SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FY2002 CIP BUDGET)

April 16, 2001 **5:30 PM**

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

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

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas (late), Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, O'Neil Lopez, Shea, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Cashin, and Thibault

Absent: Aldermen Levasseur, Hirschmann

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Community Improvement Program of the City of Manchester including activities for the 2002-2007 period, and in satisfaction of federal Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Shelter Grant, and HOME Program hearing/proposed use requirements, consistent with the provisions of RSA 44:10.

The Clerk presented the proposed Resolution:

> "Approving the Community Improvement Program for 2002, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefore and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program."

Mayor Baines stated what we would like to do is a brief presentation. This will be very factual in nature and then I will turn it over to Mr. MacKenzie, who will present the entire budget. I just want to give you an idea of the financial parameters and the emphasis of our proposed CIP budget. The Community Improvement Program includes capital projects and special community development and public service projects necessary for the improvement of the City. That is the foundation or the basis for this program. To coordinate improvement projects, provide access by the BMA and public to information on all projects and funding, provide streamlined accounting procedures and to maximize federal and state dollars for needed projects. Also to minimize tax rate

impact of capital projects, provide for long-term planning of capital needs, and establish a means of setting overall community development priorities. This is the breakdown in terms of grants in FY2001 and FY2002. Again, if you look here some of the discussion you have been following with the Board of Mayor and Aldermen recently is how much money can the City bond and also stay within the parameters established to maintain our good credit rating. That has really been a significant challenge for us this year, not that we are ever wanting for challenges. This gives an example, again, we are talking in thousands in terms of the different categories, i.e. community management initiatives, education and again if you look at what we are talking about here what is happening with the education, health and human services, housing and community development, public safety, recreation and leisure, transportation and the environment. Community development block grants and HOME and HUD funding. Again, community management and education and the other categories and you can see the breakdown within these categories as well. We have been consistent for several years in providing a certain sum of money related to cash for very specific projects and this is the way it breaks down this year in comparison to last year, again in thousands. That is $2.7 million this year. CIP bonds. This is exactly what is happening with our bonds in terms of the categories as well and again Mr. MacKenzie will be explaining some of these in detail. What is happening with schools and again of the $6 million in terms of school projects including CIP Cash $1 million, school sites $3.1 million and that is for the McLaughlin School Addition, SCIP monies will be explained a little bit by Mr. MacKenzie, and school security issues related there. The total again is over $7 million.

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

Mr. MacKenzie stated I did want to review the different parts of the CIP so that people understood what the different constraints are on different sections of the Community Improvement Program. I will try to be fairly brief so we can get to the public testimony, but if you picked up packages of the CIP you will see that it is broken down basically into five different tables and each one of those tables has different constraints and different purposes. Table 1, for example, is all of the state and federal grants that are received other than the HUD money. HUD monies are a special category that we have to process differently. Table 1, for example, contains all of your school grants and that is the largest portion of Table 1, roughly $8.4 million of federal grants and state grants that we get are directed towards the School District. Table 1 also contains other types of grants that we receive from the state and federal government, particularly those for the Police Department. The Police Department is very active in getting grants for different projects. The Health Department and the Manchester Transit Authority get grants from the federal government as well. So Table 1, the monies that come down from the federal

government are directed for only specific uses and specific projects. There is really no discretion on the Board's part in reallocating those funds. They have to be used for the purpose intended. Table 2 is, as I mentioned before, a special category of HUD grants. That is from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City this year will be receiving a little bit over $3 million in various HUD grants and there are three major categories of HUD grants. There is the Community Development Block Grant Program, which is intended primarily to assist low and moderate income people in the City with various activities from social services to economic development to public infrastructure improvement and that is the largest piece of the HUD grant. This year that totals roughly $2.2 million. The City also receives money from HUD that are called HOME funds. Those are used only for housing affordability in the City. The HOME funds this year are a little bit over $700,000. The smaller portion of the HUD monies are ESG, that is Emergency Shelter Grant money, roughly $77,000 and that can be used for various homeless programs. Of the HUD monies, only 15% can be used for public service activities. I know there are a lot of non-profits out there and sometimes there is not enough money to go around. HUD does limit the City to 15% of the HUD money can be used toward non-profit agencies and they do limit the amount that can be used towards it. The largest project this year under the CDBG is actually handicapped accessibility. Roughly $500,000 of the $2.2 million is being geared towards removal of architectural barriers to disabled and other ADA programs. The third table is what is called CIP Cash and there is a portion that comes from the operating budget that is used in the CIP and typically those are projects that are too small to be bonded or cannot be bonded for various purposes but the Board wants to direct that those specifically be used for particular capital projects. The largest portion of the CIP Cash is the $1 million that is used in various schools. Again, this is the cash portion and it is used for items that can't be bonded. That includes all of your replacement of boilers, your painting of rooms, your fire safety improvements and other improvements to the schools that are not major in nature. The other large piece of the CIP Cash portion is street resurfacing - $550,000 or a little over half a million is used for street resurfacing. In total, the CIP Cash portion is exactly the same as last year. There is no increase. It is roughly $2.75 million. Roughly 2/3 of that CIP Cash go for those two specific projects, the school improvements and street resurfacing. Table 4 is the General Obligation Bonds and as the Mayor indicated the amount of money that the City can bond this year is less than last year. Last year it was roughly $13.3 million and this year that amount is less at $11 million. There are several projects that are critical projects to the City and I wanted to review those projects in more detail. Also I will note that some of these projects the CIP Committee will be recommending to the Board that those projects be expedited and that means that they be approved in the next month so that we can hit the summer construction season and we don't lose a year on those projects. I will note as I go down the list which projects those are. The School Capital Improvement Program and that is $2.1 million. The largest

single chunk of that is for various improvements to Central High School from windows in the James Building to other improvements. There are also various things under the School Capital Improvement Program from asbestos removal at Green Acres to a possible match of a kindergarten addition at Bakersville School. That is a project that has been asked to be expedited and the Committee has recommended that it be expedited. The next major project is the McLaughlin Middle School addition listed at $3.1 million. We are fortunate. The project has gone out to bid and the project has come in on bid and hopefully the City will be able to start that addition in the near future once the Board approves the bonds for that. Actually, the Board has approved the project to proceed, but these funds will be required to accomplish the project. The Cohas Brook Fire Station has been recommended by the Mayor at $1 million. That will not provide the total amount necessary, but it will allow the project to proceed. The City is in the process of acquiring a piece of property off East Industrial Park Drive for the construction of the station that is required to serve the entire southeast portion of the City. It is also recommended that the Fire Department receive thermal imaging cameras and those are the cameras that are used by the firemen during a fire to make sure that they can see in smoke filled buildings. The next major project at $1.34 million is the Park Capital Improvement Program and that includes the funds to complete the West Memorial Field, which you may have noticed is partially under construction. That is $665,000. Livingston Park, Prout Park and Piscataquog Park also receive funding under the Park Capital Improvement Program. Again, that is a project that is being recommended to be expedited. Public Works Infrastructure Project includes almost $1.5 million. There are several bridge reconstruction projects, school sidewalk programs and also a portion of the Granite Street Bridge design included in that. The next major project is the Parking Facility and Maintenance Program at $450,000 and that includes…all of that money is geared towards repairs and major improvements at the Victory Parking Garage. The two final projects are the last state of the revaluation by the Assessors, which is funded at $300,000. The Board has funded this in three stages and previously allocated $1.2 million towards that. Finally, the City Motorized Equipment Replacement is $1 million. This bond portion takes care of the major equipment, for example fire trucks, large dump trucks and other large pieces by the City. So in total, this is $11 million for the bond portion. Again, there were perhaps four to five times as many projects requested for bond as there was money available for so not all of the projects got funded under the bond portion. The final table, Table 5, are projects funded through Enterprises, fees and other dedicated sources. This is primarily your Airport Authority, which finances all of its projects through fees generated at the Airport or through federal grants. This includes a smaller Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Enterprise Program. It includes the Highway Department, the Environmental Protection Division and the Manchester Water Works. Those generally comprise the Enterprise Programs of the City. Again, the City property taxpayers do not fund these projects. These are all paid through various fees at the

Airport or sewer use fees for the Environmental Protection Division. At this point just to explain the process, the Mayor has proposed the CIP budget. It has gone to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen so the hearing tonight is before the full Board. There is a committee, the CIP Committee, that will be evaluating the projects and making a full recommendation to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee is actually the full Board and the Board will be reviewing this over the next roughly four weeks.

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

John Goudouros, 27 Mission Avenue, Manchester stated:
My subject is my street. My street is Mission Avenue and it is a small street and 600' of the street is not paved. When it rains there are a lot of holes and in the summer when the street becomes dry the dust will blow. We have called Real Pinard a lot on this and talked to him about fixing it but nothing has happened. All of the residents on the street would like to see it fixed. I would like to ask if you have the funds to do something about this problem.

William Davis, Manchester stated:
I am here representing the Manchester Community Youth Coalition. We thank you for your support that allowed for many grants for the youth of Manchester for innovative projects. We appreciate your continued support. You are developing good leadership and good innovative projects for the City. Thank you.

Fred Robinson, 199 Manchester Street, Manchester stated:
I would like to thank the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for this opportunity to make a few remarks on behalf of New Horizons Soup Kitchen Shelter and Food Pantry at 199 Manchester Street. On April 15 of last year we provided shelter to 100 persons. On April 15 of this year we provided shelter to 135 persons and the highest number served thus far in 2001 has been 154 persons in a single night. Our soup kitchen numbers have also increased from over 250 meals daily to over 300 meals daily. We are grateful for the funding we receive. It helps us provide emergency shelter and other services to the poor and homeless of Manchester and we look forward to continuing to provide those services with your continued assistance. The Executive Director of New Horizons, Louis Craig,

regrets that he could not be here this evening. He had to attend a Board of Directors meeting at the shelter. He has asked me to thank Mayor Baines who has agreed to be the honorary chairperson for New Horizons Annual Walk for Hunger this year and he has also asked me to invite any others who are here to participate in that walk on Sunday, May 6. Thank you.

Norm Dallaire, Manchester stated:
I am the principal at Webster Elementary School and Dr. Duclos and I have co-opted a letter that I would like to read into the record. We are requesting your support of the Parks & Recreation project that completes Phase II of the site renovations at our school.

Bob Duclos, Manchester stated:
This is a very brief statement, but we would respectfully request that funding for Phase II, the site improvements undertaken at both Northwest and Webster Schools be included in this year's CIP budget. The first phase was completed two years ago at Northwest and last year at Webster. There is certainly a need to complete the site work at both schools and your funding consideration would be greatly appreciated. We would like to submit this document so that it could be considered.

Steve Monier, 1800 Elm Street, Manchester stated:
I am the Director of Emergency Services for the Greater Manchester Chapter of the American Red Cross. We were originally chartered in 1917 and since the beginning of World War II have occupied the historic Frank Carpenter estate at 1800 Elm Street. We want to thank the City for your consideration of our request. The money that has been set aside for the Red Cross will assist us, particularly in our disaster services efforts, which is predominantly what I do with the 50+ volunteers affiliated with the Red Cross here in Manchester. We respond to local disasters and predominantly that means fires. We help folks with emergency food, clothing and shelter following those disasters with an immediate response. Typically we are called out by the Manchester Fire Department who we have an excellent relationship with. Our volunteers year-to-date in FY01 we have responded to 32 incidents in the Greater Manchester area. Twenty-one of those thirty-two have been here in the City of Manchester and we have provided over $39,000 in direct financial assistance to families affected by those disasters. In one incident as an example, which was certainly a catastrophic one, we provided about $29,000 in assistance to the families that were affected by the fire at 178-180 Spruce Street. There were 15 families and 55 people made homeless by that event and we worked with those families in cooperation with the City and other social service agencies here to get them back on the road to recovery. We greatly appreciate your support and think it is important. I certainly want to thank the City.

