

AD HOC MEETING – GRANT AGENCY REVIEW – OCTOBER 10, 2006

The committee meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. In attendance were committee members Stanley, Cutsumpas, Chianese, Director of Finance Dena Diorio, Corporation Counsel Les Pinter, Mayor Mark Boughton, Council Members Rotello, Saracino, Trombetta (ex-officio) and members of the public.

Ms. Stanley said we are here to discuss the City’s method for dividing more than \$1 million dollars between local charities and civic organizations commonly known as “Grant Agencies” and to establish a Grant Agency review board or panel.

Mr. Chianese stated we are here to discuss how the Council can get better information about agencies so as to make our recommendations known. We would ask for agencies to show a presentation supporting their request. We would use that presentation to report to the Mayor for consideration in the budget so the committee has more information about the grant before it is presented in the budget. We would like an advisory panel set-up so these organizations can come to the Council and give their presentations so we are better equipped with regard to their charities.

Ms. Diorio gave an overview on the process of what the agencies receive and how they are funded. Since 2002, we require the agencies to supply us with organization charts, operating and budget results for the prior fiscal year, their current operating budget, projected operating results for the current fiscal year and a proposed operating budget for the next fiscal year as well as their most recently audited financial statements. In addition we ask them to provide us with the number of people they serve and where they reside and information on their other funding sources. All this information is available to any Council Member at any time.

Mayor Boughton stated at that time we decided to not add any new agencies based on the City’s financial situation and also made a reduction in grant agencies over the years. In December, before our budget process, we look at individual agencies. We review the agencies paperwork, their seven-year past history and make decisions for extenuating circumstances. Ms. Diorio and I spend all of December, January, February and March working on this budget to present to the Council in April. Mr. Boughton stated that if someone on the Council knows of an organization that isn’t spending their monies correctly or isn’t providing the proper statements, they have a responsibility to report them to the Director of Finance.

Mr. Chianese respects all the hard work that has been done and would like to get the Council to get the same information that Director of Finance gets. We are asking for an advisory board to look at this information and review and follow-up with these agencies.

Mayor Boughton stated that you can’t have an advisory board advise the Council. Mr. Boughton would recommend to the Council the recommended spending and appropriations and the Council’s job to confirm, deny, add or delete based on the Mayor’s recommendation. The Council is elected to make decisions and the Mayor is elected to recommend to the Council.

Ms. Saracino made a suggestion to make a separate committee on this information and questioned Ms. Diorio whether they build on what these agencies have received in the past or do they start at zero. Ms. Diorio stated that they build on what was received in the past. Reasons being that funding is very tight and a lot of these grant agencies are operating with very limited resources.

Mr. Chianese suggested we create a new government ad hoc and invite the agencies to give a report on what they do.

Mr. Cutsumpas agrees with the idea of having a separate ad hoc committee to look at the grant agencies. He moved to recommend to the Council to form a separate budget committee called the "Grant Agency Budget Committee" to be formed after the Mayor presents his budget and it will be separate from Government 1 or Government 2 and will see its own committee judge with reviewing all charitable organizations including their merit or worthiness and how much, if any, City money they will receive. Seconded by Mr. Chianese. Mr. Chianese stated that we need to make it in consistent with the Charter.

Mayor Boughton stated for point verification we will create another budget committee, which is appointed by the Mayor and in the same process and procedure all budget committees are appointed, only because the Council cannot appoint its own committee per City ordinance.

Mr. Cutsumpas stated to change the motion to reflect that the Mayor would appoint the separate committee consistent with other budget committees during the budget process. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cutsumpas made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Chianese. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Colleen Stanley, Chairwoman

Ted Cutsumpas, Councilman

Ben Chianese, Councilman