the kind of spark that we need in our community to continue the revitalization that is already well underway. Thank you very much.

Peter Leonard, Manchester NH, stated:

I am Representative Peter Leonard of the inner city ward and I am here, my main issue is education and development of New Hampshire in Manchester. Any help I can give, I will do it, especially with the movie of me being filmed in Manchester for extra revenue. Thank you.

Eugene Freidman, 282 Patterson Street, Manchester NH, stated:

I am here to advocate on the CIP Program for the Parkside addition. I am talking about the full financial requirements from engineering and mechanical studies all the way to its actual building and completion for the opening semester in 1999. I realize that is a lot of priorities that you have to place. I would say that for most of the residents, one of the key priorities is education. It talks to not only the present, but the future of our community and I think that if you want to have the biggest payback that we invest today in education and when you talk about that I have to also echo the sentiments of a previous speaker that besides funding the capital acquisitions that you also fully fund the operational activities to keep our education on the highest possible level.

Letters were received and entered into the record as follows:

Honorable Board of Mayor and Aldermen:

I would like to go on record as favoring the recommendation of the aldermanic subcommittee to fund the initial costs of a riverwalk at \$1.6 million. Manchester is clearly a community on the move at this point and the addition of a riverwalk will only enhance that movement.

One needs only to look at cities such as Providence, R.I. and San Antonio, Texas to see what a wonderful stimulus a riverwalk can provide. It's fund to be part of a vibrant community again.

Thanks for your efforts to improve Manchester.

Sincerely,

s/William E. Marvin
President

Manpower of Manchester Inc.

Gentlemen:

The purpose of this letter is to briefly express my support for the CIP Appropriation currently being considered for use in constructing River Walk. I believe this facility will add significant incremental value to our downtown, and will be perceived as part of the accelerating rejuvenation of Manchester as a great place to live and work.

I am sure that my partners and colleagues here at Peabody & Brown share my enthusiastic support for this project. Thanks for considering this letter.

Very truly yours,

s/James C. Hood

Mayor Wiczorek 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 Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Klock, it was voted to adjourn

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk