

Community Participation: Public Notices

Legals/Public Notices

City of Syracuse Legals City of Syracuse Legals

The Bond Ordinances summarized below have been adopted by the Common Council of the City of Syracuse on September 26, 2011 and approved by the Mayor on September 27, 2011 and the validity of the obligations authorized by such Bond Ordinances may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the City of Syracuse, in the State of New York, is not authorized to expend money or the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this Notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit, or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the publication of this Notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. City Clerk of the City of Syracuse, New York

Ordinance Purpose	Period of Probable Usefulness	Amount of Obligations Authorized
12-11) To refund all or a portion of the \$9,255,000 outstanding Public Improvement Refunding (Serial) Bonds, Series 2001 C, dated January 8, 2002	Years	\$10,000,000
7-11) To defray the cost and expense of various improvement projects at Skiddy Park from the 2011/12 Park Facility Improvement	5 Years	\$75,000

A complete copy of the Bond Ordinances summarized above shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Office of the Clerk of the City of Syracuse at City Hall, in Syracuse, New York. Date: November 2, 2011 Syracuse, New York

The Bond Ordinances summarized below were adopted by the Common Council of the City of Syracuse on August 22, 2011 and approved by the Mayor on August 23, 2011 and the validity of the obligations authorized by such Bond Ordinances may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the City of Syracuse, in the State of New York, is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this Notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit, or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the publication of this Notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. City Clerk of the City of Syracuse, New York

Ordinance Purpose	Period of Probable Usefulness	Amount of Obligations Authorized
1) To defray the cost and expense of 1/2012 Unimproved Street Program (see Ordinance No. 12-11)	5 Years	\$649,380
2) To defray the cost and expense of reconstructing sidewalks in the City of Syracuse in 2011/2012	12 Years	\$1,000,000
3) To defray the cost and expense of 1/2012 Syracuse Traffic Signal Program	20 Years	\$150,000
4) To defray the cost and expense of engineering, preliminary design and detailed design of the N, S, E, W, Corridors Transit Project, PIN 3754.79	15 Years	\$1,295,000
Amending Ordinance No. 178-2009 to defray the cost and expense of road reconstruction improvements at various locations within the City of Syracuse	15 Years	\$5,729,000
Amending Ordinance No. 197-2010 to defray the cost and expense of the reconstruction of Forman Park	5 Years	\$1,517,119
5) To defray the cost and expense of 1/2012 Park Facility Improvement	5 Years	\$175,000

A complete copy of the Bond Ordinances summarized above shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Office of the Clerk of the City of Syracuse at City Hall, in Syracuse, New York. Date: October 2, 2011 Syracuse, New York

The Bond Ordinances summarized below were adopted by the Common Council of the City of Syracuse on July 11, 2011 and approved by the Mayor on July 12, 2011 and the validity of the obligations authorized by such Bond Ordinances may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the City of Syracuse, in the State of New York, is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this Notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit, or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the publication of this Notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. City Clerk of the City of Syracuse, New York



Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor Paul Driscoll, Commissioner

CITY OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT announces the availability of the Year 38 (2012-2013) Draft Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, and Emergency Shelter Grant

In accordance with the City of Syracuse Department of Neighborhood & Business Development Citizen Participation Plan developed under requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, the Department of Neighborhood & Business Development will release the Year 38 (2012-2013) Draft Action Plan on **Thursday, December 1, 2011**. This action will signal the beginning of a 30-day period provided to the public for comment on the Draft Action Plan.

To download a copy of the Draft Action Plan, please visit the City of Syracuse website at www.syracuse.ny.us. For more information, or to request a hard copy of the application, please contact the Department of Neighborhood & Business Development:

E-mail: nbd@ci.syracuse.ny.us
 Mail: Dept. of Neighborhood & Business Development
 233 E. Washington Street, Room 312
 Syracuse, New York 13202
 Phone: (315) 448-8100

Comments on the Draft Action Plan will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on January 2, 2012 at the contact information listed above. Your participation in this process is encouraged by the Department of Neighborhood & Business Development and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The City of Syracuse complies with 31 CFR Part 51 and does not discriminate in access to facilities, programs, services, or activities on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, marital status, national origin, or disability.



The Bond Ordinances summarized below were adopted by the Common Council of the City of Syracuse on August 1, 2011 and approved by the Mayor on August 1, 2011 and the validity of the obligations authorized by such Bond Ordinances may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the City of Syracuse, in the State of New York, is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this Notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit, or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the publication of this Notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. City Clerk of the City of Syracuse, New York

LEGAL NOTICES

To place a legal ad, please email your legal notice as a word processing attachment to legals@syracuse.com. You may also send a typewritten form by mail to The Post-Office Box 1000, Syracuse, NY 13202.



Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

Paul Driscoll, Commissioner

**CITY OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Public Meeting Notice
Year 38 (2012-2013) Draft Action Plan**

In accordance with the City of Syracuse Department of Neighborhood & Business Development Citizen Participation Plan developed under requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, the Department will host a public meeting to discuss the **Draft Year 38 (2012-2013) Annual Action Plan** which illustrates what will be accomplished with the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Shelter Grant, and HOME Investment Partnership Program entitlement funds:

**Thursday, December 15, 2011, 5:30 p.m.
Common Council Chambers, City Hall
233 E. Washington Street, Syracuse, New York**

At this meeting, the Department will hear comments and recommendations from residents within the community pertaining to the expenditures of funds for essential programs that may be needed to serve eligible populations in the city's revitalization areas. The Draft Action Plan was released to the public on December 1, 2011. (Digital copies are available at www.syracuse.ny.us.) Your comments may also be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on January 2, 2012:

E-mail: nbd@ci.syracuse.ny.us

Mail: **Paul Driscoll, Commissioner
Dept. of Neighborhood & Business Development
233 E. Washington Street, Room 312
Syracuse, New York 13202**

Your participation in this process is encouraged by the Department and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made available at the public meeting upon request. Interpreters will also be available upon request to meet the needs of non-English speaking persons. Please place your request by calling (315) 448-8100 at least three business days prior to the meeting.

The City of Syracuse complies with 31 CFR Part 51 and does not discriminate in access to facilities, programs, services, or activities on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, marital status, national origin, or disability.



**Community Participation:
Transcripts from
Public Meeting and
Public Hearing**

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STATE OF NEW YORK : CITY OF SYRACUSE

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT**

YEAR 38

PROPOSED BUDGET

PUBLIC MEETING in the above matter conducted at the City Hall Common Council Chambers, Syracuse, New York before, JOHN F. DRURY, Court Reporter, CSR, RPR, Notary Public in and for the State of New York, on **December 15, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.**

A p p e a r a n c e s :

PAUL DRISCOLL, Commissioner Neighborhood & Business Development

SHARON OWENS, Deputy Commissioner

[Staff Present: Babette Baker
 Luke Dougherty
 Mariah Clapp
 Suzanna]

ALSO PRESENT:

Councilwoman Jean Kessner
Councilman Nader P. Maroun

Reported By:
John F. Drury, CSR, RPR
Court Reporter 471-7397

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1 Commissioner

2 **COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL:** Good evening
3 everybody. It's 5:35 I guess we'll get
4 started here tonight. My name is Paul
5 Driscoll, Commissioner of Neighborhood
6 and Business Development. Next to me is
7 Sharon Owens, Deputy Commissioner of
8 same. Thank you for coming tonight.

9 This is the first of two meetings to
10 discuss the Draft Consolidated Plan,
11 which is really an update, an action
12 plan update on our Five Year
13 Consolidated Plan. We just want to give
14 you some opening thoughts and then we
15 want to hear from you about the plan and
16 the budget and the priorities that we've
17 developed.

18 There are these yellow tags outside
19 the room in case you want to have your
20 comments recorded into the record. But
21 generally speaking I think everyone
22 knows this plan, the action plan is the
23 actual budget that the administration is
24 proposing for this year. And the
25 context of this budget is again yet

Commissioner

1
2 another round of cuts on the federal
3 level. We've estimated on the CDBG end
4 of things from what we were following on
5 the federal side of things about a 5 1/2
6 percent cut, expecting a 5 1/2 percent
7 cut in CDBG. And that is not a solid
8 figure yet because the president has yet
9 to sign the bill. But both houses came
10 away with about that amount of cut.

11 The home side, that's the second
12 block grant out of three is a more
13 drastic cut, a 37 1/2 percent. And we
14 have two sources that confirm that cut.
15 So we're thinking that a pretty real
16 number on the home end of things. And
17 ESG, which used to be called emergency
18 shelter now moving into emergency
19 solutions. That's seeing a slight bump,
20 more than a slight bump. It's \$150,000
21 in ESG. And this reflects the federal
22 priority to address homeless and housing
23 development both in our community. So
24 that's I guess the ray of light in this
25 picture.

1 Commissioner

2 But we're still waiting for our
3 actual dollar amount. Each year we get
4 an actual dollar amount from HUD, it's a
5 formula based decision on what our block
6 grant is this year and we still don't
7 have that. So these are estimates of
8 what we are expecting for the coming
9 year.

10 And then there is the other factor
11 the 2010 census is now being factored in
12 for the first time since the census was
13 taken. So population figures, even
14 though Syracuse remained relatively the
15 same, may have an effect on our share of
16 the formula. So we probably won't know
17 the figure until well into 2012, the
18 exact figure, but we moved this whole
19 process ahead this year to align our
20 program year, which starts May 1 of
21 every year, more in line with when we'll
22 actually receive the funds from HUD.

23 I think most of you know there has
24 always been this lag that our program
25 year starts May 1 and we never get the

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Commissioner

release of funds from HUD until August. Us pushing it forward this year and releasing the plan earlier hopefully we will align when the release of funds occurs with our program year.

Our priorities have remained consistent from last year. And they are four. And they're in the plan. The budget is broken out in these four priorities. The provision and maintenance of quality affordable housing, I think we changed the title on that from housing production, to make it more specific. But the point remains the same, it's we're trying to again, keep affordable housing and create new affordable housing in our community.

Services for the housing vulnerable population, which Sharon will speak to in a minute. Services for the special needs population, and services for the homeless population are the four priorities we need to develop our budget around.

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Deputy Commissioner

So I'm going to hand it to Sharon right now to talk a little bit more specific about that priority.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OWENS: In budget too we continue to see sources for the prevention of homelessness or what we call housing vulnerable, a priority for administration and a priority in funding for the Community Development Block Grant. We have I think been successful in implementing this program in the current year and seek to continue working with agencies that are going to provide that service in the coming year when this funding is allocated.

And the premise behind this is to address housing situations when the city of Syracuse has deemed those housing units or houses as unfit. Typically that is some structural issue that would declare unfit, but what we identified early on in 2010, so that there were several housing units in the city that

Deputy Commissioner

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2 water was not accessed by the unit and
3 therefore it is declared unfit by the
4 department. But we had hundreds of
5 individuals living in these properties.

6 Our priority at that point was to
7 identify a network of service providers
8 who could assist individuals who are in
9 those homes. Some were renters, some
10 were owners. In an effort to relocate
11 them to a more stable, safe, affordable
12 housing situation. That program is
13 being implemented now. We are working
14 out all of the kinks to make sure it
15 would not -- or that the program is
16 operating smoothly. And I think we're
17 getting some very positive results from
18 it.

19 We are looking to continue in that
20 vein as we move forward into the year's
21 37th budget. And in our foresight we
22 were right along with what HUD was
23 looking at when they revised the
24 emergency shelter grant to the emergency
25 solutions grants in that that grant now

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Commissioner

is focussing more on homelessness prevention and preventing people from going into shelters and in all costs keeping them in their current home whenever possible or relocating to a more safe affordable housing situation.

COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: So yes, developing a network of agencies to address the housing vulnerable was new last year, and we're continuing that priority and it's reflected in our budget.

Two things and then I think we'll get started. Is the HOME program. We received some inquiries about the lack of detail in that program. And generally speaking without going into a whole lot of detail HOME is a bricks and mortar block grant. It's about 1.9 million that we've received last year and again we're looking at a 37 percent cut this year. And it's very regimented as to what we can spend that money on. There is little admin money that can

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Commissioner

come out of that, but there is 5 percent allowed to be spent on CHDO administration, which is Community Housing Development Organization.

But in general we have used homes lately more and more and this is a national trend. So leverage tax credit projects that can bring in somewhere between 8 and 10 to 1 ratio of our HOME funding, state funding at a 10 to 1 ratio. So some of the projects that we funded lately out of HOME include many of the Eljay properties that you may have heard about that, there are nine buildings, 277 units that were foreclosed on by HUD. And we're working to get them redeveloped into affordable housing. And several of them are going through this tech program for which we leveraged HOME dollars for.

So it's a block grant that we don't know the exact use, it's a rolling basis, which is why there is basically one line item for the HOME program

1 Commissioner

2 outside of the CHDO administration and
3 the CHDO reserve fund. And we can go
4 into that more. But I really do think
5 that this year I hope you find the
6 description of our HOME program is much
7 more readable and goes into the uses of
8 HOME and the restrictions of HOME. And
9 that was an effort to clarify this block
10 grant in more detail to the reader and
11 to the user of these funds.

12 And finally, I think that 800 pound
13 gorilla in the room is the HUD 108
14 issue. I think again most people are
15 aware of this issue. This is a program,
16 an economic development program that was
17 run out of this office in the mid to
18 late '90s. Several of these loans that
19 were made through this program have
20 defaulted. And the back stop for the
21 defaults eventually could come out of
22 our block grant. Whether we planned for
23 that or not.

24 So fast forward to 2011/12 we are
25 looking at a two and-a-half million

Commissioner

1
2 dollars HUD 108 loan repayment that is
3 due in August of 2012. It's the last
4 big loan repayment. There are about
5 four or five more years after that but
6 they're all relatively small. When I
7 say relative we're talking about 2 to
8 \$300,000 a year, but this year it's \$2.5
9 million.

10 The administration has, and this
11 goes back several administrations, paid
12 for this HUD 108 loan mainly out of SIDA
13 proceeds, Syracuse Industrial Develop-
14 ment Agency fees. The fees that we've
15 identified this year account to about
16 1.2 and-a-half million, 1.25 million
17 dollars in SIDA fees. But we're
18 obviously well short of that \$2.5 million
19 figure which is why we factored that
20 scenario into the budget. We are still
21 looking for sources to close that gap.

22 We have it in one scenario \$1.1
23 million dollars to come out of our block
24 grant. But we haven't done it yet and
25 we're trying to do so before we submit

1 Deputy Commissioner

2 this plan to HUD in January. So it's
3 something, it's a reality that we knew
4 was coming for a long time. And we are
5 here and we are doing our best to
6 address it and we'd love to hear the
7 public's comment on this matter.

8 So with that I think that's the
9 preamble for our plan and we will open
10 it up at this point for public comment.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OWENS: Again,
12 anyone wishing to speak there are yellow
13 cards at the desk outside of the
14 chambers. You can complete that and
15 bring that, any one of our staff can get
16 it to us. We're going to go in the
17 order that you arrived. Hopefully we
18 are close to the order that you arrived.
19 And we're going to ask you to keep your
20 comments to two minutes please and I'll
21 give you a high sign when that's
22 approaching.

23 Please state your name and your
24 organization affiliation if you're
25 representing an organization or your

Rae Kramer

1
2 residency affiliation if you're here not
3 affiliated with an organization. And we
4 will start with Rae Kramer followed by
5 Mitchell Cyrus.

6 **RAE KRAMER:** Good evening. I've
7 been here many times before making
8 almost the same speech. It occurred to
9 me I should dig out my old notes. And
10 basically my role has been to kind of
11 talk about the big picture and my
12 ambivalence about advocating for my
13 organization at the expense of another
14 organization. I'm here as one of the
15 co-chairs of the Westcott Community
16 Center. And I would like to introduce
17 Carl Miller who is my fellow co-chair
18 and Mitchell Cyrus who will be speaking
19 after me.

20 And in good conscience I find it
21 hard to say that the kids that I'm
22 advocating for, the kids at our after
23 school program are more needy than the
24 folks who need ramps to get out of their
25 houses to get to work, and the people

Rae Kramer

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2 need heating and etc. etc. And I end up
3 all the way advocating to you guys to
4 advocate all the way up the line that
5 this dilemma in cities of people having
6 to pit ourselves one against the other
7 is a little bit crazy. You know, one
8 bomber would take care of the whole
9 business.

10 And maybe with the people leaving
11 Iraq formally today we'll be able to see
12 some money. But the idea that my need
13 is greater than their need I can't
14 legitimately say that. But I'll make my
15 pitch and hopefully something will
16 happen.

17 I wear a lot of hats in the
18 community, and the co-chair of the
19 Westcott Community Center is a hat I
20 really feel good about. Between the two
21 of us Carl and I have been connected
22 with the Center for more than 20 years
23 and have a real sense of investment and
24 connection both living in the
25 neighborhood and being involved with

Rae Kramer

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2 what the Center does. It's a very
3 vibrant and interesting place. Talking
4 about oddity in that its work encompasses
5 both human service and social service
6 kinds of programs as well as the arts
7 and other types of programming. So to
8 have that housed in one place I think is
9 a reflection of the Westcott Nation, if
10 you will and feels good.

11 It's a lot of stimulation that
12 happens in the Center. The after school
13 kids have exposure to art. The seniors
14 have exposures to kids, etc. And I
15 think that's part of the strength and
16 the vibrancy of the program.

17 We serve primarily low income
18 families in the after school program and
19 this program is often the linchpin, the
20 single thing that enables working
21 parents, single parents and homes where
22 there are two parents to be able to go
23 to work with the sense of security and
24 the reason in their hearts the kids are
25 taken care of. If you have kids you

Rae Kramer

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2 know that unless you resolve childcare
3 the rest of your life is chaotic and
4 rocky; that that piece has to be taken
5 care of. And the after school program
6 is a place of security and stimulation
7 and homework help and companionship.
8 All kinds of wonderful things happen
9 there not the least of which is the
10 parents know that their kids are safe.
11 A really important thing.

12 I've also made the pitch over the
13 years because we're on the east side and
14 not the south side or the west side
15 sometimes our kids get the short shrift.
16 I think the track record of the Center
17 is strong enough that we merit getting
18 continued funding. We may not be the
19 biggest but the need is no less great.
20 Kids who come from Fayette Street are
21 just as needy, just as potentially
22 troubled or potentially in trouble as
23 kids on the south and west side.

24 DEPUTY CMSR OWENS: 15 seconds.

25 RAE KRAMER: Thank you. Prevention,

Rae Kramer

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2 I would like to think about that as the
3 way that we take care of the kids on the
4 front end, way more cost effective than
5 dealing with them in terms of dropping
6 out of school, difficulty getting work,
7 getting involved with the criminal
8 justice system. We have gotten money
9 from you, we always get money from you.
10 We got less than we asked for.

11 My hope is that the rumor mill,
12 whether it's Congel money or whatever,
13 but the rumor mill says that there is
14 some loot around and that could be
15 helpful if we have a little bit more of
16 it; that's kind of my plea.

17 And I want to introduce Mitchell
18 Cyrus who is one of the coordinators of
19 the after school program. He's with the
20 kids every day.

21 DEPUTY CMSR OWENS: Thank you. Before
22 you speak Mr. Cyrus, if you have
23 anything written could you please hand
24 it to the stenographer (court reporter).

25 MITCHELL CYRUS: Good evening. My

Mitchell Cyrus

1
2 name is Mitch Cyrus, I'm the coordinator
3 of Westcott Community Center. Our
4 program is about serving kids. We do
5 homework, enrichment, we teach classes,
6 we have students come from female head
7 of households. We provide a healthy
8 safe place. We often provide CDs,
9 computers, DJ's, dance classes, nature
10 courses. We do a lot of workshops,
11 healthy eating, and how to recognize a
12 predator, fire safety, lead poisoning.
13 And we provide a lot of clothing,
14 gloves, hats, scarves to our children.

15 We are very much encouraged by the
16 children for responsibilities,
17 encouragement to respect them, and what
18 we normally do is listen to them. And
19 one of the things that one of the kids
20 said, if the program gets cut where do
21 we go after that? Lot of kids come to
22 us from 2 o'clock to 5:30 and parents
23 come and pick them up at 5:30 or quarter
24 to 6:00.

25 One girl told me if the program gets

Mitchell Cyrus

1
2 cut where am I going to go? We have
3 nowhere to go but to an empty house. So
4 one of the things I'm passionate about
5 is that we try to keep the program
6 running as much as we can. I do work
7 for the Syracuse Group. About seven or
8 eight years ago we were very happy to
9 get these signs put up in the schools
10 and after school programs. I want to
11 put them up right now, it's like a sign
12 of the hanging house. And the sign
13 would say that: Community of Caring and
14 No Child Left Behind. Thank you.

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OWENS: Thank
16 you. Before we continue I want to take
17 a moment to recognize Councilor-At-Large
18 Jean Kessner, and also our director of
19 planning, Christine in the back, Mr.
20 Maxwell. City of Syracuse staff are
21 here: Mariah Clapp, Luke Dougherty, and
22 Suzanna is an intern with us. Thank you
23 for that. Mr. Walton Eiland, followed
24 by Beata Karpinska-Prehn.

25 WALTER EILAND: Good evening. My

Mitchell Cyrus

1
2 name is Walter Eiland, I'm here two-fold
3 I'm here one as a resident, I stay at
4 410 Kirk Avenue on the south side. I'm
5 also here on behalf of Syracuse Model
6 Neighborhood Corp. Very nervous, I'm
7 not used to being in front of a
8 microphone. But one of the reasons why
9 I'm here I'm really passionate about my
10 community. And that's why I got
11 involved with Syracuse Model
12 Neighborhood to start with because I
13 want to be a part of what was going on
14 in my community.

15 At this present time the Syracuse
16 Model Neighborhood has enjoyed the
17 relationship that we have had with the
18 city and the support that the city has
19 provided us over the years. I want to
20 thank the city first and foremost for
21 their support. And I also want to thank
22 Syracuse Model Neighborhood for doing
23 the work that they have been doing in
24 the community with the housing. During
25 that time, during the time we have

Walter Eiland

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2 built, Syracuse model, you hear me
3 talking two references, Syracuse Model
4 Neighborhood has built and sold over 135
5 single family homes owner-occupied. We
6 have also acquired 101 buildings for
7 rental and low income families. We pay
8 \$45,000 a year in water bills. We pay a
9 quarter of a million dollars in taxes
10 annually. We hire, and this is a part
11 that really impressed me when I heard
12 the statistic, 86 percent of the staff
13 that works for Syracuse Model Neighbor-
14 hood are people that live in the
15 community. So for the money that is
16 coming there is having a trickle down
17 effect that is not only providing
18 housing it's providing income for the
19 people that live in some of those
20 houses.

21 They also support a lot of the
22 businesses that's in that community
23 because we buy a lot of our supplies,
24 our equipment through the local
25 businesses there and a lot of local

Walter Filand

1
2 member of the board. However, we are
3 asking you to seriously consider that
4 108 loan has to be paid but do they
5 really have to be paid out of the
6 Community Development Block Grant? Is
7 there any other way or any other place
8 we can take the funds to be able to pay
9 for that 108 loan? And I trust in the
10 city that they will do their due
11 diligence in trying to find other areas.

12 But recognizing the importance of
13 being able to continue what we have
14 already started because we have a
15 momentum going in many areas, not just
16 on the south side; the southwest side,
17 the west side, east side. Everybody is
18 on a roll trying to get our city back to
19 the condition that we would want it to
20 be, safe environment for everyone and as
21 well as affordable and living
22 environment for everyone. We really
23 would appreciate if we can find another
24 place to get that money from.

25 DEPUTY CMSR OWENS: 15 seconds.

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Walter Eiland

WALTER EILAND: If we are to carry out our mission, which you mentioned earlier Commissioner, with the core principles, and that's what we do, we take care of the housing and things of that nature. If we are to carry out our mission of providing quality housing that people can afford then the adequate levels of funding is necessary. It's essential that we get an adequate level of funding.

And again, I would just like to reiterate, we know that the cuts have to come somewhere, we just want you to really look at us in what we have done, our record, our track record and in handling the money that y'all have blessed us with. That we would be able to continue to do the things that we've been doing. Thank you.

DEPUTY CMSR OWENS: Thank you.
Following Maria Miller will be Kerry Quaglia.

MARIAN MILLER: Hi, I'm Marian

Marian Miller

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2 Miller, and I'm the accessibility
3 coordinator for ARISE, I have been for
4 many many years. And as I sat here
5 tonight I'm thinking through the years
6 that I've had to get up and speak and
7 support this program. And I've watched
8 the budget go up and down. We are
9 totally grateful for what we have. But
10 again, I have to think that every year I
11 still mail out anywhere from 40 to 50
12 applications every year for a ramp. And
13 son of a gun I thought maybe I would get
14 every single house in this city to get
15 it all accessible.

16 But my hope is that through the
17 years the contractors will be building
18 an all accessible home with all the
19 amenities attached to it so we don't
20 have to go through this for the HOME
21 Access Program and that money can be put
22 somewhere else for other purposes.

23 Again, it's one of those things
24 unless you have a family member that is
25 in a situation where they're using a

Marian Miller

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2 wheelchair, they need to get out of a
3 house, and I'm not talking just elderly
4 people, I deal with very young people
5 and young teenagers that need to get out
6 of their house instead of being carried
7 out by their parents just to get on the
8 school bus and go to school. So again
9 this is a very very important program.
10 Is it easy? No, I'm standing here
11 telling you it can be a very difficult
12 and tedious program. It requires a lot
13 of patience, a lot of people liking
14 people, in which I do.

15 And again, I stood before the zoning
16 board last week supporting another site.
17 It seems that every home I'm hitting now
18 that were built 75 to a hundred years
19 ago next to each other I'm not having
20 the space to get that ramp in there.
21 And we're always coming up with an
22 encroachment or we're coming up with a
23 property variance. And when you speak
24 to the owners or landlords first thing
25 they ask is, you know it's going to cost

Marian Miller

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2 them some major bucks to either get me
3 the property survey and so I can go
4 forward. And right now I am backed up
5 because I've got issues with several,
6 several of my property sites. And this
7 is not going to be an easy task.

8 All of a sudden I'm coming up,
9 "there is not enough space," "I need an
10 encroachment form filled out" or "I need
11 a justification letter." Well, we can
12 do that but what it does, time is of the
13 essence in this program. I have from
14 May until the end of April to get X
15 amount of ramps done. That's not going
16 to happen this year.

17 I already had -- and besides I'm sad
18 to say I've already lost two consumers
19 that have been waiting for ramps. So I
20 appreciate anything you can do. When I
21 look at that budget dropping I already
22 know, I'm lucky I can get 7 ramps done
23 with the kind of money it takes to build
24 a ramp, a landing, and the size of the
25 ramp. So again, I mean I may be talking

1 Kerry Quaglia

2 out of turn but I'm telling you the
3 facts and I've dealt with them for over
4 20 years. So I know what it takes and I
5 certainly appreciate everything that can
6 be done for this program. Thank you.

7 DEPUTY CMSR OWENS: Thank you. Can
8 you send me an e-mail giving me a list
9 of the properties that are in the
10 pipeline right now?

11 MARIAN MILLER: I can. Thank you,
12 Sharon.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OWENS: Kerry
14 Quaglia, followed by Rich Puchalski.

15 KERRY QUAGLIA: I'm glad I'm
16 speaking before Rich and not after. I'm
17 Kerry Quaglia, executive director of
18 Home Headquarters. And I would like to
19 first say that we certainly recognize
20 that both the administration and the
21 Council has a pretty thankless task
22 trying to figure out the needs of this
23 community, how to dibby up these scarce
24 resources.

25 But tonight I did want to advocate

Kerry Quaglia

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2 for two specific programs in particular.
3 And you know over the years as funding
4 has been cut there's really very little
5 direct programming going on anymore with
6 CDBG funds. And among the two are the
7 Home Improvement Urgent Care Program and
8 the Down Payment and Closing Costs
9 Assistance Program.

10 On the Home Improvement side we
11 certainly understood over the years that
12 funding has pretty traditionally been
13 cut. The flashback 15 years ago it was
14 about \$2 and-a-half million going into
15 that program. That's a far cry from
16 where it is today. Home Headquarters
17 has tried to bridge that gap by having a
18 Home Improvement Program that's financed
19 privately with just about every bank and
20 credit union in town. It's called the
21 Flex Fund. Essentially banks and credit
22 unions sometimes won't lend to our
23 customers so Home Headquarters borrows
24 the money from the banks and credit
25 unions and in turn lends to those Home

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Kerry Quaglia

Improvement customers ourselves. We credit enhance those customers.

Now, that's great for some people. But if we're using private funds there is fairly strict underwriting criteria. You have to have a certain credit score, you have to have a certain debt ratio. And unfortunately not everybody in the city of Syracuse fits in that nice little box. That's where we really need these Home Improvement dollars in what we call the Urgent Care program. As you know we're pretty much doing roofs, red tag furnaces, sewer emergencies and electrical emergencies.

And right now with the 108 cuts in there this would be whittled down to about \$817,000. Might sound like a lot of money but think about all the owner occupied housing in the city of Syracuse, all the loans in the city of Syracuse, this is their safety net. And that would pay for about 80 cases or so.

In addition to the Home Improvement

1 Kerry Quaglia

2 Program just would like to advocate for
3 the Down Payment and Closing Cost
4 Assistance Program. We help with that
5 program first time home buyers buy a
6 home. It's really good for the economy,
7 it gets the real estate market moving.
8 Of course the real estate market has
9 been in the doldrums. If you can get
10 those first time home buyers in there,
11 I'm preaching to the choir here Sharon,
12 but I'll do it anyway. Then as those
13 houses are sold the people that were
14 living in those houses trade up. It
15 keeps the whole real estate market
16 moving. Again, very few -- very little
17 direct programming with CDBG dollars and
18 certainly wanted to advocate for those
19 two today. Thank you very much.

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OWENS: Thank
21 you. Last card I have is for Rich
22 Puchalski. If there is anyone who does
23 desire to speak, if you can complete a
24 card and bring that up front, we'll
25 include you in the list. Mr. Puchalski.

1 Rich Puchalski

2 **RICH PUCHALSKI:** Rich Puchalski,
3 Executive Director of Syracuse United
4 Neighbors. 34 year old not for profit
5 organization active on the city's south
6 side, southwest and near west side
7 neighborhoods. We do not get any
8 funding from the Community Development
9 Block Grant program, unlike a lot of the
10 prior speakers. SUN has not received
11 CDBG funding, and so we try to speak on
12 an independent voice on the Community
13 Development Block Grant program for
14 years. So we have some concerns.

15 You know, there is a big movement
16 going around this country, the Occupy
17 Movement. The 99 percent of the folks
18 which really represent our neighborhoods
19 on the southwest side. They're the ones
20 that are victimized by 1,400, 1,600
21 vacant houses. They're the ones that
22 hear that these houses have been
23 stripped of copper, a lot of that
24 activity going on. They're the ones
25 that see gangs hang out in these vacant

Rich Puchalski

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2 houses. They're the ones that see that
3 the properties are arsoned, where drugs
4 are stashed and all kind of problems.
5 They live next door to these properties.

6 We are the neighborhoods that have a
7 lot of substandard housing. And people
8 have to work with Home Headquarters in
9 terms of getting Urgent Care and Sharp.
10 And as you know this past year Sharp was
11 closed within 24 hours. That's the kind
12 of demand that's out there for this
13 particular program. And even though it
14 was increased last year it's being
15 scaled back tremendously.

16 But there is the one percent. The
17 reason why we're in a pickle this year
18 is because the people in this building
19 allow the sale of the Dey's building to
20 go for nickels on the dollar. And
21 because the money wasn't raised, you
22 know we have to pay the pauper, the
23 people in Washington to pay back that
24 loan. And our neighborhoods are going
25 to suffer, you know, from the cuts that

1 Rich Puchalski

2 are being proposed.

3 It's the Bob Doucettes that are
4 making a ton of money. You see it
5 written up every day on the TV with Ben
6 Walsh standing up and talking about how
7 everything is turning around downtown
8 and apartments are just selling, there
9 is 99 percent occupancy. Well the Bob
10 Doucettes of the world are making a
11 killing and we're suffering in our
12 neighborhoods. And it's time for them
13 to pay their fair share.

14 As long as your friend Bobby Congel,
15 the guy that's getting away with murder
16 not paying his taxes. That's what the
17 99 percent people are talking about.
18 The rich making a lot of money and the
19 people in the poor neighborhoods
20 suffering. So with that we propose that
21 the Mayor and Mr. Driscoll, you know,
22 use some of this recent payment that the
23 city received in excess of a million
24 dollars to pay down the 108 loans. It's
25 money that was sent back to SIDA; SIDA

1 Rich Puchalski

2 has been paying the bill for 108. It's
3 time you pay this bill.

4 So along with that Mr. Driscoll, we
5 want to know if we're going to get an
6 updated report about 108's. In the past
7 we see Mr. Dave, and got reports of
8 updates about what items and what's
9 going on with the payment plan, what's
10 the projection in the months to come,
11 the years to come. Can we expect to get
12 a copy of that? Can we expect?

13 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: I think we
14 can provide that, yeah. The payments,
15 the scheduled payments?

16 RICH PUCHALSKI: The scheduled. You
17 will provide us a report. All right,
18 we're doing fine. But along the same
19 side, I read the papers every day and I
20 know past mayors have been very active
21 with the Conference of Mayors. And I
22 don't know about what the Mayor has been
23 doing about these cuts that have come
24 down last year in excess of a million
25 dollars in CDBG, we took a big hit last

Rich Puchalski

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2 year. We're seeing another hit. Seeing
3 a bigger hit from HOME, you know. What
4 is the Conference of Mayors doing around
5 the country to put pressure on the
6 elected officials and Congress? I know
7 our, I have seen reports our Senators in
8 New York State have been supportive of
9 the HUD programs. But you know,
10 somebody needs to crack the whip around
11 the country. And we want to know if
12 Stephanie has been, you know, up to put
13 some pressure on these elected officials.
14 Housing is needed in low income urban
15 cities and we certainly need it here in
16 Syracuse. You know, the Mayor --

17 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: 30 seconds.

18 RICH PUCHALSKI: 30 seconds? The
19 Mayor was a champion of reversing the
20 program of CDBG. She came out, said
21 we're going to cut some programs, social
22 programs. We're going to cut adminis-
23 tration. We're going to try to get more
24 money out of CDBG into fixing up houses.
25 She championed that in her

Rich Puchalski

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2 administration. But you know, when you
3 look at this budget I'm not seeing that.
4 I'm seeing, you know, drastic cuts to
5 programs that we urgently need in our
6 neighborhoods. And so you know, I would
7 call her to task, if she wants to be
8 successful for the next run of Mayor
9 she's got to do something about this
10 budget because it stinks.

11 And lastly, this Catholic Charities
12 Relocation Program. You know, it's kind
13 of unusual for, you know, people to call
14 us up and say, you know, I'm getting
15 kicked out of my house, and somebody
16 from code enforcement told us to call
17 SUN. That's like Paul Driscoll calling
18 SUN. You know that will never happen.

19 But anyway we find that we got a lot
20 of questions because we followed some
21 cases. You know, why is it taking so
22 long to relocate these people. People
23 have questions. How much money they're
24 able to give to relocate because the
25 property has been declared unfit.

1 Rich Puchalski

2 Sometimes in cases the water is shut
3 off. You know, how is the agency
4 surviving a drastic cut that was made
5 last year of 50 percent? So you know,
6 one of my staff persons calls up and lo
7 and behold, well if you want information
8 about this program you've got to file an
9 FOI. Well, you know, we don't like
10 that. You know, it's programs to help
11 out the community. If you're sending
12 people down to my office I think we
13 ought to find out what that information
14 is. So Paul, can we get some
15 information about what this program is
16 doing and how it's paying out? You can
17 write that up, send it down to me in an
18 e-mail or do we got to file an FOI?

19 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: It will be
20 in our papers in the spring this year.

21 RICH PUCHALSKI: I ain't waiting
22 that long. People calling every day.
23 Don't lawyer up with me. Well, Paul?

24 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: Happy to
25 provide you copy with that.

Rich Puchalski

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2 RICH PUCHALSKI: Thank you, Paul.
3 Well, I think we did all right. I guess
4 I'll, instead of giving this to Sharon
5 since she pronounced my name all right
6 I'm going to put it back over here. I
7 was going to dump it in Paul's lap.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OWENS: For the
9 record, the request was made and I did
10 seek the advice of our corporate counsel
11 and it would be forwarded. But I also
12 offered, the Commissioner and I, to sit
13 down with the group that SUN could
14 convene if we could discuss and go over
15 the program. And that offer still stands.

16 COUNCILOR KESSNER: What is this
17 need that you're talking about
18 specifically because I --

19 RICH PUCHALSKI: Catholic Charities
20 Relocation Program.

21 COUNCILOR KESSNER: Does Catholic
22 Charities receive monies from our
23 Homeless and Housing Task Force?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OWENS: From the
25 block grant. And they're in this budget

1 Michael Collins

2 again for the coming year. I have one
3 person, Mr. Michael Collins and then
4 Phil Prehn.

5 MICHAEL COLLINS: Good evening. I
6 want to start actually reflecting on
7 Rae's comments, I feel the same way and
8 really honored to be with a group of
9 providers that are doing fantastic work.
10 I don't feel like I can say our program
11 is doing something that is incredibly
12 better than any of the others because I
13 know the work of a lot of these people
14 and it's excellent.

15 I work with Interfaith Works, and a
16 specific part of our work is with the
17 new Americans. And one of the things we
18 do is supported by the Block Grant and
19 that's helping refugees who have been
20 here for up to five years that are
21 housing, wonderful. And a lot of the
22 issues that we have dealt with in the
23 past six months have been: Mold growing
24 so fast within the first two weeks of
25 them moving into a house that was

Michael Collins

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2 showing no mold, that was actually in
3 the carpets. And codes worked with us
4 in an incredible way to make sure we
5 could get the people the help they
6 needed.

7 We deal with people that come in
8 that are being evicted because someone
9 sold the house. And that's not an okay
10 reason to evict someone if you haven't
11 had proper notice and proper ways to
12 closeout. So we were able to step in
13 and help with that and prevent them from
14 being out on the street.

15 Our work is on the north side, as
16 you know from the recent events the
17 north side has seen incredible growth in
18 population. And so one of the things
19 that's done is it's helped to make sure
20 that there are fewer houses that are
21 going vacant. Of course the other
22 problem is that when someone does have a
23 problem there is fewer houses that are
24 available. And so we're able to help
25 people to make sure that if they're

1 Michael Collins

2 having issues with unresponsive
3 landlords that we can step in and
4 negotiate with the landlords so that
5 there is not people going without heat,
6 there's not people going without
7 refrigeration or electricity. That type
8 of thing.

9 And it's work that we really feel
10 good about and as I know everyone else
11 here feels about the work they do. But
12 it's also something that can't happen
13 without funding that comes through the
14 Block Grant. And where I managed to be
15 able to keep a lot of people in a very
16 cost effective way in the homes that
17 they're in without the family having to
18 go through the expense of having money
19 for a security deposit, because they
20 can't get it out of the landlords, they
21 can't get it until three weeks after
22 they move, and having to go to other
23 services to be able to get what they
24 need. We're able to do it with the help
25 of inter-office and keep them within

Michael Collins

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2 their homes in a way that they have
3 stability, to make sure the kids are
4 growing up in a place where they're
5 worried about education and family.
6 They can continue with looking for
7 employment for moving up the employment
8 ladder. And we're making sure that the
9 neighborhoods are having fewer vacant
10 houses simply through that process. So
11 that's it, thank you.

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OWENS: Thank
13 you. We have Phil Prehn, followed by
14 Sharon Sherman. Again, anyone else
15 would like to address us, to speak, fill
16 out one of the yellow cards.

17 PHIL PREHN: Thank you, my name is
18 Phil Prehn, I'm a community organizer
19 with Syracuse United Neighbors. I'd
20 like to say that this is the 20th
21 anniversary of Syracuse United Neighbors
22 complaining about the HUD Section 108
23 Loan Program. We held a press conference
24 in 1992 in Armory Square talking about
25 how when you pledged public money to

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Phil Prehn

private industry the public gets screwed
And this is exactly what's happening.

Commissioner, you made a point
earlier that you said that SIDA has been
paying the bills. Well, since 1998 when
we started paying off these huge
astronomical loans that were made by
Mayor Bernardi, who indebted us over \$23
million, \$8 million has come out of the
Community Development Block Grant fund.
That is money that could have gone into
all of the things that you've heard
talked about tonight. So SIDA hasn't
been picking up the tab, the 99 percent
has been picking up the tab.

I would like to comment very quickly
on what we're talking about before with
the Catholic Charities group. A few
years ago with the federal HPRP program
that was funded by the federal
government, the stimulus money, the city
said that we wanted to work with the
county to provide a program that would
help people from becoming homeless. We

Phil Prehn

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2 recommended several people into that
3 program. You had to know the secret
4 handshake or something to get into the
5 program.

6 The money was used by the agencies
7 that are already dealing with people who
8 are homeless and living in shelters. We
9 understand that. But they had \$2
10 million. \$2 million to spend in stimulus
11 money in two years. So the people who
12 we were concerned about, who we get
13 calls from now every week, we get a
14 couple calls from people who said, I'm
15 being forced out and code enforcement
16 told me to call you. The city decided
17 that they needed the program because
18 they were going to get tougher on things
19 like shutting off water, shutting off
20 water of tenants when their landlord
21 didn't pay the bill. And you know,
22 we've been trying to get an equitable
23 solution to that for a while. We're
24 getting there but we're still not a
25 hundred percent.

1 Phil Prehn

2 But anyway, the city is doing more
3 to toss people out on the street. And
4 people are calling us and people are
5 desperate by the time they get to us,
6 there is a knock on the door and I have
7 to relocate. And so these are the kind
8 of folks that we were hoping would
9 benefit from this Catholic Charities
10 program that was proposed two years ago.

11 It was proposed to be funded at
12 \$400,000. That was before HUD's budget
13 was passed. As you all know we had to
14 come back a second time last year with
15 almost no public input and have a second
16 go with the budget which slashed almost
17 half of that money. It was the single
18 largest cut to any program last year was
19 to that Catholic Charities program. So
20 now their program is funded at \$200,000.
21 Now it's, you know, if the HUD 108 goes
22 through it's even significantly less
23 than that.

24 So our concern is that at a time
25 that the city is, you know, searching

1 Phil Prehn

2 for coins under the couch cushions by
3 kicking tenants out for the water bills
4 that the landlords won't pay and at the
5 time when the banks are foreclosing on
6 people, and at times when people are
7 losing their housing the most and need
8 more help they're going to be getting
9 less help. So we asked for information
10 about what the program looked like when
11 it was applied for at \$400,000, what it
12 was going to do at \$200,000. And now
13 what again it's going to do at you know
14 about 160,000 I think.

15 COUNCILOR KESSNER: 169.

16 PHIL PREHN: And I did talk to you
17 guys and you said that we couldn't get
18 the information where you could sit down
19 and talk to us. We wanted to have that
20 information so we would be better
21 prepared to sit down and talk to you.
22 We're not averse to sitting down and
23 talking to you, what we are averse to is
24 the fact that, you know, the Miner
25 administration seems to be littered with

Sharon Sherman

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2 juris doctor degrees and nothing can be
3 done are get done without an FOI and a
4 lawyer signing off on it. So this is
5 the public information. We would like
6 to have the public information. The
7 public is continually getting screwed by
8 this process. This is my 18th time here
9 speaking at this thing and I don't think
10 I've ever been happy. Thank you.

11 DEPUTY CMSR OWENS: Sharon Sherman.

12 **SHARON SHERMAN:** Sharon Sherman,
13 Greater Syracuse Tenants Network. I
14 wasn't going to speak but I just wanted
15 to comment on the Housing Vulnerable
16 Programs. And I think we're off to a
17 good start with the group of agencies
18 that are involved in it. I agree there
19 are problems in implementation that
20 we're all facing. We are, you know,
21 pleased to be put under the ESG program
22 now, first of all, because we're
23 receiving somewhat adequate funding
24 through it which was not possible
25 through CDBG. And also because it does

Sharon Sherman

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2 make sense with the direction of the
3 federal government.

4 But we need to perhaps do a better
5 job of publicizing how our Housing
6 Vulnerable Program is working. The
7 Greater Syracuse Tenants Network, some
8 people know, I've gotten calls and
9 helped many of those agencies in this
10 room. We're basically the triage
11 center. And when tenants call us we
12 have been successful in several water
13 shut off cases. I'm sure everyone in
14 this room knows that each case is so
15 complicated, people in poverty, every
16 person has a lot of different factors on
17 where they can move, what their economic
18 situation is, what is available for them.

19 The overwhelming problem which goes
20 still to our lack of dollars for housing
21 renovation and housing programs is there
22 just is such a lack of available housing
23 So you know, whether or not they're
24 eligible for Catholic Charities
25 relocation I still have a hard time

Sharon Sherman

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2 trying to direct somebody where to go.
3 I believe the Housing Authority Section
4 8 list is closed. Christopher Community
5 told me yesterday they have a four year
6 waiting list. None of the assisted
7 housing places have any openings.
8 Housing Visions has a tremendous waiting
9 list. I know Eljay will come on board,
10 but part of our problem is that people
11 live in substandard housing right now
12 because the dollars they have and the
13 availability, it just doesn't match.

14 So we are pleased to continue into
15 this new arena of ESG where a concern,
16 we hope that the guidelines on who we
17 can help don't trap us, and the
18 documentation issue, which have already
19 increased for our Syra-Stat reporting.
20 And we would like to help everyone who
21 we can. And when you start asking
22 people all these questions we are
23 concerned about whether that's going to
24 create barriers to our ability to help
25 somebody over the phone get to the

1 Sharon Sherman

2 proper agency. Thank you.

3 **COUNCILOR MAROUN:** Sharon, if I may,
4 is there a documentation relative to
5 what you just stated about the lack of
6 housing in all the capacities and the
7 percentage that you quoted relative to
8 being that capacity?

9 **SHARON SHERMAN:** I think in the
10 homeless area, as you know the Homeless
11 Task Force, all the agencies report
12 vacancies in shelters transitional. The
13 other, I do have, our agency does
14 collect some information but not in a
15 report form at the moment. But it is
16 something that we said we would do.

17 **COUNCILOR MAROUN:** I know obviously
18 I attend the task force on homeless but
19 do you know if there is any, Paul?

20 **COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL:** I haven't
21 seen a report all together. The
22 percentages that Sharon talks about is
23 familiar, just on a goal basis. The
24 capacity of our Model Neighborhood
25 housing, I'm sure we can get that.

Councilors

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2 SHARON SHERMAN: Model Neighborhood
3 I'm sure doesn't have a lot of vacancies
4 if somebody called them and needs an
5 apartment.

6 COUNCILOR MAROUN: Thank you.

7 COUNCILOR KESSNER: Could I ask a
8 question as well? I see now, not of you
9 it was of him, I know you have another
10 speaker like the Tenants really help
11 people be able to do all sorts of things
12 but also the Hiscock Legal Aid Society,
13 so many people face so many legal
14 problems that have no access, no ability

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OWENS: They are
16 also funded under the direction of the
17 emergency solutions.

18 COUNCILOR KESSNER: Thank you, glad
19 to hear that, because we run into that
20 quite a bit. So thank you.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OWENS: Also
22 like to recognize our Councilman here,
23 Nader Maroun showed up, thank you very
24 much.

25 COUNCILOR MAROUN: I was at a wake.

Councilors

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2 BOBETTE BAKER: Did your question
3 concern data around homeless issues in
4 this community? The housing and -- the
5 Homeless Housing Coalition, of all the
6 agencies, do report into the HMIS, which
7 is the Homeless Management Information
8 System. So if you're looking for
9 specific data we can work with the HMIS
10 director to get the data you need. And
11 then we also have several housing
12 coordinators that also have data on
13 what's available in the neighborhood in
14 terms of affordable housing.

15 COUNCILOR MAROUN: I would
16 definitely like to have that to read and
17 share with my colleagues on the Council.

18 COUNCILOR KESSNER: And I have yet
19 another question. I know that in
20 previous times there was an advisory
21 committee, what was it called, CDAC,
22 that no longer exists. Where do you get
23 the citizen input for this?

24 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: In terms of
25 evaluating specific proposals, the RFP,

Councillors

1
2 Request for Proposal committees for each
3 of the strategies. These committees
4 consist of staff, members from the
5 Mayor's Citizens Cabinet and our
6 department reaches out to the local
7 foundations, Gifford Community, Literacy
8 Coalition to solicit their expertise.

9 COUNCILOR KESSNER: Well, I haven't
10 talked with HUD but I know that they
11 have a requirement for citizens input.
12 And from what I know of the Citizens
13 Cabinet it's not something you can just
14 say hey, I want to be on this. And they
15 meet three or four times a year and I
16 get the minutes later and I talked to
17 people on it. And I don't see it as an
18 advisory, I see as a list of here's what
19 we're going to do. So I want to know
20 where the public input is and I want to
21 know when we're going to get the public
22 back in the input business, because it
23 troubles me.

24 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: Well, tonight
25 is one of the statutory requirements.

Councilors

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2 The minimum public participation is two
3 public meetings to solicit input on the
4 draft plan and to have the plan out for
5 thirty days. So that's the bare minimum
6 We want to exceed that obviously. And
7 you know, folks on the Mayor's cabinet,
8 Citizens Cabinet are voted on by their
9 TNT committees to be on that cabinet,
10 and another set are appointed directly
11 by the Mayor. So it's representative.

12 COUNCILOR KESSNER: So the people
13 that you have on the Mayor's Citizens
14 Cabinet, these people are the people who
15 were suggested by TNT?

16 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: Voted on by
17 the TNT.

18 COUNCILOR KESSNER: How many have
19 input?

20 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: I don't know
21 that ratio but that's how they get on
22 the cabinet.

23 COUNCILOR KESSNER: I just appreciate
24 and I know one of the things I do a lot,
25 sometimes I get exhausted by it, is try

Councilors

1
2 to have as many open committee meetings
3 as I can. Because the more people that
4 know about what happens here the more
5 they understand why it happens. I mean
6 I believe that. And I believe we have a
7 duty, especially according to HUD, get
8 citizen input on this. I would like it
9 to be an open process, I really would.
10 Maybe I'll get a committee on that, I
11 don't know.

12 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: Historically
13 TNT evolved out of a need for public
14 participation. So that's kind of why it
15 exists.

16 REA KRAMER: I guess I would just
17 raise questions about TNT. That I don't
18 know that per se TNT is the example of
19 an opportunity for community people.

20 COUNCILOR KESSNER: What would you
21 suggest?

22 RAE KRAMER: I'm not that well
23 versed by it but seems to me that the
24 mandates for TNT in general has been, I
25 don't mean to sound this pejorative, it

Councilors

1
2 does window dressing. Put a bench, put
3 a sign that announces you're entering
4 the Eastwood community. I don't think
5 TNT has ever been given responsibility
6 for much more substantial issues. And
7 certainly the people's needs represented
8 here I believe are way more significant
9 than add a bench or a sign.

10 COUNCILOR KESSNER: TNT coordinator
11 is Bobette who's sitting in front of you

12 BOBETTE BAKER: You didn't have to
13 point that out.

14 COUNCILOR KESSNER: I'm sure that
15 Bobette would like to, I think that it's
16 important to know how. And I understand
17 what you're saying, and you know, who
18 shows up at meetings is what it is. And
19 I mean I don't know how you get chosen
20 by them to be on the Mayor's cabinet.
21 You're not in a position to know. I go
22 to a lot of TNT meetings and I never
23 heard it asked or advertised. But then
24 I certainly don't go to every one of
25 them. So I wouldn't judge that to be

Councilors

1
2 the be all end all. But thank you, I
3 appreciate that.

4 COUNCILOR MAROUN: My question is
5 this is going to come before the counsel
6 the recommended budget in January. We
7 have a public hearing scheduled for the
8 4th?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OWENS: Still
10 have to coordinate it.

11 COUNCILOR KESSNER: To get the date.
12 Do you know is it early? It's going to
13 be -- what's your deadline that you have
14 to have it and get your stuff done and
15 in?

16 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: We're hoping
17 this will be on the first Council agenda
18 in January is our goal.

19 COUNCILOR KESSNER: In order to be
20 able to get that through and have a
21 committee meeting where people can talk.
22 I know there is a public hearing but it
23 will go on the agenda, Councilors will
24 have questions.

25 COUNCILOR MAROUN: I guess what I'm

Councilors

1
2 trying to figure out is chronologically
3 there will be an opportunity for
4 Councilor Kessner to call a committee
5 meeting to discuss this, one or two if
6 she chooses, beforehand to have further
7 discussion of this before it appears on
8 our agenda. Right?

9 COUNCILOR KESSNER: No, because it
10 has to the appear on the agenda so
11 people can get information and talk
12 about it before we have it.

13 COUNCILOR MAROUN: Before we vote on
14 it. Because we have the public hearing
15 and then we vote. So before we do that
16 it could be further committee, committee
17 hearings could be held and then from now
18 going out further this has to be
19 submitted by May, if I understand it?

20 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: Let me back
21 up a little bit. The thirty day comment
22 period started December 1st. It expires
23 December 30th. We are hoping to get
24 this done the first Council agenda in
25 January. You might have missed my

Councilors

1
2 preamble at the beginning, we're moving
3 this whole process up to earlier in the
4 year so that we can submit the plan to
5 HUD by mid January so that we can get
6 the release of the funds in concert with
7 the beginning of our program year, which
8 is in May. So our statutory deadline to
9 get it into HUD is March 15th,
10 forty-five days before the beginning of
11 our program year. But we're looking to
12 get it in January 15th to tighten up the
13 time when our program year starts and
14 when the money will be flowing from HUD.

15 COUNCILOR MAROUN: Of course on the
16 other end, funding in terms of people
17 receiving the funding has been, has
18 lagged, correct? So that's part of the
19 concern in terms of getting that. So
20 the public comment is from December 1st
21 to December 31st. But that doesn't
22 mitigate or negate the Councilor having
23 an additional committee meeting prior to
24 vote. So if we don't vote it the first
25 time that it's up there we still have a

Councilors

1
2 little bit of a window time.

3 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: Right, and
4 public participation process in our plan
5 which we have to adhere to requires an
6 additional, this is a public meeting
7 that we're at right now. We need a
8 public hearing.

9 COUNCILOR MAROUN: Which is what we
10 do at the Council.

11 COUNCILOR KESSNER: When is your
12 dream to have that? You have to
13 advertise for it and all the things the
14 city clerk can tell you, I don't know,
15 10 days this and that.

16 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: That public
17 hearing should be around the time that
18 they're going to vote on this.

19 COUNCILOR KESSNER: What would be
20 your dream as to when we should vote for
21 it? Not on the 4th.

22 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: That would
23 be our dream.

24 COUNCILOR KESSNER: I think that's a
25 kind of a tight dream. Because we only

Councilors

1
2 go back to work on the 2nd of January.

3 COUNCILOR MAROUN: 4th is the study
4 session.

5 COUNCILOR KESSNER: It would be the
6 Monday following.

7 LUKE DOUGHERTY: Study session held
8 then you announce the public hearing and
9 kind of hold it for the public hearing
10 that night.

11 COUNCILOR KESSNER: But you have to
12 pass something for it to allow, you have
13 to advertise.

14 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: Right.

15 SHARON SHERMAN: Could you close the
16 public hearing, please.

17 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: No, because
18 I think it's important for people to
19 hear.

20 SHARON SHERMAN: Very confusing. I
21 wish the Commissioner had communicated
22 with the Council before the meeting
23 because I think that we don't, I would
24 prefer for HUD to show that we're very
25 coordinated. So I'm suggesting you

Councilors

1
2 might want to close the public hearing.

3 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: Appreciate
4 the suggestion.

5 PHIL PREHN: I suggest you continue
6 because it shows you have an openness to
7 debate things in the public.

8 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: I concur.

9 COUNCILOR KESSNER: So as to the
10 timetable?

11 COUNCILOR MAROUN: I just say we can
12 find the time coordinated between your
13 office and the Council to make sure that
14 we have a window of opportunity for
15 people to speak again either at the
16 committee meeting, an open committee
17 meeting and/or at the public announced,
18 formally announced public hearing, a
19 date in January has to be established.

20 COUNCILOR KESSNER: And we would,
21 you know, as soon as you have some of
22 that information to give us and we would
23 like very much to discuss that and get
24 it all going because this is important
25 money for us, very important.

Commissioner

1
2 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: Just to
3 remind those here, we're soliciting
4 input every day. An e-mail, a phone
5 call, all of this has to be recorded and
6 put into our plan. So you don't have to
7 wait for an official hearing you can
8 make your thoughts known.

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OWENS: If you
10 have thoughts you can also put them in
11 writing and submit them to our office
12 and they will be recorded as a matter of
13 record of this process.

14 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: Any other
15 comments? I would like for my own self
16 to correct what I said earlier in the
17 preamble about 108 not coming out of
18 CDBG, Phil Prehn is correct, I should
19 have said in the last 10 years no CDBG
20 funds went to the HUD 108 program. In
21 the early years, in the '90s CDBG funds
22 were set aside to pay off this debt
23 that's looming. We have not done that
24 in the last 10 or 12 years. So I
25 misspoke at the beginning. And should

1 Commissioner

2 not have said CDBG funds never went to
3 this debt, but lately they have not. So
4 I hope that corrects the record.

5 **BEATA KARPINSKA-PREHN:** Where
6 elsewhere could the money be raised?
7 Can the money be raised in any other
8 way?

9 COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: Yes, we are
10 frantically looking for other sources to
11 plug this hole. This is the last resort
12 that this gap would come out of CDBG
13 funds. But to be perfectly frank we
14 don't have those sources yet. So we
15 felt it incumbent upon us to show that
16 scenario of should we have to pay this,
17 get 1.1 million, what that would look
18 like. So that's why we included it in
19 this draft. But like I said, there is a
20 myriad of other sources including the
21 city general fund that could pay that.
22 Any other last comments?

23 With that I will close the public
24 meeting. And again thank you all for
25 coming tonight and invite your comments

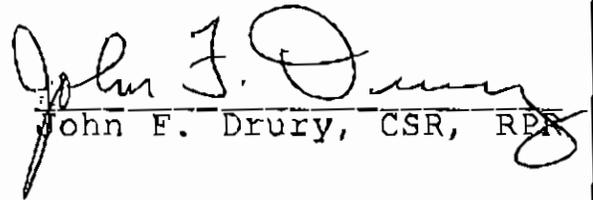
1 Commissioner

2 going forward. Thank you very much.

3 * * * *

4 C E R T I F I C A T E

5 This is to certify that I am a
6 Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary
7 Public in and for the State of New York,
8 that I attended and reported the above
9 entitled proceedings, that I have
10 compared the foregoing with my original
11 minutes taken therein and that it is a
12 true and correct transcript thereof and
13 all of the proceedings had therein.

14
15 
16 John F. Drury, CSR, RPR

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18 Dated: December 27, 2011

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SYRACUSE COMMON COUNCIL STATE OF NEW YORK

Application US Dept HUD
2012-2013 (Year 38)
Consolidated Plan
CDBG, HOME and ESG

PUBLIC HEARING in the above matter conducted at
City Hall Common Council Chambers, 233 E Washington
Street, Syracuse, New York, before JOHN F. DRURY,
CSR, RPR, Notary Public in and for the State of
New York, on January 20, 2012, 12:00 pm.

COMMON COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Councilor JEAN KESSNER, President Pro Tem
- Councilor KATHLEEN JOY
- Councilor LANCE DENNO, Majority Leader
- Councilor HELEN HUDSON
- Councilor JACK BARRETT
- Councilor PATRICK HOGAN, Majority Whip
- Councilor BOB DOUGHERTY
- Councilor KHALID BEY
- Councilor NADER P. MAROUN

City Clerk JOHN P. COPANAS
Deputy City Clerk JOYCE W. PARKER

ALSO PRESENT:

PAUL DRISCOLL, Commissioner Neighborhood
& Business Development

Reported By:
John F. Drury, CSR, RPR
Court Reporter 471-7397

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Valerie Hill	Syr Model Neighbor	21
Kerry Quaglia	Home Headquarters	24
Marilyn Woyciesjes	Covenant Housing	26*
Walt Dixie	Jubilee Homes	29
Barbara Humphrey (written statement only attached)		

* Includes written statement attached

Agenda Title

1
2 **COUNCILOR KESSNER:** Now is the time
3 and place for the public hearing on an
4 annual Community Development Block Grant
5 allocation. Clerk, would you please
6 read the title.

7 **CITY CLERK:** Yes, Madam President.
8 Application to and with the US Depart-
9 ment of Housing and Urban Development,
10 2012-2013 (Year 38) Consolidated Plan.
11 Community Development Block Grant,
12 \$5,566,911. HOME Investment Partnership
13 Grant \$1,195,458. Emergency Solutions
14 Grant \$423,720.

15 **COUNCILOR KESSNER:** If you wish to
16 be heard you'll have to fill out a
17 yellow card back where you come in, if
18 you haven't done that please do that
19 now. You will be called in the order
20 you arrived and filled out the card.

21 Before we begin hearing people's
22 testimony we would like first to hear
23 from Neighborhood and Business
24 Development Commissioner Paul Driscoll.
25 He has news of some late reductions in

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Commissioner Driscoll

the amount that HUD allowed the city in the CDBG. Paul?

COMMISSIONER DRISCOLL: Thank you, Councilor. Yes, the budget that was planned for in the draft consolidated plan incorporated a 5-percent-cut throughout the CDBG portion of the budget. Tuesday night of this week we received our actual allocation from HUD which was somewhat unexpected the timing and the amount. But this is the official allocation dollar amount that the city of Syracuse can expect. And it's significantly less than we had budgeted for.

In fact we anticipated a 5.5 percent cut, the total cut that came across our desk on Tuesday was, amounts to 14.8 percent cut in the CDBG. So it would be an additional 10 percent cut from the draft plan that we had discussed at our public meeting in December. This is a formula block grant. There is not much the city can do in terms of arguing with

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Commissioner Driscoll

this, it's not a competitive grant where we can petition for more money.

I would just add that HUD, the federal HUD department was cut by 11 percent. And yet our cuts are deeper than that, 14.8 percent in the last year. And the reasoning behind that variance is the census figures that change from 2000 to 2010. It's a very complex formula that is determined based on population and poverty and some other demographics that calculates the city of Syracuse share of the entire federal block grant.

But we are a little bit confused to be perfectly frank because our population held steady and our poverty rate in fact increased. So it's a very, like I say, a complex formula. I have personally not gone through that formula but this is the results of it, 14.8 percent cut in the CDBG.

A second block grant HOME Investment Partnership, our draft plan incorporated

1 Commissioner Driscoll

2 a 38 percent cut. And these were all
3 based on the federal, the House and
4 Senate negotiations. And yesterday or
5 this week's news alerted us that the cut
6 is actually 39.5 percent. So while the
7 cuts are drastic in the HOME program we
8 were more accurate in forecasting what
9 those cuts would be. So it's an
10 additional, about \$40,000 less on the
11 home side.

12 And then ESG, which is now renamed
13 Emergency Solutions Grant, which
14 addresses the homeless and housing
15 vulnerable populations was actually
16 increased. And we knew, we anticipated
17 an increase but it was actually
18 increased a little bit higher than we
19 anticipated. So that total amount is on
20 the last page of the budget. It's
21 483,000 where we anticipated 447 in the
22 draft plan.

23 So it's a net loss obviously of
24 several hundred thousand dollars. And
25 the way we addressed it in the meeting

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Commissioner Driscoll

with the mayor was to apply these additional cuts across the board, except for two exceptions:

The Urgent Care program run by Home Headquarters which is a program for low income owner occupants to make emergency repairs to their house, houses. We cut back this week 2 percent rather than the 10 percent that everyone else incurred.

And the Relocation Services Program that we've run through Catholic Charities which addresses folks that aren't homeless but are living in substandard housing and try and fix their housing, make minimal repairs or relocate them to safe adequate housing, that sustained a 5 percent cut rather than 10 percent cut that everyone else incurred.

Those two programs I just mentioned, the money to keep them less than the 10 percent cut came from what we call bricks and mortar line control by the city, called vacant property, which was

1 Commissioner Driscoll

2 in the 400,000, during the draft plan
3 and we took that down to roughly
4 \$300,000 and change, I'm sorry 265,000
5 is the final amount that were allocated
6 for that bricks and mortar program. The
7 deficit or the reductions in that went
8 towards the Urgent Care program and
9 Relocation Program.

10 So it's discouraging news but this
11 is how we weathered it, this is how
12 we're handling it. I guess the only
13 silver lining to this story is that we
14 now know what the number is. And should
15 counsel and the mayor pass this on
16 Monday we will hand it in to HUD next
17 week with the budget and anticipate that
18 the program year will start May 1 and
19 hopefully the funds will be available on
20 May 1 of that year. But there will be
21 no guesstimate as we did last year where
22 we had to redo the whole process. So we
23 know our numbers and they're disappointing
24 and this is how we incorporated it.

25 **COUNCILOR KESSNER:** Thank you,

1 Commissioner Driscoll

2 Commissioner. There is one additional
3 thing on the previous one before this
4 one, there was a proposal that the HUD
5 108 funds be repaid through CDBG monies.
6 Common Council rejected that and thanks
7 you for that being left off this,
8 because that would have made a very bad
9 situation a lot worse. Thank you.

10 Next we will call in order the
11 people who came to sign up to speak.
12 When you are called come up to the
13 microphone and there will be a person,
14 the second person will be called to wait
15 and know that they're on deck so to
16 speak. State your name, your
17 organization if you represent one, and
18 your address. And if you have written
19 comments please file those with our
20 reporter and if you will summarize those
21 and file the written comments with the
22 clerk. Thank you very much.

23 The first speaker is Kitty Rice and
24 to follow Kitty is Syracuse Model
25 Neighborhoods Corporation Steve Susman.

Kitty Rice

1
2 **KITTY RICE:** Good morning, my name
3 is Kitty Rice, I live at 238 Baker
4 Avenue, and I'm a member of the Syracuse
5 Model Neighborhood Corporation Board.
6 First I want to thank the Commissioner
7 for that information. I had a whole
8 different talk put together until I went
9 out to the curb and picked up my
10 newspaper this morning and read the
11 article about this current news.

12 And I just want to say at Syracuse
13 Model we primarily make it a point to
14 provide decent affordable homes, rental
15 property, to people in the city. And
16 there is a huge need. Primarily the
17 people we service are single mothers
18 with children and senior citizens, many
19 of them raising children. And we were
20 prepared, we have done a lot within our
21 organization to try to prepare for the
22 cuts that we anticipated coming.

23 Also this particular agency is a
24 little bit even more unique because most
25 of the people, over 86 percent of the

Kilty Rice

1
2 people that work for the agency actually
3 live in the community and also are
4 people that rent. Now I'm blessed
5 enough where I'm not renting but I know
6 the kind of things that people have to
7 go through in order to keep property up.

8 The city, we've done everything that
9 you've asked us to do. We pay taxes, we
10 pay a huge water bill, we use
11 contractors and small businesses for
12 services within our community, so
13 everything kind of rolls together. And
14 cutting this agency 50 something
15 thousand dollars is almost, I had a
16 headache, and I've still got a headache
17 from the time I left home. It's almost
18 going to make it impossible for us to
19 keep up these properties.

20 As you know if you look back on
21 history of the city actually gave us a
22 lot of dilapidated houses that we have
23 in turn turned into decent liveable
24 places that people can be proud of.
25 We've taken basic people with not a lot

Kitty Rice

1
2 of training and hired them and taught
3 them how to make cabinets.

4 I wish that the people in the
5 federal government could just ride
6 through our neighborhoods. I urge
7 everybody in here, we need to go home
8 and write to the people that represent
9 us on the federal level. My representa-
10 tive, I believe Ann Marie Buerkle, she
11 needs to come and ride around with me.
12 Because somebody needs to stand up and
13 say something when these type of things
14 happen. But I know it's not the city's
15 fault, I'm not blaming the city but I
16 just wanted to get that off my chest
17 this morning.

18 So we're going to try to do what we
19 can do even though it may mean sending a
20 few people home with no jobs; it may
21 mean some mother and her family not
22 being able to get a wall patched or a
23 decent sidewalk fixed. Or some senior
24 citizen that may have to pay a higher
25 National Grid bill simply because the

1 Steve Susman

2 furnace and things aren't operating on
3 the level we would like for it to be.
4 These are the kind of things that these
5 kinds of cuts actually creates in our
6 community.

7 **COUNCILOR KESSNER:** Ms. Rice, I

8 thank you very much for your comments.
9 I neglected to tell you, we have a two
10 minute limit.

11 **KITTY RICE:** I went over the two
12 minutes, I'm sorry.

13 **COUNCILOR KESSNER:** That's fine.

14 But the rest, will give you a bit of a
15 warning, but thank you for your
16 comments. Steve Susman.

17 **STEVE SUSMAN:** My name is Steve
18 Susman, I live at 216 Buckingham Avenue
19 on the east side, and I represent the
20 Westcott Community Center and
21 particularly the kids at the After
22 School Program. I'll try to be as brief
23 as I can. I wanted to thank the Council
24 for all the support that they've given
25 the Center during my 12 years there.

Steve Susman

It's been much much appreciated.

We serve between 30 and 50 youths at risk in our After School Program depending on the level of funding each year. We have an extremely good track record in terms of outcomes. During the past six to eight years we've been averaging a 31 percent increase in report card scores in the areas that we target through tutoring the kids on, which we get from the kids teachers. Our program is kind of unique that way in that part of the application packet the parents have to sign permission for us to contact the teachers. So we know exactly the areas that kids need, and that's I think why we've been so successful.

So we are helping working parents that are poor and have peace of mind that have children that are well cared for during the afternoon. And we generally will hold the kids with staff until the parent makes it there. So

1 Steve Susman

2 we're flexible in terms of their work.
3 I think we're helping the community by
4 keeping the kids off the street during
5 high crime youth hours, three to five or
6 5:30. And so I think we're actually
7 affecting the whole neighborhood with
8 this program.

9 Getting a cut down to the level
10 that's proposed to 32,400 will reduce
11 the number of youths at risk and the
12 staff that we're able to employ.

13 **COUNCILOR KESSNER:** Two minutes are
14 up, if you will bring your thoughts to a
15 head appreciate it and filing your
16 comment with the Clerk, please be brief.

17 **STEVE SUSMAN:** The Wallace Foundation
18 in New York has calculated what a
19 quality program school should cost in
20 different areas, demographic areas
21 around the state. The low cost for a
22 program like mine is 68,000 a year. And
23 the median is 131, with the highest 199.
24 To be expected to run a program for
25 32,400 is going to get reduced quite a

1 Phil Prehn

2 bit. And thank you for your time.

3 COUNCILOR KESSNER: Thank you. Phil
4 Prehn, and following Phil Prehn will be
5 Sakia Dowdy.

6 PHIL PREHN: Good afternoon. My
7 name is Phil Prehn, I'm a community
8 organizer for Syracuse United Neighbors.
9 Here we are again, same motley collec-
10 tion of agency types and government
11 officials, the people whose jobs pay
12 them to be here or who are going to be
13 receiving funding. This is not public
14 input. This is not input from the
15 people whose neighborhoods are in
16 desperate need of the housing repairs
17 that this program is supposed to
18 directly impact.

19 The city public participation plan
20 has always been woefully inadequate.
21 This year is going to be even worse
22 since you decided to move the process up
23 from a January through March process to
24 a December to early January process.
25 There has only been two opportunities

Phil Prehn

1
2 for any kind of input whatsoever.
3 Evening meeting with Neighborhood and
4 Business Development during the middle
5 of the holiday season in December and
6 right now. And the result is what you
7 see. You don't see public input, you
8 see agency input.

9 SUN is urging the city to
10 reinstitute the kind of public forums
11 that were held under some of the
12 previous administrations out in the
13 community to actually get public input.
14 into what the needs of the community are
15 and what the potential program should be
16 funding.

17 The other thing that the city, that
18 we urge the city to do, to prioritize
19 more public participation is really
20 juice up what's called the CAPER program.
21 CAPER is an excellent opportunity to
22 understand this program, both its
23 benefits and its shortcomings, because
24 the agencies that actually got funded
25 are supposed to come testify about what

1 Phil Prehn

2 they did and what they plan to do and
3 why they didn't meet their goals if they
4 didn't. Those are criminally poorly
5 attended. I remember one was held in
6 the Commissioner's office with two
7 people. So, secondly --

8 **COUNCILOR KESSNER:** Two minutes.

9 **PHIL PREHN:** Two points. Usually we
10 ask the city to prioritize funding for
11 low income housing because that was the
12 purpose of this, too much was siphoned
13 off with the City Hall salaries and for
14 other things. That has been done. What
15 we're asking now is to make sure that
16 that money is put to good use.

17 There really is no set account-
18 ability benchmarks for non-profit
19 housing agencies. You know, we need to
20 know how many homes are going to be
21 rehabbed, we need to know how the city
22 is going to move from demolition to
23 deconstruction. We need to know how
24 many families are going to get loans to
25 fix up their homes. And you know, we

1 Phil Prehn

2 need to hold people to these numbers.

3 COUNCILOR KESSNER: Thank you very
4 much.

5 PHIL PREHN: Lastly, for HUD 108
6 we're glad to see that this is not
7 coming out of the Community Develop-
8 ment Block Grant project. SIDA got us
9 into this mess, they need to take care
10 of it. But we're also asking that
11 because over the last decade we've lost
12 \$8 million out of this program, we want
13 to know when the city is going to start
14 talking about repaying us. City keeps
15 talking about running things like a
16 business. Well in a business you repay
17 your debts. We've lost \$8 million that
18 could have gone to fix low income
19 housing and we're not getting it.
20 Instead we're getting loft apartments
21 yuppie coffee shops downtown. When are
22 they going to repay us?

23 COUNCILOR KESSNER: Thank you. Sakia
24 Dowdy to be followed by Valerie Hill.

25 SAKIA DOWDY: Hi, my name is Sakia

Sakia Dowdy

Dowdy, I live at 265 McLennan Avenue. I am here on behalf of the Southwest Community Center. I grew up in the Center, my children currently go to the Center, and my nephews and nieces. And my understanding last year we have lost

funding. And I am just standing here today to represent those people in my community as a young entrepreneur in training. I do believe that it takes money to be sustainable and also to run any center, any business or organization. And I would ask kindly that you guys would just continue to support and give out what we need for our community because there is a lot of good programs.

We have faith here, we have the EQ program. I'm part of the EQ that helped me get back into college, and helped me to get my high school diploma through BOCES and OCC. And I just ask that you just please hear my cry as I stand before you on behalf of my seven children and also people that live and

1 Valerie Hill

2 rely in the community.

3 If you take that Center away or if
4 we lose funding where would that leave
5 our young people next in line to lead?
6 You know, you cannot take away what was
7 built on, you know, a strong foundation

8 of support, love and unity. And we need
9 that to stay and remain in our
10 community. And we need to stay strong
11 so that we will have something to offer
12 our young kids.

13 **COUNCILOR KESSNER:** Could you please
14 spell your first name.

15 **SAKIA DOWDY:** It's spelled S-A-K-I-A
16 and my last name is D-O-W-D-Y. I
17 appreciate your time, thank you.

18 **COUNCILOR KESSNER:** Valerie Hill, to
19 be followed by Kerry Quaglia.

20 **VALERIE HILL:** Good afternoon, my
21 name is Valerie Hill, I reside at 315
22 Roe Avenue in Syracuse, New York. I'm
23 here representing the Syracuse Model
24 Neighborhood facility located at the
25 southwest Community Center, 401 South

Valerie Hill

Avenue. In the time of two minutes just a couple things I would like to share with you today. We have now a 19 percent, more than a 19 percent cut in our budget. That amount is going to, some people are going to say that's a small

amount. However when you look at how

many people we service in the community that does have a large effect on what we do at the Southwest Community Center.

We presently have 57 kids in one of our -- we have 12 programs actually at the Southwest Community Center, most of them are geared toward our youth. We have now a new program called the Teen Angels. There are 57 youth in this particular program. These are kids that either have been part of gangs or have been at risk of arrest or have been arrested. With that cut, that's going to cut some of their activities, some of the programs. Also going to perhaps reduce the amount of kids that we can service in that particular program.

Valerie Hill

As stated we presently do have 57 youth in that particular program. With the youth program that we have it has decreased the violence around in the perimeters of the area of the Southwest Community Center. It has given them

activities in which they can participate

in. We also have family based activities, to help the family unit as well.

So all I'm presenting to you today and asking is that if any means possible that that cut not be as much as 19 percent so that we can continue to do what we do and service the people that we service in order to be, to be an asset in our community. Thank you very much.

COUNCILOR KESSNER: Thank you very much. Reminder if anyone would like to speak and hasn't yet filled out a card please go out and fill one out and we'll put you on the list. Kerry Quaglia, to be followed by Marilyn -- oh dear.

1 Kerry Quaglia

2 MS. WOYCIESJES: Woyciesjes.

3 COUNCILOR KESSNER: Thank you. And
4 that is our last speaker, so if you want
5 to speak now is the time. Kerry?

6 KERRY QUAGLIA: Yes, I'm Kerry

7 Quaglia, Executive Director of Home

8 Headquarters. I also spoke at the first

9 Community Development public hearing

10 really to advocate for the programs that

11 are being run. Not so much the

12 operation money or the administrative

13 money that all the agencies use, but the

14 programs that benefit the residents and

15 specifically the Urgent Care program,

16 the SHARP program, and down payment and

17 closing costs assistance.

18 And I'm gratified that with the cuts

19 the administration proposed a 7 percent

20 cut in the Urgent Care program down to a

21 million dollars and didn't take the full

22 14.8 percent cut or so. But as you all

23 know, probably the greatest interaction

24 that the folks at Home Headquarters have

25 with the Common Council is that

Kerry Quaglia

1
2 typically throughout the year you'll be
3 calling us, saying I have a constituent
4 who has a leaky roof. I have a
5 constituent who has a red tag furnace or
6 a backed up sewer and they can't get a
7 bank loan. They don't want to abandon

8 their home. They're good homeowners,
9 they pay their taxes and how can you
10 help them?

11 So although we're gratified if we
12 didn't maybe bear the full cut to bring
13 this level down to a million dollars,
14 which is just a pittance, considering
15 this program is the safety net for the
16 entire city of Syracuse. And maybe just
17 a sense of history. The funding level
18 for this Home Improvement program that
19 we now call Urgent Care used to be at
20 historical levels well over \$2 million.
21 It was really brought down from that \$2
22 million level to about a million dollars
23 about seven or eight years ago when we
24 had the first 108 challenge. It's never
25 really been restored after that.

1 Marilyn Woyciesjes

2 So with that, I realize there is all
3 kinds of difficult decisions to make,
4 but again, it's been so watered down,
5 this is one of the real core programs
6 that Community Development Block Grant
7 funds are supposed to be used for.

8 Thank you.

9 COUNCILOR KESSNER: Thank you. Our
10 final speaker as listed, I see one more
11 coming up. Marilyn, if you would, then
12 following you will be Walt Dixie,
13 Jubilee Homes.

14 MARILYN WOYCIESJES: Marilyn
15 Woyciesjes, 269 Reed Avenue in Syracuse,
16 New York. And I am here representing
17 Covenant Housing Corporation of Central
18 New York, which is located at 1228 Teall
19 Avenue. And I guess I'm here to speak
20 on behalf of our efforts to continue to
21 do what we're doing, continuing to
22 tighten that belt, and feeling like it's
23 the death of a million cuts, you know.
24 Not only the cuts directly in funding
25 that we receive, but the cuts that are

Marilyn Woyciesjes

happening to everyone around us, which limits the services that are available when you look at the total package of what people need to live and function and to have lives that are of quality.

You know, Covenant Housing's focus

is to serve people who are very low

income and disabled with housing. We are a landlord, we have nine units of rental housing in the city of Syracuse, we have two single family homes that are leased and for purchase. And we also have helped with the development of, in total in Onondaga County over 40 owner-occupied homes. So we want to continue to do what we're doing.

We are maximizing the resources that we currently have. So we can't stretch too much further without breaking. We do provide enhanced property management services for people who are disabled. And that sometimes means working from that very person's center individualized place with people, in giving the people

Marilyn Woyciesjes

1
2 the support they need when they need it.
3 So I think we have to maintain some
4 level of flexibility.

5 I guess I'm here just to appeal to
6 preserving any efforts that are, to fund
7 the development of more affordable

8 permanent housing for people who are

9 housing vulnerable, disabled. I worked
10 many years of my life with people who
11 are homeless and know that housing first
12 is the best approach. That affordable
13 permanent housing is what is needed
14 above anything else in meeting the needs
15 of people who live productively in our
16 community.

17 So the cut, it hurts, it's another
18 dig. Try to work with the limited
19 resources we have. And I think to do
20 that we all need to be working together.
21 So okay, thank you.

22 **COUNCILOR KESSNER:** Thank you so
23 much. And our last speaker signed up is
24 Walt Dixie. If anyone does care to
25 speak, fill out a yellow card in the

Walt Dixie

back. Thanks very much.

WALT DIXIE: First I want to object to Phil saying about downtown parking one day. On a lighter note, we do appreciate the 108 loan for the Council, the leadership has done to take the burden off the city. I'm sure Paul and his staff are not sleeping at night. However, a small suggestion, and just going back to Driscoll's days, Mayor Driscoll. I think that as the city grows, as the permits grow and the money comes in, maybe there should be a break off of some dollars to redirect to the Community Development outfit. To relook at some of the organizations that are really struggling. That we have lost four employees and we're still doing the exact work even in our business, we're still working that even though we have volunteers helping us to stabilize the community.

If we stop today all the good work we have done and everybody else has done

Walt Dixie

will go for naught. So we need to figure out some strategic strategy to help meet the benchmark that I heard Phil talk about.

So on that note. Last if I had a birthday wish to the birthday folks up

there. Khalid and I should Councilor Bey

and Councilor Hudson. If you pray for

and give us the birthday wish back here,

we appreciate that, help us out. Thank

you.

COUNCILOR KESSNER: Thank you very much. Anyone else? Does anyone else want to be heard on the matter of CDBG funding? All right, this public hearing is adjourned.

* * * *

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that I am a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, that I attended and reported the above entitled proceedings, that I have compared the foregoing with my original minutes taken therein and that it is a true and correct transcript thereof and all of the proceedings had therein.

John F. Drury
John F. Drury, CSR, RPR

Dated: January 23, 2012



SYRACUSE MODEL NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITY, INC.
more than you think...since 1975

Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facility, Inc.
Executive Summary
2011

The year 2011 marks the 36th anniversary of the Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facility, Inc. (SMNF, Inc.), a non-profit 501(c) (3) governing agency of the Southwest Community Center (SWCC). It has continuously responded to the education, social, cultural, health, employment, legal and recreational needs of the low and moderate-income residents of the Community Development revitalization areas. Located at 401 South Avenue, the SWCC provides a network of human services to residents of the predominately African-American, low-income neighborhood of southwest inner-city Syracuse. Through special events, outreach efforts, prevention, intervention, Parenting Trainings, employment and educational services, support, peer and mentoring groups, and collaborative programs, people throughout the city interact with and benefit from agency services. Programs are offered for all age groups from "cradle to the grave", and includes a satellite of the Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union, Onondaga County Public Library City of Syracuse Parks & Recreation after-school programming, an evening recreational and educational teen program, HIV/AIDS education prevention and support, substance abuse prevention, case management services, respite care for families with developmentally disabled children including an after-school program, summer programming including evening activities for teens and field trips, information and referral services to community resources, male responsibility education; health-related programs including Family Planning Services Reproductive Health Program dealing with health-related issues in the community, lead abatement, asthma, hepatitis C, and minority population health issues, jobs for youth program, two welfare-to-work programs, educational programming including progressive learning, On Point for College, senior citizens and summer lunch program. Ongoing special program and events include: Performing Arts Learning Academy, African drum and dance, photography, double dutch, and military drill team instructional classes, universal math, tutoring and mentoring programs for youth, support groups for persons infected and affected by HIV, Kwanzaa, Latino Empowerment Day, World AIDS Day Ceremony, Gospel Sunday, Summer Night Camp, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners (community), Halloween and Easter parties, health fairs and clinics, community dialogues, job fairs, and employment and youth advisory board activities. All these services and programs help the agency in its mission to help people better manage their lives by offering a wide array of services through community-oriented programming.

As a settlement house, Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facility, Inc. regularly responds to the changing needs of its surrounding neighborhood. Recognizing that neighborhood violence and crime continue to be a problem and that solutions cannot always be found

within the walls of the main facility, programming has included street corner outreach and educational activities designed to create a heightened awareness of center-based programming, build staff/community relations, and to better understand the changing needs of community residents. A partnership has been forged with members of the Syracuse United Neighbors, and the Southwest Neighborhood Advisory Council was formed in the late summer months. Additionally, through the SOAR Program, efforts were made to develop a transitional assistance for individuals returning home from incarceration.

If funding is cut then the community loses a variety of essential programming/services which we provide seven days a week. 2011 reports states that crime, violence and the use or sale of drugs in the 13204 southwest area; especially around the perimeters of the SWCC has decreased. This decrease is contributed to the many teen, adolescent and pre-teen programs that are offered at the SWCC. CD dollars keep the doors open; these few dollars drive another \$5+M that come through our doors; so you see, our doors need to be open if we are to continue to be who we are to the community.

January 20, 2012

WALLACE Foundation, NYC

Westcott
Community
Center

OST Calculator Results - January 20, 2012 at 11:31 AM

Age of participants	Elementary and Middle
Program focus	Multiple
Time of program	School Year Program
Nearest metro area	NY - Rochester
Program location	In the Community
Organization type	Community Based Organization
Number of slots	35
Hours per week	15
Days per week	5
Weeks per year	38
Youth to staff ratio	Low

	low	median	high
Weekly cost per slot	\$54.69	\$104.48	\$158.45
Total weekly program costs	\$1,913.97	\$3,656.89	\$5,545.51
Annual cost per slot	\$1,868.86	\$3,781.17	\$5,703.95
Total annual program costs	\$66,902.80	\$131,840.65	\$188,698.02
Daily cost per slot	\$54.89	\$104.48	\$158.45
Total daily program costs	\$1,913.97	\$3,656.89	\$5,545.51
Monthly cost per slot	\$238.79	\$452.39	\$686.06
Total monthly program costs	\$8,287.48	\$15,839.45	\$24,012.02

Westcott Community Center

Common Council Points

THANKS FOR ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

We serve between 30 & 50 (or more) youth at risk each year from 7 different City Schools.

90% fit into HUD's low or extremely low income guidelines.

We have more than a 10 year track record of superior outcomes

we average almost a 31% increase in report card scores in the areas that we target for tutoring (with input from the youth's teachers).

We have a waiting list.

We collaborate with SU & Le Moyne, and many others.

3D Annual Youth Report

We program academics, enrichment, recreational, & youth development activities such as conflict resolution, how to handle bullies, anger management, fire safety, and others.

We help single working parents knowing that their child is in a safe, drug- & alcohol-free environment.

We affect crime in the area to the extent that the youth are engaged in productive activities—not out on the street, getting into trouble.

As one of the three community centers that the city supports we get the least amount of money even though we are serving 60,000 people a year—children, seniors, unemployed, non-custodial parents, GED students—the majority of whom live in poverty.

The poverty areas of the eastside (& other) areas that we serve have many people living in serious poverty.

Covenant Housing Corporation of Central New York
1228 Teall Avenue, Suite 102 • Syracuse, NY • 13206

Description of Services

Covenant Housing Corporation (CHC) develops and manages affordable special needs housing for low and very-low income households and persons with disabilities. The corporation develops housing on an individualized basis providing both rental and homeownership opportunities. Inclusion and respect for the individual are values which are part of CHC's mission - and they are central to the development and management model employed by the organization.

CHC was incorporated in 1992 as an expansion of the InterReligious Council of Central New York's Covenant Housing Program. From its incorporation through 1999, CHC developed 23 rental properties with 33 units of accessible and affordable housing for people with disabilities. We continue to own and manage these properties in partnership with other OPWDD and OMH service providers. Since 2000, our focus has shifted to developing housing for first-time homebuyers. To date, CHC has developed 34 single-family and two-family homes for very-low income special needs homebuyers.

We provide opportunities for self-determination, inclusion and independence through the development of affordable, accessible housing. CHC employs a one-on-one approach to housing development and management. Each of our projects is developed with, and for, a particular household or individual with special needs. The input of the individual or family into the development process is what makes our program unique and is central to its success.

Who do we serve?

CHC serves low and very-low income households and individuals with significant, permanent disabilities. Most of the people served by Covenant Housing have physical, developmental and/or mental health related disabilities. All have household incomes that fall below 80% of median - the vast majority have incomes that fall below 50% of area median. (see chart for income guidelines)

How does CHC make a difference in our community?

CHC develops housing throughout Onondaga County on a scattered site basis. The location of the housing is chosen by the individual seeking assistance. This process provides opportunities for inclusion (through the development process itself and within the larger context of the neighborhood in which the housing is located). It also increases economic diversity by developing affordable housing in areas that are often unaffordable to lower income households.

CHC has also intentionally separated the development and management of affordable housing from the provision of residential services. Too often, individuals with disabilities have faced a lack of choice and opportunity for self-determination with respect to residential services because their service and housing providers were one in the same - choosing to give up one meant losing the other. Separating housing and service provision allows individuals to remain in their homes and part of their communities even if their supportive service needs change.

FOR A HOUSING APPLICATION OR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Marilyn Woyclesjes, Operating Officer
Ph:(315) 834-2420 • Fax: (315) 314-7236 • mwoyclesjes@chccny1.org

Community Participation: Written Comments



Syracuse United Neighbors

1540 South Salina Street
Syracuse, New York 13205-1149

Phone: 315.476.7475
Fax: 315.476.4523

E-Mail: sun@sunaction.org



Common Council
City Hall
Syracuse, NY 13202

January 20, 2012

Members of the Syracuse Common Council

On the Issue of the 2012-13 Community Development Block Grant proposal:

1) Public participation

The city of Syracuse's public participation plan is woefully inadequate. The city's moving of the CDBG planning process into December and early January has shortened the time period available for public comment. The city scheduled only two opportunities to solicit public input: a meeting before the Commissioner of Neighborhood Development in the middle of the December holidays and today's noontime hearing before the Common Council. Neither meeting is set up to maximize public opinion--conflicts of time and poor publicity conspire to keep the pool of attendees to those agencies receiving funds.

SUN urges the city to reinstitute the public forums held out in the community to brainstorm needs and potential programs. The city has needs to prioritize public participation at the annual CAPER hearing where statistics about the actual results of the funded programs are discussed.

2) Accountability of the non-profit housing agencies.

For years, SUN has urged the city to prioritize the housing needs of our neighborhoods in this budget. The last two budgets have done so. Unfortunately, the CDBG budget and the consolidated plan still do not provide an adequate rundown of the expectations placed on the strategy of providing quality affordable housing. How many vacant houses will be rehabbed? How many families will receive loans to repair their homes? How many homes will be demolished? How will the city prioritize a move away from demolition to deconstruction?

The city needs to create some hard and fast accountability benchmarks for non-profit housing agency performance.

3) HUD 108 loan re-payments.

It appears that the city has found the funds needed to repay this year's installment on

Barbara Humphrey
834 Westcott Street, Syracuse, New York 13210

January 20, 2012

John Copanas
City Clerk
City of Syracuse
Syracuse, New York 13202

Dear John:

Please accept these written comments to the City of Syracuse's proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) annual plan for 2012-2013, as I am not able to attend the noon public hearing due to work obligations.

First, I would like to comment on the citizen participation process, primarily the lack of citizen participation because of actions by the City over the past two years. In 2010, the Mayor abolished the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) and created the Citizen's Cabinet, declaring TNT and the Citizen's Cabinet are now the vehicles for CDBG citizen participation. Although the CDBG regulations require citizen participation in all aspects of the program, from development of the annual plan, to oversight of the implementation of that plan, to monitoring of outcomes and evaluating their impact, neither the TNTs nor the Citizen's Cabinet assure this level of citizen participation in the program. One only need look at TNT sign in sheets and agendas to know that most attendees are not residents of low/moderate income neighborhoods and most agenda items do not address issues in those low/mod neighborhoods. Nor are you likely to find CDBG on TNT agendas. The Citizen's Cabinet is comprised of primarily Mayoral appointees, meets quarterly, and discussion is generally in one direction—from the Mayor to the Cabinet members. Ironically, this year the Mayor's Office reached out to Cabinet members on November 30, 2011, one day before the draft CDBG plan was issued, asking them for feedback on any issues or concerns in their neighborhoods that could be addressed by the CDBG! When there was a CDAC, its members reviewed agency applications for CDBG support, interviewed agency representatives, made recommendations regarding activities and allocations based upon application reviews and agency interviews, and monitored the outputs and outcomes of CDBG-funded agency activities via Syrastat. None of this is happening via TNT or the Citizen's Cabinet. In fact, if I were at today's meeting, I would ask all Citizen Cabinet members in attendance to stand and would be surprised if anyone stood in response.

In June, 2011, the City held a public hearing on an amendment to formally change the CDBG citizen participation process to TNT, the Citizen's Cabinet, and FOCUS. It is not known if HUD

approved that amendment, but regardless of approval, it has become the City of Syracuse Citizen Participation Process.

This noon weekday hearing is further proof that the City totally disregards citizen input. The hearing was scheduled on January 20 at noon to expedite the CDBG annual plan submission process. Even though the City of Syracuse CDBG year does not start until May 1, and the plan is not required to be submitted until March 15, the funded agencies convinced the Common Council that an early submission would guarantee the City an early securing of funds to facilitate agency operations. Pleas went out to Common Councilors that this was not a time when citizens could attend and participate, as is required, but the agencies prevailed.

I implore HUD to challenge the City to document its citizen participation process leading up to the submission of the plan—attendance at meetings and hearings focused solely on CDBG, such as this one on January 20 by residents of low/mod neighborhoods (and not the voices of the agency staff who purport to speak for them), minutes of those meetings that document comments by these residents (again, not the voices of the agency staff, most of whom are speaking on behalf of saving their jobs, not on benefitting low/mod residents), and documentation of citizen participation throughout the year in the implementation and evaluation of CDBG annual plans, again not on agency reports that are written to assure that their CDBG funding continues, regardless of their outputs or outcomes.

This leads directly to my next comment—that the Syracuse CDBG Plan appears to place a higher priority on funding agencies than on producing housing, creating jobs, or addressing public infrastructure needs. On the Housing line, the majority of funds support agency operations, not the creation or improvement of housing for low/mod individuals. Theoretically, these funds are used by the agencies to leverage funds from other sources, but the absence of goals in the plan for housing creation/improvement for low/mod individuals is disgraceful. And the reality in Syracuse is even more disgraceful—agency staff, office rent, travel, audits and other administrative costs supported at five figure levels that produce minimal housing units for low/mod individuals. When there was a CDAC and when there were real citizens asking agency reps why, we were told about issues obtaining sites, hiring contractors, and more. Meanwhile, in most of our low/mod neighborhoods in Syracuse, one out of every four residential units is vacant and uninhabitable!

In terms of housing tools, sadly we still see new construction identified as a tool, even though the City promised in 2009, when there still was an active CDAC, that vacant land would be banked and priority would be given to rehabilitation of vacant structures before they became so deteriorated that the only tool left for them was demolition. Despite that promise, the plan still references new construction, while we continue to lose our grand, centuries-old homes to the wrecking ball. If we were losing these homes to deconstruction, and could see the usable parts of these structures, such as windows, doors, hardware, saved and resold to rehab other homes, losing these homes would not be such an extreme loss. But sadly, demolition is also defined as one of our housing tools, while deconstruction is not.

The City of Syracuse has numerous neighborhood business districts contiguous to residential neighborhoods. Most of these districts, particularly the ones located in low/mod neighborhoods, are home to vacant storefronts and businesses that do not serve the primary needs of residents, such as car washes and used car lots. These districts need public resources to attract essential retail, such as grocery and hardware stores and pharmacies for people without automobiles and businesses that serve as public gathering places, such as coffee shops and small restaurants that serve as places where neighbors gather to form community. These neighborhood business districts are more likely than malls to house local businesses, where profits stay in the community, and also hire local residents. Yet, sadly, there is no mention of support to local business districts. On page 55, the Creating Economic Opportunities section states the goal of "...improving the economic climate for businesses to expand, relocate or start..." yet the examples given are manufacturing and or industrial style job creation, and no mention of retail in neighborhood business districts to serve and employ neighborhood residents and provide centers, not just for commerce, but for building community.

My final comment concerns the allocation of funds to FOCUS, an organization that is not in touch with low/mod neighborhoods. FOCUS is comprised primarily of upper income individuals who live in affluent City neighborhoods or outside the City. FOCUS could be a valuable tool for raising philanthropic funds for City redevelopment efforts. While it might be accurate to describe FOCUS as an entity that "...is continuing to gather neighbors' hopes and ideas that contribute to the foundation of our community's future..." these are not residents of low/mod neighborhoods. Therefore, FOCUS should not be allocated funds to "...provide citizen engagement training to interested TNT participants through its Citizen's Academy Program."

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments. I hope that the City and HUD will take these comments seriously and Syracuse will reframe the CDBG citizen participation process to give meaningful voice to residents, particularly those residing in low/mod neighborhoods, which will, in turn, produce an annual plan that better addresses the CDBG National Objectives of benefit to low/mod individuals and elimination of slums and blight.

Sincerely,

Barbara Humphrey

cc: Councilor-at-Large Jean Kessner
President Pro-Tempore
Syracuse Common Council

our outstanding HUD Section 108 loan. We continue to urge the Common Council to be vigilant about this loan--which we will be paying on until 2019. The Syracuse Industrial Development Agency got us into this mess and should be responsible for all repayment. In the past, low income neighborhoods have seen \$8 million come out of the CDBG budget to repay this loan--not to improve our neighborhoods, but to provide cheap office space for the power company--and now loft apartments and a coffee shop.

SUN urges the Common Council to begin discussions on how the city can repay the community for the \$8 million it "borrowed" from the CDBG budget--the only dedicated source of funding available to repair housing in low income communities.

Phil Prehn
Community Organizer
Syracuse United Neighbors