

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

December 18, 2007

**7:00 PM
Aldermanic Chambers
City Hall (3rd Floor)**

Mayor Guinta called the special meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, and Forest

Absent: Alderman Duval

Mayor Guinta opened the meeting stating he would like to begin with a presentation. Members of the Board so concurred.

Recognition of Paula Kang

Mayor Guinta stated everyone knows how long Paula has been here and how many Boards she has worked with and how many people she has helped over the years. I know that you are a very humble person and would have preferred not to do this, but we felt very strongly that you one of the people in our family that deserves a key to the City. So, with your indulgence I'll read it if you don't mind.

To Paula Kang in appreciation for more than 32 years of service on behalf of the people of the City of Manchester. Paula is a dedicated public servant and her commitment to Manchester has been invaluable and will be extremely hard to replace. She is held in high esteem in the Clerk's office and throughout City Hall.

She will be greatly missed throughout the City. Best wishes in her retirement. Presented this day by the Mayor, Frank Guinta, on behalf of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Ms. Paula Kang stated thank you everybody. It has been very enriching and I've enjoyed every minute of it. Thank you very much.

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Kathleen Carswell, 388 Amherst Street, stated: I have an issue of safety in regard to the snow. I know, I've been here 45 years, lived in the City 45 years, seen many snow storms. I think it's a disgrace to our City that we can't even walk on the sidewalks. The bankings are high; you can't see; it's a safety issue. I had to help a gentleman by the courthouse today, lift him in his wheelchair over the snow bank onto the sidewalk. And I only weigh 180 pounds and he weighs 200 something. And they're telling him he's accessible. The ramp is accessible but the sidewalk wasn't. No one else is coming to this poor gentleman's rescue. The streets are terrible. I have never seen it this bad. Last year was perfect. I don't know where the people are or what they're doing. If we have to implement what Massachusetts and New York does, have the landlords and the owners of businesses come out and clean the front of their property, I say let's do it, if that's what it takes. I do it for my elderly neighbor on the corner. She's not going to come out and shovel. I say fine them if they don't do it, and fine them right away. Hit them in the

pocketbook, as they say. It takes action. And not with a small fine, with a big fine. We need to help to participate as being a city, which we are a big one now, to make this work. Then I say, let's do something on that regards. But I just think it's, you know, being here 45 years, and many a snow storms are to come, we have not even hit official winter yet; it's going to be quite the horror show, I think. I ride a bus all day. It's terrible. I've been in small towns that are much better than Manchester, and that's not saying a good thing for our City. And I'd like to represent our City much better than what we're doing. So I just wanted to bring that issue up, and if we could just take that into consideration and maybe implement what Massachusetts and New York do. Thank you very much.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated: Merry Christmas and Happy New Years. I know this is your last meeting and so I made it a point to be here tonight because I have a couple of topics that I think are really important. One of them is the snow. Welcome to New Hampshire. This is the kind of winter that I'm used to getting. Here it is. So we'd better save our pennies this winter because we're going to be paying a lot for snow plowing. Your Honor and Aldermen, you know it's funny that on one side of the sidewalk a plow came by with...actually a tractor came by, a City tractor came by with a snow blower. But where the high rises are for senior citizens, a plow came by and never even had to plow, just rolled right through. They're the ones that really need the sidewalks, so why do the business areas get the sidewalk plowed with a snow blower and the senior citizens, who have wheel chairs...a lot of them do...and the handicapped that need it, especially at the high rises barely get a plow? Look into it. That's not very safe to put the City...people this year have been saying that your self-consciousness... well that's an issue. The prostitutes are moving north. I wonder if they're ever going to get to Ward 1, Your Honor? That means one thing though: it means that the officers are doing their job by moving them around. And of course as you do that, they relocate. I just hope that next year the \$14,000 or whatever dollars you expect to expend for this problem, that part of it is not taken away like it was this year and put on another problem.

The reason why you budgeted \$14,000 some-odd for prostitution in the 2007 budget was because you know you have a problem. So why are you taking money away from the budget account when the problem is still there? This is just one example. Humbug! Taking trees away from public parks, a cemetery, mind you. I don't know. It doesn't speak well for the City. I'm hoping that next year, Your Honor and gentlemen...ladies and gentlemen...that you don't plant a two-foot tree in that park...that you really do what you did last year, that you give a \$65 tax cut because you found a couple million dollars in the economic fund, a one-time fund, which you're going to pay for next year. But the point is, expend a one-time expenditure and do a good job, and buy a tree that's 50 or 60 feet high. And it can be done because it's been done at other plazas. And have it planted in that plaza so that every year we can reuse a living tree. Now that will take care of global warming. Busing, big issue on busing. The biggest issue on busing is how the state is handling it. Nashua, they run their buses till 8 PM. We run ours till six. I still don't understand it. If I want to go to Portsmouth, I have to go to Boston. I have to go to Boston to get to Portsmouth. I have to go to Boston to get to Keene. I have to go to Boston to get to Dartmouth. There's something wrong with that. You as leaders should be contacting these bus companies and asking for more competition. For example, Sear Bus out of Portsmouth would be more than happy, would like to come to Manchester and take Route 101. When the State of New Hampshire built Route 101, they promised us that once it was a divided highway, somehow we had bus transportation. That promise has not yet been fulfilled. And I think that you people as our leaders should contact the State Department of Transportation and these bus companies. It is not fair for those who have to take a bus to have to travel 100 miles on a 45 mile run. It's ridiculous. Merry Christmas.

Billy Dodd, Ward 7, stated: I think enough has been said in the paper and everything about the Christmas tree. Just cut to the chase: Intown and the City should get together and split the cost or prorate it or whatever you want to do, and put a good-sized live tree there at Stanton, the plaza. The City should go back out and do the same thing at the

cemetery, spend the eight grand or whatever it's going to cost, and put something in there that's not a sapling. Nothing on that one. I'm back on signs. It's amazing that I see that the first new pilot program sign went up down next to the Brady Sullivan building. And nobody bothered to look into the signs that I told you, you already have around the City. You're out spending eighty grand on a pilot program that you've already got the signs in place for in different places. Nobody bothered to check on that. I still see the Mayor's number two parking spot is still over on Stark Street. That sign hasn't come down yet. You're losing money there. One of the biggest things is, I got a hold of a fine schedule here for City ordinances for parking and overtime and no parking zones, and you want to increase the penalty for parking within fifteen feet of a hydrant. But I don't see anything on here about a sign that could really do some good that would go up at intersections about blocking an intersection. I was talking with someone at City Hall today. It's only a \$50 fine. You can't get anybody's attention for that. Put up some signs that will do some good at intersections: Do Not Block Intersection - \$100 fine. And then put some PD guys out there on overtime and write some summonses. The same people travel the same intersections the same time of day. It wouldn't take long. If you cannot get them to be courteous on their own, force them into being courteous with a \$100 fine. They'll catch on pretty quick. Piece in the paper here about Bostalk and the people that actually run Manchester. And everybody thought it was City Hall. Brady Sullivan, Dick Anagnost, and the SMG. Those are the people that really run this City. The Jac Pac deal: piece in the paper about it's going to be on the fast track. I get a little leery when I see things going on the fast track because there's really a reason, and you guys should be asking those same questions. The sculpture over at the Verizon; I think we own the property but all of a sudden somebody else is calling the shots. We can't put it up. And the snow plowing. I drive a school bus all over the City. Evidently some supervisors from Highway do not do the same thing and drive around the City. Sidewalks; Upper Valley Street, Webster Street, Commercial Street, Queen City Avenue. I see kids walking down Queen City Avenue from South Willow Street for Bakersville. They can't find a sidewalk anywhere. Maybe somebody needs to do something. Schools: Parents

parking and dropping off kids and picking them up. It's a nightmare trying to get a school bus by. Nobody does anything about it. And the last thing: the Brown Ave site for Cochran Waste. That is by far the best location for that. The gentleman will have rail service down there. He's right off the highway, and there's very few homes that are going to be affected down there. I truly hope all of you all have a very good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Calum McNeil, 471 Silver Street, stated: Just in the tradition I must say I don't know how to follow that. It's a little private joke we have. I just want to thank the Board and everybody from Manchester for giving me this three minutes to talk to everybody. Again, this is a really special, individual time that we get to have as a one and one representative. It's the only time I can really come to the government and talk to you guys. We in Manchester have a lot of big things on our plate. I only have a couple of seconds. I really think we need to tone down our fines in Manchester. We're a little too aggressive. This is a time of mortgages coming due and a time of Christmas, a time of giving. We all understand the business cycle, and right now would be the time to let up on things. This last Sunday there were a lot of tickets that were issued under the new emergency ticket program, a \$75 ticket program. This was actually done not during a snow emergency. Several people had these tickets and several people went to pay these tickets. A couple of people who did complain paid a \$25 lower fee. Now, why was the fee lowered if this is an authentic ticket? It just doesn't make sense all around. If we are going to be so stringent as far as tickets go, let's make sure we're doing it right and not wrong. If anyone wants to look into that, I'd really appreciate it. The other thing is we have a huge responsibility as the biggest building block in the New Hampshire primary. This is a huge responsibility as far as our civic duty goes. I really want to implore everybody to do their due diligence, do some education, read about your candidates that you're supporting. Don't just endorse them on friendly handshakes and good luck Christmas dinners. Understand what a single payer, not-for-profit medical care program is. Hillary Clinton and a lot of democrats...Obama...are offering universal health care.

The difference between Dennis Kucinich and Ron Paul and a lot of the other candidates, and her and him is, it's not universal insurance like down in Massachusetts where you have to get insurance no matter what. You save that 40% right off the top when you go to the doctor. Everybody out there has seen *Sicko*. If you haven't please go see it, and learn about the not-for-profit, single payer health care system that Dennis Kucinich talks about. It would save the City of Manchester \$5.6 million. It's a huge chunk of money right off the top. We really should cut straight to this. I don't know what else to say about what you guys are doing here. I've been out canvassing the City pretty hard as far as getting everybody out there to vote. I hope you guys are doing the same thing. There are a lot of really crazy things happening in Manchester. I don't know if anyone here has ever seen *It's a Wonderful Life*, but there are really a couple of those stories happening. And the people in power need to understand that to really keep everybody happy you need to be living that...anybody out there that can reduce a fine for someone, do it. Help those families out. Get those mortgages paid because that's how we're going to get Manchester doing better here. So I would say to everyone, relax the fines in Manchester and let everybody have a great Christmas.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was unanimously voted to have Manchester Crime Line make their presentation at this time.

Mayor Guinta recognized Manchester Crime Line to make a presentation.

Mr. Jack Crane, Manchester Crime Line Chairperson, stated along side me is Sandy Cotter, the Vice Chairman; and sitting behind me we have a collection of past chairpersons and future chairpersons. All have given years of distinguished service to the

City of Manchester and the community. The impetus for this meeting is to introduce some of you and/or reacquaint you to Manchester Crime Line and what we do in the City of Manchester. We were established in 1981. I'll read a quick excerpt from our by-laws. We were formed to promote law and order and a better enforcement of existing laws by assisting the Manchester Police Department in the apprehension and conviction of criminals by making funds available for use in offering rewards. Our board consists of up to 17 volunteers and a police coordinator. The police coordinator acts as a liaison. He ensures the phone lines are up and in place. They accept the calls and logs them, monitor the arrest and conviction activity and facilitate payments with a board member to a person that has called in. As a member of the board our job is fund-raising which 100% of these funds that are raised are used for our mission. We need to review the calls. We determine if a reward is necessary and if they're eligible for it. And we're charged with publicizing our efforts, tonight falling under that category of trying to get the word out there about Manchester Crime Line. We've recently placed over fifty signs and I'd like to put out a thank you to the Highway Department for doing that. We've gotten new signs and they are sprinkled around the community. Since our inception in 1981, we have approved 959 rewards, totaling over \$200,000 towards the apprehension of criminals. We've assisted in solving over 3,300 cases. We've recovered \$1.7 million of property as a result of our calls. We've recovered \$5.2 million of drugs. \$750,000 of cash has been recovered throughout this. And this year alone, we estimate to have removed about \$100,000 a week in drugs from our streets. This is all done with one fundraising event every year. This is the prestigious Manchester Crime Line Golf Tournament. I would like to close...I just wanted a brief time to remind you we are in town. I would like to close by asking your support in joining us in the 2008 golf tournament, please. The date is Thursday, August 7th. We will send out invitations to all of you, and I hope you can join us. Thank you for your time.

Alderman Lopez stated just a question...I was reading...maybe you did say something about it. When you put up a fee for information or prosecution, where do you publicize

that? You only publicize it in one location or do you use MCTV? What kind of a media do you use?

Mr. Crane responded we use the Crime of the Week on the radio station.

Alderman Lopez asked how about MCTV or MCAM?

Mr. Crane responded no, we haven't.

Alderman Lopez stated that would be a good idea, wouldn't it?

Alderman DeVries stated thank you very much for the presentation because I would agree with you that it's important that your message get out there. If there is a need for any further government access program, maybe we can work together to try to put together a more edited version and whatever statistics you'd like to have for the public and that will show on Channel 22 frequently. I'm sure many on this Board would love to assist you with that. Your statistics are impressive. The \$7 million recovered; the 3,300 crimes you've intervened on and we thank you for your work, and most importantly I thank you for the vision of golf and an August day, and we hope to see you there.

Alderman Forest stated I was around when this organization came into effect in 1981. I've been retired nineteen and a half years and I still know the number 624-4040. It has solved a lot of crimes because mainly people can call. They don't have to give their names and this organization is always out there and they have solved a lot of crimes over the last 26-27 years. It's a great organization and they do need donations from the private entity in the City, and I know they do on some occasions, but I know they do need more. So that's my pitch for them.

*This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of **Alderman Thibault**, duly seconded by **Alderman Forest**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk