

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

February 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Craig called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Cavanaugh, Stewart, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Trisciani, Levasseur, Heath, E. Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, Gamache, George-Kelly

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Craig advised that the purpose of the public comment session is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board. All people wishing to speak will have up to three minutes to do so and any comments must be directed to the chair.

Any resident wishing to speak will come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

Maddy August, 55 River Road, stated:

I am a new homeowner in Manchester. I have been renting here for a year and now I have gone through the purchase process and just bought a condo for myself and am very interested in local housing issues, especially creating more affordable housing. I would like to strongly encourage the city to apply for ARPA money from the Hillsborough County Commission and use that money for local affordable housing and put the money into the local housing trust in order to increase resources for affordable housing. There is a deadline for this application of March 3 so time is of the essence to get this done. I would also like the city to strongly consider the concept of inclusionary zoning, which the City of Nashua has adopted and I understand that Dover also recently adopted some local affordable housing regulations. Thank you for your time. I am happy to be here in Manchester.

Christian LaCoss, 78 Cartier Street, stated:

I come to you guys today because some of you may know me from WMNH and some of you may know me from being a DJ and nightlife promotion out on Elm Street. I come to you guys because the current state of Elm Street is disheartening. We have had so many acts of violence that have been so preventable just by police being out on Elm Street. I am out on Elm Street almost every weekend. I have not seen one single

walking beat or one single police officer out of their car past 12:50 AM unless there is a fight. For me, it begs the question what can we do as a community to help these establishments and everything like that to be successful. We have 23-year-old kids losing their lives to gun violence in this city and it hurts because those are kids I grew up with. I have been in nightlife for two to three years now. During Covid, I think that is when Elm Street was at its peak and I really think that is when we were doing a very good thing with Elm Street and the nightlife there. That is because every night I was out I saw a police officer. I have not always agreed with the Police Department. I have had my differences but they are there to keep us safe and that is one thing I realized. Recently, not many people have felt safe on Elm Street - kids my age, college kids because this is a college town. We have three local colleges. These kids don't want to come out because they do not feel safe. We have homeless people in front of these venues begging for money. We have people pulling knives on people. When does it stop? My question to you guys is how do you work with the community to figure this out? That is all I have to say.

Vanessa Blais, 51 Ash Street, stated:

I am a Manchester resident in Ward 4 and I am here tonight because I would like to request that the city initiate a bulky item, small appliance curbside pick-up program to be executed at least twice a year. I think this program could mirror the hazardous curbside program that we currently have. Many residents in the inner-city that live in apartments neither have the transportation nor the means to dispose of these types of items and I feel that because of this, these items are either stored on porches or in homes or are disposed of in yards and alleys and even on sidewalks and this has a negative impact on the health and safety of Manchester residents. I have been informed that there actually was a program during a period of time in Manchester and that it was very successful so I am hoping you will consider this type of program to alleviate the economic burden that is shouldered by the low income residents. I think it will help to maintain the safety and health of the community. I appreciate your consideration on this. Thank you.

Dam Wright, Manchester, stated:

I don't have anything new to say today. You all know that Christopher Ecklund is dead. You all know that he was one of seven people to die within a 48-hour period a couple of weeks ago. You all know that he sat before you in this very chair about three months ago after giving up his own bed at the shelter to come and speak on behalf of the homeless community and to try to explain how hard it is out there. You know that he was unfortunately one of the folks that was living in the encampment outside of the shelter and that was cleared. That all speaks for itself. To speak for Chris, I am going to do the best I can to prevent more tragedies by spending the next two minutes with a quick class on Narcan. Narcan is a simple nasal spray that when administered will stop an opioid overdose. It blocks the opioid receptors in the brain and it allows for breathing to restart because during an overdose somebody is not breathing and they are going to die if nothing is done. So if you encounter somebody who is having an overdose, you want to start by giving them a nice hard sternum rub like this nice and hard. Yell their name or yell for them to wake up. If that doesn't work, tell them that you are going to administer Narcan and if they don't start breathing right then and there, you take this, open it up, lay them flat on their back, tilt their head back a little, place this up their nose and press the red plunger. It is simple. At that point, call 911 if it has not already been done. It is better if you can get somebody else to do so. Also, get somebody to start counting because you may need to administer another dose which will happen two to three minutes later. If you can have somebody else doing those things, you can focus on encouraging breathing and monitoring them to see if there are any signs of breathing. If you have gone to the two-minute mark and there are no signs of breathing, you want to go ahead and prep the next dose and repeat the steps from before – hard sternum rub, the yell, and then warn them that you are going to give them another dose and if they still aren't breathing go ahead and give them another dose. Repeat this process until either they start breathing or paramedics arrive. I didn't quite bring enough for everybody but I recommend carrying four doses which is two boxes. This is two cases that I brought for you. Please carry it and please use it. Thank you.

Brandon Lemay, Ward 8, Manchester stated:

I am an organizer with Rights and Democracy and the local group The Manchester Housing Alliance. As you know, we sent this Board a letter regarding an infamous

landlord, Hinch Crowley, that was talked about in the Union Leader. I just want to kind of take a moment to share what frustrates me and the leaders that I am organizing with. While in the middle of a pest infestation, a tenant's rent was raised from about \$1,000 up to \$1,550 a month. That is almost a 50% increase right there and that is for the privilege of being bitten by rats. With this rent increase, where did this wealth go? Did it go back into the building? Did it fix the holes in the walls and the ceilings? Do the tenants get better living conditions? In my opinion, no. We are seeing this all over the city. Raising rents but not improving buildings and pocketing the extra rent while telling tenants that a 50% to 100% rent increase is due to taxes going up on inflation or whatever else they want to lie about. I call on the city to enforce its ordinances and fine landlords like Hinch Crowley who jack up rents and leave their tenants with few options but to live in squalor. This Board will gladly enforce ordinances against the houseless but not slumlords and this needs to change. Landlords like Hinch Crowley should be banned from renting in the city. No human being should have to endure the indignity of having their child be bitten by rats in the middle of the night while that landlord is making a profit. They do not deserve to do business in the City of Manchester. You owe a duty to these tenants. They pay rent and that rent goes towards property taxes. Tenants are taxpayers too. Can we please start acting like tenants are not second-class citizens? We deserve rights too and we deserve to be listened to when our concerns are being brought up. I want to end by saying that this city should offer some sort of assistance to well-meaning landlords who do own older housing stock, which is very common here and do this in a way that doesn't disrupt the tenants by having to remove them from their apartment for extended periods of time because we have very few options for tenants to go while repairs could be made to a building out of compliance. I would really like to see this Board potentially through the Housing Commission or whatever method possible to look into how we can rehabilitate these old housing units without displacing tenants and doing even more harm to them. Thank you very much.

Jessica Margeson, Ward 11, Manchester, stated:

Tonight I want to speak about inclusionary zoning and the opportunity of being able to ask for something in return that our city desperately needs. For an example of how desperately needed...one of my tenants that came to the very first eviction clinic back when it was labeled eviction clinic because we had so many renovation evictions going

on then, was Rachel. She has come here before. She was officially evicted from her apartment last July and moved into the Comfort Inn. She has been there for a very long time and yesterday she got word that she was finally approved for an apartment. So her and her family get to move into a two-bedroom but that was nine months and she was one of my most diligent tenants. Every day she had a system and taught other tenants how to do this. She was great at budgeting and did everything asked of her and it still took nine months. That is why I speak for this population which is 30% to 50% AMI. They have fewer options and fewer opportunities for apartments. When they apply for apartments, it is similar to the housing lottery. She felt like she won the lottery that day. There are so many people still being displaced. Luckily, the evictions are down a little bit right now but in neighboring towns like Salem, I have two buildings every three months that are currently being evicted. I said to a reporter one day can you imagine trying to find one building's worth of affordable apartments in one day? You can't find 16 affordable apartments in one day if you scour all the sites at once. We tried. Offering incentives would be beneficial, especially while we wait for more housing to become available; anything that is short-term and can be provided then. Central Street is a good reference to that. It is an opportunity and near the bus stop. We didn't get to have that opportunity with Auburn and Depot or across the street but that is a good central location, especially for those that are elderly or disabled. Thank you.

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Stewart**, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any documentation presented.*

PRESENTATIONS

3. Gun Violence Reduction Strategy presented by the Manchester Police Department.

Allen Aldenberg, Police Chief, stated with me tonight is Asst. Chief Peter Marr to my right and Lt. Matt Barter, my Chief of Staff. We were asked to come and give you an update as to what the Police Department has been doing relative to gun violence here in the city. The gentleman who spoke earlier, his concerns are valid. There are concerns that we have and I think that we all have as a city. Hopefully this will demonstrate to you what we have been doing from a proactive standpoint. We will also

highlight a lot of success that we have had. We fully recognize that there is much work to be done on this problem. I would highlight before we start that this is a city-wide problem and it is going to take a city-wide effort, not just efforts on the part of the Police Department. I think collectively this entire city needs to send a message that gun violence or any type of violence will not be tolerated. When I became Chief in the late part of 2020, I made gun violence one of my four top priorities. Between becoming Chief and up until June 2022, we had met as a command staff and as an agency and then we brought in community partners which gets back to my point about a community-wide approach to address this issue. In June 2022, we released our gun violence reduction strategy. We looked at data and developed responses. It is also important to understand that this is an evidence-based strategy that was designed to prevent and reduce gun violence in the city. Part of the problem-solving team, which was developed out of our Comstat360 problem-solving model...we worked to identify gaps in resources, develop a consensus on the responses that impact the problem and like I said before, everybody plays a role in reducing gun violence. Those are the kind of things that came out of this PST meeting that we held on a regular basis. We looked at data and involvement in gun crime by age, demographics, youth data, youth behavioral risk surveys and place-based analysis of gun crime events. Out of that, we came up with four components:

1. Focus on Youth. Support and collaborate with youth serving organizations and fill in gaps where needed in those resources.
2. Focus on Places. Leverage the projects developed through ARPA funds to focus on neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by gun violence.
3. Building Community. Enhance community cohesion through developing opportunities for people to come together and increase positive community engagement between the police and those that we serve. That is an ongoing initiative that we try to meet every day.
4. Focused Policing. Use evidence-based efforts that rely on focusing on the right people in the right places and using both enforcement and outreach to reduce gun violence recognizing that you are never fully going to arrest your way out of gun violence.

We had to develop other strategies through outreach and some other things that we will get into shortly to head off some of this violence, particularly amongst the youth in the

18-24 age group. If not younger in some instances. Heading them off and pointing them in a right direction with some intervention not just from the police but some other non-profit organizations here in the city.

Matthew Barter, Lieutenant, stated as we get into the data, one thing that we wanted to make sure that we did was track everything we were doing. We measured every part of the strategy. There are over 60 measures that we track through our strategy and with the problem-solving team going forward. We are not going to get into all 60 tonight but we are going to give you the highlights as to where we are at. It is something that we take seriously and we are definitely working to measure what we are doing so if something is not working we can pivot and make better decisions.

Peter Marr, Asst. Police Chief, stated with that tracking we had to first define exactly what we were going to be looking at. We had to define what a gun crime event was, which is a criminal incident during which a firearm was used in the commission of the crime. Also what a gun fire incident was. That is a gun crime where a firearm was discharged maybe shooting up into the air and we respond and find shell casings and nobody there. Then non-fatal shootings, which are incidents when a person is struck by gunfire but not killed.

Lt. Barter stated just a point of clarification. As we talk about some of these numbers, non-fatal shootings are a subset of gunfire incidents and gunfire incidents are a subset of gun crime events. We like to drill down into the data that we have and that is the best way to think about the figures you are going to see.

Asst. Chief Marr stated so gun crime in 2022, we had a 41% increase. We had a 21% increase in gunfire incidents. We had a 47% decrease in non-fatal shootings and we had a 23% increase in arrests for gun crimes.

Chief Aldenberg stated I think that 23% increase in arrests for gun crimes is significant. Just to put that into perspective, if you were to compare us, and obviously these are much larger cities but...I will come back to that. The fact that it is a 23% increase in arrests is really attributed to the great work that patrol officers are doing on their initial

response to the scene, that the detectives are doing as follow-up and a lot of this can be attributed to the ARPA funds we were given so that we could allocate dollars to get on these investigations immediately and also pay overtime for the detectives to stay late, come in early and add additional resources. I think people get focused on oh another gun crime, another gun crime and they lose sight of two days later or within 12 hours or 24 hours or 48 hours or sometimes two or three weeks later we have made an arrest. That doesn't really get the attention it deserves and I just wanted to highlight that. A 23% increase is a significant number. Again there is lots of work to be done but we are headed in the right direction in regards to arrests.

Lt. Barter stated now we are going to shift gears and dig into each strategy component and what the measures are there. We wanted to provide you with a high level overview as to where we are at first. When we get into each of the strategies and how we are doing with each strategy, I think the big take away here is yes we have challenges. We had challenges last year when it came to gun crime events and gunfire incidents, however, the most serious figure that we track, the non-fatal shootings where somebody was actually physically injured, went down significantly. We are thinking that some of what you are about to see did attribute to that and we need to obviously work more and double-down on some of those efforts to see an impact on the gun crime events. I will go into the data for each of the strategies. The first one is Focus on Youth. There are a few programs here that we have been working with our partners on. The first one is Project Connect, which is a partnership that we have with My Turn. Part of the problem-solving team's response was this focus on youth because there were identified gaps in services for youth, specifically the most at-risk youth. Using our Police Department data and some analysis that we can do with that, we identified really the most at-risk youth for gun violence and we referred them to Project Connect, a newly developed project by My Turn. We connected them with outreach workers as well as the programming that My Turn provides. We did an initial analysis of our work with this and we saw some very good results. The biggest thing was we saw that the youth we referred over there, their police involvement was down 45%. If they were listed as a suspect in a crime, that was down 33% during the intervention period compared to the prior period. We got 51 at-risk youth to participate in outreach and 31 of them have been enrolled in programming. That is pretty significant. The big one here is none of these youth were

victims of a gun incident during our initial evaluation period which is huge because that was a significant from what it was before. We did see many of these youth not only being offenders and suspects in crimes but also being victimized by crimes. We think that has been a successful part of this program. The other thing is the youth that the Police Department referred were kind of the most at-risk youth. Based on our analysis we call them the influencers because of the influence they had on their peers and their associates. We saw these impacts translate to their friend groups and associates as well as we did an analysis on that larger network. What we saw with that larger network was that any police involvement declined by 44% and the victimization for that group was down 73% as well. That is pretty significant and kind of what we thought would work with the pilot program did work and now it could mean that an expansion of that program would be more beneficial.

Chief Aldenberg stated obviously we are all familiar with MPAL, Manchester Police Athletic League. On average, over 150 youth are involved in MPAL programs and that has increased significantly since July. As you can see on the graph, we kind of had a dip during the summer but as they got back into school the numbers have risen significantly. About 20 youth per month are referred to court diversion and we are keeping these youths out of the juvenile court system. That is kind of where the juvenile justice system is heading so we are staying consistent with that practice. The intent and the goal is not to drag every juvenile into court for a minor offense and make them part of the system and set them back even more. That is promising and on average more youth are referred to MPAL prior to diversion. So prior to any type of law enforcement interaction more have been referred over. That referral can be made by a school resource officer, OYS worker, or just by a street patrol officer. It could be anybody that is making the referral over to MPAL so we continue to try to make those connections with the youth again to keep them out of trouble and headed down a different, hopefully better path for them in the long run.

Asst. Chief Marr stated ACERT. This is a program that we have had going for quite a while now. For those of you that don't know, it stands for Adverse Childhood Experience Response Team and they deal specifically with ACE's, the adverse childhood experiences. We know through research and studies that kids who have a

certain amount of ACE's are more at risk to become drug users and to become involved in a life of crime and things like that. The more ACE's that a person has growing up, the more likely they are to go down the wrong path. What ACERT does is identifies children that we come into contact with at the Police Department in regards to experiencing trauma and puts them in touch with resources in order to try to build resiliency. There is nothing saying that a person who has several ACE's can't go on to become a productive member of society. What the ACERT program does is try to put those kids in touch with the programs to give them tools to be resilient and to be successful. As you can see, this past year we had 223 families connected and that translates to 402 children who were connected to resources who otherwise wouldn't have been.

Lt. Barter stated switching to the second component, Focus on Place, place-based violence strategies are probably the most researched and one of the most evidence-based practices that we can implement so we have been implementing this for a while in Manchester. We took a hard look at where our gun crimes were occurring in the city. We did some pretty robust analysis using mapping tools that we have and we looked at the areas where gun violence clustered. We identified those as hot spot areas and along with that we identified comparison areas so we could have some comparison to see if what we were doing had an impact. In each of these spots, we deployed foot patrols using the ARPA funds, as well as our officers on their normal patrol. This is where they were asked to go. We also work on community building in these areas and also crime prevention through environmental design. We can look at environmental issues in these places and help improve those and in turn hopefully decrease crime. What we have seen over the initial evaluation period is a 17% reduction in gun crime in these spaces. That outperformed the comparison areas by about 6%. We also saw impacts on both property crime and drug crime in the hot spot areas so basically what that says is the theory of added police presence in these areas or what we call added guardianship of these spaces does deter crime. That is a positive. We would like to see better results and better diffusion of the efforts and the deterrents so we are taking a look at things we can do better moving forward in 2023 to have greater impact in these spaces. We also did a new analysis. It is a new year and there has been some time that has gone by since this analysis and we want to make sure we are accurately

deploying our resources so we did a new analysis and will be deploying our officers based on that analysis in the near future. Staying on the Focus on Places, you can see the number of foot patrols we did in 2022 in these spaces. There were quite a bit of them. When we send the officers to do the foot patrols, what they are measured on is the number of interactions they have with the community as they are doing their patrols. That is the big thing because what is measured is what matters. That is the number that we want from them so we have them estimate the community contacts they have after they complete each patrol. Based on that reporting, we saw over 2,800 estimated community contacts over those patrols. That is significant. Those are positive interactions between the police and members of the neighborhood. We get really good feedback from folks as they are interacting with the officers and they want to see more of that so overall that has been a success. The other thing we are doing in these areas is tracking the See-Click-Fix submissions that come in so we are able to geo-fence the hot spots within the See-Click-Fix program and see what residents are submitting that way. We also actually have our officers use the tool as well so that if they see abandoned furniture or if they see things that are more of an environmental issue like streetlights out, this is the best way for us to get that information over to DPW as well so we leverage this tool. This is something that we want to use more in 2023 and hopefully get more folks using it and work with some of the funds that we have available to respond to some of these issues more quickly and things like that. Our DPW partnership is one that we are going to be strengthening over the course of the next year. There was quite a bit of work done on this environmental focus in 2022.

Asst. Chief Marr stated with the Focus on Building Community strategy, we have the PHAST teams, which are public health and safety teams working to develop community cohesion in the neighborhoods. There are a number of micro grants available to support community events. I believe it is somewhere in the area of 45. Again, foot patrols are huge with community engagement and building community. Having those officers out there making those contacts is always going to be a positive and will always help to build community if we can do that. One thing that we have done just recently in order to engage more with the community is we started a Power Engage Program. The Power Engage Program works off of our CAD computer system and sends out surveys to the public. It is only on certain calls for service and when they actually have

interaction with the officers. It will send out that survey. Right now, we are running at a 29.9% return rate on responses to those surveys which is very good. As of today, we had an 88.11% approval rating in our contacts. The other thing beyond surveys is we will send out instructions on certain types of calls for service. Like for burglaries it will tell you not to go inside and not to touch anything that would mess up the case or any evidence that we are trying to collect. For accidents it sends another set of instructions and for missing juveniles it will send another set of instructions. What the program is showing us is the more interaction we have with the community, the higher approval rating we get. That is what the program really tried to sell to us and that is really what we are seeing. Our officers are able to see these great comments that people put out for them and we are getting way more positive comments than we are negative; way more. It has been a great tool and something that we can use further to build community surveys and put those out whether it is at special events or right on our web page.

Lt. Barter stated this came directly out of, not the program itself, but the community's ability to have a community survey tool is really important to the problem-solving team which is the community center team that we developed these responses with. Doing community surveys is difficult work and to get a representative sample and things like that is very hard. This is something that allows us to get information back from people we interact with directly so we are very excited about it. It has been a really good program so far for us to really evaluate what is going on with our work.

Chief Aldenberg stated one of the other initiatives that we put into place was bi-weekly gun violence meetings. The participants aren't just Manchester police. They range from representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office, County Attorney's Office, Solicitor's Office, Federal Probation and Parole, State Probation and Parole, state prison, FBI, DEA, and ATF. Any law enforcement partner that you can think of comes to the table every two weeks and we discuss our open cases and we discuss anybody that may be on the radar. We have opened up that communication across the spectrum with all law enforcement here in the state and we are getting great participation and finding lots of successes with it. We are able to communicate in real-time with say Federal Probation and Parole and say hey Al Aldenberg's name came up as a potential

suspect in a gun case and what does Probation and Parole have on him. They can immediately tell us and they can immediately take action if it is warranted on their client if you will to head off violence or perhaps a person has already committed a crime and we can violate their parole and get them off the street immediately. That has been very successful. In 2022, we seized 112 guns that are off the streets that were in the hands of prohibited people and in the hands of people dealing drugs or trafficking drugs. That is 112 fewer guns that can inflict violence here on the streets in Manchester. I think that is a very good thing to highlight. 364 pieces of evidence were entered into NIBIN with 76 of those matching back to gun crimes. So say we recovered evidence at Elm & Lowell and ran it through NIBIN and it comes back to a shooting that maybe happened somewhere else in the city. We are able to put the pieces together and close cases that way. Like I said, 120-gun crime arrests in 2022 and a 50% clearance rate of non-fatal shootings. That is what I was referencing earlier. Again, these are major cities I am comparing to but New York City has a clearance rate on non-fatal shootings of about 32%. LA is 17% and Chicago is 5-11%. I get it that we are Manchester, NH but I think it is very important to highlight. So we have made arrests in 56% of these non-fatal shootings. What happens in court and what happens in bail and how the case is finally adjudicated is sometimes a different story. I can tell you that we are doing our part and we will continue to do so. One thing that came up was racial bias. One of the concerns that the problem-solving team brought up was disparate impacts of focused policing on minorities, specifically in the hot spot patrol areas that the lieutenant mentioned. We are tracking arrest rates of minorities in those areas. In the hot spot areas that we mentioned, the minority arrest rate is about 9%. If you compare that to the non-hot spot patrol areas but similar level of crime, the minority arrest rate is about 15%. So the take-away is that hot spot patrols are not leading to greater rates of arrest or impacts on minorities in these spaces. I think that is important to highlight and that was a direct concern that was brought up by the problem-solving team so we wanted to make sure that we were tracking that and keeping an eye on it.

Lt. Barter stated just one more thing on that. If you see the line, there this is a small number. It represents less than 35 arrests. Again, our efforts in the hot spot areas are based on community engagement and not necessarily enforcement. Certainly we want our police officers to do their job when it is front of them but it is not a crackdown in

these places because we know that doesn't work. This represents less than 1% of all of our arrests in Manchester. These are small numbers we are working with but again the take away being that we are not seeing any disparate impacts based on our efforts in these spaces.

Chief Aldenberg stated I will end with I hope that this at least highlights that as a police department we do have a robust strategy. Obviously there is always going to be some sense of a reactive approach when it comes to these things but I hope the take away is that you see that our approach is proactive. We are seeing results in some areas as we mentioned, particularly along the lines of non-fatal shootings but I fully recognize that there is lots of work left to do. Like I said earlier though, we need commitment and prioritization from everyone in this city in this effort. We need the community to demonstrate that gun violence is not accepted here. We need cooperation from the public. I have said that before. There are many days in many investigations where my detectives are met with resistance and a lack of cooperation. There are some things that we as a police department, I don't want to say can't control but to limit or decrease that lack of cooperation is part of the community engagement that we have undertaken. We want the public to understand that they can trust us if they come forward with information and that there are ways to protect confidential information that is brought forward. Really I want that to be the take away. If you have these issues in your neighborhood and you don't want them in their neighborhood, then the time is now to speak up. God forbid we have another victim of violence or we have a small innocent child that is caught in cross-fire because of someone's criminal behavior. That is what we are really trying to prevent here. We will continue to leverage technology. With the support of this Board, we purchased ShotSpotter and FUSES. We are close to starting with ShotSpotter. We had some hurdles to get over with some Eversource permissions but we got over that hurdle. The team is currently in the city as we speak doing the final installations and tune-up if you will and I am told that around March 7 we will be online with ShotSpotter. We will see where that is going to take us. We are leveraging technology as much as we can and we will continue to focus on those prolific offenders. What is the data and what is the research and what is the intelligence telling us? Who is committing this violence? We can then focus our efforts on those people. With that, we would be happy to take any questions.

Alderman Stewart stated thank you Chief and Assistant Chief and Lt. Barter. The last time you were up here I just want to reiterate that I very much appreciate the focus on the data collection and making strategies based on data. I think the results are showing for themselves, particularly I am happy to see the increase in gun arrests. I think that is great. Of course, even better I think we would all agree is to prevent gun violence from occurring in the first place which is why I am maybe even more pleased to see these upstream efforts that are taking place. I appreciate all of the proactive strategies that are a part of this but especially with youth and being able to refer those at-risk youths that I think in looking at data and hot spots and particularly the network affect is very smart. I just want to applaud you and the strategy and all of the officers for implementing this.

Chief Aldenberg replied I appreciate that. As Chief, I just said we have to fix this problem and looked at the lieutenant and some other smart people in the building and said get after it. He kills me with his data sometimes but it is important. Again, I recognize that there is much work to be done. We are not naïve to that.

Alderman Long stated I see on your Focus on Youth strategy the Office of Youth Services. I met with them last week and they are very proactive in this stuff so that communication is great. We heard in public comment about the night business strategy in the downtown area. I know the Liquor Commission is one player in that. Are they working with us?

Chief Aldenberg answered yes the Liquor Commission and some of their enforcement officers. I know for a fact that they are out there most Friday and Saturday nights because I am out there myself. One of the hot spots that we have is Elm and Lowell. Anybody can drive down Elm Street at one time and say I didn't see a cop. You can go back around the block and two minutes later you could see seven cruisers or cops out on foot. The downtown area during bar closing time is saturated with police officers. I have seen it myself on numerous occasions because I am out there. When people come out of bars and they are intoxicated and they start to jaw jack with one another and they resort to violence, unfortunately those things are going to happen. I know the

most recent one on Elm and Lowell with the stabbing...I will highlight that we are lucky we didn't have a homicide. If it wasn't for the initial first aid that the police officers rendered from chest seals to quick clot...that greatly contributed to saving that person's life. The cooperation we have gotten is not great to be frank with you. I am not going to get into other open investigations but that downtown area is saturated with police officers during bar closing times and up to closing.

Alderman Long asked regarding the PHAST team, when the health workers are going into the neighborhoods is there a police officer present with them.

Lt. Barter answered it depends on the call. Generally, if there is not a safety concern, they will go out on their own. There doesn't have to be a police officer there but we have our Police Community Coordinator, Rich Ell, who is our in-house connection to the PHAST team. He will assess most of what they are doing with them collaboratively. He will take a look at it from his eyes also to see if we might want to have a police officer go along with them. One of the things they do is review repeat calls for service within these areas so if there is an address that we are going to multiple times and maybe it is not really a police matter but check conditions or things like that, those get referred over every week and the PHAST team will go out and assess those and try to connect with those folks. At those weekly meetings that they have, they assess whether they need a police officer to go or not.

Alderman Long stated I know the health workers are doing an outstanding job in my ward and I am sure they are doing an outstanding job everywhere. The neighborhoods like it sometimes though when the police are there so I am glad to hear that even though it may not be a safety issue, there might be an officer that goes with them. That is very helpful.

Chief Aldenberg stated right and the foot patrols during the summer, and again they are not an enforcement but obviously if they see something they are going to take action but it is more making connections. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department has been partaking in that as well. They are sending sheriffs over to work with them as well.

Again, that is another partnership that we have built with the Sheriff's Office to say come over and help. If they want to come over and walk a beat downtown, they can.

Alderman Trisciani stated when you were talking about the youth street outreach program, I think it was the My Turn program, you had mentioned 51 youth participating and 31 enrolled. Can you just explain the difference?

Lt. Barter replied we asked the street outreach workers to connect with the youth so there were 51 that they have had positive connections with that they continue to have connections with. That other number is those that they actually enrolled in a program whether it is a HiSet program, financial literacy classes, job training classes or other things like that. Some need that and others don't and it is just the connection.

Alderman Heath stated thank you for this. This is wonderful. NH has some of the most lenient gun laws in the country. It is problematic and we have tried to put forward some more gun safety bills without success but it is a real problem. I am very concerned about youth and guns. In your experience with this effort, where have youth gotten the guns?

Chief Aldenberg answered it could be a whole host of sources. I think I have said before that the number of guns that are stolen out of motor vehicles here in the city is alarming. That gun could get stolen by Person A and the next thing you know it changes hands six or seven times and now it is in the hands of a 14-year-old. That is one area. You have guns being traded for drugs. You have an older population that may utilize juveniles to hold guns for them because they think that they are less likely to be approached by the police. There are dozens of ways that they are getting their hands on these guns and I am quite sure none of them are legal.

Alderman Heath asked do you see any sort of a trend with youth securing guns from their homes where they have not been secured in locked spaces appropriately.

Chief Aldenberg replied I am sure that is part of it just like they are not being secured properly in a motor vehicle. I think there is some pending legislation up at the State

House that I am not following too closely but again if I could highlight that the people who are leaving guns in their car and leaving their car unlocked, I can think of no greater negligence. Maybe they have reasons why they can't store it in their home because of their concern about children which I understand but if you are going to secure it in your vehicle, have your vehicle locked and have the gun in some type of lockbox inside the vehicle. Just don't leave it on the center console.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated Chief you mentioned cooperation a few times. I figure you are talking about the general public when you mention cooperation but I want to ask if you think you have the cooperation of this Board and do you have the cooperation of the state legislature and the county attorney's office and our federal delegation for that matter? In other words, is there anything holding you back from your pursuit of law and order?

Chief Aldenberg responded no. Do I have my concerns about bail? Absolutely. I think there are things underway to address that and we will see how that shakes up at the State House shortly. The county attorney's office is part of those gun crime meetings. They have a seat at the table. I think that at times their caseload is overwhelming but we put some measures in place between the PD and their office to track high priority cases so they understand that Case A is a major priority for this police department and the city so that we are tracking it collectively to make sure that nothing falls off the rails. When I spoke about cooperation, I meant just the when you see something and I get it right people don't want to say anything because they don't want to be seen as a rat and that is 1980's junk if you will. We would rather have people if they see something say something and speak up. In terms of the cooperation from this Board, obviously it has been very good. I have asked for things and we have gotten them. If I could fill 17 vacancies...that is another challenge. Recruiting and retention is a challenge not just here but across the state and across the nation in law enforcement and every job really it seems like.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated great thank you. I just want to encourage you to enforce the existing laws.

Chief Aldenberg replied absolutely. That is what we do every day.

Alderman George-Kelly stated I just want to thank you Chief and officers for coming to the table and for looking at this issue from the perspective of both prevention and response. The work that you are doing with young people in our community is really changes the lives for not just young people but the future of our community. I appreciate the investment in that and the way that we are seeing officers build engagement and relationships in the community on multiple levels is really an important part of the work that you are doing to be able to really invest in our community and I think that is the work that is going to change this down the road that hopefully gun violence and gun prevention can really happen in the future and gun violence can continue to decrease. Thank you.

Chief Aldenberg stated a lot of it is generational.

Alderman Fajardo I would like to echo the comments of my colleagues and say thank you for your important work and for the data. I think it is really helpful for us to be able to have a context as we make decisions regarding the support that we offer and understand how the needle is or isn't moving so thank you for that. My question is around the last bullet in your last slide looking ahead to 2023 with a focus on prolific offenders. I am just curious if you can maybe speak more to that because I feel like I read about people who seem to be in the system quite a bit and I am curious about specifics on how you are approaching that.

Lt. Barter replied that is exactly right and that is our concern too is that we have offenders who are continually coming out into the community and committing further offenses. Part of what we want to do is identify those offenders and the ones most at risk for re-offending. We can do that a couple of ways. One is just through our knowledge of the individual but secondly through some of the different analysis products that we can put together to really hone in on who is driving the violence. Then it becomes the action that we take. So some of it could be trying to connect them with resources and a way out to make sure they don't re-offend. The other thing is if they do offend we need to hold them accountable and that is really working tightly with our

probation and parole partners who have some levers they can pull over some of those folks. So there are efforts underway to coordinate things like better communication between us and making sure everyone knows what is going on so leveraging them and leveraging the courts and the prosecutors. If there is suspended time and this person messes up and they re-offend, we need to make sure that suspended time comes back. Also, just having deterrents. Sometimes just a knock on the door and a conversation can provide that deterrent. Those are some of the things we have done in the past that we want to continue to focus on and push forward in 2023 because we need to have those deterrents to deter them from thinking it is acceptable to commit a crime.

Mayor Craig stated one thing that stood out to me was that Manchester data shows that 4% of individuals are involved in 63% of the shooting incidents in the city.

Chief Aldenberg responded right it is that small minority that is committing the majority of the gun violence. That led to the youth outreach so we can attack it a different way. It is that small element that has been responsible for the vast majority of the gun violence. You are always going to have one-offs or more than one-offs but yes.

Mayor Craig stated I, too, want to thank you for all that you are doing. These evidence-based programs using the data to really analyze what is working and what is not and being proactive with our community. I also want to thank the Board because the ARPA dollars that we have allocated to the Police Department is really making a difference. We heard tonight that it is supporting investigations and overtime for detectives and helps with decreasing crime through environmental design and then ACERT and funding the PHAST teams. Those funds are really making a difference when it comes to the efforts that we are able to do with our community partners.

Alderman Long stated I meant to ask if the ARPA funding is good through 2026.

Chief Aldenberg answered yes. We are on pace.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve Under Supervision of the Department of Highways, subject to funding

4. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions

Residential:

- 18 Nelson Street
- 85 Coldwell Street
- 321 Wilson Street

Information to be Received and Filed

5. Communication from Comcast regarding channel line-up changes.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

6. "Amending the FY23 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Million Four Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,475,000) for the FY23 CIP 712423 Air Service Development."

"Amending the FY23 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the FY23 CIP 71123 FY23 Deferred Maintenance Program-Facilities."

"Amending the FY23 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seventy Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Four Dollars and Twelve Cents (\$70,554.12) for the FY23 CIP 211723 Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust."

"Amending the FY18 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the FY2018 CIP 711218 FY18 Bridge Design-Amoskeag & Queen City."

"Amending the FY23 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Four Million Forty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Fifty-Six Cents (\$4,045,256.56) for the FY23 CIP 712523 FY23 Bridge Inspection, Repair & Rehabilitation."

"Amending the FY22 and FY23 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating, and transferring funds in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the FY2023 CIP 212023 Gatehouse TST Initiative."

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

7. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$1,475,000 for CIP 712423 Air Service Development be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
8. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$150,000 for CIP 711123 FY23 Deferred Maintenance Program-Facilities be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
9. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$70,554.12 for CIP 211723 Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
10. Recommending that the Amending Resolutions and Budget Authorizations providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$300,000 for CIP 711218 FY18 Bridge Design-Amoskeag & Queen City and \$4,045,256.56 for CIP 712523 FY23 Bridge Inspection, Repair & Rehabilitation be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
11. Recommending that the request from the Fire Chief to apply for a 2023 Homeland Security-Hazmat grant in the amount of \$60,715 be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
12. Recommending that the request from the Fire Chief to apply for a 2023 Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$500,000 to purchase vehicle resistant barricades for special events be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
13. Recommending that the request from the Planning & Community Development Director that the administering department for CIP 611423 ARPA-Homelessness Response & Emergency Shelter Operations is changed to Miscellaneous be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
14. Recommending that the request from the Deputy Public Works Director for various CIP project extensions be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
15. Recommending that the request from the Water Works Director to accept a \$100,000 grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

16. Recommending that the request from the Chief of Facilities of \$2,831,377 for the 2023 Baseball Stadium Upgrades be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
17. Recommending that the request from the Health Department to add an additional vehicle to their fleet be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

18. Recommending that the request from the Chief Engineer to add the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator to the list of exempt employees who may receive overtime pay be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
19. Recommending that the request from the OYS Director to replace one vacant Youth Services Counselor position, grade 18, with one Youth Development Coach position, grade 18; and to create a new Youth Services Manager position, grade 20, be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
20. Recommending that the request from the Information Services Director to eliminate one vacant Senior Applications Development Analyst, grade 21, and add one Geographic Information Systems Administrator, grade 21, be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

21. Recommending that the following requests from Air Tight LLC related to their project at 1230 Elm Street be approved:
 - Add two painted cross-walks at the intersection of Elm Street and Hollis and Kidder Streets;
 - Change North Hampshire Lane to a one-way between Hollis and Kidder Streets, and add striping and signage;
 - Temporarily close sidewalks on Kidder and Hollis during the interior renovation for construction staging, dumpsters, etc.*(Unanimous vote)*
22. Recommending that the following traffic regulations be approved:
NO PARKING ANYTIME
On Calef Road, east side, from Elmhurst Avenue to a point 75 feet south
Alderman Burkush
On Porter Street, south side, from Mammoth Road to a point 100 feet west
Alderman Sapienza
On Valley Street, south side, from Cypress Street to Massabesic Street
Alderman Heath
On Union Street, west side, from Lowell Street to High Street South Back
Alderman Fajardo

RESCIND TWO HOUR PARKING 8AM – 6PM

On Porter Street, south side, from Mammoth Road a distance 150 feet
(ORD 6524)

Alderman Sapienza

RESCIND 30-MINUTE PARKING

On Valley Street, south side, from Cypress Street to a point 100 feet easterly
(ORD 6262)

Alderman Heath

RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Valley Street, south side, from a point 100 feet of Cypress Street to
Massabesic Street (ORD 6263)

Alderman Heath

ONE-WAY STREETS

North Hampshire Lane from Hollis Street to Kidder Street southbound

Alderman Long

CROSSWALKS

On Kidder Street, west of Elm Street

On Hollis Street, west of Elm Street

Alderman Long

(Unanimous vote)

23. Recommending that the request from the National MS Society to use the Arms Lot for the Walk MS event scheduled for April 30, 2023 be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
24. Recommending that the request from Stark Brewing Company to use the Arms Lot for the Manchester Brewfest scheduled for September 23, 2023 be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
25. Recommending that the request from the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee to paint shamrocks at the intersections of Elm & Hanover and Elm & Pleasant Streets on March 4 with a rain date of March 11 be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

*HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF **ALDERMAN LONG**,
DULY SECONDED BY **ALDERMAN CAVANAUGH**, THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS
APPROVED WITH ALDERMAN LEVASSEUR BEING OPPOSED TO ITEM 16.*

REGULAR BUSINESS

26. Communication from Tom McGee advising the Board of his resignation from the Heritage Commission.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted
to accept the resignation with regret.*

27. Nominations:

Arts Commission

Randall Nielsen from an alternate to a regular member to succeed Chao Ngo, term to expire December 1, 2025

Amber Guilbeault as an alternate member, term to expire December 1, 2025

Michael Truong as a regular member to succeed Keith Trahan, term to expire December 1, 2025

Personnel Appeals Board

Ernesto Burden to succeed himself, term to expire March 1, 2026

MDC Board of Directors

Kyle Baker to succeed himself, term to expire March 11, 2026

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Talia Burghard to succeed herself as an alternate member, term to expire March 1, 2026

Greg Powers from an alternate to a regular member to succeed Robert Breault, term to expire March 1, 2026

Heritage Commission

Kaleigh Shaughnessy as an alternate member, term to expire July 1, 2024

Nadine Miller as an alternate member, term to expire July 1, 2024

Peter Richard from an alternate to a regular member to succeed Tom McGhee, term to expire July 1, 2025

Central Business Service District Board

Alex Horton as a regular member to succeed Anthony Coy, term to expire May 1, 2025

Highway Commission

Andy Parent as a regular member to succeed Trixie Dysart, term to expire January 15, 2026

Office of Youth Services Advisory Board

Stacey Beeley as a regular member to succeed Daniel Maradiaga, term to expire January 1, 2026

(Note: Pursuant to Rule 20 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, these nominations will layover to the next meeting of the Board.)

28. Application for Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive, RSA 79- E, for property located at 21-31 Central Street, Grand Central Suites.

Alderman T. Sapienza moved to approve the application for three years as long as construction starts within 12 months. ***Alderman Stewart*** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Levasseur asked that does not stop them from coming back for years 4 and 5 correct. This is not just a three-year deal under the new proposed...well there are a couple of issues. We voted on something in committee tonight that was brand-new and different than what came before us before that was passed. My understanding is that when they came forward with their request they expected a five-year cap. What we

passed in our committee was you don't have to stop at three. You can come back and ask for additional years. Is that correct or not correct?

Jodie Nazaka, Economic Development Director, stated there are a couple of things. The motion on the table with the 12 months, that is a recommendation for an ordinance update. That has not passed yet so I would defer to the Solicitor as to whether that is something that could be part of the motion. The other part, that I would probably also defer to the Solicitor on, is the current ordinance allows up to five years and the recommendation is for three. I am not sure if that would preclude them from coming back and asking for more if they haven't maxed out.

Alderman T. Sapienza moved to amend the motion to approve the application for three years. ***Alderman Stewart*** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Levasseur stated well they came to us with a request for five years believing that they had a five-year request on the table, not a three.

Ms. Nazaka responded the ordinance allows up to five years. They asked for the maximum of five. I am not sure if they are capped at three or can come back and ask for the additional two to max that out.

Peter Chiesa, Deputy Solicitor, stated I don't believe they can come back in between the time that we give them the three years and they finish completion. They can come back after it is completed and ask for an additional two years.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I would expect every applicant to come in here and ask for the max and it is our job to look at the project and decide what we are offering or what we are going to approve up to five. Right now it is up to five years and the motion on the floor is for three years.

Mayor Craig stated the other option is to table this until the information in the committee is passed and take this up in two weeks.

Alderman Levasseur stated my other point would be that they don't believe there was a requirement to provide numbers like they did for this five-year term. That is for the new application. I think that complicates what we are dealing with. No one else had to come in and provide what the profits would be after certain years. This is the first time that was asked for and that is before something is passed.

Ms. Nazaka responded that is correct. I explained to the applicant's attorney that I would be making this recommendation to the Board and gave them the opportunity to provide that information to make the conversation a little more fluid knowing that it may be at the same time as the request and they were extremely cooperative and forthcoming with the information. Just for the record, the clock essentially starts at CO or certificate of occupancy so they would not be in the phase of receiving the 79-E incentive until the construction is actually completed.

Alderman Levasseur moved to table.

Mayor Craig stated there is a motion on the floor.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated there is no reason to table.

Alderman Levasseur stated motion to table takes precedent.

Mayor Craig stated I didn't accept it.

Alderman Levasseur replied I thought you suggested it.

Mayor Craig stated I said it was an option.

Alderman Levasseur stated and I am making the motion to table until we figure out what the rules are going to be. We can't have different treatment for one group over another.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated it is not disparaging.

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, stated if the intent is to bring the committee's recommendation forward for the 12-month construction start-up, that is by ordinance and that will take more than just a month. It will take what a normal ordinance takes which is 6-8 weeks. I don't know if the Board wants to wait for that. If it is just for that piece, that won't happen for some time.

Alderman Long stated from what I saw in the committee meeting tonight, I don't see any difference that would bring them back unless they were going to put in affordable housing. What you are saying is our ordinance is up to five years and we also just gave the five years and Atty. Chiesa you don't see any inconsistency with that? It is within our purview?

Deputy Solicitor Chiesa stated it is within your discretion. You may award up to five years as the ordinance is currently crafted.

Ms. Nazaka stated if I can make a recommendation, the applicant did submit their application under the old application ahead of any recommendations that were made to the committee tonight. I personally feel like waiting for those changes to go through may be a little unfair because they did get their application in ahead of any recommended changes.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated it is not disparate treatment. Our process has evolved and we have learned. We have given out five years and I think we made mistakes and now we are learning and evolving and this is where we are. That is why the motion on the floor is for three years at the recommendation of the Economic Development Director who looked at their finances. From now on going forward, everyone is going to have to provide those finances. The first one I gave out was in 2016 and it was a completely different world as far as construction. We needed to incentivize projects. There are plenty of financial incentives to build that project.

Alderman Levasseur stated the difference between what we voted for in committee is that from what I understand they can come back year after year after year. We can give them one year and they can come back up to five years. They can go for nine years if

there is an affordability portion. That is not part of this plan but my thing is if they have submitted a plan believing they were going to get five and now they find out they are going to get three but under the new system that we passed which will probably pass the full Board in two weeks, they may want to come in under that and be able to get five but they have to come back. There is a big difference between three and five. Is that right? What you told us in committee was they can come back after three years or after two years for up to five years unless we wanted to give them nine but that nine includes a different type of property. Am I wrong about that?

Ms. Nazaka responded I think the question was posed during the meeting was if they asked for five years and the Board granted less than that if there was an option for them to come back. I think that question was posed but I don't think there was ever an answer.

Alderman Levasseur replied I thought the answer was that they could.

Mayor Craig stated I think the Solicitor needs to verify that because it actually doesn't make sense. If everything is built in three years then they wouldn't meet the criteria set forth for providing a tax decrease.

Alderman Levasseur stated well when the building where Citizens Bank came in, the building was already done and was already built and he came and asked us for the tax incentive.

Mayor Craig responded no. That wouldn't have met the criteria.

Alderman Levasseur asked are you sure.

Mayor Craig answered yes.

Ms. Nazaka stated it is always for the pre-renovation and pre-construction value. In this case, for the two properties the combined pre-rehabilitation value is \$795,000. That \$795,000 assessed value would stay for three years. When this project is completed,

based on the scope of work it is likely to be a \$28 to \$30 million property. So for three years they are being assessed at a tax rate for \$795,000 versus \$30 million.

Alderman Levasseur asked so you are now saying that in committee when I asked if somebody could come back and ask for another year that didn't occur.

Ms. Nazaka responded I remember the question being posed but I don't believe I provided an answer for that. That is more of a question for the Solicitor.

Deputy Solicitor Chiesa stated under 79-E (5), it talks about the duration of these things and it provides in part that the governing body may, in its discretion, extend such additional years of tax relief as provided for under this section provided that no such additional years of tax relief may be provided prior to the completion of construction of the replacement structure. So as I said earlier, they have to complete the project and then they can come back and ask for an extension from the three to the five.

Mayor Craig stated that doesn't make sense.

Deputy Solicitor Chiesa responded that is the way the statute is written. That is the existing statute.

Alderman Levasseur stated I think there is a lot of confusion between the current rule we have and the rule going forward and that is why...I hate to leave somebody who is going to put a 77-unit property on Central Street in limbo. That is a big project and I obviously want to see it go through.

Ms. Nazaka stated I think the question is that in years past the Board has historically always granted the full maximum five years but now that the Board is entertaining granting less than the full five years, the question is can the applicant come back after construction and ask for those additional years.

Deputy Solicitor Chiesa stated right and they can after the building is completed. They can then come back and ask for the additional time but not before.

Alderman Levasseur stated I think that is fair.

Mayor Craig asked based on what.

Deputy Solicitor answered based on the statute Your Honor and the criteria from when they applied.

Mayor Craig asked so up to nine years you are saying they can ask.

Deputy Solicitor Chiesa stated if the amended ordinance as presented is passed, they could get up to nine years. Currently it is only up to five. It would have to be for affordable housing and residential units, a certain percentage that I think is 2/3.

Alderman Fajardo stated my question to you is all things being equal with the current rules versus the future rules, will your recommendation of three years change.

Ms. Nazaka answered it will be different based on every project.

Alderman Fajardo responded I mean for this project. If we were to table this and wait for the new rules to come into effect, would your recommendation for the three years to change?

Ms. Nazaka replied no unless their budget numbers changed but I highly doubt it.

Alderman Fajardo asked so the outcome will likely be the same if we follow your recommendation based on your analysis.

Ms. Nazaka stated the one thing that concerns me in waiting is if the applicant was unaware that they needed to be in construction mode within 12 months. That is something that wasn't discussed until the recent changes were brought forward tonight so I am not sure about their level of readiness for construction. They may be able to

start tomorrow but they may not be able to start within 12 months. That would be my only concern; tying them to that constraint.

Alderman Fajardo asked but your recommendation would still be three years regardless.

Ms. Nazaka answered based on the Pro Forma that they submitted yes.

Alderman George-Kelly stated I have a clarifying question for the Solicitor. When you say that they can come back after the construction is completed and ask us for additional years based on the ordinance, does that mean based on the property value at the time of this application or the property value at the time that the construction is completed?

Deputy Solicitor Chiesa stated right now they would be asking you to extend the period. You would do the analysis based on the original application. Again, the statute says it is within your discretion so you can take a lot of factors into account in making your decision whether to extend or not.

Alderman George-Kelly responded so there is an opportunity for them to come back in three years and ask for an extension of this application based on the property value right now of the \$795,000. So they would still qualify in three years if we wanted to give them an extension for some reason the idea of them making revenue didn't work out?

Deputy Solicitor Chiesa answered it would be within the Board's discretion to extend them another two years if they come back after the building is completed.

Ms. Nazaka stated if I may, the point of 79-E is to incentivize the redevelopment or rehabilitation of significantly deteriorating buildings within municipalities. I think the only reason you would entertain maybe granting additional years would be for very extreme unexpected circumstances that would justify the Board extending those years. Again, this is an incentive program to help a developer make a project viable. If there was some sort of unforeseen travesty that happened and the Board felt strongly that an

additional two years or more should be granted, you can make that determination at that time. It is very unlikely though. If something like that came up, I would think a lot of people would probably be hurting.

Alderman Levasseur asked did you tell them prior to presenting to our committee that you were recommending three years. Did they know that coming into this meeting because I think their expectation was five?

Ms. Nazaka answered no. My letter to the Board basically reviewed the application they submitted and answered whether it qualifies for 79-E relief. There was no formal recommendation. The final sentence in the letter did say that the five-year request was consistent with what the Board had historically granted but there was no recommendation in that letter.

Alderman Levasseur stated so they expected to come in for five years and you recommended three.

Ms. Nazaka replied I would assume they probably expected they were going to get what they asked for.

Alderman Levasseur stated I just want to clarify one thing. You asked a very good question Alderman George-Kelly. Can I have Mr. Gagne come up? On the value of the property for the taxes to be based on, does it stay at the value it is now or when construction is done you give it a value and the taxes stay like that for five years?

Robert Gagne, Assessor, answered it is the value that exists today.

Alderman Levasseur stated well that makes a big difference in a lot of my assumptions. I was told that when the building is done that is when the assessment gets locked in and then it stays the same for five years.

Mr. Gagne responded no. It is the current value. We don't pick up that additional value of the new construction.

Alderman Levasseur stated thank you. That is a good clarification for me.

Mayor Craig called for a vote on the motion to approve the application for three years. The motion carried with Alderman Long being duly recorded in opposition.

29. Communication from Jodie Nazaka, Economic Development Director, regarding an application for a Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive, RSA 79-E, for 25-27 Lowell Street.

On motion of **Alderman T. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to refer the application to a public hearing to be held on March 21 at 6:30 PM.

30. Budget projections to be submitted by Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, if available.

Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, stated the general fund expenditure and revenue forecast as of 2/21/23 based on department head estimates is as follows. The current projected general fund operating surplus is \$2,774,000. The operating surplus is comprised of an expenditure surplus of \$1,063,000 and a revenue surplus of \$1,711,000. The revenue surplus being reported is primarily related to auto registrations, interest income and building permits. They are having a great year. The expenditure surplus represents the high number of employee vacancies in many of the departments offset by the increased cost of salt, fuel and electricity. The forecasted surplus includes the \$718,000 in the contingency account. There were 13 retirements through February 11 compared with 22 at this same time a year ago. Severance paid through February 11 amounts to \$607,179 compared to \$810,163 a year ago. The severance reserve account is anticipated to have a balance of \$1,067,527 after all related entries have been posted. I have also attached a departmental overtime report and a summary by department of severance paid through January 31. I will also note that on the projections health insurance is showing a \$500,000 deficit. It is really right now about \$800,000 over budget but over \$200,000 of that is because the city pays employees that do not take the insurance. We give them a stipend to not take the city's insurance and that was paid out in January. That kind of levels off over the next six months. I don't know about the rest of this. We assume that \$500,000 may not be

recovered but thankfully unlike last year we have a great surplus that is able to absorb this for now. Going through the rest of the year, we may do well and make up that \$500,000 but I can't forecast that.

Alderman Levasseur asked so if you don't take insurance you get \$4,000.

Ms. Wickens answered yes.

Alderman Levasseur asked and we are paying out \$200,000.

Ms. Wickens replied we pay it twice a year. I think it is July and January.

Alderman Levasseur asked how many employees are we talking about. I just did the division but I don't want to say it out loud because I don't think I got it right.

Ms. Wickens responded well that is the amount that was paid out that is attributed to the stipend.

Alderman Levasseur stated so if you don't take the insurance you get \$4,000 and it comes out to \$200,000? We don't have that many employees. We have 1,300 employees on the city side. If you divide \$4,000 into \$200,000 is that 500?

Ms. Wickens stated no that would be 50 employees. We have over 1,000 employees and 50 not taking it would be \$200,000 if it is \$4,000 a person.

Alderman Levasseur stated that is why I didn't say my math because I knew it was wrong. I think I missed a decimal point. It is a good thing that they don't take it and I guess you could figure out how much we are saving because they aren't using the insurance.

Ms. Wickens responded I could go back to the carrier and ask what the average amount would be and how much we are saving. I don't know that off the top of my head but I could get it.

Alderman Levasseur stated well we have an HSA and we are paying \$3,000 for a family of four. I think they have to contribute \$1,000 of their own. If you look at the money we are spending for them not to have the insurance and then on the HSA side which I assume a lot of people are taking because it is a good deal and you throw in some serious money in there...

Mayor Craig interjected with HSA's people are paying attention to what they are doing because they are spending their own money.

Alderman Levasseur stated so if that is a half payment is that 100 people.

Ms. Wickens replied I think it is paid out twice a year. I am not sure though.

*On motion of **Alderman E. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Barry**, it was voted to recess the meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.*

Mayor Craig called the meeting back to order.

33. Report(s) of the Committee on Finance, if available.

The Committee on Finance respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that Resolutions:

"Amending the FY23 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Million Four Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,475,000) for CIP 712423 Air Service Development."

"Amending the FY23 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for CIP 71123 FY23 Deferred Maintenance Program-Facilities."

"Amending the FY23 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seventy Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Four Dollars and Twelve Cents (\$70,554.12) for CIP 211723 Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust."

"Amending the FY18 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for CIP 711218 FY18 Bridge Design-Amoskeag & Queen City."

"Amending the FY23 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Four Million Forty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Fifty-Six Cents (\$4,045,256.56) for CIP 712523 FY23 Bridge Inspection, Repair & Rehabilitation."

"Amending the FY22 and FY23 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the CIP 212023 Gatehouse TST Initiative."

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.*

- 34.** Report(s) of the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration, if available.

There were none.

- 35.** Report(s) of the Committee on Lands & Buildings, if available.

The Committee on Lands & Buildings respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from the Tax Collector to declare the tax-deeded properties outlined in her memo (with the exception of River Front Drive) surplus to city needs and dispose of them through a public auction, tentative scheduled for April 8, 2023, be approved.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.*

- 36.** Resolutions:

"Amending the FY23 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Million Four Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,475,000) for the FY23 CIP 712423 Air Service Development."

"Amending the FY23 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the FY23 CIP 71123 FY23 Deferred Maintenance Program-Facilities."

"Amending the FY23 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Seventy Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Four Dollars and Twelve Cents (\$70,554.12) for the FY23 CIP 211723 Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust."

"Amending the FY18 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the FY2018 CIP 711218 FY18 Bridge Design-Amoskeag & Queen City."

"Amending the FY23 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Four Million Forty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Fifty-Six Cents (\$4,045,256.56) for the FY23 CIP 712523 FY23 Bridge Inspection, Repair & Rehabilitation."

"Amending the FY22 and FY23 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating, and transferring funds in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the FY2023 CIP 212023 Gatehouse TST Initiative."

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to waive the reading by titles only.*

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted that the Resolutions ought to pass and be Enrolled.*

37. Ordinances:

"Amending Section 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Geographic Information Systems Administrator) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Section 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Youth Services Manager) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Section 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Youth Development Coach) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

*On motion of **Alderman Stewart**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long** it was voted to waive the reading by titles only.*

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman T. Sapienza**, it was voted to Ordain.*

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Craig stated the Board of School Committee budget hearing and special meeting is this Wednesday at 7 PM in the Aldermanic Chambers. I want to thank Alderman Burkush and Alderman E. Sapienza. Alderman Burkush will be on the Public Safety, Health & Traffic Committee and Alderman E. Sapienza will be on the Administration/Information Systems Committee until the new Ward 6 alderman is elected. There is a Ward 9 community meeting on Wednesday, March 8 at 6 PM at Station 7 on 670 Somerville Street. The third annual Dominican Republic flag raising is this Thursday, 2/27 at 12 PM at City Hall.

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Gamache**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

City Clerk