SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)

November 12, 2008 **7:00 PM**

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function be led by Alderman J. Roy.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. Fourteen Aldermen were present.

Present: Aldermen M. Roy, Gatsas, Sullivan, J. Roy, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Ouellette, Murphy.

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. He 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.

Robert Tarr, 318 Spruce Street, stated:

Thank you ladies and gentlemen and Your Honor for having me speak tonight. I appreciate that. Tonight my topic is on the Canal Street Transportation Center. We have had a lengthy discussion of the possibilities of it closing or reducing service. One of the MTA proposals is to staff it with one staffer from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and one staffer on the weekends on Saturday. What I would like is to have the Board consider that option. If we have it staffed at those hours we would have to consider selling the MTA passes. These are monthly passes for the adults, senior, and students. Currently when we buy a monthly pass we either go through the bus driver or go to the main terminal which is on Gas Street to buy a monthly pass. This would make it very convenient especially during the winter hours and the winter months especially for the seniors that can not travel long distances to get their monthly passes. Another proposal that I would like to bring to your attention also, during those hours when the center is not open, is to put an RFP to the license taxi companies and see if they will consider leasing out the transportation center as a dispatch center for their cabs in the evening. This possibly could be at a reduce lease rate to make it attractive to them. Where this is connected to a hotel this would be convenient for them. People could simply walk out of the hotel and through the parking garage to the taxi station. Another concern would be if Concord Trailways does move out of the terminal, to look at a shuttle service for the StepSaver. As noted in the MTA attachments that I have, 14% reduction in StepSaver has been happening in the last three months. Creating a shuttle service between Manchester and Londonderry at peak hours would be considerable if the budget allows it at the proposed rate that they use now for StepSaver, or it would be slightly less. Again this would allow people to get dropped off in Londonderry and be picked up and brought back to Manchester through a MTA service. This will increase revenues to the MTA and their budget. I hope you can take this into consideration tonight; it would be greatly appreciated, thank you.

Marc Smith, 2456 Brown Avenue, stated:

Good evening, I am Marc Smith I am the vice president of GenTex Corporation. I am speaking tonight on behalf of the proposed transfer station, actually a new waste facility that is going to be reclaiming recycled goods, plastics, papers and things of that nature on Gay Street. As a new resident to the neighborhood since 2007 we found Manchester to be a good spot to move our high technology company. We have a facility in Derry as well and one that we are looking to relocate. We looked in areas within the greater Manchester, Londonderry, Derry even Merrimack. At the time we decided to relocate in the facility we are in now. One of the primary reasons is we believed that this area was a high technology center for Manchester. It was proposed several times that this particular location in the industrial zone were we relocated was an area for high tech growth. It was an area for a new business to come in with electronics, with sophisticated equipment and capital. When we located this facility we spent several million dollars in capital assets and in relocation cost for our employees. What we are finding now is that our neighbor is going to be handling waste upwards of several hundred tons per day. Our concern is that it will not only be an environmental problem but it will also be somewhat detrimental to our business when we have visitors come to look at our technology. It might be difficult for us to recruit people to come to work for our company. Eventually we are afraid that we may have to leave the area or at least leave that praticlular industrial zone. Our thoughts are that we would like the Mayor and Aldermen to take a serious look at this recycling center. Look at the condition of use permit that is being applied for and determine if it is really the right type of industry that you want to have within the airport, within that industrial zone. That is the primary reason companies like Gentex decided to move to the City of Manchester. We looked at Londonderry; we looked at building our facility next to Inside Technologies; we looked at Merrimack. We wanted to be next to BAE, Kolsman, some of the high tech within the region. We choose Manchester and we chose that particular facility because of

its close proximity to the airport and because it was deemed to us to be a high technology center of growth for the City of Manchester in the future. Our concern is that this would dilute the high tech business sector of this area if you allow a transfer station to take residence. We would ask if you would please seriously look at not approving the condition of use permit, or at lease look at the condition of use permit that is going to Planning, tomorrow I believe it is. Thank you very much.

Tom Crowley, 249 Gay Street, stated:
Good evening and thank you for your time. My name is Tom Crowley and the owner of Northstar Direct; it is a direct mailing printing company at 239 Gay Street. I am also here to express my concerns that I have with Regional Waste Facility proposed for 300 Gay Street. I also represent Jerry Nash, the landlord from whom I am presently leasing. Both Jerry and I are adamantly opposed to this facility. When I started Northstar Direct in 2004, I came here from a different state and made a decision to come back to New Hampshire. I was looking to start up a company in New Hampshire based on my experience living here in 2001 and 2002, the available work force, the cost of living and also the help from the Manchester Economic Development. I thought it was good decisions to come here. We now employ twenty-one people. We are a small company and we are growing. We are in the process of hiring new people and they are all high paying high tech jobs. We sell business to business to a number of companies, those being Chase, City Bank, New York Life, Verizon, Suntrust and US Cellar, just to name a few. I continually have customers come in to our facility to do press checks, for press okay's. My business is all direct mail. I am going to have a hard time explaining to them why I am across the street from a dump site. There is no way I will be able to retain these customers with the facility across the street from my plant. It would be impossible to explain. So my concern is not just that we will have the recycling center across the street; my concern is what this going to

do to my business and the area's reputation. The trucks, the noise, the debris, the odor and the possible vermin are all detrimental to the wellbeing of the industrial park presently. As I understand it, the standards for the Planning Board to permit this use are that it can not endanger the public health or safety. I do not understand how you can propose to have 80 to 100 trucks a day in additional traffic. This will have an impact in an area that is already congested, and secondly the use will substantially devalue abutting property, and again I do not know how you would have a recycling center, a dump or whatever you would want to call it, across the street and not have an impact on your property. The use is not compatible with the neighborhood. We have a thriving business, we have a hotel, we have a diner, and I do not see how this is a compatible use for the facility. The use would have a substantial impact on the highway or approaching traffic. We will hear 80 or 100 trucks a day which will have an impact on the current area. Between three and four o'clock when Moore Business Forms, Central Paper, and Gentex release their people, the traffic on Gay Street is backed up all the way down the street. There is no way out of the area except on Winston Street so it is impossible now, because of 80 or 100 trucks will make it a log jam. There are only two streets that go to Gay Street from Brown: one is Winston which is a one way, and the second street to come off of Gay Street back to Brown Avenue is Raymond. Raymond is the one street that UPS uses for all of their trucks and again it would be impossible to handle all of the additional traffic. I am not opposed to recycling but I think there is a place for it and I do not believe Gay Street is that place. I ask the City of Manchester to refuse to allow a recycling center. Having this facility would force me to close or a least to move, which would be financial ruin for me and unemployment for all of my employees. Thank you for your time.

Jonathan Melle, 30 Hanover Street #209, stated:

This mailer from the New Hampshire Advantage Coalition, honorably chaired by Mayor Frank Guinta that was sent out, bothers me. It has all of the Aldermen's pictures on it, Aldermen Lopez, Shea, J. Roy, DeVries, Smith, O'Neil, Ouellette, and M. Roy. This was sent out before the election. Mayor Guinta, you represent Manchester, New Hampshire. You have to work with these Aldermen and you put their pictures on a negative mailer. You sent one your last term, and now you have to work with all of these people you just campaigned against. What is more important? Republican Party politics, you becoming Governor or Congressman, or the people of Manchester being served well by the Mayor by working well with the Aldermen? The irony of this mailer is that Governor Lynch, Governor Sheehan, Senator DeVries, and Speaker Norelli were all re-elected. The tax cap did not have any impact on this year's election. As far as the City Clerk's office, I am going to read you guys a quote because you guys voted ten to four to can this Clerk after thirty-one years. Carol Johnson says, "Saddest to me is thirty-one plus years of service to the City ends this year without any consideration, hearing, or interactive discussion, regarding the circumstances and severely damaged reputation in the public eye". She is going to be found not guilty of these charges and the history of these obscure statutes that the City and State are prosecuting hereunder. No one has ever been convicted. It is just a weird obscure law that this City Clerk is being prosecuted under. If all of you, the Mayor and Aldermen, if you all care about taxpayers so much you should not have done this. When she takes the City to court you are going to lose. You damaged her reputation and she is going to come away with a lot of money. Manchester Express this week says, "City may see stun gun development." I am adamantly against these stun guns. I am a victim of police brutality; I have an upcoming trial because a police office illegally used multiple levels of force on me. These are police officers in the City of Manchester. I have witnesses to collaborate my story and I may sue the City. Now you put these stun guns in the hands of these police officers who are already

illegally using force, who are already violating civil rights. If you do this, you know what is going to happen. The City is going to get sued. You will also spend millions of dollars on all of this new equipment. Why not try communication. Why not try respect? The police have obligations just as citizens. This is a very poor city government. We need leadership and I hope at least one of you people who sit here will stand up tall on this. Thank you.

Howard McCarthy, 105 Randall Street, stated:
This is about my eighth time here and I am sure some of you recognize me and I certainly recognize you people. I would like to congratulate you, Alderman Gatsas, on your victory. One Alderman told me do not fool around and get right to it. Let me see if I can do that. A little bit later on this evening you are going to hear a request that I made about the way the meetings here, Your Honor, are conducted in the beginning. I am just looking for a slight change and the reason I am doing that is because it would be more sanctifying and I think it would be a good way to promote patriotism. What I am suggesting is that rather than have the whole group give the pledge of allegiances, I would like to see somebody, possible a real veteran but not necessarily a veteran, anybody who is patriotic and loves this country could do this. What I am looking for is somebody to lead the pledge of allegiances. The pledge of allegiances is one of reverence and if it is done this way I think it would be better. I just wondered if you might want to try it. I have been in contact with a number of military groups and veterans such has the American Legion the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a couple of motorcycle groups who are veterans. Every one of them are anxious and would have a supply of veterans. I realize that you people have more meetings than this one but I would like to see it done just at this one. This is the big one as far as I am concerned. A. little later on, you will be hearing this request and I have some goodies that I would like to tell you more about and I would like to see if you want to try this and see how it comes out. That is about it, thank you.

Sally Fellows, City Clerk's Office, stated:
Good evening, my name is Sally Fellows and I am the Archivist and Records Manager for the City of Manchester. I am here tonight to read a letter of support for Deputy City Clerk, Matthew Normand, from the employees of the office of the City Clerk. "A leader is an individual with a clear vision who can communicate that vision to his or her employees through words and actions, calmly and confidently. The City Clerk's office has been under enormous scrutiny over the past several months. The leadership ability of Deputy City Clerk Matthew Normand has allowed us, the employees of the City Clerk's office, to perform our duties with a sense of purpose, camaraderie, and pride. Through the last two elections, aldermanic meetings and all the other duties involved in running the most public, non-political office in the City of Manchester, Matthew Normand has been a dedicated and tireless leader. He has challenged us to move forward as a team and that is what the employees of this office have done. His ability to lead by example has allowed us to work productively in the face of negative publicity. With the retirement of the City Clerk, the office is now facing additional changes. The employees of the Office of the City Clerk have thrived under the leadership of Matt Normand and wish to continue to do so. Therefore we are asking the Mayor and Aldermen to consider him for the position of City Clerk. His proven abilities and his length of service make him an ideal choice for this very important position." Thank you.

Richard Duckoff, 380 North Bay Street, stated:
It is pretty hard for me to talk after what I have just heard. I am going to be a bit of a second fiddle here. Let me say that about twenty-two years ago and when I was a bit younger I was a bit of a pistol. I am very calm as you all know and in those days I was on the Board of New Hampshire People's Alliance that was the predecessor to Citizens Alliance in Concord. One of the things that we interested

ourselves in was voter registration, particular the disparity of the number of voters who registered. Homeowners or property owner registration was very high. Say in Ward 1 hypothetically you were a tenant and you did not have property rights that you had to defend but you were interested in your personal rights, registration was so low in the inner City. To make a long story short I was a co-plaintiff for a law suit against the City of Manchester. What the gist of it was that the League of Women voters had gone into the Mall of New Hampshire and registered voters, having been deputized by the Board of Voter Registrars of the City. I felt, and two or three other people have felt, that I could be deputized. If we were deputized I felt certainly that we could go into Elm Wood Gardens and do the same thing. I thought justice would be served. We instituted a law suit and actually lost that law suit but that stayed with me all of these years. I think voting is the most important right that any human being could have. It is really deep within. When I saw this year all of the activism about registering to vote, I decided to make it my priority during the election time. I happened to bump in to City Clerk Matt Normand. Because I told him of my concerns, he got a bit defensive. I told him not to get defensive because this is the state law. It is a state law and you cannot change it. It is what it is. Other countries are different and other states are different but this is New Hampshire. You can only follow the state law. I found out that an initiative was being taken by going out into various parts of the City. It was advertised in the newspapers - the Union Leader and Manchester Express. I think we read it. The results were spectacular. Fresh ground was broken and the number of registered voters…for instance in Ward 3 there were 845 newly registered voters. Nothing like that has happened before. And it's all because of the outreach. Fresh ground was broken and I want to pay tribute to Matt Normand and to the entire City Clerk's office for having done that. There are three attributes that you have to have in the City Clerk's office and I think all of the Clerks have it and Matt Normand has it as well. You have to be extremely diplomatic and you have to maintain an apolitical demeanor. I want to pay tribute

to the City Clerk for having done that. I mentioned an apolitical demeanor. I would like to see the next City Clerk be a resident of Manchester and be experienced and not come with apolitical resume. That is difficult; it will probably exclude some applicants. In the Board's wisdom, the Board will have the final say on this after time passes and emotions settle down. I hope that Matt Normand will be high if not first on that list. Thank You.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn St, Manchester, stated:
Good evening, I would like to congratulate Senator Gatsas and Senator DeVries for winning their elections. Your Honor, I do not know who was responsible for that mailer but whoever it was, there were only two people that are in this room as Aldermen that were elected and were even on the ballot as Aldermen. I can not understand why we perceive in this City to campaign against people who are not running for office. It is just a waste. Why can't we just have a lively debate on the issues and stop avoiding the issues? Back in 2002 the City had a housing crunch crisis. In fact if you look at the Hippo Press of February 12, 2002, it had a sardine can on the front page. Proudly it says, "Queen City packing them in." We had roughly less than one percent of the apartments that were empty; we did not have enough housing. Today we have roughly 40% of the rentals that are empty, the exact opposite. Why are they empty? You need to look at this Board. We are now dealing with the problems in this City, we are crunching under and around, but we are not dealing directly with them. We have housing codes in this City that are not being maintained. One of the issues is because you do not have enough employees in that department. Two years ago your compliance had to be done by January 30th of the year, and you as the owner brought in your paper work. You were not at fault. The City took till April till they finally gave you your certificate. They were behind. Today two years later it takes six to eight months to get your certificate of need. There is something wrong with that. How can we be in compliance if the government itself can not do its job in a timely manner? We

have some departments that are overstaffed and we have other departments that are understaffed. This is a department that is grossly understaffed. Because of that, health of certain people in this City basically our children are at hand. Your Honor, it shames me that you think that the majority of the people in this City are the workforce and low income housing people. That is why you want to propose a moratorium on subsidized low income work force housing. It is a good thing to give money to the landlords to fix their apartments. It is a bad thing when some politicians in this City decided to take money from some of these landlords so that they can withdraw their support specifically for the lead paint law that was passed last year in this City. I want to thank Betsi DeVries for being a co-sponsor of that. Our children are at risk. If you really want to help the neighborhood, if you really want to help the people in need, our children are the future. You have to make sure that the money you give to the landlords goes to protect the children and make sure that they follow the housing codes. This is something not to be played with. It has been thirty-five years and we are still dealing with it. The last thing I want to say is 60% of the people in this City are low income; 20% are middle income. Your Honor, I cannot believe that 80% of the people in this City are the ones that are committing all of the crimes. You people are elected here to serve all the people. Before you start blaming the people for causing the problem, think of your own house here. Our government is in a shamble. Every three months for the last nine months we have found someone or money missing and someone has taken it. We spend more money in investigation and the money has been lost. Shame on this government. Let's get our house in order. Thank You.

Mayor Guinta recessed the Special Meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Mayor Guinta called the regular meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen M. Roy, Gatsas, Sullivan, J. Roy, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Ouellette, Murphy

Mayor Guinta recessed the regular meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Mayor Guinta called the Special Meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen back to order.

Former Alderman Armand Forest, Montgomery Street, stated:
Good evening. I told myself once I left here that I was never going to do this, but first I want to sort of echo Sally Fellow's comment about Matt. I am here as a chauffeur tonight but I heard a couple of gentlemen come up here and you know how I feel about recycling for the City so I am here. With the exception of four members of this Board and including myself, a couple of years ago we voted unanimously to sign a contract with Corcoran Environmental to do our recycling here in the City. The original proposal was done for Dunbarton Road although when Corcoran finally decided to build over there it was an election year and some Aldermen did not support it. Eventually Dunbarton Road was thrown out and a lot had to do with rumor and conjecture and hearsay. I am hearing it again tonight. The two gentlemen that were up here say they own businesses. That is fine. If they are going to complain about a project that is going to be built and save this City $5.5 million, they should be doing their homework, not just coming up here and talking to you about stopping a project when all that they are talking about is

rumor. As far as the traffic, the state and federal government are spending millions on a new highway between 93 and the Airport. That would eliminate a lot of the traffic. The Industrial Park was never designed for electronics or anything else. It was designed for business. There is a paper sales place down there, a printing place, a telephone company and everything else. Hackett Hill road was designed for electronics and whatever. The recycling center is not a dump. It is not there to dump our garbage. It is there to save the City $5.5 million in recycling. I realize Senator DeVries and Alderman Garrity are opposed to it, as Alderman Murphy was. That is their option. This Board voted unanimously to sign a contract with Corcoran. Before you as a Board turn this project down, at least the people complaining about it should do their homework and not just deal on rumor about 80, 90 or 140 trucks. Have them look at the facts. If they want to complain about it, that is their prerogative. Look at the facts. Do not come to this Board or the Planning Board and deal in rumor. That is all I have to say. Thank you.

Walter Francis, Union Street, stated:
I did drop you a note the other day in your office. My main concern is the interstate transportation. This is the biggest City in the state, or so they say. When I first came here in 1978 the bus station, Continental Trailways station, was a hole in the wall next to the Cadillac Hotel. That is what the bus station was. Now they built the bus station down there and it is closing. I am frequently a user of the station; I transfer buses in Boston to go out of state. I do not want to be dropped off at some way station; I do not see why this should be. I think this should be put up to bid so that maybe some other company will be able to come in. The past few months, I have been concerned. I do not understand the school budget and after that there was a local bus thing and that I do depend on. I do not know what is going to happen with that yet. No orders have come from on high. Those are the things that interested me and I hope that they interest you because

the public needs these things. I do not want to stand out freezing in Londonderry waiting for a bus. I want to be able to sit in a bus terminal, get my bus and go where I am going. Thank you.

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

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

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk