

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

**January 19, 2010**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Gatsas called the meeting to order.

Mayor Gatsas called for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Alderman Ludwig.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Craig, Ludwig, Long, Roy, Corriveau, O'Neil, Lopez,  
Shea, DeVries, Shaw, Greazzo, Ouellette, Arnold.

Absent: Alderman Osborne

**Mayor Gatsas** 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 and we are going to adhere to that three minutes. Any comments must be directed to the Chair. Any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

**Jonathan Teeling**, 438 Front Street, stated I am here tonight as a recruiter and examiner for the 2010 U.S. Census. I am here to inform the Board as well as

MCTV viewers of available job opportunities with the 2010 Census. The Decennial census has many benefits; to apportion the seats in the House of Representatives, to draw state legislative districts, to distribute more than \$300 billion annually in federal, state, local and travel funds, to evaluate the success of community programs, to identify populations that might be open and responsive to new services and to determine sites for new businesses. For those individuals watching that are interested in working for the 2010 Census, the toll-free telephone number is 1-866-861-2010 and the website is [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov). Jobs are temporary. Most of them involve field work in neighborhoods near the census takers home. Work schedules vary. Many census takers have other full-time or part-time jobs. Not everyone who is qualified is hired. Applicants who are selected are called when jobs are available. There may be an interval of a few months between testing and being offered a job. Minimum requirements for a job with the Census are a completed application, proper identification documents, a favorable background check, and completion of a 30 minute written employment test. That test includes basic reasoning, math, map reading skills and verbal skills. Practice tests are available online. The test is available in Spanish but that also requires a passing score on an English proficiency test. An applicant may retest to raise his or her score. We only look at the highest score and all training is in English. The pay rate for Census takers is \$15 per hour, paid weekly. Census takers must be available for four days of training, paid at the hourly rate. Mileage for field jobs is reimbursed at \$.50 per mile. Approximately 2,800 people will be hired in the State of New Hampshire for this position. We do offer veterans preference and bi-lingual applicants are encouraged to apply. I am going to repeat that telephone number again. That telephone number is 1-866-861-2010 and the website is [www.2010censusjob.gov](http://www.2010censusjob.gov). Thank you for your time.

**Stan Garfield**, 6 Hemlock Street, stated I have a company called Garfield Pest Control. I am here to address the bed bug situation. I had some tips for consumers who may have these, some initial steps they can take to reduce the problem. One of the things I recommend strongly is a protective mattress cover. These are quality mattress covers, not something like an inexpensive plastic one but something that is actually rated for bed bug protection. These can be found at Wal-Mart. They have a queen size and a smaller size for most beds. That is a very useful thing to encase your box spring and mattress in. There is also something you can get online that is called Climb-ups, just like it sounds. These Climb ups go underneath the legs of the bed. They keep the bugs from being able to walk up the leg of the bed or down the leg of the bed. They get caught in almost like a mote. They can't get out. It's not that Climb-ups is liquid; it is slippery and they can't get out. The other thing you can do is wash all the clothing, the clothing in the bedroom or wherever you are having this infestation. Put the clothing in a clean plastic bag. Try not to put anything in those drawers until after it has been treated. Finally, you would want to call a professional so they can do a complete job for you. You can research us online [garfieldpestcontrol.com](http://garfieldpestcontrol.com).

**Kara Black**, 1200 Elm Street #217, stated as someone who once shared the same address as bed bugs, I will tell you what they are not. They are not about cute little nursery rhymes, itchy red bites, low-income housing, dirty places, immigrant communities or old mattresses but to consider them a nuisance pest is a violation for those who have, do and will struggle with them. They are much bigger than their arthropod bodies belie. They are a cotangent that does not respect wealth, education or community. They are an epidemic that has the potential to destroy both residences and businesses, a leprosy that will be bestows despondency and instills a sense of shame among its victims, isolating them from friends and family. Lastly they are a thief of time, money, sleep and sanity. We are all in the

battle whether we like it or not and time is the only factor that separates all of us from an encounter. We can continue to tell ourselves that it could never happen to us, whisper about the sad stories or just look the other way but this enemy not only feeds on our blood but on our very shame, ignorance, denial and ultimately our pride. I ask that our city recognize the seriousness of this threat and in so doing join the ranks of others that have chosen to be rather than reactive victims, proactive adversaries in a struggle against this formidable foe. Thank you for your time.

**Stacey Evans**, 16 Chase Street, Concord, stated I am a social worker with the Manchester School District and I am here tonight to talk about the effects that bed bugs have had on our students. Many of these students come to school tired because they are not able to sleep well at night. They are frequently awoken by the biting bugs and they try to itch themselves back to sleep. Being exhausted in school does not allow them to focus on their school work, which ultimately can effect their achievement and success in school. About five to six years ago, I can remember a teacher and myself looking at a child's bites and being unsure of what it was. The student was teary-eyed. He had itched himself until the bites were bleeding and he said he had not been able to sleep all weekend. We had the child see our school nurse for examination and she could not be sure what it was either. The school nurse referred the child to his PCP. Upon diagnosis of bed bug bites, the child was given a prescription cream that could help with the itching. He expressed that the relief from the cream was minimal and the bites continued relentlessly. Over the last five to six years, the schools went from seeing hardly any if at all students affected by bed bugs, to our nurses, teachers and social workers becoming semi-expert, bed bug bite diagnosers. When the schools discovered this battle that some of our students and families were up against, we looked for assistance and direction from the health department. We found that there was no easy fix. Simply by treating infested apartments and buildings was

not working. Reaching out to the families to educate them on the necessary steps to get rid of the problem was overwhelming. Most of these families' homes were so infected that they needed not only new mattresses and bedding but also all new furniture and electronics. In some situations there were barriers with resources and language and when these were not barriers there was the sheer fact that bed bugs and their aids were not being killed by traditional treatment methods with chemicals. Some families being fed up with their infested apartments decided to move. I believe they were thinking that if they got new mattresses they would be rid of the problem in a new home only to their dismay however, they ended up bringing the bugs to their new apartments. As the outbreaks spread and more students came to school with bites, we realized all the more that there needed to be a community approach to fight this battle. Manchester as a city must come together to identify and address the bed bug crisis. Bed bugs do not care about your race, religion, financial status or education. They live in five-star hotels, motels, low-income housing, high-income rentals and estates. If you are not personally affected by the bed bugs you need to know the facts about how best to prevent getting them. Your child could easily bring them home from a sleepover with a classmate. You may come across the nasty critters in movie theaters, schools or at neighbors of friends. If you find yourself among the many that are affected personally by this, it has been summed up to me by being a living nightmare.

**Colleen Lange**, 285 Jewett Street, stated I am here to talk about the dog park. I know that one of the areas you are looking at is the dump. I haven't done anything formal but I have talked to a couple of my friends who have dogs and I wanted to see who would be interested in going to the dump to bring their dog there to play. It is kind of hard to say "to the dump" and think of good things and a safe place to let your dog run. I don't want to see all the time and energy that everybody has put in to get this going and let people enjoy it and not have anyone use it because

they are going to the dump. Not to mention it is on the far side of town, so honestly if I have to drive 15 minutes to Goffstown, basically, to bring my dog to the dump, I am going to drive 15 or 20 minutes the other way and drive to Raymond because they have a nice little trail to their park and there is water for the dogs to play in. It is great. I am hoping that you guys can figure out if it is better to have it across the river, where a lot of people down here don't have any size yard, I have a small one but I have a fairly large dog, that they can go and actually utilize it and put to good use the area that you guys are giving us. I hope you guys will consider downtown. I think that is a really great idea as opposed to the dump and all the garbage that can come with it. Thank you so much.

**David Bigelow**, 335 Laurel Street, stated I am here again, those of you leftover from last year. You know that I am here for the dog park. Basically last November it was put on hold until the new Board came on board. Well, the new Board is here so hi everybody, especially the new guys. Basically, where I would like to see the dog park is definitely not the dump. If Manchester wants to be a destination city, I don't think telling visitors that the dog park is over by the dump or the x-dump is good. A dog's sense of smell is millions of times more strong than ours. I think for my dog, it would be a tease. I am right next to the dump and you are not going to let me dig? I think the best place for it from the four sites that were suggested last year, would be the site in between the West Side Ice Arena and the Kelly Street Bridge. That was turned down more than once. The first time it was turned down back in May of last year. It was not at a Committee meeting. It was done off the record, violating the right-to-know law. It was proposed again in September with the four sites. It got turned down again because basically the Ward 11 Alderman didn't want it there and he claimed he held meetings along Douglas Street Extension and no one wanted it there. Interestingly enough, that didn't make sense to me, the timing, of the 24 different addresses along Douglas Street Extension, 24 separate housing where I could confirm where people actually

lived, I talked to 21 of those addresses. I talked to a total of 28 different people. One of the questions I asked was, Has Russ ever talked to you about the dog park? Only three said yes; 25 said no. Have you ever had any problems with loose dogs? To that, 12 said yes and 15 said no. The last question was, would you support a dog park at the West Side Ice Arena? There were 16 people who said yes, seven said no and five were indifferent. So basically the people at Douglas Street Extension favored the dog park being there two to one. Even of the seven people that said they talked to Russ, only three had talked to him about the dog park.

**Lisette Feliciano**, 426 Somerville Street, stated I currently manage properties for Neighborworks. We have many properties in the city, almost 300 apartments and we have definitely seen bed bugs. I have been here for almost 22 years and I had never seen a bed bug until about two years ago. We would find it every now and then in apartments and now you see it more often and it's not just in our apartments, it is all over the city. A lot of landlords are dealing with this right now. A lot of tenants are dealing with it right now. The best way that we handle it is by being proactive, by trying to educate our tenants by having tenant meetings. We also encourage them to get mattress covers. If they cannot afford them we try to find them as cheap as we can and help them out. One of the things that bed bugs don't care about is, as another young lady said, if you are rich or poor, where you live, whether you are in a five star hotel or in a motel, it does not matter. They are nothing like ants or roaches like we had seen before. You would eliminate food, put down poison and they are gone. Bed bugs need people. They don't need any kind of food. It doesn't matter how clean your apartment is. Bed bugs just need people to live. Most people don't like to talk about it. They get very embarrassed. I think that a lot of landlords need to band together and the community needs to band together. They should not be embarrassed. It is something that can happen to anyone. You can pick it up at any restaurant, at any

supermarket, at the bus stop or on the school bus. The kids all put their backpacks in the same closet in the schools. Anyone can get it. If there is anything we can do as far as helping out the community then I think we should. There are many people, like I said, that are embarrassed. I hope that other landlords are also willing to help tenants out because it really does turn their lives upside down. Treatments last about three to four weeks. They have to live out of bags. They have to wash all of their laundry in hot water. They are not allowed to put it back into their dressers or furniture and so forth. This is a very big financial strain on people as well. Thank you very much for your time. I hope you have a good night.

**Will Stewart**, 20 Merrimack Street, stated I am here on behalf of Neighborworks Greater Manchester at 20 Merrimack Street. Like Liz said, like many other Manchester landlords, Neighborworks Greater Manchester is not immune to the international bed bug epidemic that is sweeping not just Manchester but our entire state and our country. While we are fortunate to have a responsible third party property management company that is able to proactively and effectively treat the bed bugs that do happen to crop up from time to time in our apartments, and while they are able to educate our tenants as to the nature of bed bugs and how to treat them effectively, their job is hampered by a lack of a coordinated citywide bed bug eradication effort. There is a resolution that is before this Board currently that is an excellent first step in the direction of coordinating this citywide effort. By publicly recognizing the bed bug threat to both city residents' quality of life and the bottom line of more than a few Manchester businesses and not just landlords, it will help to bring more attention to this vital issue and recruit even more partners to help us fight this menace that is bed bugs. Thank you.

**Zane Knoy**, 105 Garden Drive #23, stated I come to speak about the bed bug issue in part because of the need around the city but also of my own personal



involvement with this. I live on the second floor and I have been there for 17 years and it has been a wonderful place to live. I was notified recently that I had to put all of my clothing in bags. I had to move all of my furniture into the center of the rooms of all three rooms because the neighbors downstairs had been detected with bed bugs so they informed me, a neighbor downstairs and another couple that had to do this kind of adjustment. Luckily it seemed to work and they caught it early enough that apparently the bugs haven't come through. It was not an easy thing to do. I had to get help for that from my neighbors and friends to do that. I wanted to let you know that it is not something that just happens to other people. It happens to all of us. I went to a training session at UNH about three weeks ago and the man there pointed out very carefully, very scientifically that bed bugs are all over as people said before this. They are in hotels, they are in cities, cars, trains and so all of us are picking them up if we are not careful. The situation I was in, I think probably came because of two children that maybe picked them up at school or something. It is not an extensive thing but something that happened. It happens to all of us. I appreciate you working on it and hopefully get to it.

**Howard McCarthy**, 105 Randall Street, stated happy New Year. Congratulations Your Honor. Congratulations to all these new faces that I see here. I just want to say a couple things. I thought I was obligated to come to this first public participation. I don't know about the other people and the people who have been here a few years but these new Aldermen seem to be looking at me and paying attention to me so that is a plus for me. I am not Howard McCarthy. I am Howard Howard McCarthy, Howard's twin brother. What I want to say is something about the word. The word, what I mean by that, is the mull. When I was in the service I took an oath duty, honor and country. You people here, especially all of you that took your oath, it means the same thing - duty, honor and maybe city. That is all right. As you know I have a show on Channel 23 and that is what I am

here about. The way I understanding it, is that Channel 23 had a contract with you people and now you are withholding \$50,000. Remember you signed a contract and your word is supposed to be a bond. If that is in question, that is not good. I can understand you probably withholding that kind of money. After all, maybe you don't like my show. I don't know. Of course I am on every Friday night at six-thirty. Am I blowing my own horn? Yes. Do you know why, Your Honor? Because if I don't, nobody else will. I just want to say to you that please don't let channel 23 go down the tubes. Remember there are some good people on there, like Joe Kelly. Some day, Your Honor, I am going to get four and five minutes. It is going to happen. The point is, I can understand maybe you don't like my show, but the point is that we have Joe Kelly, Joe Briggs, we have all these good people who know what they are doing. Thank you. Please do your jobs. Thank you very much.

**Parsu Nepal**, Bhutanese Refugee Community, stated I am here to talk about the enemy of the human kind, the bed bug, whose victim I was for a long time personally, myself. Also I have experienced the serious expenses of the bed bug bites. When I was an instructor of the school, I have referred a couple of students sick due to bed bug bites with the different types of skin diseases develop to the medical doctors. I have also referred a couple of students for the medical treatment for many conditions because of the seriousness of bed bug bites. Also when I was working as the administer of the community, back in the camps, I had to organize a general cleanup campaign for the entire camp and I also had to lead the district of the amount of the damage to properties in order to get them eradicated. However, they are still happier in spite of a number of attempts to get them eradicated and I have heard that the bed bugs are the deadly enemies to mankind and are causing a lot of damages to the lives and properties of the people. I sincerely hope that with this settlement program coming across a number of oceans to America I will not be experiencing the bed bugs once again but to be

very unfortunate I have started hearing about the bed bug issues in America as you will but I sincerely hope that the city has started taking this serious. I am certain that things like bed bug infesters shall easily be eradicated when the city itself starts working on it. I have high hopes on that.

**Tammy Simmons**, 142 Parker Street, stated being a new year, I would like to welcome all these new faces which is great to see. I got to thinking the other day after I listened to Mayor Gatsas's speech and I think you were talking about imagining the possibilities, which I think is a great attitude and hopefully this Board moves forward rather than looking backwards, and I found myself imagining something very simple. Imagine a place where almost 40% of our community can take their dog and take it off a lease and let it run in a fenced in area where it can't get away and bother anybody. Imagine something so simple as that, yet for over a year now, I have been talking with people who have been trying to move forward on this project and it has been probably 14 or 16 months. I don't know I have lost track now. We can't do something as simple as put up a dog park that we have people willing to donate the materials that we need for it. All we need is a piece of land, yet we can't seem to get there. The Lands and Buildings Committee, along with Chuck Deprima, came up with a list of four locations. One was a location that the Manchester Dog Park Association really wanted to work with, yet we are going to go look at the dump, even though from what we can get out of dog owners they don't want to go to the dump. The West Side Ice Arena, which is within walking distance of my house, and I don't have a dog; that is not why I want to do it, I walk up there all the time and there is a perfectly suitable piece of land right where people can get to. It is right on the bike path, near the ice arena. It is not near anyone's home so you don't have to worry about the neighbors being upset that the dogs are too close to their homes. Yet, for whatever reason, we can't seem to take this piece of property into consideration. Why don't we reach out to the community and see how the

community feels about this because 16 months to find a little parcel of land, so that 40% of our community can take their dog and let them run off leash for a little bit of enjoyment and a little bit of socialization so we have less aggressive dogs in our community seems like something we all should be able to imagine very easily. It shouldn't take years and years and years of stupid bureaucracy to accomplish a task as simple as this. Thank you.

*On motion of **Aldermen Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman DeVries**, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.*

*On motion of **Alderman Roy**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk