

**PUBLIC HEARING
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT
In Conjunction With
Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Central Business Service District Advisory Board
Intown Manchester Board of Directors**

August 28, 2000

6:00 PM

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

CIP Committee: Aldermen O'Neil, Wihby, Clancy, Cashin, Lopez

Board of Aldermen: Aldermen Gatsas, Levasseur, Sysyn, Pinard, Shea, Vaillancourt (late), Pariseau, Thibault, Hirschmann

CBSD Advisory Bd.: Franne Ciriello, Bill Norton, John Madden, Mark Taylor, Doug Gherlone

Intown Bd. of Dir.: Paul Shea, John Madden, Mayor Baines, Doug Gherlone, Robert Hybsch, Alderman Levasseur, Karol LaCroix, Thomas Schwieger, Felix Torres, Robert MacKenzie, William Norton

Chairman O'Neil advised that the purpose of the public hearing is to hear those wishing to comment on Central Business Service District issues, including district boundaries and services provided within the district; that each person when recognized shall come to the nearest microphone, state their name and address in a clear loud voice for the record; that each person shall be given one opportunity to speak and comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak.

Chairman O'Neil stated we have received a number of written communications, which will be forwarded to the Committee. I believe that members of the Board have copies in front of them.

Chairman O'Neil called for those wishing to speak.

Raymond Wieczorek, 1060 Ray Street, Manchester, NH stated:

After serving the City for 10 years and being here during a period when things were a little tough, most of you who are on the Board currently were not on the Board but the City went through a very, very difficult period with the downtown area and the Millyard area and the major bank traders that we had in one day, five. Things were not going well for the City and we wanted to make sure that we began to revive the City and that we did whatever we could to make the City a better place to live. One of the things we did was we formed Intown Manchester and the reason we did is that it always seemed better to form a partnership where you have the public and private sector working together. The public sector by itself, they just can't do it. It is just not possible. You don't have the time, you don't have the experience and you are never going to get the job done. That is the sad part but there is a place and if you establish partnerships then things work well. The partnerships that are established here, you need to get people involved on the outside who are not elected officials but work with elected officials to work to make Manchester a better place to live. They make a contribution. They know that they have some ownership in the things that are happening and they are giving of their volunteer time. That is very, very important. We did the same thing with Neighborhood Housing Services where the City of Manchester put together a public/private partnership that was then looked at by other organizations and they wanted us to let them know how we put these things together because they work. We did the same thing here with Intown. It works. Things should never get personal and you can't badger and bully anybody and you shouldn't do that

because you can work together. If you work together, everybody does their little piece. I always say...I liken this to baking a cake. You don't have all of the ingredients in equal amounts. You take whatever amount you need to bake a cake. There is a place for everybody and everybody gets credit but as soon as you get large participation like the For Manchester group, the Intown Manchester group, the Neighborhood Housing Services group, things begin to happen and people then feel they have some ownership in the things that are happening in our community. We have had the other experience when a few years ago the Greater Manchester Development Corporation was suddenly voted out at the very last meeting of the year before a new term started and it took this City a couple of years to get all of those things back together and a lot of people were very insulted who were giving of their time to our community to make it a better place but all they did is get ripped. That isn't fair. What you need to do as elected officials is to create the environment so that people can work together to make Manchester the kind of a place we all want to live. I hope you will reconsider what you have done and vote Intown Manchester back. Do the things that you have to do as elected officials and let Intown Manchester do the job that it was put together to do. Thank you.

Douglas Gherlone, 204 Chase Way, Manchester, NH stated:

Usually my public remarks include my stating that I appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight. I do not, however, appreciate the fact that I must take precious personal time in order to appear here due to the ill chosen, damaging statements regarding Intown Manchester, Rich Davis and others. I must take personal umbrage of remarks disparaging Mr. Davis who is a decent, honest, dedicated, hard-working individual who literally is creating a silk purse from a sow's ear. Remarks that I might add, whether intentional or not, by implication and feat unfairly question the integrity and commitment of all of us who are closely associated with Intown Manchester. Yes, I am a board member of Intown

Manchester and I voluntarily tax myself so that that money can be spent to better the community as a whole and yes I am also on the Central Business Service District Board. To that end, I, along with other volunteer board members have spent countless hours in meetings assessing City owned assets delegated to us some times sans funding, but needing maintenance and/or supervision, physical labor in clearing away years of debris ignored by other City departments, attending seminars and retreats to further educate and broaden our perspectives vis a vie the public/private partnership such as ours. My involvement with Manchester began when I applied for and received a grant through Intown for façade restorations to my building on Market Street. As a result, I felt obligated to give something back to the community and inquired of Mr. Davis how I might do that. This resulted in my being invited to serve on the Intown Services Committee, a chance I gladly accepted and eventually this grew into an opportunity to serve on Intowns and the Central Business Service District's board. Now having worked closely with this formidable group of citizens who are dedicated to the betterment of Manchester, I can state unequivocally and without hesitation that all of them are committed to excellence in the oversight of Intown and its mission and since this ain't broke, please stop trying to fix it.

Mark Eisenburg, 461 Lowell Street, Manchester, NH stated:

The last time I tried to speak extemporaneously and got tongue-tied so I have written a few notes. I echo Mr. Gherlone's sentiments as to Rich Davis' integrity. I think it is unimpeachable. I appreciate that in dealing with him. I have been a commercial real estate broker for 17 years. The last 5 years have been in Manchester. Previous to that 12 years in Boston, MA. I represent, amongst other properties in the City of Manchester downtown, the building at 18-72 Hanover Street, which is known as the theatre district where I might add that we are in negotiations to lease our remaining retail space to three locally owned retail business and hopefully that will happen imminently. I will say that this is coming

about as a direct result of some of the services that Intown Manchester provides. The building owners, the Grossman Companies of Boston, MA, availed themselves of the exterior improvement program and what that helped us to realize were new awnings to the building and new historically accurate rod iron perpendicular signage to provide better identification of our retail tenants. One of the things that I continually try to do is sell the virtues of the City of Manchester and its infrastructure to retail businesses both large and small and the problem that I run into is that our demographics downtown aren't sufficient with a national retail establishment so we are dealing with small, locally owned entrepreneurial businesses, which are wonderful in the foundation of our community. Three instances of Rich's value and Intown's value of our community are and I will try to speak quickly because I know we don't have much time...a gentleman is looking to buy a building on Elm Street. I introduced him to Rich Davis. Rich worked tirelessly with this prospective purchaser to shepherd him through the resources that Intown provides. That also included hooking him up with a building engineer and an architect to develop a plan to rehabilitate the exterior of the building. Many meetings were held. Plans were drawn. We laid out everything from soup to nuts, from the finance and the construction and renovations and artist drawings. After many hours of work, the prospective purchaser decided that he wasn't going to go through with it for whatever reason. Rich thanked him for his time. We left. The gentleman did purchase the building and in subsequent conversations this guy has lamented that he did not avail himself of these services and he is now endeavoring to do so. The other thing is Linda Garriot, who had formerly worked for Rich had come to me with the idea of starting Hanover Happenings, which is a series of weekly street fairs taking place on eight Thursdays in the summer. She looked to me and my company and my other companies who were sympathetic to revitalizing the downtown to finance these events. She worked an enormous number of hours tirelessly and selflessly to bring about this event, which I think is a success. We have to draw the people downtown to create the interest in our

businesses and our services. I am out of time but I would like to continue Intown. I think they do an invaluable service.

Laura Monica, 889 Elm Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am appearing here tonight in my capacity as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. The Board of Directors of the Chamber have unanimously reached a decision to support the continuation of Intown Manchester. We believe the organization has done an exceptional job in helping to revitalize the City's Central Business District and the Millyard. We recognize that no one organization or individual can take credit for the positive development taking place in our community, but Intown is surely one of the key players. There is a popular saying that states it is surprising what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit. Intown has practiced this credo almost to a fault in that they have really not tooted their own horn effectively. The Chamber supported the establishment of the Central Business Service District in the mid 1980's. In the late 80's, it became apparent that there was a need to do more than what could be accomplished through the CBSD as it was constituted. We established a committee to begin addressing those issues and we eventually formed the Downtown Business Council. The Downtown Business Council began a series of promotional programs and fostered activities that would enhance revitalization efforts. The Chamber also undertook organizing a Vision 2000 program that began to outline some of the creative physical development possibilities that would make the community even more attractive. The Chamber entered a partnership with the City to sponsor downtown CPR - Citizens Planning Revitalization, in 1991 which involved 200 to 300 people who identified what they would like to see happen in the central city. Outside professionals were used as consultants, but the program was driven by the participants. Everything from a civic center to downtown social events were put on the board. The program led to the LDR study, which has been a guideline for many of the improvement

programs we are witnessing today. The CPR effort and the LDR study both urged the establishment of an organization similar to Intown. In 1993, the Manchester agenda session, which included the business community as well as members of the Board of Aldermen, met and further advanced the same concept. The organization of Intown took a considerable length of time and effort by primarily the private sector and a few public officials. It was the intent to create an organization that would be controlled by the private sector funded through a special, self-imposed self-assessment tax district. It was also the intent of the founders that Intown could be dissolved by the participants and that the accompanying tax would disappear. The Chamber set aside a modest amount of funds earmarked for an Intown type of organization over a period of years. This enabled us to provide in excess of \$20,000 of seed money for the organization. We also provided office space, furnishings and equipment for several months at no charge. All of this is history. Most importantly, though is the progress that has been made. Intown has played a quiet but important role for the For Manchester Group and its accomplishment. Intown has been vital to the success of the Farmer's Market, the Hartnett Parking Lot improvement and Elm Street Beautification to name but a few. We urge your continued support for the Intown Project.

Donna Arnold, Goffstown, NH stated:

I am President of the Steering Committee of the Downtown Farmer's Market and as you know this was started by For Manchester, but we have been with Intown for some time now. Intown has been our main backbone. They have been our support, our encouragement, our assistance with whatever we needed whether it be meters or contacting the police or traffic control or what have you. They have also served as our corporate office controlling our monies and keeping them safe, allowing us a meeting place for all of the Steering Committee members, allowing year round contact with all of our members and giving us contacts for possible new vendors. I think you will all agree and hopefully you all know about the

Market that is definitely a success for the downtown area. We not only attract within the City, but we pull in other people leaving work and they come into the City to shop not only at the market but in the downtown area. Specifically, I think the Downtown Farmer's Market owes Rich Davis much gratitude because he has given countless volunteer hours after his many long hours of serving at Intown and has provided us with whatever assistance we have needed. I really encourage you to continue with Intown.

Kathy Cook, 150 Heather Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I think Donna Arnold just said very well what I would like to say. From the very first meeting of For Manchester at which groups sat down and discussed projects that they would like to see happen in this City, a group got together and talked about the possibility of a Farmer's Market and that evening Rich Davis passed us his card and said please talk to me, this is something we are working on. From that moment, we have all worked together - the volunteers, Rich Davis and his staff. He has been treasurer of our Steering Committee form the very beginning. He has given us endless office hours to help us with public relations simply because we didn't know what we were doing. We needed guidance in every way and we got it every time we asked for it from Rich and his staff. The Farmer's Market is in its fourth year. I think I can safely tell you that we are having a great year. One of the vendors told me the other day he has had a 25% increase in sales this year. Thank you all for coming. We really appreciate your support. That is due in very large part to Rich and his staff. He gave the volunteers the credit. He did not take the credit when he could have and I think I am beginning to realize how that has hurt him. I always respected him for not taking it and I regret now that they may in fact have hurt his position. We have a number of people here this evening who are vendors from the Farmer's Market. The market is now completely under the umbrella of Intown Manchester. It has graduated although it will always be close to For Manchester. These folks are here...these are

independent people who count on this market for their income. They have gotten to know Rich Davis. They know they can trust him to keep it a healthy market and count on him to be sure that their incomes will continue to be successful. Some of them were telling me this evening as they drove over Bridge Street Bridge into Manchester the changes they can see in three years. As I look back...remember when we all celebrated our 150th Birthday four years ago and the topic of conversation when you saw friends was everything that was wrong with Manchester? We all remember that. It is a different attitude now. We talk about problems because no place will ever be perfect, but we know this City has possibilities. We see it in our downtown and we see it in our Millyard and it is improving all the time. As a parent, I used to bring my older boys downtown for their music lessons and you could always find parking. You know one of the great problems - there is no parking anymore. This is terrific and this is largely due to Rich Davis and the efforts of Intown. Having gotten to know Rich through our endless meetings with For Manchester, I have seen how hard he works. I have seen the nights, the weekends, the endless hours he puts in and I think his work has really paid off. I would urge you to please consider supporting Intown Manchester.

Mike Pelletier, 65 Green Acres Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

I am asking the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to defund the taxpayer organization known as Intown Manchester and to withdraw support from them. I will give you a reason why and that is House Bill 727, Chapter 146:2. About 18 months go I helped out some citizens, not from Manchester but from the State of New Hampshire on an environmental bill. Last year about this time we started having committee hearings up in Concord before the Legislature. I was surprised to find out that Intown Manchester representatives were attending those conferences. Not only attending, but they were making presentations and overviews regarding that bill. I supplied the secretary with a copy of the minutes

from those meetings. Regardless of what the bill was, it was a longshot bill on an environmental issue let's put it that way, what is Intown Manchester doing going up to Concord testifying on a bill? It led to several questions I had. How much time, money and resources is Intown Manchester spending by traveling, waiting and going to conferences and testifying and making presentations on bills. Not only this bill, but what other bills has Intown Manchester gone to Concord on or other legislative bodies and made presentations? What other bills did they speak, attend or make comments on? Is this presentation they make the opinion of the companies they represent? Has anyone ever surveyed the companies who have to pay taxes to Intown Manchester to get their feelings on not only this bill but other bills? Also, I would like to know if Intown Manchester has been contacted or worked with any other companies or industry representatives, not only related to this bill which might have been lighting companies or power companies, but within the other bills they may have testified on in Concord. Intown Manchester is a taxpayer funded organization. I don't understand why they are going up to Concord testifying and making presentations, not on this bill but on any bill. That is why I am asking tonight that Intown Manchester be defunded and support severed from the City of Manchester.

Rick Groleau, 714 So. Beech Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I do a major volunteer project called Adopt-A-Block and about three or four years ago, I don't remember which year, but this guy, this older gentleman was out taking pictures of some of the things that were going on and I thought I was pretty well connected to the City and I know all of this stuff because I work with kids and parents and all that so I walked over to this guy and I said hi, I am Rick Groleau are you with the newspaper. He said no, no. I said well who are you. He said my name is Rich Davis. I said well nice meeting you my name is Rick, I run this program, what are you taking pictures for? He said well I am the new director of Intown Manchester. I said well I never heard of it. I am thinking to myself that

I know all of this stuff about the City and I said well when did you start and he said well I started yesterday. It was very interesting that I met this gentleman on pretty much the week that he started. Anyway, this is the kind of commitment that three or four years ago, whatever it was...this is a gentleman who has been to every Adopt-A-Block since he started and I don't see many of you at Adopt-A-Block, which is fine because we are cleaning up most of the wards in the City or trying to but is this the kind of commitment that we don't want to have in our City? I am looking at the list of things that I have been involved with in some way or another at which they have been - Hanover Happenings, Adopt-A-Block, Farmer's Market and of course I know the remodeling of the facades work that they are doing, being a part of For Manchester, he has involved some of my high school kids as volunteers with different surveys that have been taking place around the City, downtown revitalization, the planter adoptions, Hartnett parking lot and so forth. You know perhaps we should find a way to expand their efforts instead of limiting what they do. I think we could do a lot better. Rich Davis and his staff have become members of this City. I am very proud to work with them and Rich Davis has become a friend of mine over that period of time and I thank you for your efforts, Rich.

Ron Boufford, 167 So. River Road, Bedford, NH stated:

I am a real estate broker in Bedford, NH and I have been working downtown and in the Millyard for about 25 years. I have seen the downtown, not very many years ago with lots of empty store fronts and a lot of vacant second and third floor space and a Millyard with over 2 million square feet of vacant space. I can relate stories from the past where I have brought prospective tenants to the downtown and the streets were littered with trash and there were vagrants sleeping in doorways and today we are finding almost all of the storefronts in downtown are occupied. We are starting to move a lot of tenants into the second and third floors of the buildings. Much of the Millyard has been revitalized and reoccupied and

the streets are clean and the trash is picked up. Do I give Intown Manchester credit for all of this? No, I don't. I give them credit for what they have done. They have done a good job as the impetus to get these things done and they have provided a leadership that we didn't have in these particular areas before. Intown has motivated a lot of folks to get involved with downtown and cleaning up downtown and I think they should be given credit for that. I noticed in the questions that you are considering tonight are the boundaries of the Intown area. I am sure there are going to be a few people who say that they think the boundaries should be contracted and pressed down. I am here to say that I think the boundaries for Intown Manchester ought to be expanded. I think they ought to be expanded all the way down Elm Street to include Queen City Avenue. We are going to find that with the civic center coming on about 1/3 of the people going to the civic center are going to travel down Queen City Avenue and down South Elm Street and I think to give that area the attention it deserves with beautification, trees, plants, flowers and a clean-up would help a lot to create a good impression to people coming into our community. The other thing I think we ought to do tonight is I think we ought to give Intown Manchester a pat on the back and a thank you for the good work they have done. Thank you very much.

Hal Jordan, 30 Mechanic Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I have been Director of the YMCA for the past 12 years and I want to thank you, Chairman O'Neil, Mayor Baines and the Aldermen for the opportunity to be heard. We have been working together with Intown for the last five years on three projects that have been very important to us and I think to the community. The first one was the initiation of the Intown Skating Rink, which during its hey day was serving over 9,000 children and families a year. While those things are very difficult to sustain in the long-term, I think it represented a lot of hard work and a partnership between the City, private businesses and the YMCA. Secondly, as many of you know the renovation of Hampshire Lane and Stark Street has come

up right beside the YMCA and Intown took a pivotal role in planning additional resources for us to blend that in to the front entrance of our childcare center at the Y so that we have a similar look and it is something that we just simply could not have done by ourselves. Finally, while it doesn't seem like a very snazzy issue to talk about, it is one of trash. Many of you who walk over to Hampshire Plaza from City Hall will notice bags of trash all down Hampshire Lane. It takes a lot of time and effort for someone to coordinate a neighborhood to come up with a solution for trash. Rich and his staff have done that. We have had countless meetings over the last six months. We have come up with a solution that has been unanimously approved by all the neighbors. We are very excited about it. It is going to beautify the street and provide a solution to all of us that we have been looking for. We just simply could not have done it by ourselves. I am certainly an advocate of Intown. I hope that you consider helping them continue in the future to do this kind of good work.

Jackie Domaingue, 102 Donahue Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and thank you for allowing us to speak to you this evening on this issue. For the record, because I know that Alderman Levasseur has been checking it, during the two years that I served on this Board in 1996 and 1997, I voted against each year the Central Business District Service Tax. I also voted against Mr. Davis and the approach that was used to bring him on board because the process was shortened considerably by a couple of months. So, I have a keen knowledge of what has been going on since he arrived in town and I am also here to state for the record that from my perspective Intown Manchester has done more for the City of Manchester than all of you put together. We have seen Aldermen commenting that all they can see produced from Intown Manchester are facades on buildings and that is not what I am hearing from these people. They see the flags that go up and down Elm Street, they see the new signage, they see the banners that are colorful, they see the flowers, they saw the

skating rink, they saw the Farmer's Market, they see the promotion of arts, something that was really missing in this City. They see a spirit and they translate that into community and it is a damn good marketing effort. It is a neighborhood effort, but more importantly it involves a business community working with the City - a partnership that has produced for you a great deal of success. You have asked the taxpayers to fund the Economic Development Office and a Coordinator. You have asked them to fund the Planning Department and all of their staff. They are funding the Intown Manchester Office and the staff there and about a month ago you came up with the Destination Manchester Coordinator's position. It seems like a duplication of efforts. I don't think the taxpayers need that right now. The Mayor was quoted in today's paper as saying that the Aldermen probably don't have a good understanding of all of the intricacies of this program. I would quarrel with you on that one. I would venture that maybe you don't understand the intricacies but each and every Aldermen who has sat on this Board has the Intown Manchester budget brought before them on an annual basis. They understand exactly what is in the budget. They understand exactly the tax rate that is set for the businesses and if they don't it is a damning indictment of a City Board's inability to work with the business community. These people have gone more than the distance to work with you. Go the distance and work with them. Thank you.

Chris Emerson, 201 Ray Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I serve as the Senior Pastor at First Congregational Church in downtown Manchester but I am here as a citizen. I have to say that in the summer months I officiated quite a few weddings and I often remind the bride and the groom that after the honeymoon is over they need to work together and not drift apart because that is when it gets harder. I also officiate at baptisms and sometimes even the celebration of adoptions and I feel called upon professionally to remind those folks that there will come a time when they may even look at that child and say what did

we do. They need to work to keep the commitment strong because that partnership can, on occasion, lose its joy and its sense of value. The value is found in the long haul and the long work and the long commitment. I have spent some time with the For Manchester group, the Hanover Street Coalition and I have had connections with Intown Manchester and have the highest regard for their value as former Mayor Wieczorek said, as a public/private partnership. After a few years it doesn't surprise me one bit that some people are beginning to say what did we get ourselves into? Is this a partnership that ought to continue? This is when it counts. The honeymoon may be over but the work, the really valuable work, begins. One of the activities of our group called Manchester Urban Ministry, which I chair, is we run a block party downtown where we bring together a variety of people. We bring together the homeless folks, various people from a variety of churches downtown, youth, people from the Farnum Center, elderly folks from the Gallen apartments and they all say it is so good to feel the community of Manchester celebrated and Intown Manchester is an organization committed to making community a fiscal, physical and emotional reality for the people of this City. A month ago, after living for seven years in church owned housing, I bought a house in Manchester because I believe that this is the right community to invest in. Rich Davis and Intown Manchester are no small part of my full expectation that this City means business when it comes to being a community working together as a partnership. Thank you very much.

Bob Hybsch, Manchester, NH stated:

I am General Manager of PSNH. I am also an Intown Board member and I was also born and grew up in the City of Manchester. I, like many of you, have fond memories of downtown as a youth and all of the wonderful things it offered. As we all know, that went away for some period of time. I am also happy to report that those fond memories for me have personally returned because downtown, I think, is better than it was when I grew up in the City. PSNH has actively

supported Intown Manchester since its inception in 1996. In addition to the Central Business District taxes that we willingly pay, PSNH has donated Intown's office spaces since they began at 1000 Elm Street and we also encourage our employees to get involved and we sponsor some of the events that Intown offers. As a Board member of Intown, I have been very impressed by the professional staff, particularly Rich Davis. I currently serve on about five boards and Rich Davis is one of the most professional executive directors I have ever worked with. Intown has been extremely effective in fulfilling its mission in acting as a catalyst and partner for downtown development in cooperation with the City of Manchester. We are quick to point out that Intown didn't do it alone. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen, over the years, have been extremely supportive and many other organizations in Manchester have as well. We feel that Intown has been an important part of that catalyst that has brought Manchester back to what it is and we believe what it can be going forward. I am not going to repeat all of the special projects that Intown has been involved with over the years. You recently may have heard that PSNH has decided to relocate our corporate offices as our lease is expiring at 1000 Elm Street. We had many options before us. We are very excited that we have a project within the Central Business District in the Millyard and we hope that it stays within the Central Business District. Our plans are to refurbish the Manchester steam generating station that has been vacant for several years and turn it into a state-of-the-art corporate facility that hopefully will be an anchor tenant in the Millyard. In summary, Intown Manchester has made significant contributions to the overall efforts to redevelop downtown Manchester over the past four years. I am convinced that with the continued support of property owners within the district and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, Intown Manchester will persist in strengthening our downtown to something that we are proud of today and will continue to be proud of in the future. Thank you for your time.

Ann Zachos, 2093 Elm Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I think what I have to offer tonight is a little different from all that I heard, which has been very powerful but I had an experience which I think all elected officials have because they listen to their constituents. I have been working for the last three years on a project called Art Builds Community and this particular summer we have been listening to the voices in focus groups asking them to talk about their values and their aspirations for this City. We had 17 focus groups in the last seven or eight weeks. That is a lot of people that we have talked to. We talked to seniors. We talked to music students and their parents. We talked to artists. We talked to businessmen. We talked to different neighborhoods on the west side and in the Goffs Falls area. We talked to people at the University of New Hampshire at Manchester in the Millyard. It has been a fascinating experience and an eye opener. Everyone says they value the downtown. New folks who have never been here before value the downtown. Seniors, people who have been here a long time remember it as it was and have some nostalgia but they look at it and they want it to be an important part of their lives. They talk about the things that they have seen change and most of these things have been mentioned already. They see it as a safe place. They see it as a place where they want to spend time. They mentioned a lot of different things that have happened on the watch of Intown Manchester. I think that we have tremendous opportunities here and I encourage you very much to continue supporting Intown because it has really made a difference for all kinds of folks. Thank you.

Pat Mattson, 144 W. Webster Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am really glad that I decided to speak tonight because the particular program has not been mentioned and I think it really deserves to be heard about. I wanted to talk about Intown Manchester's American Elm Restoration Program. This started around 1998 and around that time Tim Reiniger who was the Alderman from Ward 3 at that time contacted me and asked me if I would be interested in learning

about the program. I guess primarily because I am a biologist and I teach environmental studies at the college level and he thought that I perhaps could be instrumental in making the public aware of the program and generating general public interest in it. If you have looked at pictures of downtown Manchester that were taken maybe at the beginning of the 1900's, you will see that the streets were lined on both sides, Elm Street rather was lined on both sides with tall American Elm Trees. They had a vase like configuration so that the inner parts of the elms would meet over Elm Street and form almost what we call a gothic arch configuration. They are not there anymore. In part, I guess because of age but to a large degree because of the Dutch Elm disease, which struck this country and Canada around the 1930's. It wiped out virtually all of the elms and we only have a few of them left but I was interested when Tim told me about the American Elm restoration program that Rich was putting together so I went in and talked to him about it. I was extremely impressed by the quality and quantity of the research that he had done on this particular program and I decided that I definitely wanted to be involved with it. Ultimately, we had three different kinds of elms or elm relatives that had been planted in downtown Manchester. Two of the species are elm relatives. They are oriental trees. Japanese Sulkofa and Chinese Lace Bark Elm and then we have nine trees of a third species which is a true *Elmus Americana*, American Elm, commonly called the Princeton Elm. At any rate, they are all doing extremely well. There is another type of elm coming along developed by the USDA and that should be available shortly. Anyway, my way of generating interest in this program was via my website. Stephanie Laurie was very helpful. She helped me a lot giving me a map of the elms and I took pictures of the elms for three years and they are available on my website. I definitely want Intown and the Elm Restoration Program to continue and expand and I can even envision having an arboretum along the Riverwalk that perhaps would include American Elms.

Charlie Reid, 97 McGillis Road, Nottingham, NH stated:

I am one of the farmers in the Farmer's Market and a few years ago I got a call from Kathy Cook and she said that Manchester was thinking about starting a Farmer's Market and would like my help with it. I have been in the Portsmouth market for about 10 years and I said sure that sounds like it would be fun. So, what I did was I gave up two other Farmer's Markets to take a chance and come here to Manchester. There have been a few bumps in the road, but it has really turned out to be a very good thing and I can see that it is a positive thing for the City of Manchester. I am not familiar with the city. I don't know what it used to look like, but I find myself growing food for some of the members of the community who are ethnic community people. There is a WIC coupon program that goes on in this City, in which the Federal government gives these people coupons and they can only be redeemed at Farmer's Markets. The last thing I heard there were over 20,000 recipients in this City alone who are getting those coupons and now this year the elderly are also getting them. I have talked to Rich a number of times and I have nothing but respect for this group because when I found out they were volunteers, I couldn't believe it because nothing ever great was accomplished without great enthusiasm and these people have great enthusiasm. I couldn't believe...I was shocked to hear that there was something afoot that wanted to break up this wonderful thing that the City has. A couple of weeks ago I talked with Rich and the vision that I have for the market is for it to get bigger. It would be great if there could be a meeting like this to find out a bigger place to put the Farmer's Market in Manchester like down along the river where the tourists on the highway could see these tents and we could pull them in to buy things from your City. There are so many things that this offers it isn't even funny. Channel 9 came down last year and made a nice program on TV. It has just been a very good, positive thing. Farmers, we do things way ahead of time. This year has been tough. We don't have our finger on the pulse of the politics of the City of Manchester. We have been home busy farming in mud and we are

really concerned about things because if this dissolves and this market is gone, it is going to take me over a year to get back into the other two markets that I was in so we farmers plan way ahead of time and with Rich envisioning things getting bigger here, that is what I would like to see from the City of Manchester and I think that is what the people would like to see because the people come down there in droves and they are cleaning a lot of us out. These people are relying on us for their groceries, their fresh picked vegetables. They are relying on this food every single week for their groceries and I am very proud to be in this market and to be supplying these people with this food. Thank you very much.

Kevin Collimore, New Boston, NH stated:

I suppose I should have prepared some notes. I am not a great impromptu speaker, but I did feel that it was important to come down and speak to you tonight. I reside in New Boston, but I am here in my capacity as an employee who works in Manchester and I guess the word is transitioning out of being the convener of the Hanover Street Coalition and the Cultural Arts Quadrangle. I don't know if the Cultural Arts Quadrangle sounds familiar. I see some puzzled looks, but one of our main projects was changing over the Hartnett parking lot to being a more user friendly venue for people to appear. That was something that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen funded for us, but one of the components of that project was to do the landscaping and that was taken out of the budget that was, I think, presented to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen if I am not mistaken. Rich Davis and Intown Manchester have agreed to take over the management of putting in the landscaping on that as yet unfinished Hartnett parking lot. I guess I feel a little like I am piling on because I am very pleased to hear so many people saying such nice things about somebody that I think a whole lot of and an organization I really enjoy and have found very helpful. I guess I am supposed to understand that there are people who are not satisfied with what Intown is doing and I can accept that. I can believe that not everybody would be happy with any kind of a service organization

if they don't get a dollar for dollar exchange for what they put into it and I can appreciate how that would feel. I can tell you also as the convener for the Hanover Street Coalition, which as I think somewhere around 30 businesses on Hanover Street represented at those meetings and by the way Rich and Linda were at virtually every one of those for the past two years that I have been working there, as well as the businesses involved with the Cultural Arts Quadrangle, which is another 15 or so, I have never heard anybody say anything about Intown Manchester not providing them with a service and to the contrary I hear numerous little stories about the things that Rich and Intown do and some big ones as well. Hanover Happenings has already been mentioned to you folks. It has been a very successful affair taking place on Hanover Street. I know there are a couple of people who are on the Hanover Street Coalition that are here to speak as well tonight but before the red light goes on I wanted to say that I guess the first question I had was if you think Intown is providing a service that is worthwhile and maybe that is an assumption on my part, I can tell you that the business community that I am involved with does think that they provide a worthwhile service, then the next question I would suggest to you should be if Intown isn't going to do it, who is going to do it? There are people out there who rely on Rich and Intown every day for all of the projects that we do with Hanover Street Coalition and Cultural Arts Quadrangle. I can't personally imagine what I am supposed to do if Rich is not going to be there. I just don't know who I am going to go to. I see my time is up and I want to thank you and invite you honestly to give me a call. If you want to talk about this, I am at Devine, Millimet & Branch. I am the only Kevin there and I would be happy to talk to you about all of the little things that Rich and Intown do as well as the big things. Thank you.

Maurice L'Heureux, Jr., 1315 Wellington Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I am a property owner on Hanover Street. If it wasn't for Rich, more than likely I wouldn't be a property owner on Hanover Street. He was very instrumental in

helping me put everything together to purchase the building. It seems kind of funny that we have something that works here and we are trying to destroy it. One of the things...everyone mentioned everything that has been happened that Intown has done that is beneficial but one of the other things you need to consider is short-term versus long-term planning. Everyone up here is going for the next election. That is your focus. Short-term. Intown Manchester has been around and its focus is a little bit longer term and it is benefiting all of the property owners who are paying into this. It shouldn't be up to every two years having a new Board decide what is going to be the focus on something that is really a combination of the business and private and public sector. Thank you very much.

Robert Duperron, 71 Brennan Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I would like to thank the City for giving me the chance to speak in regard to the Central Service Business tax. I am here as a taxpayer with no special interest or personal benefit. Since the latest expansion of the service district, the new area now includes a rooming house that I own and a rooming house that my wife owns. This new cost to us is \$545 for a service that we feel has not benefited us. We dislike how this tax is placed on us without even giving us the opportunity to speak against this tax. To tax properties like mine and my wife's that are east of Pine Street is not fair to property owners who are not really part of the downtown. My tenants and myself do not get anymore benefits from this tax than anyone else in this City so I feel that either the district should be reduced or the whole City should pay the burden of this tax. Thank you very much.

Paul Shea, 300 N. River Road, Manchester, NH stated:

So much has been said today, tonight, and so much has been written. You know I have been a pretty high profile executive in this City for over 20 years and I have been a community activist for over 20 years and I have to tell you that my name has not appeared in the newspaper as much in the last 20+ years than it has in the

last two months. I have to assure you that when I volunteered to serve on the board of Intown Manchester, that wasn't part of the bargain. I really don't enjoy it. I don't enjoy the sniping. I don't enjoy the character assassination that is going on and the harsh rhetoric. It is unnecessary. I am one of the people responsible for bringing Rich Davis here. I think he is a fine man. I think he has done a remarkable job and I know that Rich has had offers. We just lost one member of our staff. She went into the private sector at more money and I wish her well. She earned it and she deserves it. They are being courted - every one of them and I know they have been offered other positions. They are a very dedicated group of people and I am really beholden to them. I think some of the people up here are as well. I have a moral obligation to a man that I know is a good man. I see his integrity being questioned. In the last two months I have had more people approach me who I didn't even know who saw my piece that I wrote in the *Union Leader*. They have said to me why do you do it? Why do you want to do this? What the heck is the matter with you? At this point, I will tell you that I will finish doing what we promised we would do but I have a lot of reservations as do all of those people who have talked about whether they would do it again. I think it is very important for this Board of Mayor and Aldermen to understand. I think you ought to understand something else too. When your City attorney announces on television that a binding legal contract does not have to be honored by this Board simply because you don't fund something, that has a chilling effect on the entire business community, not just in Manchester but people who were thinking of doing business or anything else in this City.

Hector Velez, 269 Central Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I have been a resident of Manchester for five years. I am going to be the first one to say that I love Rich Davis. I will be the first one to say it up here. The reason is about four months ago when a good friend of mine, Wanda Rivero and I were thinking of doing Manchester's first Latino Festival. We had a lot of ideas and

beautiful plans. Some of the things weren't written down. Alderman Lopez gave us his blessing. We also talked to Alderman O'Neil and Alderman Sysyn. We went to community agencies that we thought were real friendly to the Hispanic community and said we need a fiscal agent because we don't know what we are doing. We just have this idea. A lot of agencies had reservations and said for one reason or another we can't back you as a fiscal agent. I walked into Intown Manchester and talked to Linda Garriot. They say and talking about Linda Garriot and Stephanie Lawry who is up here, behind every good man there is a good woman and you know what, we haven't talked about these two lovely ladies up here. I walked into that office and I did not walk in there for anything but a fiscal agent. Here is a white man from Intown Manchester who is real friendly with the Board and I was like I am not even going to ask him. Linda was like Hector what is going on, why can't you ask him and I told her. You know what, without saying anything and without looking at a number, just believing in what we had, what I and Wanda had, she was like we are going to be your fiscal agent. Tell your board that. We are just going to be your fiscal agent. The beauty of this is myself, along with a lot of people who are part of the community, we didn't believe. I love Manchester. I want you to know that I love Manchester. Manchester is a great place and he, along with Intown Manchester and the members of the Board made this a great place. Why ruin this? Let's keep this magic going. Please fund these people and work with them. You have to come to some median. They believe in us. We had the festival. 5,000 to 6,000 people were there. The greatest thing about it was that our accomplishment was made when a man like Angel Moranda who is over here who did not have anything to do with the City or anything like that, was coming to meetings. There are people who want to be a part...the Latino community I can say is actually feeling like a part of this community and for that, Rich, I thank you.

Richard Girard, 517 Hevey Street, Manchester, NH stated:

There comes a point in any organizations life where a meaningful and purposeful reexamination of its mission, its successes, its failure and its future come into question and that is a natural process of growth. It may be time to examine Intown Manchester in that light. It is a perfectly normal process. The problems that we have today, however, are problems that I see as a larger pattern. In the last eight or eight and a half months we have seen Millyard property owners and managers be chastised by members of this Board. We have seen this Board hike parking fees by an outrageous amount. We have seen attitudes expressed about volunteers and Intown Manchester to the effect of if they don't like it they don't have to volunteer. We have a continual pattern of hostility toward the business community, particularly in the downtown. This assault, and I consider it an assault, on Intown Manchester is just the latest episode. Never mind the Board's inability or its refusal to honor promises to Millyard property owners regarding parking among other issues. What am I talking about Alderman Hirschmann? I am talking about the action by the CIP Committee in 1999 to go ahead with parking at Seal Tanning. We need to be careful when a gentleman like Paul Shea, who has been a prominent member of the business community, comes to you and says I don't know if I would do it again and I don't know if the people I have done it with would do it again and I don't know if the business community cares to interact with the City anymore. Public/private partnerships like Intown Manchester have been vital to this City's rebirth and it is truly not only disheartening but it is frightening when you take a look at the items that have taken place in this City via the downtown and the like and that is only some of the examples I could offer tonight. We are sending the wrong message to the business community. We are sending the wrong message to the City and people will just not volunteer anymore. They will go to the outskirts and they will leave us with empty buildings once again. Please reexamine what you need to reexamine and address what you want to address. Do it cordially. Do it professionally and do it

with respect for the people who have over these last few years as many of you have, do it with respect for the effort they have put forward. This is way out of line.

Billy Dodd, 181 Mammoth Road, Manchester, NH stated:

This is kind of a novel approach. A public hearing after you have already voted to dismantle an organization. There was an article in the paper today, \$580,000+ was given out in loans through August. Mr. Davis had an article last year in the paper where he compared the store at the mall with the civic center and taking a risk. I disagreed with that completely. Sitting here and listening tonight, it sounds like there is a personality conflict between some Aldermen and the Intown program and Mr. Davis in particular. It has no business in the running of Manchester. Mr. Hirschmann seems to be getting most of the ink for the criticism of Mr. Davis. Four hundred and eighty-one businesses the paper said generate the revenue to run this program. I think those are the people you should be listening to the most on the valuable service that Intown does. Mayor Wiczorek and I haven't seen eye to eye, but put a ditto under the comments he made because I will take that. Jackie Domaingue, same thing. You had a farmer that said he has taken a chance in coming in. They are seeing a program that is working. Enthusiasm. I heard about the group here that is all volunteers and the enthusiasm that they have. Do you people have the time and the energy to get into the programs that these people administer? You people have a job to do. Let them do their job. If the 481 businesses, if a majority of them are speaking highly of this program, don't let a personality conflict get in the way. It seems like Manchester is coming along and they have to be a big part of it. Let them do the volunteer work that they are doing.

Althea Haropulos, 1070 Belmont Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the convener of For Manchester. For those of you who don't know For Manchester, we are an all volunteer group that is getting things done around the City. Right now we are very all volunteer. We have no staff. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without groups like Intown, the Kiwanis, the Rotary, the Aldermen. It takes all of us. Like Mayor Wieczorek said, it takes partnerships to get all of this work done. For Manchester has hundreds of volunteers who work on things like the Farmer's Market, building the Overlook and things that are too hard to get the City government to do. You guys don't have the time and you don't have the money. You are not going to run a Latin American Festival. You are just not and that is okay. We should let the people who are going to do these kinds of things do them. Being a convener of For Manchester hasn't been easy. It has taken all of my time and I am a very small business owner. It is me, myself and I. If I don't work, I don't get paid but I am willing to do this work because I want to live in a City that is exciting, fun, informative, and inclusive. That is why I do it. Intown Manchester has staff. For Manchester rely on them for that reason and Rich Davis has been extremely supportive because he knows the value of having volunteers. If Intown needs volunteers, For Manchester tries to get some for them. For those of you who don't know anything about For Manchester, please see me and I will tell you all about it. On a personal note, I do want to say as a small business owner that when I went to build my business in the Millyard, the City tried to stop me. Rich Davis was right there and said if you need any help, please call me. Thank you, Rich. I think that we need to do everything that we can to make the City better and I know you guys want to. I know you do. Let's not say negative things. Let's just keep working on the positive things. Let's fix things when we need to bit by bit. We don't need to throw the baby out with the bath water. Let's move forward and all work together.

Richard Borrazas, 459 Central Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am a business owner on Elm Street. In the past seven years, I have seen Elm Street come back; at least part of it. Every time it starts to slip, I see Rich Davis out there hustling trying to make a difference. I don't know if the Aldermen are for Manchester or against Manchester. They were against the civic center. They are now against the downtown association. I don't know what you guys are trying to do, but I have a lot of my customers telling me how much nicer Manchester is now thanks to Rich Davis' efforts and everything that Intown has done for Manchester. I have seen car rallies held downtown that have approached between 10,000 and 15,000 attending them. Without Rich, that would not be possible. I have seen different festivals going on right across the way in Veteran's Park. Without Rich, that wouldn't have happened. This all makes Manchester what it is. It gives it life. It gives it a personality. Why are we trying to kill it? It is not funded by you. Why are you doing away with it? All I see is benefit, not any detriment. Don't shoot ourselves in the foot. Let's keep it going. Thank you.

David Francoeur, Merrimack, NH stated:

I am an investor and we recently purchased a property in downtown Manchester and it appears as though the problem here based on everything I am reading and hearing from everyone is that it is just not good enough. So, what I would encourage everyone here to do is to reevaluate what it is they are doing to contribute to the success of this program. I will say that as an investor, I have many choices. I can either purchase these buildings and I can milk them or I can make them better and improve upon the value of my property. Now there are many investors who would just take the first position and just milk it and I can tell you from the looks of things it looks like a lot have and they have done very well doing just that. We need encouragement here and I will say that Rich Davis when I did meet him he helped me to facilitate things. I am encouraged. I am thoroughly encouraged because when I need to find somebody to present an issue

to, he has directed me. You know, what is the value here. If it is a matter of metrics, let's put those metrics in place. I can see value here. If you folks have done any nation wide research on this, you will see that there are some communities that have benefited from having such an organization. I would say that while I am an investor, I don't live in Manchester and it is a good thing. If you want more investors to be attracted to this City, we need encouragement. It is not just because of the programs. We need to be able to go to a single focal point to get some answers. Today, I spent my entire day going to various departments within Manchester. I can tell you that I got nowhere. It is partly because of the stifling of what has just happened with Intown. I am not saying they are the bee all. I am not saying that at all. What I am saying is that if there are issues that you have the metrics in place but I believe that Intown is a viable organization that other communities throughout this country have benefited from who are just like them. I would encourage you, as an investor, to continue with Intown. Thank you for your time.

Janet Stiles, 226 Sagamore Street, Manchester, NH stated:

Walter and I spent a lot of time at the Farmer's Market the last three, four or five Thursdays and one time we were there this older couple came down the street and they had wonderful smiles on their faces and because I wasn't doing much besides watching Walter and helping him with the tickets he was selling, they decided to talk with me. They said this is wonderful. They said they flew into Manchester from Portland, Oregon where they had been visiting their son and they have four or five blocks of a farmer's market there every week and they said it was wonderful to see it starting here. They said it was marvelous. They were heading to Portland, Maine where they live and they had some time between their planes so they decided to come into Manchester to see what was going on. They had never been here before. They were overwhelmed with the Farmer's Market and what was going on at Victory Park. Really, we need to be thinking about what are

we doing here. Walter and I recently met with the doctor to have our annual physical and in the waiting room there were some people talking and they were saying those Aldermen are not getting our votes. Intown needs to stay. So, you need to reconsider it. I am going to give up the rest of my time to my husband.

Walter Stiles, 226 Sagamore Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I have lived at 226 Sagamore Street all of my live. On October 11 of this year, I will have lived at 226 Sagamore Street for 78 years so I kind of like the place. I like the City. I have had a lot of fun here. I have been involved in a lot of volunteer work. I don't know, there are so many things to do here that I have been busy. I have been retired for 17 years and I am still working and I intend to work until the day I drop and that is all there is to it. One thing I want to say right now is I am for Rich Davis and Intown Manchester. He and his people have done a fantastic job. Right Rich? You certainly have. Now I am also for historic Manchester. Now Manchester is one of the main areas of the industrial revolution. Manchester has so much history to it. I have several history books. I have Thorpe's History of Manchester and a whole bunch of history books of Manchester. In fact, right now we are composing a pictorial book for the restoration and renovation of City Hall in Manchester so that is going to be on sale a little bit later on. I don't know what it is going to cost yet, but we are working on it right now. I just want to say to you folks that I am not against Manchester, I am for Manchester. I am for everything that benefits Manchester and we have a lot of things that are going on. We are going to be restoring the Weston Fire Station before too long and making a Fireman's Museum out of it. We are not going to tear down the Central High School building. That is a magnificent building and it is going to be restored. We still have to take care of the old high school up on the corner of Lowell and Chestnut Streets and that is going to be a museum. There are so many things happening here in Manchester that I really get excited. A man mentioned that he was with PSNH and when I got out of Central High School in

1940 I became an office boy at the public service company at 1087 Elm Street. I went to work at \$12 a week. I will wrap it up and say that I am for everything that is for the good of Manchester and believe you me we are in a great City and enjoy it. Hey, it is a great place to live. Thank you.

Thomas Videyko, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the Vice President of CP Management and CP Management manages a couple of serious pieces of real estate in downtown Manchester. I am going to speak to you on an unemotional level tonight. Intown Manchester is good for the people who pay taxes in the Central Business District because they provide something of value. Rich Davis makes the investors that own our buildings feel like the money they put into those taxes comes back to them ten fold because we have a voice and we have an interest in someone that pays attention in downtown that is involved in issues downtown both on a large scale and on a small scale. Consequently, my investors vote for the keeping of Intown Manchester and we do it with our money. Thank you very much.

Jon Gross, 429 Medford Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am one of the owners of Grolen Communications of 14 Elm Street. I have been coming to public hearings for about 15 or 16 years now. A lot of times I like to talk near the end because by the time it gets there I have been educated on both sides of the issue. Tonight if the public hearing is going to have the effect it should have, I think you will find that an overwhelming number of people have come out to support Intown. In the papers we heard that anybody who had a façade would be coming out tonight. I also expected some people who were truly against Intown to come out tonight. We heard from two people. We heard overwhelming support for Intown. I can only tell you the story from Grolen's perspective. We started in the basement on Elm Street. There were two of us. We expanded to the fourth floor but we never took the street level because it is very

expensive to have street level property on Elm Street. In the early days, it was kind of embarrassing to come downtown. It didn't look the way it looks today. I drive through everyday and I can't help but think all of the people on my block have improved so much from the facades that have gone up. It has made a real difference. It is a tangible difference. Here is an organization that has made a tangible difference to the City. You can't just throw that away. It makes no sense. Now when the newsstand went out earlier this year, my friend from Victorian Jewelers who used to be inside the building, came to me and said what are you going to do. I said to be honest with you we don't have a loading dock. We have grown. I don't know if we can stay downtown. I love downtown. I love being part of the whole downtown growth and what is going on down there and he said you ought to go and talk to Rich Davis. They have a great program and they can help you out. They can make it worth your while to be up there. Look at what the outside looks like. You can have a showroom on the outside of Elm Street and the way Elm Street looks today it is going to make a difference for your business. You know when you go for some of these things you think oh, the red tape, the intimidation, it is going to take forever to get any of this stuff accomplished. I have to tell you that wasn't my experience at all. I haven't known Rich Davis for many, many years but I can tell you that my experiences with him have been extremely positive. He has done a great job. He got us a designer to look at some of the stuff. I will just tell you that right now we have 30 employees and those employees spend about \$1,000 a week eating fine food real close by. Steak subs and spinach pizzas. I will have to tell you that the food is great. It has to be about \$1,000 a week so I am hoping the profits from my people help offset some of the hardship. I know people who pay taxes don't like to pay if they don't get everything back. You know my partner has no children and he wonders why he has to pay for the schools. Everybody has to pay when you live in a community and this community has done a good job. Intown is great. I came here tonight because I am trying to figure out who the opposition is. I don't understand. What

is the alternative? Do you guys have a larger organization or a more committed organization? The civic center is coming. We have to do more not less and if your solution is better than Intown, I am willing to listen. If it is not better, then I think what your doing is a big mistake. It is a political mistake. It is an economic mistake and it is not good. So, please support Intown. Thank you.

Leona Dykstra, 21 Tennyson Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

I didn't plan to speak today but I was listening to everyone. I am a lifelong resident of Manchester. As a matter of fact, I owned a business in Manchester in the 1970's just about where the Black Brimmer is right now. As a child, I enjoyed going downtown on Thursday nights. You couldn't even walk on the sidewalks. You were out in the street. I have a lot of pride in this City. I remember when I was an Alderman from 1986 until 1989 and I was very much interested in preserving downtown Manchester. I was the only person to try to save the Vitaphone Theatre at the corner of Bridge and Elm. The Aldermen kept telling me we have to move ahead and put the Nynex building there because they won't wait. What do we have there now? An empty lot. There is still nothing there. What I am saying is that it is really a good thing to try to not rush into doing things. That is a prime example. I don't know Mr. Davis. Who is Mr. Davis? I don't even know him and I don't have to know him. I just know that I love this City and I am driving down Elm Street and I turn to the left and I see these wonderful arches. They are beautiful. I turn around and I see the front of a building and I say gee this reminds me of when I was a kid. Things are coming back. As an Alderman, I don't remember a Board so intent on taking control of everything. I spoke out when you were trying to take over the School Department, MCTV. You have some good volunteers here. Let them do their work. If there are problems, sit down and talk to them because when you do things in haste it never works out well and then there is the Destination Manchester person that you wanted to hire . I was at that meeting. In one fail swoop you are getting rid of Intown Manchester

and putting a man in a position. We have a person who is an economic developer now who could probably do the job so on the conservative side, being a conservative in that area, sometimes I wonder if the destination of these Aldermen isn't the poor house. I would just hope that you would take it easy and listen to these people and I hope that you work together because I love Manchester and I want it to be what it was at one time. Thank you.

Paul Mansback, Manchester, NH stated:

I own a property on Elm Street in the block where Grolen is and the Victorian Jeweler. I bought that property because I wanted to put my money where my mouth was and be a part of the financial reinvestment of Manchester. I bought that building because I had confidence that there was a structure in place called Intown that I know would run interference for efforts to make our City better, that would bring culture to downtown through the arts, through car shows, through road races, through beautification, through waking up every morning and breathing, eating and sleeping what Manchester could be. I was part of the interview process as well that brought this gentleman here and felt that of all the candidates he was a catalyst. Not a stand in front of the crowd, but a behind-the-scenes man who had the capacity to work with boards like yours and to know politics and to not play hide the ball but to make things work on a here I am and here is what I want to do basis. I think this man has done a monumental effort in providing you, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, with a City that you can stand in front of and say we have invested our time as volunteers and our hearts and our places for our children with pride. We have done you a service. To take away his domain so to speak, which he doesn't really have, but his business, I really think the mistake you have made is to take William out of CIP. He should be in Richard's office and be Destination Manchester at Intown Manchester. That aside, I think it is very important that you consider the ramifications of what you are saying here. If Manchester is to remove Intown Manchester's powers, the business

community that currently pays the taxes to support Intown Manchester will end your what we call public/private partnership. I think that has a negative effect on all of us. Us as owners on the street. Us who represent investors. Us who find that what people came downtown for 20 years ago is actually in some new fashion returning with vengeance and with great form and with pride.

Rita Miller, 6 Country Club Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

I stated my support for this group Intown Manchester at previous meetings. Their vast contributions to this City's business and economic foundation are well known to everybody. Their Board of Trustees, made up mostly of people who volunteer their time and energy, is responsible for many beneficial programs. They have recently come under fire from the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. At first, I was very confused. It is very perplexing to me why this Board would attack Intown with such severity. I wondered why this Board would listen to citizens support Intown Manchester at meeting after meeting and respond by creating a new, unbudgeted position to take over duties that Intown Manchester is totally capable of doing. Then I realized this new position, Destination Manchester Coordinator, would be under the direction of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. I have watched as some Aldermen expressed their view of how they feel the School Board is. I suppose you would make another position to take over that duty. Then I suppose you will try to take over the transit authority next. I hope there is a point at which you would realize that there is a limit to the workload that this Board can successfully carry out. I have a high degree of respect for the amount of work that is accomplished by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Your jobs are often criticized by the voice of public opinion, however, you need to realize that it is vital to have more than just one singular party running a City. A system of checks and balances is required for efficiency. Businesses, both new and existing, need access to the kind of help that groups like Intown Manchester provide. It would not be any help to businesses if they had to wait for the next meeting of the Board

of Mayor and Aldermen to discuss their issue only to have it tabled to a further date. I do not understand before you...I don't stand here with an incomplete petition gathered with misinformation. I am one citizen who is asking each of you to realize that we earned the title of Number 1 City in part because of the sound economics and information structure that makes up the business environment of this City. Thank you.

Chairman O'Neil advised that all wishing to speak having been heard, the testimony presented will be taken under advisement and considered by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen at a later date.

Chairman O'Neil advised that this being a special meeting of the Committee, no further business can be presented, and on motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk