

BUFFALO URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
June 5, 2008
ROOM 209

MEMBERS AND

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Mayor Brown, Chairman
Council Member Kearns
Alisa Lukasiewicz, Corporation Counsel
Council Member LoCurto
Council President Franczyk

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Tobe
Ms. Oehler
Commissioner Penksa

SECRETARY:

Scott C. Billman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Folan, Contract Admin.
Lucy Candelario, Westside Community Center
Deborah Cieloncki, N. Buffalo Comm. Dev. Corp.
Deidre Zaleski, C.A.O., Pratt Willert Comm. Center
Marlies Wesolowski, Matt Urban Human Services
Linda Chiarenza, Westside NHS
Jack Norto, Erie Regional Housing Dev. Corp.
Darryl McPherson, Division of Audit
Alan Tober, Contact Admin.
Carla Kosmerl, OSP
Lynn Urbanski, OSP
Sandra Miller, OSP
Lawrence Pernick, NW Buffalo Comm. Center
Camille Hopkins, Contract Admin.
James Giles, Back to Basics Outreach Ministries

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 10:09 A.M. Council Member Kearns made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the **May 22, 2008** meeting, and that they are accepted; seconded by Corporation Counsel Lukasiewicz and carried unanimously.

Mayor Brown stated that Agenda Items 3a through 3g, 3i and 3j would be reviewed together.

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Agenda Item 3a – West Side Community Services

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with West Side Community Services for \$148,494 to supply programming for Youth, Adult and Seniors in the upper west side of Buffalo. Recreation,

Education and cultural enrichment programs will be offered. This program will operate from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009.

Agenda Item 3b – Back to Basics Outreach Ministries, Inc.

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with Back to Basics Outreach Ministries, Inc. for \$30,000 to operate a Substance Abuse Program providing such services as employment training and job search, transitional housing, pantry services and transportation to facilities for citizens in the City of Buffalo. This program will operate from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009.

Agenda Item 3c – YMCA Niagara/Ellicott – William Emslie YMCA

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with YMCA Niagara/Ellicott – William Emslie YMCA for \$337,572 to operate educational, recreational, social activities and Human Service Programs for the senior citizens in the Ellicott and Masten Council Districts in the City of Buffalo. This program will operate from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009.

Agenda Item 3d – Northwest Buffalo Community Center

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with Northwest Buffalo Community Center for \$241,373 to operate comprehensive human service programs for low to moderate income youth, families and senior citizens. Northwest Buffalo will provide Day Care Services, recreation and educational programs for youth as well as hot meals and recreation programs for senior citizens living in Northwest Buffalo. This program will operate from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009.

Agenda Item 3e – Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc.

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with Erie Regional Housing Development Corporation for \$52,000 to provide for a senior citizen recreation, nutrition and wellness program. This program will operate from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2008.

Agenda Item 3f – C.A.O. Pratt Willert Community Center

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with C.A.O. Pratt Willert Community Center for \$50,000 to operate educational and athletic programs for youth and recreational enrichment programs for senior citizens living in the Ellicott District in the City of Buffalo. This program will operate from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009.

Agenda Item 3g – Concerned Ecumenical Ministry

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with Concerned Ecumenical Ministry for \$35,994 to provide for a senior citizen activities program. This program will operate from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009.

Agenda Item 3i – North Buffalo Community Development Corp.

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with North Buffalo Community Development Corp. for \$100,786 to operate comprehensive Human Service Programs for low to moderate income youth, families and senior citizens in response to community needs throughout North Buffalo. This program will operate from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009.

Agenda Item 3j – Matt Urban Human Services Center DBA PCC

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for authorization to contract with Matt Urban Human Services Center for \$165,473 to operate educational, recreational and social human service programs for youth, adult and senior citizens in the City of Buffalo.

Council President Franczyk made the motion to approve all the above Items contingent on certification of funds by the Agency's Office of Administration and Finance and Agency Counsel approval of all Agreements; seconded by Council Member LoCurto and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3k – 20 Ferguson Avenue – Request for Demolition Funding

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request for funding in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 to be transferred to the City of Buffalo Department of Economic Development, Permit and Inspection Service for demolition and any necessary asbestos removal at 20 Ferguson Avenue, a substandard structure on a block that has been targeted by the community for revitalization.

West Side Neighborhood Housing Services (West Side NHS) is in the process of acquiring 20 Ferguson Avenue from private owners for their project with Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity proposes to build one single-family house for a low to moderate-income buyer. This funding will serve as a grant and West Side NHS will not be obligated to repay for demolition related costs.

Council Member Kearns made the motion to approve the item contingent on certification of funds by the Agency's Office of Administration and Finance and Agency Counsel approval of all Agreements; seconded by Council President Franczyk and carried unanimously.

Council President Franczyk made the motion to accept Late File Items 3l and 3m; seconded by Corporation Counsel Lukasiewicz and carried unanimously.

Mayor Brown stated that Agenda Items 3l and 3m would be reviewed together.

Late File Agenda Item 3l - Niagara District Business Improvement Program – Matching Sign & Storefront Program

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request to rescind BURA Item 3a approved 2/28/08 to increase the CARE Program by \$50,000 and request permission to contract with Buffalo Economic Renaissance Corporation in the amount of \$20,000 to administer the Niagara District Business Improvement Program – Matching Sign & Storefront Program. This program will provide a matching grant for façade improvements, signage, landscaping, and paving improvements for small businesses located in the Niagara District. The maximum amount of assistance is \$10,000.00. A dollar for dollar match is also required. To be eligible for assistance, businesses must meet a national objective of the CDBG Program, either Low/Mod Area Benefit or Low/Mod Job Creation. The program will aid at least two (2) business owners/tenants in making façade improvements to their storefronts and increase the capacity and productivity of small businesses in the City of Buffalo. The benefits of this investment, however, expand beyond the business owners. Such improvements deter a pattern of blight and disinvestment, which can be associated with increased vacancies and crime. The program will help to retain existing businesses as well as to attract new businesses in improving storefronts to increase curb appeal and encourage people to shop in the City's commercial business strip.

Late File Agenda Item 3m – Masten District Sign & Storefront Improvement Pilot Program

Submitted to agency members for approval, is a request to rescind BURA Item 3a approved 2/28/08 to increase the CARE Program by \$50,000 and request permission to contract with Buffalo Economic Renaissance Corporation in the amount of \$30,000 to administer the Masten District Sign & Storefront Improvement Pilot Program. This program will provide for façade improvements, signage, landscaping, and paving improvements for small businesses located in the Masten District. The maximum amount of assistance is \$5,000.00. To be eligible for assistance, businesses must meet a national objective of the CDBG Program. The program will aid at least six (6) business owners/tenants in making façade improvement to their storefronts and increase the capacity and productivity

of small businesses of the City of Buffalo. The benefits of this investment, however, expand beyond the business owners. Such improvements deter a pattern of blight and disinvestment, which can be associated with increased vacancies and crime. The program will help to retain existing businesses as well as to attract new businesses in improving storefronts to increase curb appeal and encourage people to shop in the City's commercial business strip.

Council Member Kearns made the motion to approve the item contingent on certification of funds by the Agency's Office of Administration and Finance and Agency Counsel approval of all Agreements; seconded by Council President Franczyk and carried unanimously.

4. OAK STREET REDEVELOPMENT/URBAN RENEWAL PLAN

No Submission

5. WATERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT

No Submission

6. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

No Submission

7. URBAN HOMESTEAD PROGRAM

No Submission

8. SOUTH ELLICOTT URBAN RENEWAL AREA

No Submission

9. HOME

No Submission

10. HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA)

No Submission

11. EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT

No Submission

12. OTHER

No Submission

13. CONSENT ITEMS

No Submission

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Council President Franczyk made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Council Member LoCurto and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 A.M.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held at **9:30 a.m., June 19, 2008**, in Room 209 City Hall, Buffalo, New York.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott C. Billman
Secretary

Reported by:
Tracy A. Lasker