SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FY2003 CIP BUDGET)

April 10, 2002 **7:00 PM**

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

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

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas (late), Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, O'Neil (late), Lopez, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest

Absent: Aldermen Pinard, Shea

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 2003-2007 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 2003, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefore, and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program."

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

Mr. MacKenzie stated I am the Planning Director for the City and I was not going to take too long. There are a lot of people here to testify tonight but I did want to give perhaps some of the new members of the Board as well as some members of the audience just a quick preview of what the Community Improvement Program is and a little bit on how it developed. The purpose of the CIP Program, as you can see on the screen, the first is to coordinate improvement projects. Frequently different departments are doing different things and by comprehensively putting together all of the capital and special projects in the City you can get a better idea on how the projects relate to better make them work together. The CIP also provides a good way to have access to all of the City's capital and special projects by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the public on funding sources and projects. It also allows a streamlined accounting procedure. These are also normally required by the Federal government but also recommended by the auditors to have a fairly straight forward system to keep track of all the capital and special projects. Another is to

maximize Federal and State dollars for needed projects. It also, by looking out several years, tries to minimize the tax rate impact of capital projects so you can plan your major projects without having a significant impact on the property tax rate. Provide for long-range planning of capital needs. Certainly now major projects are very complex. They take a tremendous amount of time and you have to plan two to three years down the line in order to get projects done. This capital program allows the vehicle to start these major projects as early as possible. Finally, one of the most difficult parts is there is always a limited amount of money and this puts all the special projects and capital projects into one pool so that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen can prioritize what their most important community development needs are. I did want to talk a little bit about how this Community Improvement Program is put together and I am not sure if there are copies available for the audience. I think a number of the people have copies but there is an annual budget portion for FY03 starting July 1 of this year and continuing until June 30, 2003. There is also a long-range capital plan for long-range planning. The annual budget is broken down into five tables. According to this chart we have five Table 1's but that is not quite correct. There are five separate tables. Table 1 is Federal, State and Other funds. Other funds could be trust funds for example. We have an Affordable Housing Trust Fund. We also have a Central Business District Revitalization Fund. All of Table 1 are earmarked for very specific projects. You can't really use any of these funds for other purposes. There is roughly $17 million in this particular program; most of it does go to School. They apply for a lot of special needs grants and other Federal funding and all of those special projects come through the CIP and are in Table 1. Table 2, HUD Funded Programs. There are three major types of programs. There is Emergency Shelter Grants of about $77,000 this year. There are HOME funds, which are designed to provide some affordable housing units in the City of a little over $700,00 and the largest portion of Table 2 is Community Development Block Grants. This HUD fund is separated out because the Board does have more flexibility in utilizing these funds although they still have to meet the Federal guidelines and they have to meet basically low and moderate-income standards in order to qualify for HUD funds. I would note that many of the non-profit organizations that the City funds to provide services come out of the Community Development Block Grant Program. Unfortunately this year the City's allocation, which is based on a formula actually declined somewhat so there is a limited amount and of the HUD funds only 15% can be used for non-profit organizations. Clearly that does pose some limitations on what the City can provide in terms of non-profit. Table 3 is Cash Funded Programs. That comes directly out of the City's operating budget. The amount of $1.79 million is just about the same as last year. Given the difficulties with the operating budget this year, it was recommended by the Mayor that that be level funded. Table 4 is Bonded Projects of roughly $13 million, which again is down a little bit from last year. They follow guidelines provided by the City's Finance Officer and Bond Council. We will also be taking out of that certain projects to be expedited and those are projects that have to be done this summer and have to get going very quickly so hopefully the Board will be acting on those perhaps early in May. There are 14 bonded projects and roughly half of them would be expedited. The final table, Table 5, Enterprise Projects, are those paid by user fees and include the Manchester Water Works and their capital projects, the Environmental Protection Division at the Highway Department, which as the majority of the $19 million of funds, and finally the Recreation Fund Enterprise Program, which as a much smaller amount

geared towards certain Enterprise projects such as Gill Stadium and the ice arenas. Again, most of that is going to the Combined Sewer Overflow, the separation project that is mandated by the Federal government. I did briefly want to touch upon the long-range capital plan. The Mayor has proposed an eight-year capital plan of roughly $144 million to address the City's needs. This plan uses a number of different funding sources and it is proposed to address many of the deficiencies, for example, in the school system including building capacity and repairing every single school in the City. That is a little bit more than half of the long-range plan cost. At this point, I wanted to keep it brief. Either our staff and we do have several staff members available tonight either after the meeting or at the next CIP Committee meeting will be available to answer questions. I would note that in terms of the procedure, this is the Mayor's Proposed CIP Program. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen are now considering it and it is the Community on Community Improvement that will be making recommendations sometime in the near future to the full Board of Mayor and Aldermen. That is all that I have.

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 so that all participants may be given 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.

Rob Nordgren, Director of Child Health Services, Manchester stated:
In the next few minutes and I promise to only take a few minutes of your time because I know you have a lot to cover tonight but I want to emphasize the critical services that Child Health Services provides to the community and also say a few words about our program, the Teen Health Clinic. Let me say first of all that we are very grateful and depend on the funding that we receive from the City as a crucial part of our operating budget. Child Health Services provides healthcare, social services and nutrition services to children from low income families in Manchester. All of the children that we serve at our program come from families that are less than 185% of the poverty level and for a family of four that is an annual income of less than $33,000. Most of these children would not have access to our healthcare system if it were not for our program. Many of them face significant barriers to our healthcare system. They may not have transportation. They may not have health insurance coverage. They may not have telephones or other means of accessing our healthcare system. Many of these children would be going to the emergency room or other sources of care that could not provide continuity of care so I think our program provides, again, that access to our healthcare system that is so crucial, not only for those children but for the health of our community. We are seeing an increasing demand for our services. We have a target enrollment in terms of our staffing and budget of 1,000 children and last year we served over 1,200 unduplicated clients, which is the most ever that Child Health Services has provided care to. We also have an extremely tight budget in the upcoming year and we are in definite need of the support of the City of Manchester. We are not a national organization and we currently do not turn any children away to meet our enrollment criteria and I don't want to be

in that position. Again, I think we are providing a crucial service to so many children here in Manchester. Finally, let me just say a couple of words about our Teen Health Clinic. The Teen Health Clinic has been in operation for almost four years. It is providing services, again medical services, social services and nutrition services to adolescents in the communities and they have served over 1,200 adolescents from the Greater Manchester area. Again, we deeply appreciate the support that we receive from the City. Thank you very much for your time.

Ken Neil, Director of Operations, Boys & Girls Club stated:
As Director of Operations for the Club I want to express our disappointment with the absence of funding for our St. Jean's Clubhouse in the Mayor's proposed CIP budget. Certainly I understand that funds are limited and extremely tight this year, but on behalf of the 80 to 90 youngsters who attend the program each day, I am hopeful that the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor will be able to revisit the budget and find some way of providing funding for this program. The Manchester Boy's and Girl's Club has never received CIP funds for any of our services to date and the upcoming fiscal year promises to be extremely tight for us as well. Without the CIP support for this program, I am fearful that some adjustments to our level of service may be necessary. Unfortunately, this would have a direct effect on the 201 members who attend this after school program from Parkside, Northwest, Parker-Varney and Gossler Schools. Again, on behalf of the Boy's and Girl's Club I am hopeful that some funds will be able to be redirected to this program in the final budget and I want to thank all of you for your efforts on the Boy's and Girl's Club behalf.

Cary Flanagan, Program Manager, Big Brothers/Big Sisters stated:
We are now located on Lowell Street. We moved a few months ago. I greatly appreciate this opportunity to speak to all of you on behalf of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. I will just make a brief statement and then I want to introduce to you a Big Sister and here Little Sister who will give you a little bit of information about what the program means to them. Our original request for funding from the Community Improvement Program for Big Brothers/Big Sisters was $7,500. I understand that there is a very tight budget this year so I just wanted to mention that we have been told that there is also a proposed cut from the level funding that you had offered us. We are certainly grateful for any support we can get, but we want to talk a little bit about the impact that will have on the program. Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Manchester has been growing at a rapid rate during this past year. Between July 1, 2001 and April 30, 2002 we will have served almost 190 children from the Manchester community in all our programs and anticipate more than 200 children by the end of our fiscal year in June. In the community-based program, which is funded in part by CIP, we will have close to 80 active matches at the end of April and more than 90 by the end of June. We currently have 21 children on the waiting list and 29 more children in process for a total of 49 children waiting to be matched. At the same time we have 20 volunteers either in process or accepted and ready to be matched. New applications come in daily for both children and volunteers. Currently we only have two part-time case workers in the community-based program to do the thorough intakes necessary to make appropriate and long lasting matches and to monitor and support those active matches. We are feeling very stretched this year. I

know there have been cuts in other sources of funding for us and at a time when we really need to add staff we are actually losing our budget. We really appreciate any kind of help you can give us and again having a caring adult friend and mentor in the life of a child is a really crucial thing. It adds hope and provides new perspective and knowledge that they have choices. It is a really important program for the kids. I would like to quickly introduce Big Sister, Heidi Blais and her Little Sister, also named Heidi and they want to say a few words.

Ms. Heidi Blais stated I would like to thank Big Brothers for an opportunity to help serve the community of Manchester. I live in Kingston, NH but work in the City. I entered the program because I had some free time and wanted an opportunity to work with an individual rather than groups of students, which I do in other organizations. I have to say that thinking that I would be giving a lot to this little girl, she has given an awful lot back to me. I would like to pass the microphone on to Heidi.

Heidi stated I have a scrapbook about all the things we did.

Mayor Baines took the scrapbook and asked that it be passed around to the Aldermen.

Bryan Martineau, Student at Middle School at Parkside, member Manchester Boys and Girls Club St. Jean Center stated:
I am here to introduce some programs for funding at the St. Jean's Center. I would like to tell you guys that we have offered there hockey leagues and academics as well as homework and computer labs. Inside the computer lab we have 14 computers that are powered up through the Internet so the kids can have access to do their homework on the Internet and have free time as well on the Internet. We offer pool and other billiard games as well as a Lego club and other fieldtrips that we take to like the Monarch's game and the Globetrotters that we recently attended. At the Middle School Center we just recently opened up about two years ago and we took some of the equipment from the Union Street Center and brought it over to St. Jeans because we have enough equipment over there. Some of the funding we are looking for is to take it and buy new equipment and better equipment for the kids to use at the center. We want to help the kids with more encyclopedias for the Internet and other access so the kids can actually use it and do their homework. For hockey we just bought 14 new hockey sticks. Every year we run the hockey league and that keeps the kids off the street and that is the whole idea of St. Jeans is to open a wider area and keep more kids off the street. Every day we have about 80 kids come in and spend time together who don't get to spend time together at school. I would just like to say that a lot of the money will go to helping keep the kids of the street and they won't cause as much trouble and the police won't have to deal with them. Thank you.

Renie Denton, Manchester Community Resource Center stated:
I am the Director of the Manchester Community Resource Center located at 177 Lake Avenue. What we do is we provide services to the low-income people who reside within the enterprise community, also known as the Center City of Manchester. We try to get them employment and give them the skills they need to retain their employment. We try to provide

them with the support services required to get jobs and then to retain. Many of the people that we deal with are immigrants and refugees who have come into the country. ESL of course is one of our number one programs. We probably served about 600 units of services in the last six months with just the ESL that we provide. We are also a center to several other agencies that come in and do ESL and computer classes - the International Institute of NH, Southern NH University and a few others. Just in the last three months we have provided employment services to 915 units. Seventy-four people were placed in jobs and as you know in this economy it is almost impossible. About a year and a half ago we were placing 200 people a month and right now it is almost impossible to find employment. It is real important that people receive the skills that they don't have right now in order to get employment so they can take care of their families. Many of the people that have come into the country have come in with skills, with certifications, with high education. They can't use those skills or their education right now because they lack the English. What we want to do is provide them with the skills in this country, the certification, so that they can go out and work in those fields. What we propose through this appropriation, which is $25,000 that we are asking for, is to assist 35 people in receiving the training they need in industry specific training. We will match that and we will do another 35 with existing funds that we have so by the end of the year we will put 70 people to work in the field that they were trained for or will retrain them so that they can get the employment that they need and take care of their families. In the last year, we provided five different industry specific trainings. We have done electronic assembly, information management, pharmacy tech, receptionist, and we worked very closely with Citizen's Bank. We appreciate the consideration for funding and have a great night.

Karen Urban, Program Coordinator for the Greater Manchester YMCA Truancy Alternative Program stated:
I have with me Angela Wilson who is the Program Coordinator for Youth Opportunities Unlimited.

