

~AD HOC REPORT~  
*Certification of Funds for Dream Homes*  
*Thursday, March 8, 2007*

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Hon. Mark D. Boughton, Mayor  
Common Council Members

Chairwoman Mary Saracino called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. on Thursday, March 8, 2007, in the Caucus Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Danbury City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue. Present were Committee members Duane Perkins and Jim Johnson; Ex Officio members Benjamin Chianese; Paul Rotello; and, Lynn Taborsak. Also present were Rev. Phyllis J. Leopold, Executive Director of ARC; Karl Myers, Program Director of Dream Homes; Judge Diane Yamin, Chair of Task Force; Pat Tomka of We CAHR; M. Carolyn Sistrunk, Housing Authority Director; Assistant Finance Director Dan Garrick and interested citizens.

Chairwoman Saracino offered background and explained the purpose of the meeting. She said that at the time the Common Council approved the Mayor's task force to end homelessness report, an agreement was made to fund the Dream Homes Community Center in the amount of \$54,500.00 and \$27,250.00 has been provided to them to date. Monthly reports were requested and provided. In addition, a review of funding would take place half way through the year. Dream Homes asked for the balance of the funding in the amount of \$27,250.00. She explained that the charge of the Committee was to ascertain whether or not Dream Homes has fulfilled the agreements made at the time of the original approval and approve the remainder of the funding.

Chairwoman Saracino opened the meeting up for discussion, comments and/or questions. Mr. Myers presented the program report for Dream Homes (a copy of which was included in the Committee packets). An additional fact Mr. Myers advised the Committee of was that Dream Homes initially stored the information that they had on the amount of time that would be needed for the point of entry. This information then led them to believe that a permanent part-time position would be required and secured an individual to handle the function. The four collaborating agencies met every two weeks to review Dream Homes' progress and continued to set goals and objectives and determine the needs. After careful review and evaluation, it was decided that at the current time the part-time position was not required and the duties would be assumed by the Program Director. The determination was based on both workload and funding available to accomplish the task. They will re-visit the issue in the future as all of the components of Dream Homes Community Center evolve and become more established. Mr. Myers made note of this fact to demonstrate that the agencies are looking at the best use of funding provided by the City of Danbury. Rev. Leopold distributed and reviewed informational items which were submitted to the Committee. A major accomplishment was that Social Service Agencies from other towns would like to be trained in the HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) system and then forward their data to Dream Homes in the coming year.

Mr. Perkins was not clear on the reporting of Dream Homes receiving 45 referrals and 16 new cases in February. Mr. Myers explained that the 45 referrals were individuals that contacted Dream Homes directly, either through a referral from a church or a social service agency or by their own means, asking for guidance as to the services available. Rev. Leopold explained that the 16 new cases were individuals that came in contact with Dream Homes through the point of entry. Councilman Johnson asked if Dream Homes was on target from when the project was

initiated to where the project stands today. Rev. Leopold explained that at the onset of the project, the data was in piecemeal. The point of entry is now allowing them to have an overall snapshot of the area. She is pleased to report they are on target. Ex Officio Taborsak was confused as to what the funding provided to Dream Homes was being used for and Chairwoman Saracino explained that Dream Homes was to collect and track data regarding homelessness, rental assistance and first-time home ownership and then refer those individuals to the appropriate agency that could help them. Judge Yamin offered additional insight into the project and what the funding was being used for. Ex Officio Chianese asked what agency he would go to if he desired to know how many homeless individuals were in the system within the City of Danbury. Rev. Leopold explained that locally, the numbers are coming to Dream Homes. The way the system works in the HMIS, Dream Homes gives the numbers to the state. The local agencies, many of which are on the local Continuum of Care, are feeding their numbers to Dream Homes, Dream Homes then sends the data on to the State Coalition which then provides Dream Homes with a cumulative picture. Ex Officio Chianese asked if the City of Danbury was the only funding agency for the Dream Homes Community Center. Rev. Leopold said they have been awarded, but have yet to receive, a grant from the Super Nova in support of their HMIS efforts. In addition, We CAHR has had an anonymous donor that contributed to the program. ARC has underwritten the emergency aide that has been given to 10 clients which is in excess of \$1,000.00. Gap funding has been provided through the Housing Authority. She urged the approval of the remaining funds. Ex Officio Chianese asked how the remaining funds would be used. Rev. Leopold said the funds would help to sustain and expand the program. Ex Officio Taborsak requested Mr. Myers alter the point of entry informational form to include an individual's last permanent address. She felt that funding could be requested from the town an individual last resided in.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Chairwoman Saracino to continue funding for Dream Homes in the amount of \$27,250.00. The motion carried. (2-0-1) (ABSTAIN: Councilman Perkins)

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Councilman Perkins. The motion carried unanimously at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Saracino, Chairwoman

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Jim Johnson

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Duane Perkins