



31

CITY OF DANBURY

155 DEER HILL AVENUE

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

COMMON COUNCIL

REPORT

April 4, 2006

Mayor Mark D. Boughton
Members of the Common Council

Re: **Dream Homes Funding**

The Common Council Committee appointed to review the request for funding for the Dream Homes program met on March 14, 2006 at 6:30 P.M. in the Third Floor Caucus Room in City Hall. In attendance were committee members Saracino, Diggs and Perkins. Also in attendance were Director of Finance Dena Diorio, Housing Authority Director Carolyn Sistrunk, Rev. P.J. Leopold, Jean Bowen from People First, Pat Tomka and Council Members Taborsak, Teicholz, Chianese and Rotello, ex-officio.

Rev. Leopold stated that the Dream Homes collaborative proposed to the Mayor that the City provide support for rentals and first time homeowners. They are the point of entry for the homeless task force, but they do not know how they will be governed by the City partnership. The \$54,500 will cover the salary for the Director's position and the remaining funds will be for part-time staff for the monitoring program that will be doing intake.

Ms. Saracino asked if this is a request for next year's budget since it is coming at the end of the fiscal year. Reverend Leopold said they are ready to begin now. Ms. Diorio said there has been no request for next year's budget. She said that grant money is given out in quarterly payments and this request would not be treated any differently. She is not sure who would be getting the check. Reverend Leopold said that ARC is going to serve as fiduciary and they have opened a separate checking account. Ms. Diorio said that the whole notion of Danbury providing funding with other towns reaping the benefits has been an ongoing concern. She asked how this is going to be accomplished and whether the City should fund a portion of the request to give them six months to generate funding from other towns.

Ms. Sistrunk said funding is the key issue. Danbury is over-burdened so the key strategy is to negotiate what the pro rate should be among the region. To make it a competitive grant would be different from what the Homeless Task Force envisioned. Reverend Leopold said there is a program in

existence to establish the data. Ms. Diorio stated that the City of Danbury ends up being the only funder, but the homeless come from all over. There must be a commitment to go out and get those dollars. Ms. Diorio asked if this proposal is to have the City fund these positions forever or is it transitional? Ms. Sistrunk said the Homeless Task Force Plan is for ten years and she assumes the funding should be continued at least for these two positions.

Ms. Saracino asked Ms. Diorio that since the money is allotted in quarterly payments should we stop and take a look at where we are? Ms. Diorio said that would be her recommendation. Ms. Sistrunk said six months is unreasonable to consider reevaluation. If all towns agree tomorrow, they still have to go through a hearing process, etc. Ms. Diorio said it is more about demonstrating an effort on the part of the group to go after funding.

Ms. Taborsak and Mr. Chianese agreed that this is really two separate grants. One is for Dream Homes and one is for Point of Entry for homelessness that fits a ten-year plan. Mr. Chianese agrees that this should be funded in stages.

Ms. Diggs made a motion to fund three quarters of the \$54,500 and evaluate it on its merits with monthly reports from ARC required. Seconded by Mr. Perkins. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY SARACINO, Chairman

N. JANE DIGGS

DUANE PERKINS