Angela Wilson stated:
I just want to thank the CIP program for their support of the Youth Opportunities Unlimited Program. The YOU Program is an after-school enrichment program that serves kindergarten through fifth grade students at Beech Street and Henry Wilson Schools and 96% of our families right now are considered to be low or very low income and right now we are currently serving three homeless families as well. Because these schools are in the Center City of Manchester, it is very important to keep the kids off the streets when their parents are at work. Some of these parents go to school as well because they are trying to better their lives. What we do is give the kids an opportunity to learn life skills, hang out with friends and be off the streets and give them a safe environment for them to learn and be in after school. I just want to read a little bit of a letter that a parent had written, "I wanted to share a few thoughts about what I believe YOU stands for for me. I am a full-time working mom who is currently doing it solo with a six year old in first grade, a nineteen year old in his first year of college and a sixteen year old going on twenty-one in her third year of high school. I know I don't have to tell you that I have my hands full. I cannot depend on my teenagers to watch their younger sister if I want her to be able to turn seven in June. YOU has a great

after school program for children like my daughter. Jasmine is learning how to listen to instructions. She is learning how to honor rules and understand why they are put there. She is in a safe environment with dedicated staff members. The teachers have a well-planned afternoon for the kids. Plans are organized and the children count on her consistent reminders of washing your hands, using your inside voice, thank you and please, excuse me, one minute please and when everyone is sitting we will begin. These are powerful words to keep the children feeling safe and knowing that everyday they will be treated the same. The rules won't change and the politeness and respect won't be sacrificed before behavior. The children are being taught to be respectful, caring, responsible and trustworthy every day. I believe the YOU staff are dedicated to loving children and helping them realize their talents. I believe that YOU is investing in our real future and they are worth our best resources." Thank you very much for your time.

Ms. Urban stated:
Again we would like to thank you for your support of this program and we would like to express our disappointment that the YMCA's Truancy Alternative Program has not bee included in the proposed budget for next year. We would just like to ask that if any funds can be found in the final revision of the budget that you consider this program. The Truancy Alternative Program is a new program this year to the Y. It was previously a joint effort with the Office of Youth Services. The YMCA took it over this year and expanded it to five days a week. It is currently the only programming option available to middle and high school students in Manchester who are expended, expelled or truant from school. I would just like to share a couple of statistics that I feel really hit home for the need for this program. According to a study by the US Department of Justice, 80% of those in prison were at one time truant and as much as 95% of juvenile offenders began as truants from school. In addition, in some cities as much as 44% of violent juvenile crime occurs between the hours of 8:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Obviously those are the hours that students typically would be in school. For students who are suspended or expelled, this is not an option. The Truancy Alternative Program provides a safe place for these students to go. They are monitored. They receive mentoring. They receive tutoring. They are linked up with other community resources and the value of this service is hard to put a price on. Again, it is the only service of its kind in the City. We hope to expand next year to be able to serve more students. We have served 80 students this school year. At the YMCA we anticipate that other funding sources as well are going to be cut this year so again we just ask that you take another look at this program and if there is any funding available that you would reconsider.

Jack Lightfoot, Child Family Services stated:
I am the Supervisor of the Child Care Coordinator of Child Family Services of NH here in Manchester. The Child Care Coordinator has been funded by the City of Manchester since 1989 and we are very appreciative of the support that the City has shown for that program over the years. The role of that program is to work with parents and childcare providers, local and state government, businesses and schools and community agencies to identify and address childcare issues within the City of Manchester. Our work with parents focuses on helping parents find childcare for their children so that they can work or go to school. Most

of that effort for us helps with parents who have special issues dealing with their children. They might have a child with special needs. They might be working odd hours or overnight and finding that care is very difficult and they need a specialized person to help them find it. Working with childcare providers, we focus on providing training and technical assistance and support for those providers so that they can provide the best quality care possible for the children in Manchester. Last year we served 275 childcare providers in eight different trainings. Those childcare professionals came from 17 centers, 10 school age programs and 8 family daycare homes and they served over 2,000 children. We also provided start-up assistance to 11 family childcare providers to help them go through the ropes and learn how to become a childcare provider in the City of Manchester. Thank you very much for your support.

Gale Starr, Child Family Services stated:
Good evening. Tonight I am representing teen services, specifically the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program. We are very grateful for the continued CIP support over the years. It is the local match that really has allowed us to access Federal dollars and show what an expansion the program can grow into. It is basically a prevention program offering core services of outreach crisis intervention, short-term respite services, licensed host homes, individual family and group work, community education, information and referral services. A lot of individual and family work is constantly taking place. We target 250 at risk youth and actually we served slightly under 300 last year. Certainly our focus is to keep kids out of the system if at all possible, reconcile them with their family and improve coping skills. On the other end of the spectrum, I am going to talk a little bit about homemaker services because the director couldn't come tonight and we are very grateful for the support for that program. Two hundred clients are served with the CIP funding. Homemaker clients are basically elderly, frail or disabled Manchester residents and this money allows them to remain at home and not be institutionalized. It is very, very important. It is really a wonderful service.

Felix Torres, Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services stated:
I am the Executive Director of the MNHS. I am here to talk a little bit about what your investment in MNHS will buy the City. The support of the Neighborworks Home Ownership Center allows us to serve over 300 families and train them and help them become homeowners. It helps us lend to over 40 families so they can actually buy their house. Your support allows us to use over $300 million that we have raised in private sources to provide down payment and closing cost assistance to families who come through our program. With your assistance we have been able to start a new financial fitness program so that families who are not able to buy immediately a house can get trained to get their financial house in order. As part of that program, we offer an individual development account program so that low income families, for every $1 they save, will get those savings matched by sources that we work with. The investment in Renaissance Seven will allow us to redevelop the Straw Mansion and the Uptown Motel into over 30 units of desperately needed affordable housing for families and individuals in the City. I want to take you back 10 years ago and any of you who remember Beech and Cedar Street and there were two large vacant buildings and JJ's

Variety Store, the store that never actually sold anything that anyone in this room would buy. Today that area has three affordable housing projects providing desperately needed affordable housing to working families in Manchester. The intersection was cleaned up so effectively that the Manchester Police Department decided to move their community policing office because there was no longer any action at that intersection.

Stephanie Lewry, Intown Manchester stated:
I have met a number of you Aldermen in the past and I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce Ken Viscarello who is the Chairman of the Board of Intown Manchester and he will tell you a little bit about our request.