Bernard Luebkert, 105 Mission Avenue, Manchester stated:
The reason why I have come today is because approximately 600' of Mission Avenue is not paved and it becomes a grave hardship for those of us who live along Mission Avenue. We have a lot of through traffic there. If it was only the people living on Mission Avenue, we could probably survive with an unpaved street, but we are getting major ruts and the dust is tremendous in the summer time from the people driving through there and raising the dust of this portion of the street. Another problem that I have, for instance this winter and the City plows the street by the way and there is water and sewer provided along the street but in the plowing I have had tons of dirt plowed up into my yard and into my driveway. This winter I had to do a $350 repair to my snowblower that I try to keep away from the dirt but when the quantities get so large, it is really quite a cost to me. I would also note that according to the City's map 2/3 of my property is supposed to be on the approved road from long ago and yet I only have about 10% of it that actually has paving on it, which adds to the problem that I personally have to deal with. I am asking that it be considered in this budget to pave 600' of road.

Jeffrey Luebkert, 105 Mission Avenue, Manchester stated:
I would also like to speak in support of setting aside funds to pave Mission Avenue. I think it is a fundamental requirement of the City to maintain its public throughways. That is all I have to say.

Meghan Brady, Nashua, stated:
I am the Executive Director of St. Joseph Community Services. We provide Meals on Wheels. We are a non-profit social service agency and we were incorporated in 1977 and we had been providing Meals on Wheels and congregate dining services to the elderly, frail and isolated of our service area, which is Hillsborough County. We serve a hot, nutritious daily noon meal that contains 1/3 of the total caloric and nutritional needs of the day. As important as the hot meal though is our daily safety check. A lot of these people live alone and they don't have anyone who can check on them on a daily basis. 35% of the people we provide services to are over 80 years old. In Manchester alone, I know of three people who are over 100 years old who are on our program. Last year we served 1,045 Manchester citizens 105,000 meals. I have gone out and done these meal routes. It is amazing what you see when you go out there. These are former mill workers, these are veterans. We have over 300 veterans countywide. In fact, one of the nicest things I think we do every year is we get the local school children to write thank you notes to our veterans every Veterans Day and it is just amazing. We have one man on the West Side who fought in World War II, the Korean War and did two tours of duty in Viet Nam and he is on our meals program. We have one of our drivers read the letter to him because he is vision impaired. These are people who, like we are all now, once the very fabric of our City and they just need a little help to stay safe in their homes. We

take good care of any money that you give us. Our administrative costs are very low. We keep things below 16% of our administrative overhead. We use a lot of volunteers. In fact, over 600 volunteers gave us over 45,000 hours last year. Over the last 10 years we have experienced an increase of 124% in the number of home delivered meals served in Manchester. I have been doing this job for six years and in the six years I have been here I have seen a big increase in the average age and I have also seen an increase in the number of people who come from the hospital. They are sicker, more frail and more needy and less able to stand and prepare a meal so this food is very important to them. We do receive money from the state, but we get it in a per meal reimbursement, which does not cover the full cost of the meal. Programs like this one are expected to go out and raise the rest of the funds that we need. Not only that but we over serve our state contract every year. Last year by 14,000 meals. The City funds are even more important in those situations. Anyway, I will read you something that happened a month ago. It is very quick and it is one of our incident reports. One of our drivers wrote this. "I went to deliver the meal, knocked on the door and heard the client talking to me through the door. She was on the floor. She fell and couldn't get up. The door was locked so I ran up the hill to a neighbor and called 911. I stayed with her until help arrived." These are sometimes daily incidents. Thank you for your continued support.

Alderman Wihby stated we are sitting here and hearing what people want but we don't know if you have given it to them or not or if they are asking for more money or not. All we know is what the Mayor gave but we don't know what the request was. I asked to have the requests in front of us and last year's numbers and this year's requests.

Mayor Baines replied I apologize. I didn't realize you had asked for that.

Alderman Wihby stated like the last person who spoke for Meals on Wheels it was $29,100. Is that the number you were looking for?

Ms. Brady answered we were level funded at $31,450.

Mayor Baines stated we will get the requests to all of the Aldermen and again we apologize.

Mary Sliney, 20 Merrimack Street, Manchester stated:
I am with The Way Home. The paper that I prepared because I only have a few minutes to draw your attention to the critical situation with extremely low income rentals that many of the citizens of Manchester whose incomes range from the individual who sells you the cup of coffee at the local Dunkin Donuts or the phlebotomist at Catholic Medical Center or the person…many folks whose incomes are within a range that if they are

renting housing it is very hard for them to compete with this rapidly changed housing market that we have had over the last few years in which the vacancy rate is less than 1% and in many areas of our City rents from 1995 until now have actually doubled. What I did was I pulled out a chart that represents utilizing HOME dollars for tenant's assistance working in partnership with the City's Community Improvement Program, The Way Home has been helping extremely low income households in Manchester compete for rent subsidized housing by providing the security deposit. In 1995, our largest security deposit at that time was around $369 and that had something to do with HUD rules as well as rents because at that time HUD would also subsidize the security deposit. That changed in 1997 and 1998, which meant that the full month's rent was required for the security deposit but you can see as we go into the very last column in 2001 and so far it is only April but our highest security deposit is $1,127 because of the fair market rents. To have someone use a rent subsidy for a fair market rent in the City of Manchester it takes that much for the security deposit. We have an extremely tight housing market. The Way Home is one of your partners and in our request we were level funded for homeless prevention, which is the McKinney funds and that makes sense because there is a partnership in the City of a number of service providers working with the homeless. We received within this current budget an increase…from last year we received what we asked for in the home tenant based assistance to help extremely low income tenants compete for safe, affordable housing.

Joyce Werksman, 2000 N. River Road, Manchester stated:
I am with the Community Outreach Partnership Center at Southern NH University. The reason I am here is that our doctoral in Master's Degree students have done focus groups and we have found that there is a segment of people in the Manchester community that is marginalized because they cannot speak the English language. The largest contingent would be the Vietnamese and the Bosnians. We are asking for monies to pay for a newsletter to help with translation and the newsletter…translated into Bosnian and Vietnamese to help these people to understand what their rights are and what is available to them within the City. Until they can speak the English language, we found that in doing our focus groups that this is a very necessary thing to help the people to learn more even about what their social rights are. Insurance is difficult for them. They cannot understand. They don't understand job opportunities. They really don't understand how to go to a bank. All of these things would be written in their language in a newsletter to them.

Dick Ingram, 251 Pine Street, Manchester stated:
I am with Youthbuild Odyssey. I will probably be your most popular speaker tonight because I am not here to ask for money. We are not in the budget, but I am here to lend my support to many of the other projects and agencies that are included in the budget.

We do a lot of work with them. We have the privilege of sending our trainees from time to time to other agencies to complete improvement projects at their facilities. We are looking forward to that and we will also be applying separately to the Department of Housing and Urban Development later this year for our own funding and we look forward to the City's support in that effort. Thank you.

Anne Krantz, 470 Commercial Street, Manchester stated:
Thank you for supporting the Millyard Landscaping Restoration Project in the CIP budget for FY2002. The committee was instigated and organized and chaired by UNH personnel and it's plan is to use the Commercial Street campus and adjacent City lands to create a model landscaping situation to use as a model for the rest of the Millyard area with the hope that the other private property owners there will follow this model as the other buildings get developed. We have already engaged many City departments and organizations in the initial planning process and the seed money that this grant will provide will be used to keep other grant funding from state, federal and private sources. Thank you.

Felix Torres, 968 Elm Street, Manchester stated:
The recent economic boom has been a two-edged sword for home ownership. On one side people are making money and feeling confident about their future and are more willing to invest in buying a home. On the other side, prices have often gone too high for the average working family to afford a home. Home ownership is more than a good idea. We know that home ownership provides continuity and stability to a family. We know it builds confidence and creates a positive environment for raising a family. It improves neighborhoods. Neighborhoods that have higher home ownership rates pay more in property taxes. It makes better citizens and most importantly it helps low-income families break the cycle of poverty by developing an asset, which the family can then use to fundamentally change their future. We ask the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to support the CIP budget, which provides $100,000 for families to buy homes and $42,000 to continue the work of the Neighborworks Home Ownership Center of Manchester. The $100,000 will support those families that need a small additional amount of assistance to buy a home. The $100,000 will leverage over $4 million in low interest capital that the NHS has raised from the private sector to make home ownership possible and affordable. The Neighborworks Home Ownership Center is a nationally certified and innovative approach, which allows the residents of Manchester and all of the services and training that customers need to shop for, purchase, rehabilitate, insure and maintain a home. Our customers include renters, first time homebuyers, and homeowners in need of affordable home improvement financing. The NHS has a proven track record of reaching first time homebuyers, including dramatically greater percentages of women and people with modest incomes in the conventional market. We ask for your continued support for these

important programs and thank you for your very generous past support. We hope that you will help make pursuing home ownership truly the American dream and not the American nightmare. Thank you.

Renie Denton, 177 Lake Avenue, Manchester stated:
I am the Director of the Manchester Community Resource Center and I would like to thank you for allowing me to come and speak in front of you. The Manchester Community Resource Center is an employment and training facility located at 177 Lake Avenue right in the heart of the enterprise community. We provide all sorts of services to the adults that live in Manchester, mostly in the enterprise community. Anything to do with employment barriers and training. We have industry specific training now that there are so many lay-offs in the manufacturing field we are trying to redirect people's energies and give them new skills. We are all set with the adults. We are just popping at the seams at this point. In the last six months we served just under 3,000 people. We estimate that that will continue to grow. In the last three years have grown 65%. It is now time to start targeting our teenagers that live within the Enterprise community. Last year I came before you and asked you for $75,000 so we could buy the building at 153 Lake Avenue. We presented our check and a purchase and sales to the seller and he gave it back to us and told us that in this market he is raising his price to $99,500 but will give us a deal for $95,000. So, I am back before you asking you for the $20,000 so that we can open the building up. Those of you who don't know what building it is, it is that beautiful historical site. It was one of the original armories in Manchester. We need to get a hold of it. We need to do something before somebody else gets in there. It is right next door to Mike's and right across the street from Flo's. The civic center is down the street. We need to get it active. We need to renovate it and get our programs moving. The other reason I am here is that as part of a Southern NH Services Program, we also have Info Bank that is located within the Manchester Community Resource Center. We are asking for $24,000. I think it is proposed at $22,000, level funding from last year. What we do there is information and referral. We have approximately 20,000 referrals that we make each year. We compile our information so that people from social service agencies can come to us and find out what the concerns are within the neighborhoods, what the assessment is, we have…the five top concerns right now are transportation, childcare, emergency food, housing and self-help groups. What we are asking for is $22,000 so we can continue our services. I think it is a great source. Thank you for your time.

Kathy Lawson-Scully, 1530 Union Street, Manchester stated:
I am here representing the YWCA-Emily's Place, the battered women's shelter at 72 Concord Street in Manchester. I just wanted to clarify if there are any doubts about our shelter services. They do not duplicate the other shelter services available in this City.

Manchester Emergency Housing serves families and New Horizons serves single women, but the women and children we serve are victims of…are in fear of immediate danger. They are fleeing violent homes and need a safe place to stay for a certain period of time. We appreciate your consideration of our request and if anyone has any questions I will be glad to answer them.

Nury Marquez, 106 McCarthy Street, Manchester stated:
I am here as the Director of the Manchester School to Careers Partnership and I am going to cut back my comments so that I can defer to someone else who is here to speak as well. The Manchester School to Careers Partnership made a request to the CIP Program for $100,000. We revised our request to $65,000 in light of carry over funds that we will be able to carry from our initial US Department of Labor Grant to the City of Manchester enterprise community. The School to Careers Partnership's mission is to provide youth with opportunities of school career options, understanding employer expectations and prepare themselves for the future at home, in the community and at work. We have been working over the last two years to promote linkages between business and education and various other community sectors so we can spill down indigenous work force by helping students make better commitments to achieve academic success so they don't drop out, understand the connection between their education and their future, and acquire the skills that are relevant and transferable to any professional career they may decide to pursue. We have 17,000 students enrolled in the district and out of school students are in need of better preparation for their future. This is what the partnership has been working on in the last two years. We also provide work place experiences for students so they can make connections with the real work place of their generation. We provide professional development for our teachers to apply techniques that can inspire their students to stay in school and motivate their students to achieve and better prepare them to compete globally. We are in the business of facilitating the application of the human and financial resources that are located within our community in all of our different sectors for the benefit of our youth. I would like now to defer to Mrs. Patack.

Maria Patack, Manchester stated:
I would like to speak on behalf of parents and students who are part of the internship program with Bell Atlantic. I have to say that I am a lucky parent of students who were chosen. My son in the year before he was chosen to participate, he wasn't sure what he was going to do and as a matter of fact I wasn't even sure he was going to finish high school. Once he was chosen to be part of the internship, I saw a tremendous change in him. I have seen that he knew what he wants to do for his career and it is a very difficult environment today out there so the mentors and the whole group showed him different attitudes and responsibilities towards customers and service to them and it is very difficult to put the price of value because this was a real life experience and I don't know

how to thank you for this program because in a tremendous way it has changed my life, my family's and my son's and I will be forever grateful for being given this chance. I hope that the program can be continued to give everyone a chance to find the right career path in their lives. Again, I know the other participants also feel the same way and I am sure that all of you know that people are our biggest asset. It doesn't matter where we go, whether it is school or business. Everybody knows that the biggest asset to companies are our children, our young. I have to say that my parents were not educated and I am still proud of them. They lived through two wars but they knew and they understood the need of education and they supported me. It didn't matter how difficult it was for them. I really would appreciate…I would do anything to support this particular program. Again, I thank you very much for giving me that opportunity and I would really like to ask for your support.

Jean Desany, Manchester stated:
I am the Program Director of the Voluntary Action Center, which is a program of Southern NH Services. You will find us on Table 3 in your agenda, City Cash. Last year we received $12,000 and we are budgeting for the same again this year. I would tell you that next week is National Volunteer Week and to find out more details about what we do in our agency just tune in to our continuing partnership with WGIR radio after the 9 AM news every morning next week and you will hear about volunteerism in the Greater Manchester community. It also happens to be the International Year of the Volunteer as declared by the United Nations. I would thank you for your continued support, but I would like to tell you a little bit about what we do and why we need the continuance. Last year's volunteers were responsible for over $3 million worth of in kind services to 175 different agencies and I hear some examples here tonight that brought events to my mind. After the Spruce Street fire, the Salvation Army got such a wonderful response from the community that they called us for some volunteers to help them sort out and expedite the moving of the donations to the various families and we did, in fact, provide some volunteers as we did to the set-up for the Manchester Community Resource Center's first annual Mardi Gras, which was great and I hope everybody comes next year. Today I got a request from a woman who specifically wants to teach French students English as a second language because when she came to this country someone took the time to teach her and she wants to pay back. These are the kind of connections we make. They include last year $432,000 worth of services provided by the City volunteer program. An example of how that works is I got a call from a group at Norwich University in Norwich, VT a few weeks ago who were going to Boston for a service day and wanted to stop here on the way back and do something. Well on a frigid Sunday morning they put in two and a half hours of work…it doesn't sound like much but they spruced up a little strip of West Memorial High School and that value comes to over $1,900. I would thank you to continue your support because it is 41% of our budget.

Without it, we cut back our services and they probably exponentially affect the entire community. Thank you again.

Artemis Paras, 1275 Hanover Street, Manchester stated:
The purpose for this hearing according to the legal notice is to comment on the FY2002 Community Improvement Program, however there was also an indication that we could comment on the FY2002-2006 period. There has been no discussion of any projects for that multi-year suggested timeframe. The CIP resolution that is going to be signed by you Aldermen and approved suggests approving the CIP program for FY2002 raising and appropriating monies therefore and authorizing implementation of said programs. I do want to mention that the CIP is going to be adopted and endorsed if you so chose to do it, however, the programs in progress to be proposed for the FY2003-2007 period will be reviewed following completion of the strategic planning process. I would like to bring to the attention of the Board that the words strategic planning and action plan, those words we can find within the context of the consolidated plan. This is another item, another program, another plan that is handled by the Planning and Community Development Program because I have testified on that and I think it is very important when we use these words that we use them within the context from which they come. In your CIP program for this evening on the inside page it says CIP multi-year project to be provided at a later date. So here we are. Is this hearing to include only a one year program or can the public talk about it or not. I just thought it was important to make that distinction. I would like to speak on some of the items by number in the different tables. Under transportation and environment, 710102 Highway Candia Road, it is mentioned $400,000. That was mentioned under federal, state and other funds. I would like to mention that the $400,000 is a part of what total amount of money. When we have a plan funded for a road project, construction costs, we have to determine what is the total cost over a period of years so that we know what we are allocating for each year. I think that would be extremely helpful. Before my time runs out, I want to mention that I am in full support in the City cash column for the St. Joseph's Community Services. That was a program that deserves to be funded. The seniors can be allowed to stay in their own homes for a longer period of time. I guess basically my comments have ended. As I said the most important thing is for the multi-year projects please find out what is the total expenditure because then we can appropriately plan.

Julie Gustafson, 670 Commercial Street, Manchester stated:
I manage the Amoskeag Small Business Incubator, which is located at 670 Commercial Street. I would like to extend thanks on behalf of the Amoskeag Small Business Incubator and Southern NH University, to the Mayor and to the Aldermen for all of their past support and your future consideration. Your support has assisted us in meeting our mission, which is to provide a supportive environment to small businesses through shared

real estate space and technical assistance which will in turn create economic activity and jobs in the City of Manchester. To date, a combination of over 100 full and part-time jobs have been created as a result of the businesses in the incubator. As well, the companies have increased economic activity in the City of Manchester by hiring, expanding, increasing revenues and profits and by using local vendors. We are at 100% full occupancy right now with 20 businesses located in the incubator. We are asking for the same amount that we received last year of $20,000. We want to thank you very much for your consideration and past support.

Denise Garcia, 972 Elm Street, Manchester stated:
I am representing the Alliance for Community Support of the Teen Arts Center, Hot Couch. We are pretty new to the area. We had our grand opening on January 2 of this year and what we do is we give teens in Manchester and the surrounding communities an alternative to drugs and alcohol. I have about 40 kids a night that come in and paint or listen to music or just hang out and we get 65 to 70 kids on Thursdays for our poetry nights. It is great to see them happy and doing something positive. We also offer discussion groups that cover everything from teen sexuality to drug issues and we have mentor art classes going on. I am here asking the City to help us. We are asking for $5,000 to help us with our operating expenses – heat and electricity for next year and we would appreciate your support. Thank you.

Doug Rickard, 46 South Maple Street, Manchester stated:
I am the Director of Helping Hands Outreach Center at 50 Lowell Street here in Manchester. We are a transitional housing program for men who are recovering from substance abuse. Our 28 residents want to express through me their appreciation for your continuing support. While we did request $15,000 for this year, we were level funded at $10,000 but we are extremely grateful for that. With our utility costs going up like everyone's that will certainly help us in continuing to support men who have come to us from detox centers, from prison, who are veterans and who have decided that they don't want to die in the street from their addictions but they want to get on with their lives and be productive. We are supporting them and helping them to accomplish that and I want to thank all of you because you are helping us as we help others.

Brian Jones, 50 Mission Avenue, Manchester stated:
You have already heard several residents talk about the need to pave that unpaved portion of Mission Avenue. I am not going to bore you with the reasons again, but I am going to ask that you support funding for that project. Thank you.

Cary Flanagan, Manchester stated:
I am the Program Manager of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Manchester and I really appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight to present our case for getting some more funding. The funding is really crucial for us. We are now in the middle of a dynamic phase of growth. In addition to our traditional community-based program we now have three additional programs that are called site-based programs. They are based on site in either daycare centers, the VNA child care center...there is a program based at the Youth Development Center and there is a brand new one that we are just now in the midst of implementing in the Manchester school system. Our newest one is in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. We have now formed the Greater Manchester School Based Mentoring Program as a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and we are very excited about that program. We now have 30 new matches that are in existence. We are about to add 15 to 20 new ones before the end of this school year. We expect that by next fall this new program will be in full force and we expect to have at least 60 matches going forward to start the new school year. We have three major goals for FY2002 – to increase the number of children matched in all of our programs, to decrease the waiting period for service for which we need many more volunteers, and to continue to implement the site based mentoring programs in selected Manchester schools. We are seeking a very modest increase in City funding from $5,000, which we received last year for which we are very grateful, to $7,500 to help support our mentoring program specifically in the school based program. That is a brand new program and that is why we are seeking the additional funding. On behalf of the children served by Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Manchester, thank you very much for your past support.

Janet Putnam, 72 Concord Street, Manchester stated:
It is nice, Mayor, to see you twice in the same day. Some of you will notice that I was here for the kick-off of the pregnancy prevention initiative this morning and want to mention that the Teen Health Clinic is one of the member agencies that has been involved in the planning of that organization and also provided some of the health care that was discussed this morning. You are probably familiar with us. We are about three years old now. We will be having a birthday party on May 1 and many of you will have received invitations. I hope to get to see you there and you will have a chance to see the Manchester Youth Theatre perform. In the past three years we have registered close to 1,000 clients. Last year we provided 1,600 units of comprehensive medical services to more than 550 unduplicated clients. One of the things that is real important about the Teen Health Clinic is that we provide comprehensive medical care to families that either don’t have medical insurance or have Medicaid. One of the things we do with families who don’t have medical insurance to help underwrite some of our costs is to insure that we help families get into the CHIPS Program or the Healthy Kids Program so that they

do obtain funding. One of the key referral sources for us are school nurses and it is important to note that we do a number of school physicals and provide a number of shots for folks who would not be able to get into a private provider's office in time to get in school, especially people who are new to the area. That is a really important function that we provide as we don't have another resource for that in this community at present. Thanks.

Jeanie Holt, Manchester stated:
I am the Project Director of the NH Reach 2010 Initiative. This is Jasmin Miranda-Smith. She is the Executive Director of the NH Minority Health Coalition. The Minority Health Coalition is a non-profit organization established in 1993 and we have many programs of health education and advocacy for the various communities in Manchester. The Reach 2010 Coalition is a federal grant to create culturally effective programs for achieving health equity in the detection and treatment of diabetes and high blood pressure. Diabetes and high blood pressure or hypertension are chronic medical conditions and both of these conditions are silent at first. If they are discovered early, they can be treated but unfortunately many times these conditions are not discovered until the damage has already been done and a person has a heart attack or stroke or goes into kidney failure and obviously at that point the impact on healthcare costs and on worker productivity is great. Diabetes and hypertension is an even greater concern in some racial and ethnic groups. Among Latinos for example the incidents of diabetes is two to three times greater than that of the general population. African Americans have a higher incidence of both diabetes and hypertension and in addition complications from diabetes and hypertension occur at a younger age and are more disabling among both of these groups. So the evidence is clear. To decrease the impact of diabetes and hypertension we must have effective programs to identify and treat these conditions among Latinos and African Americans in Manchester. The NH Reach 2010 Initiative will do that. We have formed a coalition of leaders from the Latino community, from the African American community and from healthcare and social services institutions. We are exploring the cultural values and the strengths of the communities as well as current resources and resource gaps. We will design screening and education programs that are culturally effective and will teach healthcare providers about the cultural strengths and the values of these communities. These programs will be ready for piloting in Manchester in September. Funds from the Community Improvement grant you will find on Table 3. We have requested $25,000 and have been offered $10,000. These funds will improve our community by supporting our ethnically diverse population, by protecting our working folks with early detection and treatment of diabetes and hypertension and beyond these medical conditions the Reach 2010 initiative will improve our community because we are learning how to work together in culturally sensitive ways that will facilitate our work on other issues. I have copies of this testimony,

unfortunately I don't think I made quite enough. I thank you very much for your support and for your interest.

Betty Breuder, 3 Newfane Road, Bedford stated:
I represent NH Right to Life and the grass roots concerns of Manchester area taxpayers who cherish family values like marriage and the gift of life and we would urge you to defund social service agencies such as the Teen Health Clinic, Child & Family Services and Child Health Services mainly because they are contributing to the social, morale and physical decay of our minors. They distribute drugs that chemically kill the babies of minors who are often misinformed about the side effects of these drugs. I personally have witnessed what is going on outside of these clinics. I have talked to adolescents who are emotionally traumatized by the side effects of these drugs and you have to stop and wonder how is this promoting health when many of these drugs have debilitating side effects. I spoke to one girl who had taken the morning after pill and her boyfriend said he would never allow her to take it again. Deproprivera, an injectable drug is distributed to minors. This drug can cause breast tumors and it is expected that it is contributing to the loss of bone mass as well. I would also like to urge you not to fund the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program and comprehensive health education. I have here the petition signatures of 1,892 people who oppose tax funded health comprehensive health education because it undermines the family values and parental rights. 488 signatures are those of Manchester residents. These citizens are not in the minority. We all agree on reducing teen births, but births and pregnancies are not the problem. The underlying problem is sexual activity and I think that is why these programs have failed because they are not looking to reduce the basic problem of pre-marital sex. As a matter of fact, they are based on the philosophy that teen sex is natural, normal acceptable and healthy when we know in fact that it is risky behavior. We would urge you to implement abstinence only programs. The federal funding is right there and it won't cause taxpayers a waste of money. Thank you.

Peter Leonard, 35 Andrew Street, Manchester stated:
I am on the School Board and next year I may be in Ward 1. It all depends on what happens with the boundary lines. I do support all after school activities in the City and I am a mentor at the Hot Couch Art Center on Elm Street. I am here to speak on the CIP budget, which Brad and Chris will talk about more. We need all of the money that we can get for our schools because if we don't get the money for our schools, we won't have citizens who will take your places in those chairs in front of me because they won't have the education to do it. The teachers need money to teach the kids. By cutting the school budget we can't do it because we have to let teachers go and the classrooms will be twice as full as they are now. The schools are unsafe and hazardous and we do need a fourth high school in the future and we are planning ahead to start the funding for it now. That

way we can keep the out-of-town students whether Bedford wants to join us or not. We will have a fourth high school. All I have to say is the kids are our future just like the elderly who need help now too.

Rona Zlokower, 161 N. Adams Street, Manchester stated:
I am here to comment on the CIP appropriation for school facility improvements, specifically the $2.1 million in Table 4 with $1.5 million earmarked for Central and $215,000 for security improvements, improvements for Green Acres and Bakersville, architectural services for future construction and the $3.1 million for McLaughlin and also in Table 3 the $1 million in City cash under Building Maintenance for mid level improvements at the schools. I would like to commend the Mayor for his attention to making improvements in the school facilities, which are long overdue. Many of the Mayor's detractors are faulting him for problems in the schools. I think he rather deserves credit for bringing the facilities problems to the forefront and through his crusade for education, the Citizen's Committee on School Facilities and the coordination with the Parsons-Brinkerhoff study that there is immediate action being taken to address the schools. I will say, however, that it is too little money for all of the facility needs in the schools. I understand that there is a limit to bonding capacity. That has been explained to me a number of times and that there is also a limit to City operating expenses that can be allocated to schools. There also is…I have been told a limit to how much can be engineered and built before the school year begins next year but I would like to point out to you that there is also a limit to how long parents, staff and faculty should have to wait for very basic improvements to school facilities. These problems have occurred over the last three decades and little attention has been paid to their correction. I would like to ask you as Aldermen and also the School Board and School officials, many of whom have been on the watch for the last two decades, to concede that these problems in the facilities exist, to correct the problems and to proceed in a very responsible manner to correcting them as soon as possible. I would hope that we would not waste too much time as has been exhibited lately publicly with accusations of who is to blame. There are a lot of parties to blame, but there is a lot more work to be done to correct our school facilities. Thank you very much.

Billy Dodd, 181 Mammoth Road, Manchester stated:
I will try to flip through this as quickly as I can. In the first table on Page 2, under education, the $8.4 million the only question I have is that the special education money coming in from the federal government that you are giving back out to the schools? I don't know what funds those are. That is just a question for you to look at. The other thing is down at the bottom of the page under Police Department Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, $275,000. The same question on that. Is that the 10% you are giving of matching funds to enable the Police Department to buy $1.2 million worth of equipment

or is that money coming back in from the federal guise that you guys are giving out and then we are going to have to match it with 10%? Just a question for you guys to look at. Over on the next page, under Recreation and Leisure I see the Bass Island Land Acquisition or acquisition of the East Side of Bass Island with matching money by LCHIP for $250,000. I have to assume by that that the piece of land is going to cost us $500,000. Take a look at that. I have advocated that that piece of property could be used for a West Side precinct station, Mr. Cashin. Over on the next page, 4 of 4, Artemis Paras kind of touched on it with the $400,000 in the TIP improvement project on Candia Road. I would ask you to turn to Table 4 and look at the very top item. It talks about Candia Road design, $100,000 locally and $400,000 state. Am I to assume that there are two different projects going on up there or is there a typo there? Just a question for you to look at. Further down on that, there is the 50/50 matching program for sidewalks. I kind of have to question that one. If the City didn't require sidewalks to go into an area, I really don't know why a citizen has to come up with money to help pay for a sidewalk in front of his house, especially when you go down to the next item, repairs and improvements to Victory Parking of $450,000. We have got cars that are going to be coming in to the civic center and the management company from there is taking money for us but not contributing anything for the repair of the garages. It is a little ironic that you want people to pay for sidewalks but you don't want management of the civic center to contribute to repair the garages. The last thing, just for clarification on the next page, Table 5, the very first one says Derryfield Country Club Phase IV and it reads, "Improvements to the main country club building and surrounding out buildings. If cost dictates, these may include constructing two new structures and the demolition of the existing main building." Am I to assume that you are going to tear down the main building and build something new? That is the way I read it. The very last thing is to go back to Table 3, City Cash. I am looking at American Red Cross Disaster Services to provide disaster victims with emergency food, shelter and so forth. It is going to serve 200 residents and you have allocated $11,000 for that. I think if you go down through all of your other programs and look at the number of people who are affected and with the number of fires that we had in the City here last year, I think the $11,000 figure needs to be increased greatly.

Chris Herbert, 20 Old Wellington Road, Manchester stated:
Specifically on the CIP budget I would like to…when I added up everything that the Mayor has listed here in regards to the $2.1 million one thing that disturbs me or I think should be pointed out that is not funded here and it is a fairly significant item that I think it was second on our original list that we submitted to the City is regarding roof improvements. It is a $1.2 million item that is not funded here and specifically there is $740,000 needed to replace the flat roof, repair entrance canopies, structural enhancement at Parkside. There is $463,000 and these are all estimates of course, but $463,000 to

replace the flat roof and structural enhancements at McDonough and there is $200,000 earmarked that we requested for the roof over the industrial arts section at Central High School. That is $1.2 million. Now to be honest with you recently the contracts that we have been awarding have come in lower than what we were estimating because of the slowdowns. Nonetheless, it is a major structural problem that we have. I know at McDonough School we have had during every rain storm buckets out in the gymnasium to catch the water coming down so I would request that the Aldermen give serious consideration to either adding one or all three of those very important structural maintenance projects back into the CIP budget. Other than that, I would like to second Rona's comments in reference to the Mayor's efforts to draw attention to the school facilities needs. We have a huge deficit and I have a feeling that if we all work together we will get at it. The roofing problem is a serious one that I would like to draw to your attention.

Frank Childs, 100 Tiffany Lane, Manchester stated:
I am the Agency Director for the Salvation Army located at 121 Cedar Street in the heart of the inner City. I am here to do two things. First of all to thank you for your past support of funding a staff person at the Salvation Army's Kids Café. Secondly, to thank you for the recommendation for level funding for this year. Although we had asked for $18,000, the recommendation is that we be level funded at $14,300. On behalf of the 500 kids that we serve from the inner city through a variety of 15 different programs that have evolved from Kids Café over the six plus years that the Kids Café has been involved we thank you for your support. The gentleman that was partially funded by the CIP funds spends a lot of his time now on teen issues. As Kids Café has evolved, the kids have grown up and they are now teens. We have developed a teen tutoring center. We have a teen drop-in center on Friday evenings at which we have a minimum of 85 kids every Friday night who are in our center from 6 PM until 10 PM and not on the street during those periods of time. We will continue to develop programs to assist the teens and the younger kids and we thank you for your support.

Ann Sanderson, 34 Gilhaven Road, Manchester stated:
I am the Director of the International Institute here in the City. I want to say that I appreciate the fact that our requirement for the legal services to help the immigrants and the refugees remained in the budget. We did ask for a $1,000 increase. We didn't see that but we are happy to be levelly funded. I think the statement that I would like to make tonight is that we are sincerely disappointed that this City is not able to somehow see that there is a crisis in Manchester around interpreter services. We did submit a proposal, which doesn't appear before you tonight and I am really not asking that that happen, but I think that the City of Manchester has to begin to realize that there are a lot of non-English speaking people here in the City. We have a number of students in

schools. When Barbara Chalsma calls me for an interpreter, I try to share as much of our interpreter's time as I can. When folks go to the City Welfare Office, the City Welfare Office feels that it is everybody else's responsibility to fund the interpreter except theirs. I just think it is time for you as a Board representing the City to come to grips with the fact that there are a lot of people and most of these people are not refugees that I am serving but are immigrants coming into this City for other reasons but there is a real need and we did ask for some and I know that some others did to fund people that we can put on our staff who will become employed full-time, receive benefits and actually have a real job instead of calling them off the street for an hour here and an hour there and give us the opportunity to do what is important and that is full training of these people so when they are representing non-English speakers in the school system and in the Welfare system or in the courts they do have somebody who is really certified and can do a good job. I hope that in the future you will look at that. Thanks.

Dennis Krokow, 470 Silver Street, Manchester stated:
I am here on behalf of the Twin Tower Condominium Association with respect to Project #611802 on Page 6. This is for $5,000 to allow for hook-ups for water to be extended onto properties for the purpose of increasing our green space. We would like to plant some trees and improve a barren area that was once industrial and has since become increasingly residential. I would like to ask for your support on this measure. Thank you.

Mayor Baines 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, and on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to adjourn the public hearing.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk