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**AD HOC REPORT
City of Compassion
Continued**

Honorable Mark D. Boughton, Mayor
City Council Members

May 16, 2013

Chairman Wetmore called the meeting to order at 6:18P.M. In attendance were council members Curran and Nero. Bruce Tuomala, Director of Economic Development and Wayne Shepperd from the Office of the Mayor were present. The petitioner Dr. Chris Kukk, Associate Professor at Western CT University (WCSU) and members of the public were also in attendance.

Following introductions, Chairman Wetmore entered Exhibit B into the record, which was a letter from Dot Roise-Lodsin, CVT, CPPS. Chairman Wetmore then asked Dr. Kukk to do a brief power-point presentation of a description of what it is to be a city of compassion. The presentation gave a history of the City of Compassion initiative, Charter of Compassion and the United Nations involvement. Dr. Kukk stated there were concrete ideas to move forward. Some of the projects involve compassion law in business, art projects, compassion games engaging members of the community and camp activities.

Chairman Wetmore advised that the Ad Hoc Committee cannot take an action to do those things and this is out of the reach of the committee. However, there is an infrastructure within the community to help make those things happen. The committee can recommend to the Council to authorize the mayor to sign the Charter of Compassion.

Wayne Shepperd explained that some of the City staff could be a conduit in their day-to-day roles to facilitate projects and be a resource for a committee once the City accepts the designation.

Council member Nero requested clarification on the role of the Ad Hoc Committee. Chairman Wetmore explained that the role of the committee is to move this to the Council, authorize Corporation Counsel to draft a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the Charter of Compassion on behalf of the City of Danbury. Council member Nero stated that he appreciates the enthusiasm of the students in attendance and that Danbury is a city of compassion.

Bruce Tuomala stated that this concept needs to translate into something of value and should be endorsed as a city government.

Wayne Shepperd explained that the City has other designations in place as a sister city to a couple of other cities and Tree City USA. and this would be accepting another designation as a City of Compassion.

Chairman Wetmore explained that by becoming a City of Compassion, it would give the student committee a sense of community identity, a sense of weight and getting the Danbury community the global ability to reach out on several different levels opening the group to a new and bigger pool of suggestions.

Council member Nero agreed with accepting the designation, it would cost the City nothing and the compassion committee would take it from there.

Council member Curran stated that he saw no downside to this designation and the students would be doing the work.

Council member Wetmore commented that the correspondence from Dot Roise-Lodsin was regarding compassion towards free roaming cats in the City of Danbury. Ms. Roise-Lodsin stated that her letter was asking for support in Danbury for acts of compassion towards the feral cat population.

12-1

Council member Curran moved to authorize Deputy Corporation Counsel to draft a resolution to bring forth to the City Council authorizing the Mayor of the City of Danbury to sign the Charter of Compassion. seconded by council member Nero. ***Motion passed by unanimous vote.***

Council member Curran moved to adjourn at 7:05P.M. seconded by council member Nero. ***Motion passed by unanimous vote.***

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Wetmore, Chairman

Phil Curran

Peter Nero

12.2

**AD HOC REPORT
City of Compassion**

Honorable Mark D. Boughton, Mayor
City Council Members

March 13, 2013

Chairman Wetmore called the meeting to order at 6:19 P.M. In attendance were council members Curran and Nero. Ex-officio member Taylor; Bruce Tuomala, Director of Economic Development and Wayne Shepperd from the Office of the Mayor were present. The petitioner Dr. Chris Kukk, Associate Professor at Western CT University (WCSU) and members of the public were also in attendance.

Chairman Wetmore read the charge of the committee which was for the purpose of discussing the City of Compassion.

Following introductions, Chairman Wetmore asked Dr. Kukk to give an overview of the purpose of the request. Dr. Kukk stated prior to the visit of the Dali Lama, a conference was held called the Creativity of Compassion. Some WCSU students asked to pursue a university of compassion. The idea was expanded to consider trying to have the City of Danbury become a city of compassion. Dr. Kukk advised that there are only 12 cities in the United States designated as Cities of Compassion and there are approximately 56 other cities pursuing the designation. If Danbury were to become a City of Compassion, it would be the first on the east coast to have that designation. Dr. Kukk would like to hold an annual Creativity Conference in Danbury. There is one scheduled in April and Mayor Boughton has agreed to be a panel member. The Dali Lama has made a significant donation to assist with the creation of a Center for Compassion. Dr. Kukk stated that positive things have happened in the cities of compassion in the way of reduced crime and increased property values. There is also a growing interest among the students at WCSU.

Upon the request of Chairman Wetmore, Dr. Kukk explained the City would need to sign a Charter of Compassion to promote respect. A sample charter was presented as Exhibit A, to use as a guide.

Bruce Tuomala requested clarification on signing as a city government and would like to know what creative compassion is and entails. Dr. Kukk explained that the charter would be an amalgamation of ideas from health, youth and community organizations. The initial plan would be submitted to Compassion International, a 501-3C non-profit organization based in the state of Washington. Chairman Wetmore suggested bringing members of the community together to develop the charter and come back to the committee to recommend approval and then bring it to the Council and the community.

Council member Curran spoke in favor of the proposal and added that he feels that this is the way people should be treating each other.

Council member Nero expressed his desire to pursue more information to better understand the concept more fully and then bring the proposal back to the Mayor.

Council member Taylor stated that those signing the charter would be affirming their support of the program. He concurred with council member Nero to pursue further information on the concept.

Chairman Wetmore also stated that he would like to know more in order to come up with the best to bring to Mayor Boughton.

Council member Nero moved to continue the meeting, seconded by council member Curran. Chairman Wetmore stated that he would have a discussion with the Mayor concerning the proposal and bring everyone back for further dialogue. *Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Council member Nero moved to adjourn at 6:58P.M. seconded by council member Curran. *Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Wetmore, Chairman

Phil Curran

Peter Nero

Charter for **Compassion**

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others - even our enemies - is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women ~ to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings, even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.



12-4.



RESOLUTION

CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

_____ A.D. 2013

RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANBURY

WHEREAS, an initiative called City of Compassion has been brought before the City of Danbury; and

WHEREAS, this initiative can bring much needed awareness, comfort and support to many City residents; and

WHEREAS, such compassion would bring the residents together to stand united for respect, justice and peace; and

WHEREAS, it would benefit the City of Danbury to have Mayor Boughton sign the Charter of Compassion.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mark D. Boughton, Mayor of the City of Danbury, is hereby authorized to sign the Charter of Compassion on behalf of the City of Danbury.