Ken Viscarello, Intown Manchester stated:
I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you very much. We are very pleased with the proposed allocation and we take it as a vote of confidence from the City to continue the mission that we started six years ago. In addition to a lot of the existing programs that we have this year, we have some new and exciting programs that are a little bit different than what we have had in the past, including being in partnership with many of the organizations here in the City to do some landscape revitalization down in the Millyard. We are proposing to buy a vacuum cleaner to provide really some needed sidewalk and street cleaning services that we haven't been able to do in the winter before. We are now in partnership with the Chamber and with the Manchester Economic Development Office to try to attract businesses to relocate downtown and these are just some of the new projects that we have on the board that we are really excited about implementing in the next year. I would like to thank the City for the vote of confidence that they have in us to continue our mission. I will now turn it back over to Stephanie.

Ms. Lewry stated I did want to look at the funding for Intown Manchester and bring to your attention that last year I received $8,000 for holiday lighting in my budget and this year I have no money in that budget. I thought it would be important to just bring that to your attention that if we do want some holiday lighting…last year I was able to buy extra snowflakes for the downtown and put some mini lights in the Christmas trees and I know that we are happy with the way our City looks when it is festive and lit up and it does cost money. I will try to get as much of this donated as possible and I was fortunate last year in getting some elements of that program donated but donations are never a given and I just wanted to bring that to your attention. I would encourage the level funding that I had from last year to be added to my budget, which was $8,000 for that. I did want to make one response and that is that there was a request to look at your overall budget to see what a 2% reduction might mean to your overall budget. I will say that in some cases, I actually hire the City to do some work so if they City is willing to charge me 2% less, then I am willing to pay them 2% less. The other thing is that of course I hate to be compared to programs when we have so many human service needs in our City and I realize that and I am very, very grateful for anything that we are able to get and I will be very happy to work within whatever budget allowance you give us. Thank you.

Meghan Brady, St. Joseph's Community Services stated:
I am the Executive Director of St. Joseph's Community Services, the Meals on Wheels Program. Our main office is located in Merrimack, NH but we do have three sites that operate in the City of Manchester. Those are at the Carpenter Center in the old ballroom, at the Tony Rue-McNally West Side Center, the old firehouse, and also we share space over at the First Congregational Church on Hanover Street. I just want to start off my saying how deeply grateful we are for the past support from the City and how much it has meant to our ability to provide services. We appreciate the fact that it is a very tough funding year. It seems to be that way everywhere. So what do we do? Pretty much I think that people understand what Meals on Wheels is and our congregate dining program. We provide hot food and for people who are homebound, a daily safety check. Both of those services have saved lives. Very simple and very straightforward. We save lives. We are often the only service in the home and for many of the people that we provide services to, the driver may be the only person they will see that day. The populations in the last eight years since I have been doing this...I see the population that we are serving has become older and poorer. Last year 35% of the people that we provide services to were over the age of 80. This year it is 40%. Last year as I recall we had a couple that came on the program in Manchester. He was born in 1898 and she was born in 1899. It is not unusual to have people that we serve over 100 years old but it is unusual to have a couple over 100 years old. It is not unusual to see people in their 90's and over 100. None of our funding sources are stable and nothing shows that faster than an economic downturn. Over the last few months we have experienced several funding losses. We have lost over $10,000 from the community from our fundraiser where sponsors were unable to fulfill their pledge because of the economic downturn and it hit their businesses hard. From other sources in the community that normally support us they said we are sorry we can't help you this year. Also, I think you have probably seen in the paper that United Way of Greater Manchester had a bad year in their campaign and they are looking at a 25% cut in their allocable pool. For us, if it goes 25% that would be another $7,500. So we are getting these little hits everywhere. I think of that children's game that is called Timber. It is like a tower of wooden blocks and the purpose of the game is to keep removing little pieces of the tower without it falling over. Sometimes that is how it feels. We appreciate your funding assistance. Every gain helps us to serve the community better and every loss does hurt. I thank you for your time.

Scott Walles, 77 Garden Drive, Manchester stated:
I am a parent of Joseph Walles who is a member of the St. Jean's Boys and Girls Club. Just to give you a rough idea, my son enrolled there six months ago. He started at a new school, Parkside, and his self-confidence was very low. Since that time, his grades have improved, his self-confidence is just beyond our expectations, my wife and I's, his involvement with the club in terms of volunteering and helping out and just his overall demeanor has improved dramatically. Besides my wife and I taking some of the credit for that, part of that is the St. Jean's Boys and Girls Club. It allows them a place to go and something to do. It gives them some sense of community involvement and to be able to get along with other kids. In looking at some of these wonderful projects that you are making decisions on, the Weed & Seed, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the building blocks to stop that is that. That is what

these people are providing. I just wanted to come here in support of that program and I thank you for your time.

Nicole Ethier, Youthbuild stated:
I am the Career Developer for Youthbuild Odyssey of Manchester. Tonight we are coming to once again thank you for the past enterprise community funding that you have given us. We are not receiving that currently nor have we ever received in the past CIP funds so tonight we are requesting assistance of $10,000. We are looking at assistance for general operating expenses plain and simple. We presented to the Aldermen and to the Junior Aldermen if I can call them that the evening that I spoke but the best description of our program for you this evening is that we are going to actually allow one of our graduates to present Youthbuild Odyssey Manchester to you. Her name is Meghan Welvaert.

Meghan Welvaert stated:
I am a graduate of Youthbuild. Youthbuild is a GED program and I had to leave school because I didn't have any consistent high school credits because I moved a lot. I was in the foster system and I got into Youthbuild and I didn't really have any confidence in myself or anything but I had to do something because I was going to turn 18 and be on my own soon. They helped me get my GED. They paid for it and everything. They helped me study for it and made sure that I was ready to go and take it. They gave me leadership opportunities with like policy committee where we would go over policies and change what we need and yearbook committee. We did construction for the community, like different community services for Families in Transition and different programs. I got out of Youthbuild and I was going to college and I never thought I would be able to go to college. I work part-time, 20 hours a week and I go to school full-time right now and it is like where I thought I would never be and I love it. Youthbuild has helped me a lot.

Ms. Ethier stated just to allow you to understand what Meghan was explaining, when we asked for funding in the general operating expenses, our funding goes to the students as well as to the staff, the administrative cost of the buildings and the boring part. The actual exciting part is when we can actually help students such as Meghan pass cycles. We have had five cycles currently. We have been able to offer them a stipend so young parents, single moms, students who have not been able to be out on their own and have been in the shelters now have an opportunity to have money coming into their pockets. They can afford to pay for an apartment and pay for food and still be able to gain their GED's as well as life skills. We do life skill training, computer training and the community service, which is in current cycles. We are doing community projects with Parks & Recreation. We work with New Horizons on a regular basis and several other non-profit agencies and we have also been able to in the past do construction projects. We are looking at once again being able to help students support themselves, gain their education and be able to continue on in the community as successful citizens. We thank you for this opportunity to present to you once again.

Mayor Baines asked if people in the community wanted to get in touch with you to try to help in any way, how would they do that.

Ms. Ethier answered we are located on the corner of Pine and Spruce, it is 251 Pine Street. It is actually a house that was done in past cycles by the students themselves. It is a three-story building that they have completely rehabbed. You can also reach us by calling 627-7037 and you can ask for our Director, Trish Cash or either myself or Chris Harrington who is our GED instruction. Any one of us would gladly like to answer questions.

Anne Sanderson, International Institute stated:
Good evening your Honor and Aldermen and Alderwomen. Thank you for once again considering our request for funding and support of the Immigration Legal Department at the International Institute. Without your support, many low-income immigrants in Manchester will go unserved. I am very proud to be part of a City built by immigrants, my grandparents among them. The International Institutes have been active serving immigrants since 1925. Let me read to you from a newspaper preserved in our archives, a copy of which has been inserted in your folder with a picture of the first director. The April 1926 edition of *The Union Leader* proclaimed that the International Institute had just established a branch in Manchester. It was then a program of the YWCA. Since then, it has been a program of the Girls Club, Child Health Services, Consolidated Services, International Center Program and in July 1997 the program came back home. The legal department has again connected with the YWCA through our program for victims of domestic violence. The Institute's first location in 1926 was at 267 Chestnut Street on the corner of Central and that year 57 new residents were naturalized in the courthouse, which was then next door. The new director addressed the Manchester community and I really hope some day we can put this on a plaque somewhere in the City and I would like to read it because it is what we believe today. "Every nation has something of value that it can donate to the great American melting pot and the International Institute aims primarily to see that the community wherein the foreign born reside receives that donation." I just want to tell you that we have served over 2,200 unduplicated clients from 77 countries and 5 continents.

Melanie Ryan, International Institute stated:
I am the immigration attorney at the International Institute and since I only have a really short time let me just tell you about three projects that CIP funds help make possible. One is our low-income legal representation project. There is only one other agency in the State of NH providing low fee or no fee legal services to immigrants. Basically, our program is focused on strengthening families and that is what the low-income legal representation project does. It helps people strengthen their families by helping them with their immigration status become citizens, obtain green cards and bring their family members from other countries. Also, our battered immigrant woman's project provides free legal services to battered immigrant women. It is the only program in the State of New Hampshire specifically helping domestic violence victims with their immigration issues. Also, we help with complications, low cost and free consultation and form assistance to help low-income immigrants go through the maze of the immigration system, which is quite complicated.

Also, a fourth thing that we do is provide community outreach to various groups in the Manchester community who are struggling with immigration law and immigration problems by doing presentations and providing assistance to them. So, thank you again for your time.

Jasmin Miranda-Smith, NH Minority Health Coalition stated:
I am the Executive Director of the NH Minority Health Coalition. I would like to thank you for the recommendation in the budget to fund our Woman To Woman program. I just want to very briefly tell you about some of the other programs that we have and in a nutshell what the Woman To Woman Program does in the City. The Woman-to-Woman Program is a home-based health education program. We recruit people from the community and train them so that they can go to homes and do health education and overall prevention education. We try to help people understand how the healthcare system works in the United States and we recruit people that speak the languages and look like the people that we serve and they are mostly immigrants and refugees. We also have a program where we are working with many organizations in the City to help understand how to serve better the changing demographics in the City and that has been very successful. This year we have worked with approximately 1,300 individuals from different organizations in the City. We have also a program for medical interpretation training. Right now what we are doing is training people who are already in the system providing interpretation services and we are training them because for the most part people are just bilingual and they are pulled into assembly rooms or schools or other places to do interpretation. What we are trying to do is to increase their skills. One of the beauties of the Woman to Woman Program is that not only are we doing prevention education in the homes of people but we also identify individuals in the community who are natural leaders and they many times don't know that they are leaders and we identify these individuals and we train them and those will be the people that become the peer educators that eventually will go to the homes to do education. It is a model that we are using now also to develop a men's program because all of the men are kind of jealous about the Woman To Woman Program even though we have been working with men all along. Also, we are developing a youth program based on the same model because the parents tell us that they wish they knew about these things that we are talking with them about when they were young and then they wouldn't have been in as much trouble as they got and they don't feel that they can do the job by themselves. Based on that, we are also developing a youth program of peer leaders. I want to thank you and there are some people who will be talking about this program more a little bit later.

Denise Garcia, Hot Couch Teen Art Center, stated:
I have two of our Hot Couchers with me here tonight. I just wanted to kind of give you an overview of some of the things that we do. We are a drug and alcohol prevention program designed to give teens an alternative and we act as a gateway to other social service agencies in the community by providing activities such as poetry nights, music nights, art programs, art forums, discussion groups and just a really safe place for teens to come in and express themselves and hang out. You supported us last year and I just wanted to let you know that it was greatly appreciated and again we ask this year and we are looking forward to those

funds as well. I really wanted to give Andrew and Mariah an opportunity to let you know what it means to them and how your support affects the teens in the City.

Andrew McPherson stated:
Good evening. I am a teenager who regularly attends the Hot Couch and my peers and I just want to tell you how important we think this program is and how it should be continued. The Art Center isn't just a place where teenagers can go and make art and meet new people but it also prevents teenager from being out on the streets where they potentially could be using drugs or abusing alcohol. We right now are in the process of actually making a television show that is going to be on MCTV where we will be dealing with a lot of teen issues because we think an important issue is that teens should be able to be heard. We appreciate your assistance. Thank you.

Mariah Wyman stated:
I am also a regular participant of the Hot Couch. It is really important to me and I have been going there every day after school for over a year. It has really helped shape me as a person and I find that I can go there and I can find support for anything that I am dealing with and I can express myself with the art supplies. It is really important to me because I have my friends and the coordinators are also really important to me. They help me go through whatever I am going through with school or my parents or my friends. They are not just adults, they are like friends as well and they are very supportive and everyone is supportive and they have actually helped me get involved with other programs like Child and Family Services and the YWCA where I learned a lot. It makes me really proud that I am part of something as great as this for teenagers. I just want to say that I decided I am going to be a social worker and it is partly because of Hot Couch and I can't wait until I can help other people like Hot Couch has helped me. It is really important that we continue this because if there is a program like this when I have children they will definitely be going there. It is just a wonderful program and I really think that it should be available to everyone. Thank you.

David Smith , Executive Director of the MTA, 110 Elm Street, Manchester stated:
I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you this evening, some of you twice. I am here on behalf of the MTA board of commissioners, regarding our CIP requests this year. As you know we come before the CIP Committee each year to seek the city's participation in our capital replacement needs, all of which are funded 80/20 with Federal funds from the FTA. This year we are particularly appreciative of the Mayor's recommendation to fund our first priority, and that is to make major repairs to the inner-city bus terminal at Granite and Canal Street. That project is sorely needed. The building is nearly 18 years old. It needs roof replacement; it needs replacement of automatic door openers and HVAC improvements. We appreciate the recommendation to fund those building improvements. I am here on behalf of the board to campaign so to speak for our second funding priority and that is replacement of our fare boxes. Our fare boxes are currently 27 years old. All of the counting mechanisms are inoperative and in fact have been removed because the manufacturer is no longer in business. Last year $20,000 was provided to fund ½ of the local share of the replacement of the fare boxes with the understanding at least on our part that the remainder of funding

would be provided this year. New fare boxes are very important to us for the following reasons. They will permit consideration of an exact fare policy, which will increase operator security. They will increase revenue security of the revenue received by registering revenue at the time it is received and finally they will enable MTA to more easily comply with Federal data requirements for passenger count by route, fare category and time of day. Finally I do want to mention our capital replacement program for buses. Each year we request approval to provide the local funds to replace two to three buses. This year we requested funds to replace two. We understand the City's budget constraints particularly in the funding of local cash for the local share requirement. However, each year the funding of the replacement of two to three buses is put off brings us one year closer to the point where wholesale replacement of the fleet must be considered and we wish that the Board would consider that in our funding request. Thank you very much for your time and attention this evening.

Alderman Wihby asked are your asking for $160,000 or $40,000 or both? There's two numbers on our sheets for the fare boxes.

Mr. Smith replied the fare boxes though…the Federal share, the local share is $40,000…$20,000 was funded last year…the Federal share would be $160,000.

Alderman Wihby stated okay, thank you.

Andrew Manning, 27 Fremont Street, Manchester stated:
I am here on behalf of the Crystal Lake Preservation Association and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you Mayor and the Board for your resolution the other night, I deeply appreciate it. Alderman DeVries, she is number one on our list. She was very persistent. I can assure everyone here that will go a long way with the DOT. They have expressed to me personally their desire to have the City speak with unanimity on the project I-93 widening funds and we appreciate you doing so. The Crystal Lake Association worked diligently for approximately 8 months on the proposal before the DOT. We feel at this point that we have more or less nothing left to do, but there is no assurance that we are going to get the DOT funds. We have started a committee headed up by Steve Connors to seek alternative funds. Right now we have raised approximately $140,000 that is committed. We do not have that in the bank. It is committed through other sources. So we are here today to request some funds in the alternative that the DOT funding does not come through so that we can put any funds that you can allocate together with the $140,000 and then seek matching funds through Lchip or whatever. Those deadlines will occur in the early summer. Whatever you can do to help us out in the event that DOT, the effort before DOT falls through. Again we are hopeful at this time that DOT funds will come through, but there is no assurance. I think that you all share the idea that Crystal Lake is an important project. It has broad community support as expressed many times before yourselves by Frank Thomas and others of the City. We are

working hard to make sure that we have a stated purpose that we want the citizens of Manchester, inner-city kids and everybody to use that public beach and we want to work with the City in the near future to making that a reality. I think that if we protect that lake and keep it as it is we can, that will make it all the better for the City. Thank you very much.

Frank Childs, Executive Director, Salvation Army, 121 Cedar Street, Manchester stated: We would like to thank the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for their support over the last 3 years with CIP funding enabling us to hire a position of team coordinator that is currently held by Hector Velez. Hector's work with our teens allows a number of important projects for youth in the inner city that we serve. Two of the main programs that we provide to teenage youth are a teen tutoring center three days a week during the school year. Also on Friday night we have a teen drop in center were we average approximately 80 teenagers who spend their evening with us from 5:00 to 10:00PM not out on the street. Both of these programs, as well as 15 other programs that we provide to these same teenagers allow them to focus on improving their self worth, develop team leadership skills, and learn about giving back to the community. A couple of other programs that are very important that we have worked with and are starting to have some significant success with is helping these young people understand that not only is high school important but education beyond high school is very critical. Many of these young people have no concept that college education, or a post high school education is available to them. Hector has done a tremendous amount of work developing a college thinking group in which we involve kids from other agencies as well. We spend a lot of time working on college visitation during school vacations to get kids out visiting colleges whether it would be the Voc Tech or UNH Manchester, Southern New Hampshire University, or St. Anselms. We were dealing with Notre Dame, but we will not be in the future. So that is a very important program to help allow these children to look to a future that is better than the future that they find themselves in at the present time. Another program that we have been able to develop and have had tremendous success with, and a program that we offer to not only youth in our program but to youth in other agencies is what we call Project Impact. It is a daylong program where the kids are allowed to come out of school. They spend time in the morning meeting with inmates in a halfway house. Following that they go to the Valley Street jail where they spend time at the Valley Street jail conversing with prisoners going through what would be a booking process, experiencing occupying a cell. They then come back to the core and have lunch and spend time in the afternoon with a gentleman from the Manchester Police Department from the Probation Department. We have involved an attorney to help them understand some of the legal rights that are involved. We have had some tremendous success with this program. We are also trying to mix it up so that when we take 10 to 12 children that they won't all be from the same program. That way they will not have a comfort level where they are all buddy buddy so it will have a much greater impact on them. We think that is another way in which we are providing a significant service to these inner-city youth and the children that are in Project Impact are children that have been highlighted as potential risks for crime. We think that is an important program. Overall the Salvation Army provided last year service to over 13,000 unduplicated individuals in the City of Manchester, significantly over 10% of the population of Manchester. We would ask not only that you consider at a minimum level funding the

request or the money that we received the last three years, but in fact that you would give serious consideration to the small increase that we have asked for this coming year. We thank you very much for your support.

Mary Sliney, The Way Home, 214 Spruce Street, Manchester stated:
I'm the Executive Director of The Way Home. We are deeply appreciative to the City for the support that you have given us in this endeavor. The Way Home has been working since 1988 in close partnership with a number of city agencies to help very low-income families and individuals access safe affordable housing. At 214 Spruce Street we are able to add to that service six units of short-term transitional housing for homeless families and children. It enables us to work with single dads, moms and dads, as well as single moms and to have a special emphasis on addressing childhood lead poisoning, which is another issue of concern. Our services…we in the budget have three areas and I would like to thank the CIP office and Mayor Bob Baines in our consideration in the development of the budget. The homeless prevention work we do in extreme close partnership with the homeless continuum of care we work very closely with the City Welfare Department to help move families as quickly as possible from a state of homelessness into units, housing of their own, or into intermediary steps of a transitional housing, or other options. With the tenant assistance program we are utilizing HUD home dollars and are working to assist families to afford housing to be able pay for the cost of the unit on a short term basis to use security deposits to secure housing that they can afford. The program that we are seeking funding for for the first time this year is the Helping Home Pilot Project and since I missed the parade I understand that today was proclaimed the "Day of the Child" and the "Week of the Child". I want to take the opportunity to just speak about how concern for children's health comes home. The conditions of our housing units are very critical for the safety of our children. This was seriously brought to our attention when in March of 2000 a child died from lead poisoning because of lead paint that was deteriorating in a housing unit on Bridge Street here in Manchester. This funding would give us the opportunity to re-open units that have been closed so that more housing units can be available and to make these units safe for our children. Thank you.

Lisa Rodriguez, 56 Notre Dame Ave, Manchester NH stated:
I am the Assistant Psyche Director at the St. Jeans Boys and Girls Clubhouse, and I am here to let you know that we provide for our members who might not have a healthy snack everyday. We provide for our members who might not be the best athlete a chance to participate. We provide for our members who have not got the best of grades the opportunity and encouragement for them to improve those grades. We provide for our members a safe, respectful place for them to just chill with their friends every afternoon. We provide the members a chance to give back to their community. Currently we are working on a project where they are handcrafting afghans, which we hope to donate to local hospitals and nursing homes. My fear is that without additional funding we might not be able to provide these services for our members at the level that we are doing know. So I am here to ask you to please reconsider funding for the Manchester Boys and Girls Club St. Jeans Clubhouse. Thank you.

Myrta Gage, VNA Childcare, 435 So. Main Street, Manchester stated:
Good evening Mayor and Aldermen. I am here tonight to thank all of you for your continued support of the Visiting Nurse Association's Childcare and Family Resource Center. We are similar to many of the other agencies that are here tonight in our human service bin. We are unique in the fact that a large part of the population that we serve are infants, toddlers and young preschoolers. When you consider all of the crises that families can be in and the impact that it can have on their children when 65% of women are in the work force whether through welfare to work programming or of their own choice. We have single dads, single moms; we have families that live in shelters. We even have refugees that do not speak English. We are a wonderful melting pot. We are a site for many of the programs that have spoken tonight, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Parents Anonymous, and from there comes the Family Resource Center components. We appreciate your continued funding and personally I feel that speaks well for your understanding of the importance of the early years and the future of children. 90% of brain growth occurs between the ages of infancy and 6 years old. The impact that we can have on our youngest citizens if they are in good quality and affordable care is just absolutely incredible and thank you for recognizing that. Thank you.

Artemis Paras, 1275 Hanover Street, Manchester NH stated:
Good evening Mayor Baines and respected members of the Board. I am not here this evening to request any funding. I am here tonight to appeal to your good judgement that I think the time has come where Community Improvement Program, as a program, has to be considered for what exactly does it mean because there is the danger that if we do not have a written policy it can be confused with capital improvement program. Think about it. The same acronym, CIP, for our Aldermen and State Senators. Senator Gatsas and my Senator Danny O'Neil, I have talked to them about a statute 674:5 through 8 it is titled "Capital Improvement Program". It is actually tied in with master plan and with capital budget planning. I was curious in the language of the resolutions and this is why I am coming before you, to bring some evidence that I think will convince you that the time is right for Manchester to re-evaluate what this community improvement program means. It has such a degree of flexibility and we have to decide is this what we want for our city. In the resolutions I noticed that on page 4 you are not only asked to approve the 2003 and I am assuming that it means starting July 1… it would help if we had the fiscal years indicated when they start and when they end. Here in the second paragraph on page 4, "the office of the mayor and the planning and community development department be authorized to advise other public and private agencies at the federal, state, regional and local level of the approval of the 2003 to the 2007 community improvement program". That is not an annual program. That suggests to me a capital budget plan. I read that to you to suggest that we are approving more than an annual 2003 budget. I would also like to talk about the two tables that refer to the Candia Road project. One is in table one, and then the second one is in the CIP column. It would help if we could have a total estimate of what these projects are, particularly when we have a funding mechanism where the Feds kick in 80%/20% for the City. I heard that approximately $1.2 million is the City's share. If you look at the two tables for the Candia

Road project you will not see that figure indicated. Perhaps what I am asking for is a bit more specificity, perhaps it is a pipe dream, but the taxpayers are the ones that have to foot the bill. Let's start classifying things properly and asking for more specificity. Flexibility is great, but not when it makes a document difficult to understand, and makes it less readable for comprehension and understanding. I thank you for the opportunity to speak to all of you. Thank you. In your City Code of Ordinances Chapter 35 under the Duty of the Finance Officers, there is a lot of information there about their planning for capital budget planning. So let's pull everything together so we are all on the same page. Thank you very much.

Lisa Durocher, 543 Granite Street, Manchester stated:
My son Christopher is a seventh grader at Parkside Middle School. He is also a member of the St Jeans Boys and Girls Club. Christopher really enjoys going there, he likes sport activities, and the fact that he can get extra help with his homework. He also likes to get on to the computer, hanging with his friends and being in a safe environment. Today ironically I was talking with Christopher about coming here this evening. I asked him why he liked going to the Boys and Girls Club at St Jeans compared to Union Street. He said he likes St. Jeans better because it is closer to school, its closer to home for if he has to stay after school for sports activities, extra help or detention, which I hope he does not get. He is still able to walk to the club and he feels safe walking there because it is not that far from Parkside. There have been times when I have been working late and I have had to call the Club at St. Jeans and have asked him to check himself out and know that he is still not that far from home. He can hopefully walk home safely. At Christmas time…I am also letter carrier at south station in Manchester. At Christmas time I was very touched to receive a package of envelopes from Lisa Rodriguez with a little note asking me to give them out to all the carriers. I got quite a bit of responses from the carriers that they were touched by this. The fact that these children thought enough of us to send each and everyone of us Christmas cards, which I thought was very nice and sweet. I hope that you will approve the funding for the St. Jeans Boys and Girls Club. I think it is an important program and I love that my son has a very safe place to go after school. He absolutely loves going there, he loves the extra activities. He has seen the Globetrotters, Bruins and Monarch's games. He is playing on the lacrosse team with the Boys and Girls Club, so as you can tell he is very well involved with it and loves it very much. Thank you for your time this evening and have a good night.

Anne Zachos, Art Builds Community, 2093 Elm Street, Manchester stated:
I am the Chair of Art Builds Community here in Manchester. Art Builds Community is a non-profit grass roots organization, which exists to work with all the arts and cultural initiatives within the city and whose goal is to make it even more of an integrated part of our everyday lives. I will be brief. I am here because Art Builds Community really cares a lot about signage in this city. Signage is one of the things that you all are considering. Good signage is good business and it matters a lot. It greets the visitor; it orients both those of us who are in this room and those of us that are coming to Manchester because of the incredible changes in the last few years. It makes a statement about who we are and how we feel about ourselves. It is one of the first impressions that a visitor gets when he comes into town. It needs to be clear and consistent and integrated throughout the city. We have a lot of signage

in the city, probably more than most of us like to see. It is not clear, nor consistent and I do not think it is part of a plan, and I think that it does not serve us well. There has been a transformation in Manchester. Everyone has seen it and felt it. There is a vitality downtown. There are places to go, things to see and do. We have become a city where people want to visit. People find attractions interesting and fun, but they need to be able to find their way to them and once here they need to be able to find their way through it. I don't think it is at all extravagant to announce who we are and what we have to offer. It brings people into Manchester and it gets them where they need to go and it makes them want to come back. I think that we all care a lot about that. I think, I know that all of us in this room have a really strong commitment to the city. We feel very proud of the things that have happened in the last few years. I want Manchester to continue to shine, and I think we have that opportunity before us. Thank you very much.

Bereniced Cruz, 555 So. Main Street, Manchester stated:
I live here in Manchester with my mom. We attend the program on diabetes. This program has helped us learn about controlling her sugar level. After attending this program I learned that I need to take care of myself also, so I don't end up with diabetes. Part of the Woman to Woman Program, if you look at your purple brochure we talk a lot about many different issues. From there we have specialty education programs, and the diabetes program is one of those. We have also mental health, HIV and AIDS programs. We have youth programs like I mentioned, so different people are going to talk to tell you how with the women to women program they have been able to benefit from the services.

Carmin Marin, 17 West Street, Manchester stated:
I live here in Manchester and I am a diabetic person. I am attending the diabetes program and I have really benefited from it. I have learned a lot about what the disease is and what it does to my body. I have also learned how to control it and continue to be healthier. I have learned about the risks of diabetes and how to take care of myself in a better way. Thank you.

Gloria Nogueras, 63 Pennacook Street, Manchester stated:
Mr. Mayor and Aldermen, the Woman to Woman Program is very important because I have benefited from this program my daughters have also benefited from it and also my son. I have been able to receive mental health services because they refer me to those services. Since I have been participating in these programs, I have benefited myself and my family has benefited from it. This is why not only for me, but other women in the city this program is very important. I would like to see that you guys could help the program. Good night and God bless you.

Gloria Ochoa, 30 Elm Street Apt. 2, Manchester stated:
I would like to thank the Woman to Woman Program for the services that they have provided me. They help me to understand a lot of medical things. They always help me to refer me to

different services like when I have problems with housing. They also help me anything that has to do with my medical stuff, and also anything I need help with. The services that they provide help me and my son to understand a lot about health issues. That is all that I would like to say.

Ernia Ragino, Manchester stated:
I thank the program also; right now I am unemployed. Right now they are helping me a lot to understand a lot about health issues, and how to keep myself healthy during this time. I would really like to thank the Woman to Woman Program. Thank you.

Nory Marquis, 106 McCarthy Street, Manchester stated:
I am here as a board member of the New Hampshire Minority Health Coalition. I wanted to thank you for considering an appropriation in the budget for the program. I hope that you will maintain the appropriation level that you are currently considering. I wrote some notes that I wanted to share with you before I actually heard some of the folks share with you some of the reasons why they feel the programs have been beneficial to them. I will share with you a personal experience. My mother, who now lives with me and moved up from New York seven months ago, requires 24/7 assistance. You have a really tough job because there are so many great organizations in this town. The VNA, Child Family Services, all of these organizations provide some critical services. My mother is a diabetic and I did not know that she was one until she became ill three years ago, and then I discovered that she was a diabetic. I had to learn on my own reading and observation basis because I did not have the benefit of a program like the one that the New Hampshire Minority Coalition provides. I wish I had known. I wish I had the opportunity to learn about this so I would be able to have helped my mother sooner, rather then later. I am glad I have more knowledge now and I have a resource at the New Hampshire Minority Health Coalition to help me help her to cope with the situation. She is very stable and is only on glucofogin. For anyone who know about diabetes that is a great accomplishment. Thank you so much for considering the New Hampshire Minority Health Coalition. I think it really helps people maintain their health status and maintain their well being not only individually, but also collectively for their families and that translates into collectively for the community. The healthier we are the better workers we are. The better prepared we are to learn in school and to become the American citizens that we all want to be and some of us fortunately are there know. Thank you very much.

Mayor Baines asked if anyone else wished to speak regarding the CIP budget. There were none.

Mayor Baines stated I would like to make a couple of comments before we close out the meeting. First of all anyone that has listened to this program on community television that would like to get in touch with any of these agencies that are out there helping people in the community, if you need assistance with locating the offices, you could call the Mayor's office at 624-6500. We will help direct you. I also want to encourage people to donate to the United Way. We have worked very hard with the United Way this past year, especially since the aftermath of September 11th to ensure that there is local giving. As you can hear

this evening there are tremendous needs and when you have economic distress in the community the demands on these social services increase experientially. We have a responsibility to try to help these various organizations and secondly it is obviously not something that government can do alone. It is something that the entire community must get involved in. Through helping these various organizations and recognizing the fact if we didn't have this kind of infrastructure support in our community we would not be the blessed community that we are, with the various services that are there for those in need, as you heard the various testimonies. I have had the opportunity since becoming Mayor to visit I think every single one of these organizations who have been here this evening presenting, on behalf of their board. I would encourage Board members to do the same. There are just tremendous needs out there, and we are going to look for ways during the next phase of budget process to try to help address all these concerns in the community. So I thank everyone who did come this evening, and again encourage you to reach out and help all these organizations continue their very vital mission in our community.

This being a special meeting of the board and everyone having had the opportunity to speak, all comments shall be taken under advisement with reports to be made to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen at a later date.

On motion of Aldermen Smith, duly seconded by Aldermen Thibault, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk