



CITY OF DANBURY

155 DEER HILL AVENUE

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

COMMON COUNCIL

REPORT

May 2, 2006

Mayor Mark D. Boughton
Members of the Common Council

Re: **Health & Housing, Public Safety, Welfare & Social Services**

The Health & Housing, Public Safety and Welfare & Social Services Budget Committee met on April 18, 2006 at 6:30 P.M. in the Third Floor Caucus Room. In attendance were committee members Trombetta, McMahon, Cutsumpas, Diggs and Esposito. Also in attendance were Director of Finance and Personnel Dena Diorio, Police Chief Alan Baker, Fire Chief Peter Siecienski, Building Inspector Leo Null, Mayor Mark Boughton, Director of Health and Housing Scott Leroy, Paul Schierloh from the Health & Housing Department, Assistant Director of Civil Preparedness Paul Estefan, Director of Welfare Deborah MacKenzie, Veterans Affairs Director Patrick Waldron and Council Members Nolan, Basso, Saadi, Chianese, Taborsak, Rotello, Stanley and Teicholz, ex-officio.

Police Department – Due to the arbitration away three years worth of salary increases were added to the salaries line item. There is funding for 15 new police vehicles. There is a \$10,000 reduction in the clothing line item because of vacancies. The fuel line item has been increased due to the high cost of gasoline. A new line item for safety equipment has been created.

Animal Control Fund – There is very little change. Additional funds have been added to the overtime account.

Fire Department – The salaries line item has been reduced because one Deputy Fire Marshall will be assigned to the UNIT. Overtime money has been cut because there are fewer vacancies. A discussion regarding grants to the Volunteer Fire Companies followed.

Building Department – Larry Miguel has been deployed to the UNIT and the building inspector vacancy will be filled. Additional money has been added to the part-time salaries account to hire an engineer to work on retaining walls.

Civil Preparedness – Chief Siencienski noted that reductions in this account are possible due to grants and entitlements from Homeland Security. There has been a total of 1.2 million dollars worth of equipment received in the form of vehicles and protective clothing. Homeland Security will provide two expeditions.

Department of Consumer Protection – In the past there has been funding for two part-time positions, but it has been changed to one full-time position.

UNIT – The only funding would be for employees who have been redeployed from other departments. The home departments will provide supplies. A coordinator for the UNIT has not been hired yet.

Ambulance Fund – The annual audit has been increased because the City must go out to bid. Billing fees are going up and gasoline prices have increased.

Health & Housing – There is a proposal to combine the Health & Housing Department with the Social Services and Welfare Department. One position in the Health Department has been eliminated. All staff members from the Welfare Department would be folded into the Health & Housing Department. \$10,000 has been added to the Director of Welfare's salary. Assistant Director Patricia Bowen will fill that position and the Assistant Director's position will not be filled. Ms. Taborsak asked Ms. MacKenzie for her opinion of the consolidation plan. Ms. MacKenzie said she does not know how the departments are going to be meshed and how this is going to work. She believes that when something smaller is put into a larger unit, the jobs won't be filled when people retire and there won't be a Welfare Department.

Veterans Affairs – There have been no major changes in this office.

Commission on Aging – A part-time position has been made full-time and the part-time salaries line item has been decreased.

Elderly Transportation – The line item is flat at \$12,000.

Mr. Cutsumpas made a motion to recommend to the Common Council that the Mayor's budget as proposed be adopted. Seconded by Mrs. McMahon. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES TROMBETTA, Chairman

LOUISE McMAHON

TED CUTSUMPAS

N. JANE DIGGS

JOHN J. ESPOSITO