

**BUFFALO URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY**  
**September 24, 2009**  
**ROOM 209**

**MEMBERS AND  
OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Byron Brown  
Andrew E. Eszak  
Council President Franczyk  
Commissioner Penksa  
Commissioner Reilly  
Council Member LoCurto  
David Rodriguez, Corporation Counsel  
Council Member Kearns

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Virginia Oehler

**SECRETARY:**

Scott C. Billman

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Christopher Gibas, Literacy Volunteers  
Bryan Cacciotti, HomeFront  
Robin Young, CAO of Erie County  
Holly Lindstrom, WNYLC  
Joseph Helemen, WNYLC  
Karen Carmen, Matt Urban  
Julie Maroni, American Red Cross  
Kate Kacker, Catholic Charities  
Doris Corley, Catholic Charities  
Maryann Deubel-Braun, Catholic Charities  
Alan Tober, Community Service  
Terry Lewis, Community Service  
Carla Kosmerl, OSP  
Marilyn Gallivan, Marine Drive  
Dale Zuchlewski, OSP  
Ellen Burkhardt, Bailey Green LLC  
Ken Gholsten, HOME  
Barbara Jemmott, Group Ministries Inc.  
Bill Hawkes, Neighborhood Legal Services  
Diane Pozoski, Neighborhood Legal Services  
Peg Overdorf, Valley Community Association  
Douglas B Putian, Crisis Services  
Joelle Ruettimen, Homeless Alliance of WNY  
Karen Privatur, Council Staff  
Julie Paul, Council Staff  
Lisa Gradafcevic, Legal Aid Bureau  
Kenneth Turner, American Red Cross  
Rachel Morrison, Crisis Services  
Lisa Alexander, King Urban Life Center

Darryl McPherson, Division of Audit  
Yvonne McCray, City of Buffalo

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Drew Eszak made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the **July 30, 2009** meeting, and that they are accepted; seconded by Corporation Counsel Rodriguez and carried unanimously.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

#### **Agenda Item 3b – Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.**

Submitted to Board Members for approval, is a request to contract with Neighborhood Legal Services for \$35,573 to provide legal representation to City of Buffalo residents who have experienced discrimination in housing related matters. This program will operate from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010.

**Counsel 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 Commissioner Penksa and carried unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item 3c – Literacy Volunteers of America/Buffalo**

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request to contract with Literacy Volunteers of America/Buffalo for \$13,091 to provide tutoring services to illiterate adults and out of school youth over 16 years of age citywide. This program will operate from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010.

**Council President Franczyk 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 Member LoCurto and carried unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item 3d – Homefront, Inc. Owners Avoiding Homelessness**

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request to contract with Homefront, Inc. for \$20,007 to provide counseling, homeowner workshops and gap funding for eligible clients that have missed mortgage payments. This program will operate from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010.

**Council Member LoCurto 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 Mr. Eszak and carried unanimously.**

**Mayor Brown stated that Agenda Items 3e through 3i would be reviewed together.**

**Agenda Item 3e – Valley Community Association**

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request to contract with the Valley Community Association for \$25,573 to provide human services to the elderly of the southwest side of the City of Buffalo. This program will operate from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010.

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

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request to contract with Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc. for \$54,005 to provide legal advice and assistance necessary to prevent mortgage foreclosures resulting from predatory lending practices. This program will operate from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010.

**Agenda Item 3g – Western New York Law Center (Anti-Flipping)**

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request to contract with Western New York Law Center for \$30,573 to combat flipping by providing analysis of real estate-related data: conduct review and recommend changes in policies, procedures and laws that impact flipping; education for real estate professionals and “investors” and raise community awareness; investigation of flipping and fraud practices for referral to law enforcement. This program will operate from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010.

**Agenda Item 3h – King Urban Life Center**

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request to contract with the King Urban Life Center for \$40,573 to fund a Parent/Child Education Program, in which 45-55 Pre-K Children and their parents will be assisted in reading, writing and math skill development. This program will operate from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010.

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

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request to contract with Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc., for \$60,573 to bring about equitable resolutions to City of Buffalo residents who have legal problems in housing and related matters such as landlord/tenant relationships and housing code violations cases heard within Buffalo City Court. This program will operate from May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010.

**Council Member Kearns made the motion to accept Agenda Items 3e through 3i contingent on certification of funds by the Agency’s Office of Administration and Finance and Agency Counsel approval of all Agreements; seconded by Corporation Counsel Rodriguez and carried unanimously.**

## **HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA)**

Ms. Kosmerl noted a change to the BURA Item submission. In effort to improve compliance with HUD, there has been an additional signature line added "Approved for Submittal to the Board" stating that the compliance steps are complete.

### **Agenda Item 10a – 2009 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program**

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request to contract with various agencies for the 2009 HOPWA Program totaling \$521,962. There is no construction or renovation involved in any of the awards.

**Council President Franczyk made the motion to accept 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 Corporation Counsel Rodriguez and carried unanimously.**

## **EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)**

### **Agenda Item 11a – 2009 Emergency Shelter Grant Program**

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request to contract with various agencies for the 2009 Emergency Shelter Grant Program totaling \$709,910. There is no construction or renovation involved in any of the awards.

This item was amended to state the total award for this program is \$706,910.

**Council Member LoCurto made the motion to accept the item as amended 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 Kearns and carried unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item 11b – Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP)**

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a request to approve the following agencies for participation in the City of Buffalo HPRP program; American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, Community Action Organization, Crisis Services, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Homeless Alliance of WNY, Lt. Col. Matt Urban Center, Neighborhood Legal Services, Saving Grace and Urban League.

The City of Buffalo has been awarded \$6,594,081 in federal stimulus funds for the HPRP program. The main goal of the legislation is to "provide temporary financial assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services to individuals and families who are homeless or would be homeless but for this assistance." There is no

construction involved in use of these funds. These funds must be committed by September 30, 2009 or the funding will be lost.

Approval is requested contingent upon confirmation of the eligibility of the individual subrecipients by the Director of Administration and Finance.

**Council President Franczyk made the motion to accept the item contingent certification of funds by the Agency's Office of Administration and Finance and Agency Counsel approval of all Agreements; seconded by Corporation Counsel Rodriguez and carried unanimously.**

### **OTHER**

#### **Agenda Item 12a – True Bethel Housing, SEQR Negative Declaration**

Submitted to Agency Members for approval, is a proposal by True Bethel Church to undertake the construction of three single family homes on vacant, City and Church owned land at 877-879, 883-885 and 884-886 Woodlawn Avenue. The project will be financed privately and with HOME funds provided by the City. Prior to the implementation of the above project, the requirements of the N.Y. State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) must be satisfied. The project is an "Unlisted Action" for which BURA has completed a coordinated environmental assessment. It is submitted, in accordance with Section 617.7 of the regulations, that the impacts resulting from the proposed action will not have significant adverse impacts on the environment.

**Mr. Eszak made the motion to accept the item; seconded by Commissioner Reilly and carried unanimously.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held at **9:30 a.m., October 8, 2009**, in Room 209 City Hall, Buffalo, New York.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Scott C. Billman**  
**Secretary**

**Reported by:**  
**Tracy A. Lasker**