

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

July 2, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Ruais called the meeting to order.

Mayor Ruais called on Alderman Levasseur to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Morgan, Goonan, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Kantor, O'Neil, Levasseur, Terrio, E. Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, Vincent, Thomas

Mayor Ruais stated before we jump into public comment, I have a few recognitions that I would like to make. Will Chelcie Pinsonneault and Fred Keach from the Planning Department please come forward? As you all may remember having read in the Union Leader, Chelcie and Fred, staff members with the Planning & Community Development Department recently assisted in alerting police to a dangerous situation involving children. Chelcie and Fred, along with a contracted lead inspector, visited an apartment to assess lead hazards which had already been flagged by the Dept. of Health & Human Services due to a child with elevated lead levels. Upon entering the apartment, they found a toddler and a baby left alone without any adults present. Fred, who is a former police officer from Maine, immediately called the police. Fred and Chelcie stayed and comforted the two children until the police arrived. They gave statements to the police and expressed willingness to assist further in the case against their parents. We thank them for their service to the community. You both went above and beyond the call of duty that day and we deeply appreciate your service to the city and to the children who were in need that day. Thank you very much. Battalion Chief Plantier, can you come forward please? I have a Resolution to read for Battalion Chief Plantier for his service to the City of Manchester in his 30 years here and a special recognition at the bottom as well.

The City of Manchester. A Resolution.

WHEREAS Bob Plantier has served the City of Manchester and its residents with courage and bravery on the fire line for 30 years, and

WHEREAS Bob spent most of his career at Central Station where he was always assigned to the busiest companies, and

WHEREAS through talent and perseverance, Bob raised through the ranks at the Manchester Fire Department from firefighter to Lieutenant in 2016 and then Captain in 2021 and to the rank of Battalion Chief in 2024, and

WHEREAS these impressive promotions reflected his personal drive for perfection, as well as his determination to continuously strive to make Manchester's Fire Department better, and

WHEREAS Bob spent much of his career at Station 9 where he served as Captain spearheading construction of the new station and made it his personal mission to coordinate important aspects of the MFD history into the design, essentially turning the station into a living history museum, and

WHEREAS Bob worked closely with the Manchester Historic Association to obtain numerous Fire Department artifacts, many of which he personally and painstakingly restored, and

WHEREAS two of the most valuable artifacts at the Joker Board and the Gamewell Repeated, both of which worked in concert to receive signals from old-fashioned street boxes and then relayed the location of the box to the appropriate firehouse so help could be sent to the correct street address,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Manchester recognizes Battalion Chief Bob Plantier's exemplary three-decade career with the Manchester Fire Department, as well as his outstanding dedication to preserving the heritage of the Manchester Fire Department for generations to come.

Mayor Ruais asked Kevin Kincaid to come forward. His retirement sent shock waves through the city. It is going to be a big hole to be filled. Mr. Kincaid, I have a Resolution for you.

The City of Manchester. A Resolution.

WHEREAS Kevin Kincaid has served both his country and the City of Manchester with distinction for more than four decades, and

WHEREAS Kevin has provided safety, security and peace of mind to city employees as the city Security Manager for the last eight years handling all types of security and personnel matters with distinction, professionalism, and empathy and prior to that Kevin worked as a Licensing Coordinator with the city for seven years, and

WHEREAS Kevin served with the Manchester Police Department for 21 years in the capacity as a patrol officer, canine handler, mounted patrol, field training officer, firearm instructor, armorer, S.W.A.T. team member, and community policing supervisor, and

WHEREAS as a proud active-duty United States Marine he is remembered as a patriotic and valuable member of the corps as a military police officer, canine handler, and criminal investigator for six years, and

WHEREAS during his distinguished career he received the good conduct award twice along with the Navy Achievement Medal from the United States Marine Corp, the Chiefs Achievement Metal and Meritorious Achievement Award from the Manchester Police Department, and the Outstanding Student and Outstanding Marksmanship Awards from Police Standards and Training,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Manchester recognized Kevin Kincaid as having dedicated his life and his talents to the service of others in local government, law enforcement and the military. The city deeply appreciates his dedication and his legacy of making a difference and extends its heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on a well-deserved retirement.

Mayor Ruais stated Bob please come forward. This is another deep loss for the City of Manchester.

The City of Manchester. A Resolution.

WHEREAS Robert J. Gagne, a lifelong resident of Manchester, NH has dedicated his professional life to the field of real estate valuation amassing an impressive career that spans over three decades, and

WHEREAS Robert, affectionately known as Bob, earned his Bachelor of Arts in Business and Economics from St. A's College, Manchester, NH and began his journey in real estate valuation in 1985 progressing to specialize in mass appraisal for taxation purposes since 2002, and

WHEREAS Bob has served with distinction as Chairman and department head of the City of Manchester Board of Assessors since 2010 contributing his expertise to the

City of Nashua as Deputy Assessor from 2008-2010, and earlier as a commercial appraiser for Manchester and a property appraiser for the State of NH DRA Property Appraisal Division, and

WHEREAS Bob has been an active participant on numerous professional boards including the State of NH Equalization Standards Board, Assessing Standards Board and Assessing Certification Advisory Board, as well as serving as an arbiter for the State of NH and as a member of the City of Manchester Planning Board, and

WHEREAS Bob has been recognized for his outstanding service with prestigious awards such as the Sherry Vermilya Award for the NH Regional Association of Assessing Officials and the Lotten B. Chandler Award from the NH Association of Assessing Officials, and

WHEREAS Bob holds certifications as a Certified General Appraiser from the NH Real Estate Appraisal Board, Certified Property Assessor Supervisor from the Department of Revenue, and Certified NH Assessor from the NH Association of Assessing Officials, and

WHEREAS Bob married for 46 years to his wife Deborah is a proud father of two sons, Ryan and Tyson, and their wives Katie and Amanda, and a doting grandfather to four grandchildren – Cora, Jax, Tyson and Brody enjoying his time with them in various family activities and sports, and

WHEREAS in his spare time Bob indulges in his passion for fast cars, particularly his Camaro, and enjoys long motorcycle rides on his Gold Wing with his wife, as well as tinkering in his garage, and

WHEREAS Bob's commitment to the field of assessing in his community will continue post-retirement as he plans to work part-time, his knowledge and dedication will be greatly missed in the Assessor's Office and throughout the City of Manchester,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Ruais, Mayor of the City of Manchester of Manchester on behalf of the citizens of Manchester do hereby recognize and honor Robert J. Gagne for his exceptional service, his dedication and contributions to our city, and wish him a fulfilling and enjoying retirement.

Mayor Ruais stated lastly for my wife at home who is celebrating her 39th birthday, Happy Birthday Veronica. I promised you I would do it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Ruais 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 must sign up with their name, address and topic prior to 7 PM. Once called, they

will have up to three minutes to speak and any comments must be directed to the chair and concluded when their time is up. If the Clerk calls their name and they are not present to speak, they will not be given a second opportunity. Any resident wishing to speak will come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

Porsche Jones, 300 Bedford Street, stated:

I moved to Manchester in April 2023. I was surprised to see the enthusiasm here for so many elaborate undertakings, both institutional and personal, when we as citizens have not done the bare minimum work of insuring that everyone is fed and housed. Since the resignation of the Director of Housing Stability, I have been ardently following news stories about the issue. I know how many dollars are in the city budget and I know approximately how many are spent on housing and sheltering. I believe there is an egregious imbalance. I was interested to read on the city website that there is an annual count estimating about 140 unsheltered people in this city as of 2023. Every night I look out my window at the office skyscrapers downtown and count the dark windows and think how many more than 140 there are. To be hyperbolic, 140 people seems to a lay person like a problem that could be solved with a single key to unlock a high school gymnasium but I will not give my opinion as a lay person. I will quote from the city website itself. It reads "Homelessness is a policy choice and the Covid-19 pandemic proved the power of prevention. During the pandemic, governments instituted eviction moratoriums, deployed emergency rental assistance, expanded unemployment assistance and the child tax credit, and issued cash directly to millions of lower income Americans. In effect, poverty dropped by 45%, millions of evictions were prevented and homelessness remained steady during a time when a surge in homelessness would have been expected." This is not a problem we can police our way through. We can look globally to projects like Keene, NH's cottage court ordinance for some guidance on policy or we can look more broadly at the projects all across the nation that have solved homelessness by simply putting people in housing. I know how many vacant units there are in my building and I know how many stay vacant from month-to-month due to the high rent being asked. Please do the sensible thing. Resolve this issue without any further violence than has already been done. Unhoused people need homes, not handcuffs. Thank you for your time.

Richard Irving, Ward 2, stated:

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last Friday that cities can ban people from camping in public places on a 6-3 decision. That includes our City of Manchester. That is not right. Our homeless and hungry citizens are human beings who have a right to exist like everyone else. They need homes, food, clothing, medical, dental, mental health care, education and employment. To help out, my business partner Lori H. Smith and I will open a 1980's themed restaurant, GenX Burger Shack, with a charity event. The first annual Nostalgia Against Homelessness and Hunger this year. We will keep you posted. Thank you.

Kevin Criscione, Ward 11, stated:

I would like to start with a quote and this is from the 49th Mayor of Manchester. "We cannot arrest our way out of homelessness." It bears repeating. We cannot arrest our way out of homelessness. Mayor Ruais has said this during campaigning and experts consistently say this and many of you individually say this. Until this past week, there was a clear standard for evicting people who were not accused of any other crime from public land. If you want to keep people from any public space, you need to give them a place to go. This changed recently. If you, as some of you intended to do, criminalize the act of sleeping outside without expanding shelter space, you are essentially saying that homelessness deserves a prison sentence, that domestic violence deserves a prison sentence, that untreated mental health and substance use issues due to a lack of funds to cater to many marginalized populations deserve a prison sentence. If you don't believe such ugly things, please act like it. Please find the money, raise taxes on the wealthy, hire a grant writer, make better use of resources, whatever you can to expand shelter capacity. I think it is actually very important when talking up here to be honest and direct and I feel like the plan is to take away some fundamental civil liberties from our towns and our cities, most of whom are local residents, is quite uglier than other things I have seen going on here. Thank you.

Rep. Don Bouchard, 39 Foxwood Circle, stated:

I represent Ward 4 in the NH House. Penalizing homeless individuals for sleeping in public spaces is unjust when there are insufficient shelter options available. It criminalizes poverty and homelessness rather than addressing the root causes. Forcing

homeless individuals to move frequently or disburse without adequate support can lead to increased health risk, both for the homeless population and the Manchester community. Displacement can push homeless individuals into more hazardous areas or situations, increasing their vulnerability to violence and exploitation. Policing and clear encampments can be costly for Manchester. These funds might be better spent on long-term solutions such as affordable housing, mental health services and addiction treatment programs. Punitive measures can perpetuate the cycle of homelessness as individuals with criminal records or fines find it even harder to secure employment and housing. Clearing encampments does not address the underlying issues that lead to homelessness. It is seen as a temporary, superficial solution that fails to provide lasting change. Long-term solutions require a comprehensive approach including affordable housing, mental health care, job training and social services. Simply removing encampments is not enough to solve the problem. Thank you for taking my testimony.

Rose Wood, 195 McGregor Street, stated:

Thank you for taking the time to hear my comments and thank you for being here tonight. I want to comment on the criminalization of sleeping outside. In addition to not working, to echo earlier commenters, we can't arrest our way out of homelessness. That just puts more people into more vulnerable situations where they will then be forced back into homelessness because now that they have a record it will be almost impossible to get a job or housing. In addition, this is a very worrying precedent because if sleeping outside becomes criminalized in NH, that means that then anyone who might potentially lose their job who might for example have unexpected medical bills and end up homeless, now that can throw the entire rest of your life down the drain. As one of the young tech professionals that Manchester has been trying really hard to attract to this city, this is horrifying. Even if I am not at risk of becoming homeless myself, it says you can't stand up for your rights and try to organize at workplaces and try to make the world better because shaking the boat now comes with a massively increased cost. Thank you.

Alex Goss, 195 McGregor Street, stated:

I was born here in Manchester. When I first heard that a recent Supreme Court ruling would allow cities to punish homeless people for sleeping outside, I was heartbroken.

When I first heard that Mayor Ruais plans to amend ordinances to do so here in Manchester, I was devastated. Rent and cost-of-living is through the roof and shelters are often at max capacity and in poor condition but instead of addressing any of this, you want to hurt those that are the most vulnerable. If someone doesn't have a place to live and can't stay at a shelter, where are they supposed to sleep? When all someone has is a tent or sleeping bag or just the ground to sleep on, instead of doing what is actually needed which is providing them with housing, you want to harass them, fine them, arrest them, and prevent them from sleeping. Did you know that forced sleep deprivation is a form of torture because that is what that would be? You would be torturing people who have nothing for the crime of having nothing. It is pure cruelty that I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy. If you think harassing people out of public parks will make them safer, you are wrong. I have never felt unsafe seeing homeless people sleeping in parks but you know what makes me feel unsafe? Knowing that if I ever get unlucky enough to lose my home, that the city I was born in will hurt me, tear down any tent I try to sleep in and fine me for money I don't have. Banning people from sleeping in public spaces doesn't help anyone. It is just violence. If someone has no place to live, the only solution to their problem is to house them. It is that simple and if you can't do that don't pretend that pushing them around and preventing them from having so much as a sleeping bag on the ground is anything but abusive. Thank you.

Jillian Chu, 55 River Road, stated:

I will be making a comment on the ordinance criminalizing sleeping outside. This city council has conceived of the un-American idea that it can use big government to take away our right to fulfill our basic needs in public. You may argue that this proposal is necessary to ensure comfort and safety, however, discomfort and danger are inherent to the freedoms we have here in NH. We have the freedom to own firearms even if that makes other people uncomfortable. We have the freedom to speak our minds, even if that makes others uncomfortable. We should have the freedom to take a nap outdoors after a long day of work even if that makes others uncomfortable. The motto of NH is Live Free or Die but if you follow-through on this ordinance, it will make it clear that in order to ensure that those you dislike die, you will abuse government power so that none of us live free. This concludes my public comment. Thank you.

Lucy Drozd, Ward 4, stated:

I understand, Mr. Gagne, department head and Chair of the Board of Assessors is retiring at the end of the month and we just saw that. I am certain and we witnessed today that the city will be expressing their gratitude with accolades and a substantial monthly pension so this seems like a perfect time to summarize my experience dealing with that department under Mr. Gagne's leadership. It just so happens that yesterday I dropped off a check to cover my semi-annual tax bill of almost \$3,900 for property that has been and continues to be overvalued at over \$409,000. It is a two-family house built in 1906 without outdated old style interiors as well as old plumbing, heating and electrical systems. In 2020, during the city's reassessment period, we had this property on the market. We received four offers. These market offers were well below assessed value. The maximum offer was \$310,000 pre-inspection. Because of the large discrepancy between the city's April 2021 assessed value at the time set at \$405,500 and actual market offers, we went through the abatement process. Our abatement application was very detailed and included all pertinent information, including market offers. Our request to lower the assessment was denied. We met with the department head and another Assessor, Mr. Gagne and Mr. Hurley, to understand why the application was denied given that our property was on the market and all offers were way below the assessed value, we felt justified in expecting a decrease. We were informed that the city would have to do a reinspection for anything to change so we requested a reinspection. The reinspection was done in August 2022 which the city's inspectors call a courtesy visit and when leaving told us nothing would change but that is not what happened. We actually got an increase of almost \$4,000. This was accomplished by changing the second level floors to hardwood but I have no idea where they are, first floor to carpet, adding two more bedrooms and a full bathroom. The bathroom is a small area in an unfinished basement use to wash off debris and dirt after yard work. Over a year after the reinspection, the city issued a report estimating the market value of the property at \$400,000. Since properties in the city on average are assessed at about 4% below market values, the city's reinspection could have brought the assessment value to about \$384,000.

Tim Kazanowski stated:

To get additional independent evidence about the market value of that property, we had a certified residential appraiser with over 38 years of experience perform a reinspection. He estimated the market value of the property at \$324,000. Again, using the city assessment to market ratio of 96.1%, the property should have been assessed at about \$311,000. Given all of that information warranting a much lower assessment value, our tax bill continues to be based on the assessed value of \$409,000. We experienced a complete lack of professional ethics, integrity, accountability and transparency at the Assessor's Office. This is what happens when there is no real oversight, no performance evaluations and no repercussions. If I didn't go through this experience, I wouldn't have believed that a city official could treat a taxpayer in this manner. The city will eventually have to address and deal with this mess created under the leadership of the retiring department head and Chairman of the Board of Assessors. Thank you.

Eric Kilchenstein, Portsmouth, stated:

I am attorney for Sheehan, Phinney, Bass & Green. My client is York Printing Building LLC and this is in reference to the project at 215 Canal Street. More substantively, a letter was sent to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen dated June 21, 2024 which goes into details that I can't get to within three minutes. Also, following me is Suzanne Brunelle who is an attorney at Devine, Millimet who is counsel for the bank involved. As quickly as I can, I am here on behalf of my client. We ask that the city subordinate the declaration of conveyance that was issued in exchange for tax relief. Not remove the declaration or amend them in any way but just subordinate them to the lender of the client, St. Mary's Bank, so they can fund construction. As I pointed out in my letter, there are a collection of statutes that give the city discretion to do so. I will be around later so I can answer any questions. Having done finance work on behalf of banks in my past, I will say that most banks would have a similar requirement so my client will run into this again with a discerning law firm on the other side that is paying attention. They will see the declaration and also want it subordinated. I will let the counsel for the bank address this but the thing that they are most concerned about is within the declaration there is language that directs insurance proceeds in the event of any loss to the project directly to the city. With any kind of construction financing or construction loan documentation, any bank would want the proceeds in the event of a loss to first go

their way. That is the main concern here within the declaration. Otherwise, the interest of the bank, my client and the city are in parallel. As you may know, the project is pretty far along. I think it is one of the cooler things that I have personally worked on. Leases have been signed. Harpoon Brewery is moving in. There is a lot going on but we need the construction financing and subordination. Thank you.

Suzanne Brunelle, Devine, Millimet & Branch, stated:

I am here on behalf of St. Mary's Bank. They are looking to provide construction financing to York Printing Building, the borrower for the redevelopment at 215 Canal Street. We are on this agenda for Item 32. I did provide a narrative to the City Clerk on June 17. I hope that you have it. It is my letter with the request, the copy of the restriction and the proposed subordination. We had hoped to close on this loan some time ago but during our due diligence we found this covenant and it sets forth requirements for leasing on the property, for two floors, to keep it commercial. St. Mary's has no problem with that. We understand the importance of having commercial property used for commercial purposes so we are good with the brewery, the restaurant and the retail in general. The issue is the city's lien as Atty. Kilchenstein said regarding the proceeds of the casualty insurance policy. So, St. Mary's is providing significant funds on this, formerly at \$670,000. The term on the loan is 10 years and it is again construction to permanent financing and as such they need to be assured in the event of a casualty that the property will be rebuilt which is the same concern as the city. However, the issue becomes who holds the insurance money in the event of a casualty and how does it get paid. St. Mary's is deeply involved with this. They would be day-to-day handling construction funding on this project and they have historically addressed casualty matters in the course of their lending. As most of you know, St. Mary's has been part of this city since 1908. They are a terrific business partner to the city and they are asking that they be allowed to oversee the application of the insurance proceeds in the event of a loss as they have historically done. We believe the city's and the lender's views are the same which is that they want the property rebuilt as soon as possible. The question is who is in a better position to handle the disbursement of the funds in the event of a loss. No institutional lender is going to want to be behind a restriction on insurance proceeds. Think about that. Think about the potential economic impact if local lenders are not going to lend to developers because the city

wants to have a lien in front of them. You are not without power. In fact, you have great power here. Under RSA 79-9, the city can terminate the tax reduction. They can claw back all of that benefit if the property is not rebuilt as it should be and unpaid taxes. There would be a lien in front of my first mortgage which is fine and we understand the ramifications of that. Previously, you have granted the benefit of a 79-E without requirement for a lien on the insurance proceeds. The statute for a 79-E does not require that you have a lien. It says you may. It is very clear that you may or you may not. In conclusion, we ask that you approve our subordination, which again is just limited to the lien on the insurance proceeds. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Rick Blais, 733 Chestnut Street, stated:

Great turnout tonight to see this process take place. I heard the Mayor the other day talking about the homeless issue which most people are here talking about tonight. I like what you said Mayor which was you don't want to be a leaf blower just pushing people from one place to another. Compliments and kudos to the Board over the past six months. I haven't seen this in 10 years. Things never move fast enough for everybody but you guys are making a lot of inroads. I see a lot of people concerned about the same topics. Now it is an issue of how do we get there. Unfortunately, the two-year cycle for elections is coming up. I wish it was four years so you would have time to get really big projects done but there are a lot of players here tonight that could fix a lot of these homeless issues. We need to get some key players to the table; professionals that know what they are doing. I think the Supreme Court ruling was awesome; not because it is telling the states and cities what to do but it is clarifying the rights that they have. I agree 100% that we can't arrest our way out of this problem but we need solutions and I think what I am offended by all the time I come to this great city I grew up in is when I see people shooting up on the street. I hope the Chief enforces those rules. That to me is when you need to go to jail. If you are publically doing drugs or something else illegal on the streets and kids are seeing this stuff, that is the only way that person is going to get help. If you have had any addiction problems or you know of anybody who has had, it is when their back is against the wall when they make that decision that life is worth living again and they make the changes they need to. Our system of throwing money around the city for 30 years hasn't resolved the alcohol or

mental health issues. I think there are a lot of people in the room here with great thoughts but we have to pull together as a city. I think there is enough talent here tonight and resources that we can make that happen. I hope that everyone in this room comes together as one because this isn't one person's issue but it is all of our issue.

Crystal Blut, 145 Eastern Avenue, stated:

I am the chair of outreach at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. We run a community meal program. We serve 80 nutritious meals once a month and most of them go to the homeless. We go out in the city and provide these meals and snacks. In the winter we provide hats, scarves, gloves, and heat packs and what my time interacting with the homeless in the city has left me with is knowing their humanity and their worth as individuals and getting to know them and finding that the stereotypes are just that. They aren't all druggies. They aren't all criminals. Many of them have mental health issues that they could use more robust treatment for. Many of them would love to have jobs but they don't have good clothes to wear to an interview or transportation to a job. I don't believe that arresting people for sleeping outside is the right way to help them. I believe the right way to help is going to be affordable housing, shelter space, robust mental health care, treatment for substance abuse, it is going to mean job support and supportive employment. I think the more time you spend with people in this city who are unsheltered, the more you understand the need for help rather than criminalization. Thank you.

Kevin Martin, Ward 3, stated:

I am an organizer with the Party for Socialism and Liberation and one of our largest battles has been addressing the housing crisis in this city. During my time here, I have only seen the housing crisis worsen and the inevitable increase in homelessness due to it. This is an issue not unique to Manchester but what is unique is Manchester's determination to criminalize these individuals rather than address the root problem of it which is the lack of rent control causing an increased cost-of-living and pricing people out of their homes. Manchester could propose many things in an attempt to fix this issue by introducing rent control, a living wage, etc. Instead of providing for the people you are supposed to be responsible for in the community, you have decided to turn them into victims of their circumstances and send them off to prison. We know the

private prison industry and the free labor associated with it is to blame by providing incentives to criminalize more people so the state can squeeze more free labor out of people who simply can't afford housing anymore. The irony of the Live Free or Die state to criminalize living free is not lost on anyone. Regardless of the Supreme Court's ruling, this is disgusting and goes against the 8th Amendment stating cruel and unusual punishment is unconstitutional. Rather than address the growing housing crisis, the City of Manchester would rather spend more of our tax dollars sending innocent people to jail rather than simply providing housing. Literally saving the taxpayer's money, Manchester has nearly 50,000 vacant homes that could easily house every person struggling with homelessness and the only reason it doesn't is because Manchester simply chooses not to. On top of all of this, we are rewarding the police with \$500,000 more in funding to enact violence on our community. This speaks volumes to the goal of this city where just the other day the Manchester Police Department murdered 56-year-old Andrew Smith in cold blood as he fled from his execution as he was shot multiple times in the chest and abdomen. This is the violence you are trying to inspire in this city and with this you are failing the people of your community, which includes all people, even those who aren't in houses. The majority of the people in this room are two to three missed paychecks away from finding yourselves in the same situation. A society is judged based on how they take care of their most vulnerable and seeing the way it is handled here I see no humanity in the elected officials in Manchester. Thank you.

Olivia Dube, Calef Road, stated:

I grew up here and have been here for 27 years. From 2019 until 2022, I was in a domestic violence relationship living with my ex-boyfriend and his family. By 2022 I had gotten out of that relationship, however, I had nowhere to go. I had nowhere to live so I couch surfed for a few months. I was struggling to find a more stable environment to live as I was only making \$15/hour part-time. I even applied for state benefits and was denied because I was making too much money apparently. Eventually after months of fighting to survive, I was accepted into a rooming house. I think about that time and wonder what would I do if it were me now and I didn't have a couch to lay on or a rooming house to go to. I would most likely be on the streets or in the parks like a lot of the homeless people out there right now. If this law is passed, where will these people

who are currently living on the streets, parks and public spaces go? Jail? That to me is inhumane. Homeless people need more shelter space and more affordable housing, not handcuffs. Housing is a human right and at the end of the day we are all human. Thank you.

Nick Carnes, 300 Bedford Street, stated:

I am one of the operating partners at the Shoppers Pub at 18 Lake Avenue. What we do is hold community meetings for small downtown businesses once a month. We hold that very quietly and it is a group that allows people to express their opinions and their trials and tribulations in the city. I don't think anyone in this room wants to see people living on the street; not in the sense of get them off the street it is dirty but in the sense of a humane right. That is a human that we are looking at and nobody deserves to live under a tent on the sidewalk. I understand that the beginning of this will be relatively tough but through that and the complaints we get from our clientele of not being able to generate business because Manchester is deemed unsafe to walk at night...whether that is true or not is in the eye of the beholder and that is their opinion but nonetheless Elm Street is currently dying. We are watching stores close and close and close. The number one complaint that we get, no matter what side of the field you are on is it is because of the homelessness and because of what is happening around them. This actually seems to be an opportunity. If we can gain our clientele and we can continue to grow and generate more revenue for the city, it will give an influx of money to the city thus allowing the city to make the moves to put these people in permanent housing and take care of the homeless people that are around us. I understand that there is a lot more to it than that but on our end of things it is a very base level of a way to portray this. I feel for every homeless person that is out there. I would never want to be in their situation and quite honestly, I thank God every day that I am not and that I have a stable house. I look at a lot of people and I feel for them but I also know that deep down in the conversations I have talking to people on the street, nobody wants to be on the street. The people who want to be there will be there. That is correct but there are plenty of people in the city that need help. By allowing small businesses to continue to generate income, especially with the 2,700 apartments that are coming and keeping the businesses in Manchester, we can continue to grow this city to what it should be which is the pride and joy of New Hampshire.

Alex Saidel, 56 Merrimack Street, stated:

Thank you for having this meeting. I think the topic obviously is creating quite a lot of emotion on both sides. I, for one, can tell you that I don't have the magic answer to this but I am going to tell you what I experience on a daily basis looking out at the occupation that has taken place on Merrimack Street in front of Veteran's Park. I have been a resident of Manchester all my life. As a teenager, I worked on Merrimack Street and went to lunch all around downtown Manchester. Over the decades, I have seen the city change for the better until recently. I was given the opportunity for my business to have a large renovation, a very expensive renovation, and the chance for relocation outside of Merrimack Street. Currently we are on Merrimack Street but I didn't think that was right. The building we are operating out of was built by my grandfather 105 years ago. When he passed away my father took over the business and continued it and I enjoy being in the downtown area. I enjoy looking at Veteran's Park. There is a wonderful history there and our customers enjoy the quaint atmosphere of the older building and the history that is alive in that building with pictures and posters. What they don't enjoy is what is happening to our downtown. Everyone knows we have a national homeless situation and Manchester has many great resources to help these people; perhaps not enough but we do have resources. I think that when we put everybody under the umbrella of homelessness, I really don't think that is doing it justice. There are people that are homeless that are down on their luck and have lost their job and don't have the wherewithal to make their payment and then there are people who are doing whatever they want to do and that is going on on Merrimack Street right in front of Veteran's Park. They do it with relative impunity and that is no disrespect to Manchester PD. To the contrary, the individuals from Manchester PD are the most fantastic caring people and they are doing a great job within the framework they have been given. They must be tired of me calling daily to complain that the sidewalk is impassable for bystanders, which most mornings it is. They come and they get people to move over so that pedestrians don't have to walk in the street and a lot of the time people will choose to walk in the street as opposed to walking on the sidewalk. I have seen many things like people shooting up across the street in broad daylight, drunk and disorderly, drug deals and in the after effects of these things, fistfights, screaming, drug overdoses, public urination and defecation in broad daylight right in front of Veteran's

Park. This is lawlessness and these are not people who are trying to get back on their feet. I think there is a distinction. I thank you for your time.

Patrick Garrity, 471 Silver Street, stated:

I am a lifelong resident of Manchester and have lived in Ward 7 for the past 27 years. First of all, thank you to the Mayor and Board for your often underappreciated and overlooked dedication to public service for this great city and I thank you personally. I am here in support of the ban on public sleeping and I hope it is unanimous. The reasons why. A lot of people say more money, more money. I believe in the last three, four or five years we have spent millions of dollars whether they were federal, state, county or local. We have had all kinds of services. I believe enforcement needs to be part of the picture without a doubt. It is just constant, as the previous speaker said, public urination and defecation. You name it; it is all there and everybody knows it. When I go out of the city and I meet people for the first time through an acquaintance or something and I tell them where I am from, they look at me and say oh that is that big problem city that has all of those homeless issues. I have been here my whole life and I constantly hear that from people I don't even know and it is sad. It is really sad. I understand that there are a lot of issues. I get it. People have a lot of issues. In 61 days, I will begin my fourth year in recovery so I understand what these people are going through but it is about time we respect the long-time citizens and taxpayers of Manchester who have invested and continue to invest daily in this city and contribute to the greatness of this city. There are a lot of people who just don't contribute anything. I am sorry but it is time to use enforcement. There are people who are on the street for a reason and they are just not going to change. It is about time that we move them on and I have great confidence in your office, Mayor, the Police Department and the Fire Department. They aren't going to just go and throw people in jail or go down the street with the wagon. No. They are going to use compassion and respect and probably offer services to these people that they want to move on. I hope it is unanimous support for this. Good luck and I look forward to the future. Thank you.

Phoebe Uman, 262 Amherst Street, stated:

I am here speaking against this proposed ordinance prohibiting sleeping outdoors. I moved to NH from Rochester, NY about two years ago after completing my engineering

degree. I understand that Manchester is looking to entice young professionals in order to revitalize this beautiful city. With that in mind, I would like to share the perspective of this younger generation. We are becoming adults in an incredibly unstable economy with housing and living costs skyrocketing without an increase in wages to accommodate that. Even those of us with highly valued jobs like engineers have to scour the rental listing to find a good deal or risk being cost burdened by the price of rent. We are aware of how close to homelessness each and every one of us are. One car accident with an uninsured vehicle, a medical emergency, a fire, any of that could wipe out all of our savings. I personally would rather live in a city that has a strong safety net if I were to need it versus a city that is planning to spend \$500,000 extra to play Whack-A-Mole with homeless people. I would also rather live in a city where I can go read a book on a sunny day without worrying that I will be arrested or harassed by the city's protectors if I happen to fall asleep. Since moving here, I have learned that people are very proud of the slogan Live Free or Die so why can't people live free by camping within the city limits or sleeping in their car? Is it because of public safety? I live in an apartment downtown. I often walk through the homeless encampments while walking around town. I am a young woman and under 5' tall and I walk alone most times and not once have the people living on the streets or living in their cars made me uncomfortable or harassed me let alone caused a safety risk. I personally believe that we should be showing everybody kindness and grace, especially those who are struggling to survive without protection from the rain and snow and heat; no privacy shelters that are not capable of letting everyone in. Families in Transition just released that they are turning people away every single night. Even if you have no compassion for the homeless population, we know that imposing fines and jail time only increases the prevalence of homelessness while costing the city and taxpayers drastically more money than providing supportive housing solutions. On that note, I support our unhoused neighbors and hope that you will do the same. Thank you.

Joy Young, Ward 11, stated:

Shame on you all. Your Chief of Police just threatened somebody for asking justified questions about their process under the due course of this constitution that you claim to represent. You want \$500,000 more for these people? So they can do what, chase homeless people around? Make it make sense. Let me paint a picture for you. If any

of us were to say get a DUI and couldn't afford an ambulance chaser or slip and fall lawyer, our landlord might not care or a slip and fall lawyer might not care and might not represent us that well. All of the sudden, our life falls apart and we are out there on the street and you are saying we are going to take money from Parks & Recreation...did you ask Parks & Recreation? How do they feel about that? I would like to hear about that but we are going to give this money to police and we are going to enact these inhumane policies and we are staring down the barrel of a potential financial catastrophe. It is already bad out here but we are looking at worse. We are looking at mortgage rates that are skyrocketing. You are pushing people further and further down. How are you going to manage not only this population but like hundreds or thousands more? Can you do that? Do you have enough jail cells? Do you have enough cots? Do you have enough Bearcats and AR-15's to manage a much larger portion of unhoused people? You have to ask yourselves these questions because people might start getting sick of it. This is ridiculous. I urge you to try to find better solutions than just throwing money at the police so you can clear things out and create an attractive investment environment. It is disrespectful to humanity. Thank you.

Sebastian Rowan, Ward 2, stated:

The median list price for a home in NH is over \$562,000. The minimum annual income required to buy a home in this market is over \$134,000 per year according to Realtor.com. The median annual income in NH is under \$50,000. One-quarter of NH residents make less than \$30,000 per year. Daily life is becoming increasingly unaffordable and instead of doing a damn thing to help address the root causes of poverty and homelessness, our so-called representatives' only solution is to criminalize mere existence. Mayor, I am here tonight to speak out against your disgusting proposal to steal \$500,000 from the Parks & Rec budget to further inflate the budget for Manchester PD, a department whose officers were caught on film during the recent heatwave harassing people in the park and confiscating their umbrellas being used for shade. A Police Department which has shot and killed multiple people this year including...

Mayor Ruais interjected enough. That is not part of a civil discourse.

Mr. Rowan responded it is a fact.

Mayor Ruais stated we have a requirement that we are going to engage in civil discourse. Accusing our police of something of that nature without any evidence whatsoever is simply unacceptable. I am more than happy to have you continue your conversation but please stick to the comments at hand without going in that direction.

Mr. Rowan stated you are requesting \$500,000 for the Police Department which has shot and killed multiple people in the past year.

Mayor Ruais responded enough. The rules of the Board state that you have to engage in civil conversation. That to me goes over the line of civil conversation and we are not going to tolerate that. How much time does he have remaining?

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, responded he has a minute and a half.

Mr. Rowan stated the Police Department which has as a perk of working for the department. How dare you say you care about public safety. How dare you when there are more cops than social workers in our schools. How dare you or anyone on this Board pretend to care about homelessness in this city while you pass tax break after tax break for developers to come in and build more and more luxury apartments that no one can afford to rent while our friends, families and neighbors are forced out of their homes by unending and unrestricted rent hikes. Your solution to the problem is to do absolutely nothing and throw anyone who makes you slightly uncomfortable in prison. By the way, NH spends about \$75,000 per incarcerated person per year so in a way you are willing to spend money to address housing, only in a way that is punitive. Surely \$500,000 would be better spent on providing housing to people who need housing but we can't do that. That is socialism. If we do that what is next? The gulag? No. It is much better in a free society to spend our money arming a militarized police force to throw our citizens in prison for simply existing on public property. The polite thing to do would be to end this speech by saying I hope you never have to experience the hardship you are so eager to inflict on others but I did not come here to lie so I will not. Goodnight.

Richard Simard, Ward 1, stated:

I think a lot has been said tonight. I think we all kind of have an idea of where the majority of people here stand. I don't agree with the park enforcement reallocation. I do believe that the money could be better spent to actually solve the problem. I would love to see it going into some affordable housing with controlled rent prices. That is absolutely the root cause of homelessness aside from mental health. We all know this. I would really like to see some more being done to address this problem. Is there a way that any of this ARPA money can be put into initializing a program that actually solves the root cause? If the point of the money is to make recreational areas in parks available to the public, then why can't we address the actual root of the issue with homelessness. Clearly that is the thing we are trying to solve here, right? I don't believe that rigid enforcement is really going to solve the problem. It is like trying to treat the systems of an illness with a morphine drip. You are going to feel good for a little bit but it is not really going to solve anything. Let's think about it. I would appreciate your honest and earnest consideration of what else can be done. I was talking earlier with my alderman, Chris. I hear there is a \$2 million rebranding on the table for Manchester. That is a lot of money for what, a new logo? Who really wants to come here if there is a rampant issue of people getting churned out because we are not going to actually solve the problem through enforcement? Where are people going to go? What next? Have you really looked at that? It would make more sense to fix some of these root issues before trying to really attract more people. I hope that you all agree with me.

Natalie Watt, High Street, stated:

I will be speaking today on the possibility of criminalizing sleeping in public spaces. To be so quick to publically advocate for the cruel option as soon as the Supreme Court decides that it is legal to do so portrays a lack of care for the residents of Manchester. The city does not need to do this. The Supreme Court's ruling does not require it. Police harassment of people sleeping outdoors is already an issue. You do not need to make it worse. Let me be real. If a friend and I have a picnic with a cute little picnic blanket and a cute little picnic basket and I end up taking a nap in the park, I am not going to be fined. Someone is only going to be fined if they look homeless. Being too

poor to exist in public cannot be a crime. Last August I shared the following statement at another Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting. What I said then is still true and I am deeply disappointed that my elected officials have not succeeded in making any improvements to our city. What I said then, which is still true, is that if there are no shelter beds available in Manchester on a given night then people should not be cited or fined for sleeping in public areas, including setting up tents for protection against the elements. Everyone in Manchester must be able to exist in our public spaces. An arrest on someone's record will make it hard for them to find housing in the future. Please do not make life more difficult for people who are already facing hardship. Thank you for your time and your attention.

Hannah Rowell-Jore, 22 Brook Street, stated:

I just wanted to say I would really like it if you could use some of my tax dollars to go towards providing shelter for more people expanding the current shelters we have now as well as adding another women's shelter or more beds to our current women's shelter and providing a dry shelter as we currently have nowhere for somebody who is looking to become sober. Thank you.

Norri Oberlander, 795 Elm Street, stated:

I am the owner of North End Properties. We own 10 properties in 4 wards across the City of Manchester. As a landlady, I have an obligation of safety to my tenants, to my employees, to my livelihood, for my husband, son and daughter, and to my fellow business owners in the room right now and to my parent's legacy. As a Manchester property owner, the safety of my properties has been compromised by four encampments and two shelters under the previous BMA. Encampment #1 was on the river on North River Road during Covid. Encampment #2 was at the Merrimack Street County Courthouse. Encampment #3 on the corner of Merrimack Street sidewalk and Veteran's Park. I then sold 34 Brook Street, my six-unit building, due to increased crime in that neighborhood. Finally, Encampment #4 tent city. If you recall, there were over 100 tents surrounding New Horizons Shelter and I was the abutter to tent city. As of January 1, you are all the new BMA and I thank you all for your hard work. I have learned the hard way that your jobs are not easy but you all have a passion for the city that I admire and I, too, have a passion and dedication to this city. For over a month,

there have been approximately 25 people loitering, camping and committing crime on the Merrimack Street sidewalk. My tenants are afraid to walk to my parking lot because they are being harassed and witnessing crime and my neighbors are also suffering. You all have the power to fix this issue that interferes with public health, safety, our livelihoods and the economic growth of our city. Myself, my employees, my neighbors and my tenants have been victims of trespassing, public urination and defecation, public fornication, public drug use, public drinking, dirty needles, spoon littering, drug dealing, mattress debris removal, possession of weapons, the Spice dance and now we are even witnessing dogs being taken in on Merrimack Street who bark and howl all day long which of course is not fair to them either. Please find the balance between the protection of human rights and the protection of property rights. Trauma is real and I know drugs and alcohol are an escape from trauma and these people do need help. Therefore, they should and need to access the resources being offered in our city. Just because they need help does not mean they can also commit crime. As per the Supreme Court ruling, homelessness is not a protected class but these people do need help and they should access our services. We still need to enforce the laws or our city won't survive let alone thrive. Please take action tonight to remove Sections B, C and D from Ordinance 130.13. Please also vote to transfer the Park Ranger funding to MPD for dedicated police in the parks where the Park Rangers will be protected because they will now be hired by DPW. Thank you very much.

Bradley Conway, 236 Boutwell Street, stated:

I am here to help carry the torch for Palestine solidarity and make sure to remind everyone in the audience and at home that the City of Manchester continues to neglect the voices of its residents on Palestine, even as the horrors compound exponentially. There is so much that the city can do to pressure or expose Manchester's murderous white supremacist federal representative delegation. Our delegation is composed of dishonorable war profiteers including Chris Pappas, Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan, who see Palestinian death and suffering as an opportunity to line their pockets. Through their continued support for arming Israel's genocide in Gaza, these federal officials, who are your colleagues, are not in compliance with U.S. Leahy Laws or International Laws and history will remember them as war criminals. Our federal leaders are putting both Palestinians and residents of Manchester in great peril but yet

the city shows nothing but disdain for those who speak out. In October 2023, Manchester's previous administration lit City Hall blue and white to show its official solidarity with Israel. Eight months of genocide later, the city has shown publically zero regard for Palestinian life despite months of persistent appeal from its residents. I would also like to acknowledge how Alderman Levasseur who through his position represents the entire City of Manchester has been waving an Israeli flag at almost every City Hall meeting this year. Obviously, it reflects poorly on the city at this point to have one of its highest-ranking officials not only celebrating Israel's genocide but eagerly and gleefully compounding the fear and emotional trauma that the genocide has caused residents of the city. This is an absolute outrage. We demand that the city take action immediately to fully disclose city investments and divest the city's funds from companies that profit from the genocide in Gaza. We demand that this Board publish a resolution acknowledging that continuing to arm Israel violates US Federal Law. We demand that the city acknowledge that Palestinian lives matter as much as the Israel lives did when City Hall was lit up blue and white last October. I also want to speak tonight against the proposed punitive homelessness ordinance and shout out how obviously cruel and terrible and backwards the Mayor is for proposing to reallocate \$500,000 towards policing the homeless instead of providing more desperately needed services and long-term solutions. I think it is safe to say that with this Mayor, cruelty is the point of his policy decisions. I have some materials to submit for distribution. I printed out this picture that I took from the June meeting because I think the Board and the people of Manchester should see it. It depicts a speaker struggling to finish their three minutes of public comment in support of ceasefire and the city divesting from genocide as Manchester Police remove her at the request of the Mayor. Alderman Levasseur is seen in the foreground waving an Israeli flag bringing great shame to the city yet again. Thank you.

Paul Galasso, Manchester stated:

I have spoken here a few times over the past several months about the homeless. I come here and I just try to offer a perspective based on my own experience as a volunteer providing sidewalk relief to the homeless in the City of Manchester. I am not here to tell you what to do and I am not here to complain. I just want to give you a perspective and some additional thoughts are you are trying to analyze this really

complicated issue and maybe something you hear during these meetings will fit somewhere in realistic solutions. I would also like to say that being involved with the homeless has caused me to try my best to stay on top of what the city is doing. Maybe contrary to some of the previous comments, I have seen an awful lot of progress being made in redirecting the city's efforts in trying to attack this thing from multiple angles which is really the only way something this complex is even going to be solved. In six months, I just want to acknowledge the good work from the Mayor and his team. On the short-term housing issue and this Supreme Court ruling, the only thing I would ask is that until there is temporary housing in place that we don't implement these changes and sweep the homeless off the streets and chase them into the woods and wherever else they can hide. I would guess that that has already been discussed and I would guess that there is probably already a plan to deal with that but I wanted to give my input on that issue because as has already been said it wouldn't be humane. On the short-term as well, I have mentioned during these meeting short-term housing for the purpose of giving people a place to go that don't have shelter during the winter. Well, I think that short-term housing hope is just being reinforced by the Supreme Court decision because we actually do need it. In the long-term, I am going to throw out a couple of ideas here. I am a tutor over at the Sununu Youth Development Center and I know that they are closing it and relocating. I don't know whether that property would work but there are some good buildings that are still over there that we could potentially utilize. The second is looking to try to combine a city-based approach with a state-based approach in that with economies of scale and with the good thinking across the state with respect to how to handle homelessness we may be able to come up with a scheme that can actually be more effective. As part of that, because of the economy of scale, you could consider even like a hub and spoke kind of operation. The hub being where the most desperate among the homeless can go for psychiatric and drug abuse issues. I guess I have to close. I have a few other ideas but I will share those another way. Thank you for your time.

Miss Kelly, Cartier Street, stated:

I didn't write anything because I wanted to hear what everybody else had to say. I do have a few thoughts though. Homelessness is not a crime. It is a tragedy and an epidemic and a pandemic. I don't know if you remember me. We met at Homeless

Memorial Day and you told me that you were going to work with the people and you were going to help the homeless. I told you that if you did that, you wouldn't have to worry about seeing my face. Here I am. I am so angry. People deserve second chances. If you give people tickets, they are going to lose their licenses and lose their jobs. Maybe they are just getting back in with their family. Maybe they are just getting back in to see their kids. That is gone. What about people who may be out on bail or parole or probation? Yeah, go ahead and laugh Joe. They all deserve second chances just like somebody who got two DWI's and is the Mayor of Manchester now, huh? Everybody deserves another chance. Everybody keeps talking about the amendment where it says cruel and unusual punishment. What about the 14th amendment where everyone is created equal? You, yourself, wrote a couple of weeks ago on Juneteenth that you were for equality. Are you for equality for everybody or are you for equality for people who have homes? That's it.

Glenn RJ Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

It is very discerning, and I will give you an example of how our seniors are being abused because they can't afford rent. I work. I have Social Security but it doesn't pay enough to pay my medical bills. I work as many hours as they will give me because I have bills to pay. I have medical things to take care of. I am not trying to rely on the city, state or feds. I was raised to take care of my issues and that is what I am trying to do. I have been in court now for several months regarding evictions that have been dismissed time after time because there is no reason for them. Now, I am going back on the 11th and it will be the seventh month. My rent is paid. I paid it today again. It is paid. Yes, I put Drano down the drains because after four months and one week, nobody came to the apartment to fix sewage that was coming out of my kitchen and bathroom sinks. That is a violation so why am I being penalized? Now they say they are going to raise my rent by \$405. I am going to go from paying them 50% of my income to 80% of my income. What will that leave me? If I am evicted, I have no place to go. I don't have savings accounts. I will be living in the cemetery and now I am going to get arrested? Why? Because you can't live in a public place if you are homeless anymore. We need to find a better solution to solve these problems. I remember back during the last year that Ted Gatsas was mayor. He asked the aldermen a question and Dan O'Neil answered it. He rose his hand and he answered it the right way. I haven't committed a crime in

this city and I come here almost every other week unless I am really sick. I am looking over your shoulders because as citizens we have that right. I come here with information, not something that is made up. I make sure I know what I am saying. We cannot defund public education and some of you here are in favor of that. Very few, but it is a start. I should not be homeless and neither should any other seniors so please do something about it. Arresting people? If I am homeless, I am going to lose my job. How am I going to get to work? I will leave you with this. Fourth of July weekend is coming and guess what? We need to continue working on the issues so please do that. We need to do it in a peaceful way. We respect you and you respect us. That is all I ask. Thank you.

Roger Bleau, 1620 Union Street, stated:

My theme is love thy neighbor as thyself. I am against this bill because I think it could easily be abused. I am for arresting people that are committing crimes whether they are homeless or not, especially those that have been addicted. I would like to see them arrested and put into places where they can be rehabbed. I think that is important. It is so funny. My granddaughter who is going to be a senior at Central next year and has been through the Manchester school system said about a month ago to me you know Pepe all of my friends are talking about my generation not having houses when they get old because they are so expensive. I said that is sad but really true. The one thing that bothers me Mayor is I saw in the Boston Globe in April, I think it was that you said something to the effect that you wanted the city to get out of the homelessness business and instead direct it to non-profit organizations. We would probably save money that way but I think that is abdicating responsibility. I think the city should take care of them. I also think that it is an impossible situation. World-wide there is homelessness every place. What I want is I work with the homeless a little bit and I feel that they are just as human as I am and deserve respect just as much as I do. I would really like to see them treated with respect. I think generally the Manchester Police do a fine job. I haven't personally had any problems so I applaud them and I know it is going to be difficult to enact this if it happens. A lot of the things I was going to say people have already said like for instance a report just came out the other day from the National Low Income Housing Coalition which revealed that NH has the 13th highest housing price in the country so a person in NH who wants an apartment has to earn

\$32/hour in order to make it. A person that makes minimum wage of \$7.25 has to work 181 hours a week and that is pretty impossible. Another thing that happened was Mayor you are consolidating some of these things and taking funding from the Police Department and putting it in your office. Alderman T. Sapienza worried that moving that position would make it political rather than administrative and that makes sense to me. Basically, what I want is for us to be human so that we can be proud of Manchester and take care of our citizens, even the lowly. When you started this meeting, you thanked all of these people who helped the city and I believe you all served the city but especially that couple who saved the little kids. To me in some cases the homeless are like those little kids and we have to take care of them and applaud the people who help them just like we did. Thank you for listening.

Grace Kindeke, 39 Porter Street, stated:

I am a long-time resident of NH. I was raised here and went to school here and a long-time resident of Manchester. I have lived in almost every neighborhood in this lovely city and I am here to urge the mayor not to introduce the resolution that would roll back this city's obligation to provide adequate shelter before urging any person and criminalizing them for being on public property. I have the immense privilege of being not only a homeowner, one of the first in my family to own a home, a lovely brick Colonial on Porter Street but I also have the immense privilege of housing an incredible young woman. We call her Potato. She is sweet like a sweet potato who at 16 years old escaped an abusive family, came back to Manchester and lived on the street; 16 years old. She is 21 now. Her birthday is in just a few days and she is turning 22. Thankfully, after several years on the street she was able to get into a program with Waypoint where they provided housing because that is what she needed. She needed housing. Then she aged out of that program working at Staples for minimum wage and barely able to make the subsidized rent that was available to her in the program. She was imminently about to lose her home so while I was on a work trip in Cambodia, she called me desperate. A young woman that I had met through a job interview who I had clicked with. She felt like a sister to me and she still does. So, my husband and I talked and we decided we had plenty of space in our rambling three floor Colonial to house this one young woman so we did and what was supposed to be a one-year stint was then two and now we are entering into our third year. Our home is warmer for it. We

are lucky and happy to have her with us. She is a family member. If my husband and I, 37-year-old millennials, are able to provide housing for one young woman, why cannot this city provide shelter for the 140 people who don't have it? Provide adequate shelter before criminalizing it. Mayor Ruais, I have met you several times. I met you the first time when you sat outside my family's restaurant. I met you at the We Are One Festival. I stood next to you during the MLK event. I sat and I watched your inauguration and I thought maybe just maybe this man would be able to bridge the gap across communities and be willing to take evidence-based practices and implement them; to continue the work that providers and activists and community members have continued to do in order to provide adequate supports and shelters for this community and I urge you do not do this. You said you had a plan. This is not the way to start it.

Dam Wright, Manchester, stated:

First of all, I want to thank you Mr. Mayor for some of the positive things you have done lately. There is the trashcan thing that we talked about and small steps can go a long way. I was also glad to hear that you are seeking additional funding for the Beech Street Engagement Center and Shelter to be able to at least prolong that through the winter. I think that is a wonderful thing. I am a little dismayed about what is going on with the parks. I think our Park Rangers are some of the best people we have in this city. They have done a tremendous job with regards to working with the homeless in a humane and intelligent way. Obviously, what I am here to talk to you guys tonight about is 130.13(B). Now I am under no illusions that you are going to go ahead and vote that away tonight. Nine votes at a minimum and maybe ten; I don't know what you are going to do, Pat. A lot of you ran on that as part of your campaign promises. I get it. It is going to happen. Nothing that anybody here tonight has said is going to stop that. A letter from the ACLU isn't going to stop that. We know it is going to happen. The thing is why. Why? Housed people don't want to see tents and tarps out on the sidewalks? So, what? You want to see the people without them and see what they are doing? Because that is what you complain about more often. In the meantime, 130.13(B) has saved a lot of lives in inclement weather. Joe, you have reached out to me when the weather is bad and said people shouldn't be out there with nothing to cover themselves and no place to go. Again, this is going to prevent these people from being able to at least find some kind of safety. I was out there last night. I counted over 120 people

within two blocks of the Manchester Street shelter who were stuck outside. I spoke to them in the morning and they had seven beds last night which they said was a lot. Usually, they are completely full up. They had seven beds because it was the beginning of the month and people just got their checks and a lot of folks go and get a hotel or something like that. Seven beds isn't going to cover 120 people. The only thing they can do to cover 120 people is throw a small tent or tarp over themselves. By the way, only one of those 120 people that I saw was using a tent. It was a very small tent making sure he was keeping clearance overnight for wheelchairs and walkers and he was picking it up in the morning as he was getting ready to go to work. I don't think that you are going to get the results you are expecting out of this. I think at best it will make no difference but much more likely it is going to make things much worse. We are going to see what happens. We are going to see what happens with the first rain storm when people can't cover themselves without getting a ticket. It is not going to reduce homelessness. These people still have no place to go. I hope that in hindsight after you have done this and you look at the results that maybe you rethink it. Thanks.

Brittany Ping, 199 Putnam Street, stated:

I am here to speak in favor of the city reassessing our ordinances now that we have a Supreme Court decision which will allow this Board to open up and engage in a conversation about the way in which the City of Manchester can change their ordinances. This is an opportunity that we have been floating around. Everybody here has the experience. They come from different places and different emotional and physical connections to homelessness and addiction and mental health issues. I trust that you all have the background, that is why you were all elected, to have this conversation. The beauty of the Supreme Court decision is that you get to have it. I am not an emotional public three-minute speaker. I am here consistently thanking you for your progress. I remember about a year ago I sat here because somebody made a comment in a BMA meeting that long-term solutions couldn't happen right away and I said yes they can. Have you ever worked in the private industry? That is what it is. You create a long-term decision by implementing the things that you can do and that you want to see in the future you believe. At work we do a thing where we visualize and we say imagine a world today and guess what? We get to imagine a world where one of the barriers in our conversations about long-term homelessness solutions...if

Manchester, NH can come up with it I will be amazed and grateful to be a beautiful city but every city across the U.S. is having this exact same conversation and what you have been given is an opportunity that one of the walls, one of the obstacles is now gone and you get to engage in a conversation about what meaningful impact for the city residents, including those that are homeless, looks like. I do want to thank you. I really appreciate how people with a differing opinion that have that long-term longevity experience and we don't have a short-term attention span and memory to what this Board does. Thank you all for the work you have done in regards to ensuring that we have an Emergency Operations Center in the winter. That is not a thing that is looked well upon in the conservative circles going and asking the county for money but I thank you. That is my background. That is my fiscal conservative stance and I am grateful that our city is already taking action in June and May and July instead of waiting until the last minute when we are talking about people freezing on the street. We are doing it now. We are making long-term solutions now. Thank you so much for considering, now that we have an obstacle out of our way, having an open and honest conversation about continuing our long-term solutions. Thank you.

Adam Alvarez, Manchester, stated:

I am a local business owner which basically means I am self-employed and just a regular working-class guy. I am here to offer my perspective of what I see and experience in our city every day. As someone who has lived and worked in Manchester my entire life, I have witnessed first-hand the escalating crisis that our city faces. It is not just a matter of inconvenience. It is a severe threat to the well-being of our community. I have seen camps set-up on school property where our children, where my children, should feel safe and secure. During walks with my kids, we have encountered human excrement. I have had to teach them to be looking out for needles not to mention the criminals that are leaving them where my children used to play. This is not harm reduction. Making it easier for individuals to continue their addiction on our streets is not a compassionate solution. It is a disservice to them and a great harm to the citizens of our city. Allowing public camping under the current ordinance has not helped reduce harm. It has only made Manchester a haven for drug activity and crime. How can you hand out needles to addicts and think you are doing anything other than enabling drug use? How can you look at people shooting up in broad daylight,

defecating on local business doorsteps, giving birth in drug infested camps and think that this should continue? The health hazards are glaring. The presence of needles and human waste in public spaces poses significant risk to everyone, particularly our children who don't know any better. Crime rates have surged and the mental health anguish experienced by our residents, myself included, who fear for their safety and that of their families is beyond reason. Our lawmakers here today and city government have an obligation to protect the residents of Manchester. Allowing our streets to be overtaken by drug addicted criminals is a complete abdication of this responsibility. We must reclaim our public spaces, not just for the sake of aesthetics but for the safety and well-being of our community. In the name of harm reduction and compassion, we have seen people condemned to a hopeless existence. We know this does not work. It has never worked anywhere. Some will say that it is inhumane and lacking to make being homeless a crime. This is a twisting of the facts meant to play on our emotions. What is inhumane and lacking compassion is the thought that these people are completely without hope and all we can do for them is let them sleep in our alleys and roadsides like animals condemned to hospice care keeping them doped up until they die. This is what the opponents of this amendment are pushing for whether they realize it or not. I support this amendment fully. If it fails, my hope for this city fails with it.

*On motion of **Alderman Morgan**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written communication presented.*

Mayor Ruais stated I apologize that I missed one Resolution earlier tonight. Would Terry Hodgman please come up?

City of Manchester. A Resolution.

WHEREAS Terry A. Hodgman has enjoyed an exemplary 46-year career in public service, and

WHEREAS he has joined the City of Manchester's Tax Office in 2001 after being expertly swiped from the City of Nashua, a bold move the Gate City has still not forgotten, and

WHEREAS his 23 years at City Hall Terry served as a Customer Service Rep III then advanced to Administrative Services Manager where he supervised Customer Service personnel, managed fleet registration, and took the time to personally wait on customers, and

WHEREAS during those two decades Terry registered over 80,000 new vehicles for Manchester residents and businesses totaling over \$40 million and renewed over 160,000 vehicles totaling over \$55 million, overall he processed over 370,000 motor vehicle transactions worth over \$100 million, and

WHEREAS because of those amazing accomplishment Terry became known as the pillar of the Tax Office and the go to person for all fleet registration processing - challenging customers and all of those questions that no one else could answer, and

WHEREAS the Tax Office staff deeply appreciated Terry's bilingual talents as well as his ability to handle every crisis, whether real or imagined, with professionalism, accountability and humor, and

WHEREAS Terry was also previously employed with the State of NH's Department of Safety for 23 years starting as a Clerk IV and then advancing to Supervisor of Cash Terminal Transactions managing more than 70 employees,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Manchester recognizes Terry Hodgman as an outstanding employee who cared deeply about his work and serving the public and who prioritized being a friend and leader that his co-workers could always count on, the city extends its heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on a well-deserved retirement.

Mayor Ruais called for a recess.

Mayor Ruais called the meeting back to order.

PRESENTATION

2. Update regarding the Central Business Service District cleaning, maintenance, safety, and hospitality services pilot program.

Jodie Nazaka, Economic Development Director, stated with me is Steve Hillard, President of StreetPlus Co. LLC. We are going to be super respectful of your time tonight knowing you have a full agenda and it is already 9 PM but this was a great opportunity to give the Board an update since today was the official launch of our downtown street cleaning team. It is also very timely as there was a comment earlier regarding the city's branding and marketing initiative and that \$2 million was being used

for a new brand and logo for the city and this is a great way to show you that that is not exactly what the case is with that funding. This is an opportunity for us to invest in programs such as this to rebrand the city as a clean, safe and wonderful place for everyone to come and visit. Through the branding and marketing money, along with some tax assessment dollars from the CBSD, we were able to fund a 12-month pilot program. Steve is the President of the company and he is here in town launching the program so it is a great opportunity for him to share a little bit about the program and a little bit about the background of Streetplus. I will now turn it over to Steve.

Steve Hillard, President, Streetplus, stated thank you for this opportunity to give you a brief overview of what the program is going to do for downtown Manchester. Just some quick information about our company. We have been in business since 1991. We are headquartered out of Brooklyn, NY and we have nearly 90 similar customers across the United States in 14 states with over 600 employees. We are the only privately owned and operated vendor in this space solely dedicated to providing ambassadorial services to downtowns across the country. We are a full-service company providing maintenance and cleaning, hospitality, safety and security, landscaping, social service outreach and technology. For the cleaning program here in downtown Manchester as part of the maintenance, cleaning and hospitality program, you will see individuals, most of them Manchester residents with several of them living downtown and walking to work, will be doing a wide range of tasks that are focused to improve the downtown cleanliness and the hospitality of downtown. They will be doing primarily litter collection and removal, graffiti removal, weed abatement, special projects that include painting light poles, mailboxes, curb lines and such, pressure washing with a high hot water pressure washer that we will use to do the sidewalks, storefronts, and garbage cans for cleaning and we will water all of the plants. All of the employees will also be cross-trained in hospitality and have a basic understanding of how to address the unhoused and unsheltered on the streets of downtown Manchester with a focus of being helpful, friendly and compassionate. The program has been divided into what we call two seasons. We primarily did that with the funding that was available to get more people on the street during the spring and summer months. So, from now until October 31, we will have about eight ambassadors on the street and from November 1 through March 31 that will be reduced down to five. There are just not as much cleaning opportunities

and certainly you can't pressure wash when the weather and temperature become cold. As Jodie mentioned, this is the actual cost. You can see that 75% of all of this money is going to payroll for the employees and related mandated taxes. You can see all of the other operating expenses, the percentage of what the money is and also employee benefits. Every one of our employees that will be working downtown will be eligible for healthcare through Cigna. We pay 80% and they pay 20%. Their contribution would be about \$140/month. It is the same health plan and insurance that I carry in my wallet. They will also get short-term disability, accidental death, life insurance, PTO, paid training, free uniforms and direct deposit as part of the overall package. You can see the pay rates that we are offering for the ambassadors. We are going to be starting them out at \$18/hour and the team leader who is the supervisor on Saturday will be making \$20/hour and our manager will be making \$31.35/hour which is about \$65,000 a year. We have a lot of capital equipment that will augment the manual labor efforts of the ambassadors. This is a picture of the truck. If you were at the press conference this morning, you saw the white truck there. We did not have time to get it branded and marketed but this is what it will look like in about a week. It is going in the shop tomorrow. It will be very visible on the street and you will see them driving around on a regular basis transporting that equipment and employees to various locations in the primary zone and also in the standard zone. These are the barrels they will be pushing around to collect the trash from the trash bins, sidewalks and curb lines. They are branded for downtown Manchester as well. We try and do a lot of green friendly equipment. This is what we call a tailor dime which is an electric vehicle. This will be used for watering all of the plants. We will be putting a pressure washer and a water supply in the back and it will make it easier for the employees to water the large amount of plants in the downtown. On the left is what we call our leaf collector. So, during the fall when all of the leaves are falling, this machine will collect the leaves and make us a lot more efficient in collecting them. The unit on the right is called a billy goat. That will be used on the sidewalks as well to collect and mulch the leaves for disposal. On the left is a vacuum that they will be carrying around to do curb lines and get into the storefronts and alleyways to pick up the debris that has accumulated in the nooks and crannies of buildings and sidewalks. On the right is our pressure washing unit that you will see quite a bit during the day time pressure washing sidewalks, storefronts and garbage cans. On the left, obviously in Manchester there is snow so we have snow

machines and shovels to help keep the handicapped bump outs clear and free of ice and snow. They will also be carrying two-way radios for communication. Pictures are a great visual to show results and these are some of the pictures showing what our ambassadors have been doing across the country. Primarily, a lot of graffiti. You can see on the left the “before” and then the “after.” The same thing here removing stickers. All of the stickers you see on the street poles downtown and all of the tape that has been left over will all be removed as well. We will remove the graffiti on the mailboxes and street fixtures as well. Litter is a big piece. They will be doing a lot of litter patrol patrolling all of the areas and picking up all the loose litter and disposing of it. They will also be doing some additional things like weed abatement and getting all the weeds off the sidewalks, the curb lines and the storefronts as well. Here you see a picture of getting the weeds out of the concrete. This is a park in New Haven, CT. That is my presentation. I was six minutes. I know you guys are short on time but I will open it up for any questions anybody has at this particular point.

Alderman Terrio stated you probably heard the public comment before you got here regarding human feces and needles. Are your people able to clean that up or is that going to be left for someone else?

Mr. Hillard replied actually in our new location at Veteran’s Park, we have had to do that three times in the last three days at the backdoor to our office. We collected 14 needles yesterday morning and collected 5 more this morning. We have sharp containers and they are all trained on how to safely pick up those needles and dispose of them. They have also been trained on how to take care of biohazardous waste as well and that is part of the program, too.

Alderman Terrio asked just to clarify, are these services things that the city employees don’t do or are you taking jobs from them.

Mr. Hillard answered nationwide, every one of these ordinances that allows private companies to come in and do this, we cannot take services away from the city. Those benchmark service levels cannot be adjusted. What we are doing is coming in and augmenting and enhancing those capabilities that the city is currently doing. For

example, maybe they can only get to a garbage can twice a day while we may get there four times a day. It is just augmenting the existing services.

Mayor Ruais stated it is adding services to the downtown which is building off the great work that DPW does.

Alderman Levasseur asked could you take pictures as you move along day-to-day. The pictures of those needles are really important. It buttresses the argument that we are dealing with tonight on problems that we have downtown and why people won't come to our parks. A parent came in today and said listen I am worried about parks everywhere. My kids can't play in them. So, as you clean up say a wall of graffiti, could you snap a picture of it and then maybe every month or whatever you could send them along to Jodie and Jodie could share those with us to show what you are dealing with and show the city what we are dealing with? A few of us have social media and we would be more than happy to share what you guys are doing and let the city know the good job you guys are going to do.

Mr. Hillard replied that is a great question. To put it in perspective, we do six of the largest bins in downtown San Francisco and in one of those bins we collect 30,000 needles every month. We are well versed in the dangers those possess and we collect them safely so our staff is not hurt. We also have technology where our ambassadors will have a smart phone and we have a work order system on there and everything they do is date and time stamps as to when they got the call, when they got there and we take before and after pictures. Every month, Jodie and her team will get what we call our street report that will show all the statistics. It will have heat maps of the district showing where all the hotspots are at. It will also have pictures of everything we are doing. We will be giving that to you every month.

Alderman Fajardo stated thank you for the presentation and thank you Jodie for coordinating this. I wanted to just comment on the transparency of pay and the provision of benefits to city employees or actually let me just double-check. You did say that the ambassadors would be Manchester residents, correct?

Mr. Hillard replied yes. Currently we have eight ambassadors and I know three of them for a fact will actually be walking to work. Another two have a very short bus ride and I think the other two will be taking in their own transportation. The first thing we look at is trying to hire downtown residents first. We also have a second chance program where we hire individuals that have blemishes in their background. That is not a disqualifier to working for us. We look at each one on its own merit and make decisions then on what positions we can offer and there is no difference in the pay or benefits. I am very proud of that fact.

Alderman Fajardo responded thank you. It makes me proud that a company like yours is here in Manchester.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked does the district they are going to be working in include the area around the library.

Ms. Nazaka answered it is just outside the library. The library property itself is not within the district but Victory Park is. Both Victory Park and the Hartnett Lot are in the district.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked so the sidewalk around the library is not.

Ms. Nazaka responded the sidewalk on the library property will not be within the district. The district is paid for by the taxpayers within that district. There have been instances where just outside we have asked them to pick up trash for instance if they see it. They probably won't put the library as a specific destination because it is outside but if there is stuff they see while they are in the area they will absolutely pick it up.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am curious. You showed the leaf collector. What type of vehicle...you are not putting that in the back of a pick-up truck? What are you doing with the leaves? How are you collecting them and then where are you disposing of them?

Mr. Hillard replied the leaf debris will be towed by the Ford F150. The Ford F150 will have stakes on the side to make it a higher box and the weeds will also be mulched and put in there and then into bags for transportation to the transfer station.

Alderman O'Neil asked would it be the same for trash. Will you be able to use the transfer station? Is there a charge for that?

Ms. Nazaka stated we have a great partnership with DPW and we are working out the details. This has been a very strong collaborative effort between DPW, Police, Parking Division, Parks & Recreation and the Mayor's Office. There has been a lot of collaboration to bring this program to the city and make sure it is accessible. This is a pilot program so we know that the best way for this program to succeed is if the city is behind it and supporting it.

Alderman O'Neil stated you mentioned you are based out of Veteran's Park. Where are you leaving the truck and equipment overnight?

Mr. Hillard answered the truck and pressure washer units will be in the garage. There is an area for us there to secure it. We have a storage space near the visitor's center so there will be a lot of equipment there as well.

Alderman O'Neil asked you can fit all of that equipment in the visitor's center.

Mr. Hillard replied no the visitor's center will have all the barrels and the consumable supplies like trash bags, solvents and all of that stuff. The big equipment will be going in the Victory garage.

Alderman O'Neil stated regarding needles, how in live time can we get a hold of someone to say needles were found at a certain place so there is a response as quickly as possible. Not solely talking about your work but you said your folks have training on that so how can we make that happen?

Mr. Hillard responded we will be publishing a hotline number at some point over the next couple of weeks. It will be one of our cell phones and probably the one the manager carries. You can call that hotline number and the manager will have that and put the work order in and dispatch the appropriate ambassador that is assigned to the zone where they are being reported.

Alderman O'Neil stated we have a very successful in-house graffiti removal program but we could use three or four crews. Is a sign-off by the property owner required? Within this district, is it the same rules that DPW operates under?

Mr. Hillard answered I am not sure what their rules are but the general practice nationwide is that if it is on private property, we have to have a right to entry form on file signed by the property owner and then they usually provide the matching paint. Yes, we can remove that as long as each of the property owners has a right to entry form on file with us.

Alderman O'Neil stated we use a similar process on the city side. Is that something, Jodie, that you can get to them because businesses asked about that regularly.

Ms. Nazaka stated they will be doing a lot of the supplemental work so a lot of the bigger graffiti removal projects will still be done by DPW. What this group will be targeting is the smaller scale stuff like on the trash cans or on the mailboxes or light poles. Some of the requests will be a little too big for them to handle and that is when we will call in DPW. It will be a partnership for that as well and we will definitely work to make sure the process is the same.

Alderman O'Neil stated I want to be clear on this. The first step on graffiti removal requests is what?

Ms. Nazaka responded if it is within the district and it is a small job, Streetplus will do it.

Alderman O'Neil asked define small job. Tagging on a building is not small usually.

Mr. Hillard answered I would say generally speaking, 10' on the first story or below is our first response. We can go higher. If we need to do it, we have the skills and experience to do that. It would just require us renting a cherry picker to get that high up. We practice OSHA regulations and everything else so we are capable of that but I would say call us first and we will assess and then work with our partners if we can't get it.

Alderman Terrio stated to follow-up on Alderman O'Neil's question, will they or should they have access to see-click-fix in the district so that way the citizens can report a needle or what have you in the district.

Ms. Nazaka replied that is a good question and one of the things we are working on. See-click-fix doesn't currently talk with the program that Streetplus is working on so what we think we are going to do in working with DPW and other city partners is anything within the district will be forwarded to us in the Economic Development Office and we can translate that directly to the operations manager. So not only can they report directly to the hotline but they can also still use see-click-fix because it is a great tool and we have been seeing a lot of success with it. Those will just come to us and we will transfer it to them.

Mr. Hillard stated I have had a partnership with see-click-fix for a long time and when they recently changed leadership, they went in a different direction so we don't have a partnership now. We can write software that will interact with their software so it can be reported directly to our track tech. Yes, I am very familiar with see-click-fix and we can do that.

Alderman Long stated I just want to thank you for hiring Pepe and Nancy. They have a long history of cleaning Elm Street and I am glad to see that their wages escalated and they have healthcare. I just wanted to let you know that I will be watching.

Mr. Hillard responded I love being watched. The program speaks for itself in the results you will see walking downtown each and every day. Those two, Pepe and Nancy, are quite a treat. I have enjoyed working with them. We were so dedicated when Jodie told

us about them that I had my Vice President from Los Angeles who is bilingual come out here and do all the hiring in Spanish for them. We really did a one-on-one personal interview with both of them out of respect.

Ms. Nazaka stated I would like to add one more thing. I think I mentioned it at the beginning but 80% of this program is funding through the branding and marketing ARPA funds. The rest is coming from DPW ARPA for environmental clean-up and the existing CBSD tax assessment. It is not additional charge to any of the taxpayers at this time.

Alderman O'Neil stated this is a pilot program so have to be measuring. What are we using to measure? I have complete faith in them but what are we using as a tool to measure?

Ms. Nazaka responded I will let Steve answer that. He has great experience with that but I think what we are going to be looking at are those monthly reports where they are showing the real-time data, the hotspots, the number of needles off the street, the number of feces removed, and the feedback from the property owners and the business owners in the district.

Mr. Hillard stated she is exactly right – response time and how long it takes us to get graffiti off when it is reported, how long does it take us to respond to needles once reported...that software allows us to track date and time stamp electronically each level when a work order comes in. You will see every month that we will have charts and graphs that show the data for that month as well as year to date on what we are doing and hopefully there is some benchmarking data that we can pull and compare from the previous program to see comparisons.

Mayor Ruais stated I am thrilled to have you here like I said this morning. I am really glad you are going to be part of our city. I also want to thank Jodie and Eric. It is one thing for me to get up here and give a speech and say I support it but you are the ones doing this on the ground and I truly appreciate all you have done to make this happen. I think we are going to see some significant improvements downtown. Thank you.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

3. Minutes from the 05/21/2024 BMA meeting.

Accept and Remand Funds

4. Donation of \$5,000 from the Rita M. Banfield Revocable Trust of 2022 to the William B. Cashin Senior Activity Center.

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

5. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions

Residential:

31 Ainsworth Avenue
67 Chase Avenue
76 Sherburne Street
107 Dallaire Street
122 Crosbie Street
143 Myrtle Street
169 W. Mitchell Street
221 Wildwood Drive
243 Trolley Street
423 Concord Street

Commercial:

74 Eddy Road

Information to be Received and Filed

6. Office of Youth Services Department Report for May 2024.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

7. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$250,200) for the FY2025 CIP 211225 Additional Parking Spaces (Lease), CIP 410425 Police Fusus—Crime Center Platform, CIP 410325 Police ShotSpotter - Gunshot Detection and CIP 810525 General Assistance (Rentals).”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the FY2024 CIP 212224 School Based Dental Program-Medicaid.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Million Two Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$2,277,742) for the FY2024 CIP 510724 USDA Urban Forestry Grant.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars and Eighty-Six Cents (\$147,728.86) for the FY2024 CIP 710024 - Annual Street Reconstruction (CDBG).”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) for the FY2023 CIP 710723 - CMOM Study, Design & Construction-Sewer Bond.”

“Amending the FY2023 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twenty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars and Eight Cents (\$22,494.08) for the FY2024 CIP 711924 Sidewalk Rehab and Expansion.”

“Amending the FY2023 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the FY2024 CIP 712624 - Commercial Sidewalk 50/50.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-One Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars (\$21,283) for the FY2024 CIP 713724 Household Hazardous Waste Collection—Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for the FY2024 CIP 713824 Bigbelly Waste Management System.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount Four Hundred Three Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars and Two Cents (\$403,748.02) for the FY2024 CIP 810924 Compensation.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Five Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Three Hundred One Dollars and Fifty-Two Cents (\$532,301.52) for the FY2024 CIP 811024 12-Month Pilot Prog. For Cleaning, Maint. Safety & Hospitality Service.”

Bond Resolutions:

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 410225 Protective Equipment (Gear)."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510025 Parks Deferred Maintenance."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510125 FY25 School Deferred Maintenance - P&R."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510225 Park Playground Replacement and Retrofitting."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510425 School Playground Replacement and Retrofitting."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510625 Wolfe Park Maintenance."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510725 Sweeney Park Basketball Courts."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510825 Precourt Park Fencing."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510925 Field Improvement/Site Rehabilitation Hillside."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 710525 Motorized Equipment Replacement."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 710625 Municipal Deferred Maintenance."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,300,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 710725 FY25 Deferred Maintenance Program."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 710825 FY25 Perimeter Road Erosion Repair."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711025 FY25 Roadway Program."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711125 Sidewalk Rehab and Expansion."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711225 Residential Sidewalk 50/50."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711325 Commercial Sidewalk 50/50."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711525 Signal Replacement-Elm/Brook St."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711625 Traffic Signal-Deferred Maintenance."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711725 Traffic Signal-Cilley/Jewett."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711925 Rail Trail Maintenance."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 712025 School Parking Lot Rehabilitation."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Seventeen Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$117,500,000) for 2025 CIP 712125 Various Capital Improvement Projects (EPD) to pay for various Capital Improvement Projects by the Environmental Protection Division, and for the payment of all other incidental costs related thereto. Projects include but are not limited to: design and construction of combined sewer overflow mitigation projects, upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant, projects to address aging and failing environmental infrastructure and projects necessary for compliance with the Clean Water Act."

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 810025 Technology Projects (Information Systems). ”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Nine Hundred-Fifty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Three Dollars (\$3,952,753) for the 2025 CIP 810625 MUNIS ERP Financial System (Info Systems).”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

8. Recommending that Ordinance Amendment:

"Amending Section 33.081 by adding paragraph (l) regarding Preventative Health Care Hours."
ought to pass and be Enrolled.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- 9.** Recommending that the proposed extension of the cable franchise agreement with Comcast through October 18, 2030 be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Thomas who was absent)
- 10.** Recommending that the Manchester Development Corporation's 2024 Strategic Plan Version 2.0 be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Thomas who was absent)
- 11.** Recommending that the request from the Director of Information Systems for approval to replace existing software systems with Tyler's ERP Solutions/MUNIS ERP Financial System be approved, and that the Bond Resolution for \$3,952,753 be referred to the Committee on Finance.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Thomas who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

- 12.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$10,000 for CIP 212224 School Based Dental Program-Medicaid be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Kantor who was absent)
- 13.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$2,277,742 for CIP 510724 USDA Urban Forestry Grant be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Kantor who was absent)

- 14.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$147,728.86 for CIP 710024 Annual Street Reconstruction (CDBG) be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Kantor who was absent)
- 15.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$250,000 for CIP 712624 Commercial Sidewalk 50/50 be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Kantor who was absent)
- 16.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$22,494.08 for CIP 711924 Sidewalk Rehab and Expansion be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Kantor who was absent)
- 17.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$5,000,000 for CIP 710723 CMOM Study, Design & Construction - Sewer Bond be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Kantor who was absent)
- 18.** Recommending that the Bond Resolution Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of \$117,500,000 for CIP 712125 Various Capital Improvement Projects (EPD) be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Kantor who was absent)
- 19.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$21,283 for CIP 713724 Household Hazardous Waste Collection - Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Kantor who was absent)
- 20.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$5,000 for CIP 713824 Bigbelly Waste Management System be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Kantor who was absent)
- 21.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$532,301.52 for CIP 811024 12-Month Pilot Prog. For Cleaning, Maint. Safety & Hospitality Service be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Kantor who was absent)
- 22.** Recommending that the request from the Planning and Community Development Director for various CIP projects be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Kantor who was absent)

23. Recommending that the request from the Recreation and Enterprise Manager for an adjustment to CIP 510024 Fun in the Sun moving \$3,693.47 from the Regular Salary line to the Other Project Costs line be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Kantor who was absent)
24. Recommending that the request from the Traffic Engineer for permission to apply for up to \$2,000,000 in funds offered through the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) grant program be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Kantor who was absent)
25. Recommending that the request from Mayor Ruais to change the following budget authorizations' administering department from the former Department of Housing Stability to the Office of the Mayor:
- CIP 410322 ARPA Director of Homelessness Initiatives
 - CIP 810324 ARPA Coordinator
 - CIP 610024 ARPA Winter Emergency Shelter
 - CIP 611423 ARPA Homelessness Response & Emergency Shelter Operations
 - CIP 212023 Gate House TST Initiative
- be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Kantor who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

26. Recommending that the following traffic regulation be approved:
CROSSWALK
On Goffs Falls Road, 900 feet west of Auto Center Road at the Rail Trail
Alderman Sapienza
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Kantor who was absent)

JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

27. Advising that the Manchester School District Priority I status and financial report for May 2024 submitted by LeftField has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote)

*HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF **ALDERMAN LONG**,
DULY SECONDED BY **ALDERMAN TERRIO**, THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS
APPROVED.*

REGULAR BUSINESS

28. Nominations:
Board of Health
Chris Moriarty to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire July 1, 2027
Conservation Commission
Jennifer MacLaren to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire August 1, 2027
Heritage Commission
Kayleigh Shaughnessy to succeed herself as an alternate member, term to expire July 1, 2027
(Note: Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, these nominations will layover to the next meeting of the Board.)
29. Confirmations:
Arts Commission
Flo Minton to fill a vacancy as an alternate member, term to expire December 1, 2025
Conservation Commission
Levent Akinci to fill a vacancy as an alternate member, term to expire August 1, 2027
Susan Boucher to succeed herself as a regular member, term to expire August 1, 2027
Biram Saidybah to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire August 1, 2027
Donald Waldron to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire August 1, 2027
Office of Youth Services Advisory Board
Stacy Champey to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2027
Heritage Commission
Laura Gamache to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire July 1, 2027
Parks & Recreation Commission
Jen Drociak to succeed herself as a regular member, term to expire July 1, 2027
Erika Connors to succeed herself as a regular member, term to expire July 1, 2027
Senior Services Commission
Veronica Schlender to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2026

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Barry**, it was voted to confirm the nominations as presented.*

- 30.** Communication from Chairman Levasseur on behalf of the Screening Committee nominating Charles Kurfehs for the role of Commercial Assessor.
(Note: Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, this nomination will layover to the next meeting of the Board.)

- 31.** Confirmation of Michael Hurley as the Chair of the Board of Assessors.

*On motion of **Alderman Levasseur**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to confirm the nomination.*

- 32.** Communication from Atty. Suzanne Brunelle, on behalf of St. Mary's Bank, requesting that their construction loan to the York Printing Building, LLC located at 215 Canal Street be given priority position over the city's covenant pursuant to NH RSA 79-E:8.
(Note: Also attached is a letter from Sheehan Phinney on behalf of York Printing Building, LLC in favor of this request.)

Alderman Levasseur moved to approve. **Alderman Long** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have a question for the attorneys. Suzanne, we served on the Planning Commission together. Can you give me the cliff notes version of this?

Atty. Suzanne Brunelle stated when we were running the title, we came across this declaration and I said wow if this had just been recorded after our mortgage, we wouldn't have had this problem but that was in December and hadn't closed yet. I have been doing this for 30+ years and I can tell you that there is not a lender out there that understands the issue that would want to be behind anyone.

Alderman O'Neil asked how did it get this far.

Atty. Suzanne Brunelle answered I represent the bank so I will have to defer to the owner's attorney.

Alderman O'Neil asked why did it take this long to get picked up.

Atty. Eric Kilchenstein stated I wasn't part of it at that time and I don't mean to take myself out of the problem but I don't think the people that were working with the city on

getting the declaration recorded realized that it would be a problem with financing later on. There is corporate counsel that worked with the York family on that piece. He is great. I am the real estate attorney and was brought on a little a little later and here we are.

Atty. Brunelle stated it is in the weeds but it could be a big problem. Then again, I think we are all aligned here. Everyone wants to see the property get rehabbed. That is how my client is going to get paid. It is not going to do them any good to have a property that is not producing.

Alderman Terrio stated this talks about a covenant but I am assuming that the city put up money. Do we have a property interest in this? Exactly why are we...oh so we didn't put money in this is a tax abatement.

Atty. Brunelle stated yes and we are prepared to put almost \$5 million into the project.

Alderman Terrio stated I listened to you during public participation and you said that if the property was destroyed the city won't get the insurance proceeds but the building owner or bank will but it will be built so our property interest will be protected.

Atty. Brunelle replied correct.

Alderman Terrio asked I assume that is a contract somewhere or in the covenant so going forward the purpose of the 79-E which was to rehab it will come to fruition.

Atty. Brunelle answered what we had asked that is that you sign the subordination that we provided. In reading how this was set-up, it is a little misleading. We are not looking for you to subordinate the entire covenant. We are only looking for you to subordinate the issue with regard to the insurance. If you want them to provide proof of insurance, the bank can also provide you that because they will be asking for certificates to make sure that the property is insured. The issue is we can't have two leaders here. We can't do a two-party check. You guys, no offense, are not equipped to disburse money on a

construction level and that is what the bank does. It will just be quicker for the bank to do what they do.

Alderman Terrio asked if we subjugate our interest, I assume that it is legal under 79-E.

Atty. Brunelle replied 79-E doesn't say a whole lot.

Alderman Terrio asked so it doesn't cover this.

Atty. Brunelle responded it doesn't require that you put a lien on for the insurance. It says you may. Again, you have that huge claw back provision. If they don't do what they are supposed to do, you can pull all of that credit money back and tax them at the regular rate. If that isn't an incentive to get them to...the bank which they are going to...again there is no reason they would not rehab the property. That is not in their best interest.

Alderman Long asked so just approving the covenant suffices. Do we need to remove language from the 79-E?

Atty. Brunelle stated you don't need to change anything with the 79-E. Also, this only applies to St. Mary's so whatever else might come down the road you will still be in front of them.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. *There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

33. Communication from Mayor Ruais requesting the Board direct the Committee on Community Improvement to work with the Planning and Community Development Department to develop a process to provide regular American Rescue Plan Act funding reports to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Morgan**, it was voted to approve.*

Alderman Long stated what would be interesting to know also would be what is operational and what is one-time. How we go toward the end of 2024 when there are no more appropriations, we need to get our arms around what is operational that we may have to continue if it is successful and what are one-time funds.

34. Report(s) of the Committee on Community Improvement, if available.

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$500,000 for CIP 410525 ARPA – Park Enforcement be approved.

Alderman Long moved to accept the report and adopt its recommendation. ***Alderman Terrio*** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Fajardo stated I am going to oppose this because I prefer to see the \$500,000 go into our affordable housing trust. I think we heard a lot tonight from many people and I hold this belief myself that the ultimate solution for people without houses is houses.

Alderman Levasseur asked would this money be allowed to go into a housing trust.

Mayor Ruais responded I believe ARPA money can.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote. *The motion carried with Alderman Fajardo being duly recorded in opposition.*

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$200,000 for CIP 810324 Coordinator be approved.

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

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

Mayor Ruais called the meeting back to order.

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

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

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$250,200) for the FY2025 CIP 211225 Additional Parking Spaces (Lease), CIP 410425 Police Fusus—Crime Center Platform, CIP 410325 Police ShotSpotter - Gunshot Detection and CIP 810525 General Assistance (Rentals).”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the FY2024 CIP 212224 School Based Dental Program-Medicaid.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Million Two Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$2,277,742) for the FY2024 CIP 510724 USDA Urban Forestry Grant.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars and Eighty-Six Cents (\$147,728.86) for the FY2024 CIP 710024 - Annual Street Reconstruction (CDBG).”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) for the FY2023 CIP 710723 - CMOM Study, Design & Construction-Sewer Bond.”

“Amending the FY2023 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twenty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars and Eight Cents (\$22,494.08) for the FY2024 CIP 711924 Sidewalk Rehab and Expansion.”

“Amending the FY2023 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the FY2024 CIP 712624 - Commercial Sidewalk 50/50.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-One Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars (\$21,283) for the FY2024 CIP 713724 Household Hazardous Waste Collection—Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for the FY2024 CIP 713824 Bigbelly Waste Management System.”

"Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount Four Hundred Three Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars and Two Cents (\$403,748.02) for the FY2024 CIP 810924 Compensation.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Five Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Three Hundred One Dollars and Fifty-Two Cents (\$532,301.52) for the FY2024 CIP 811024 12-Month Pilot Prog. For Cleaning, Maint. Safety & Hospitality Service.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY2025 CIP 410525 ARPA – Park Enforcement.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY2024 CIP 810324 Coordinator.”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

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

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

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 410225 Protective Equipment (Gear).”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510025 Parks Deferred Maintenance.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510125 FY25 School Deferred Maintenance - P&R.”

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510225 Park Playground Replacement and Retrofitting."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510425 School Playground Replacement and Retrofitting."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510625 Wolfe Park Maintenance."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510725 Sweeney Park Basketball Courts."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510825 Precourt Park Fencing."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 510925 Field Improvement/Site Rehabilitation Hillside."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 710525 Motorized Equipment Replacement."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 710625 Municipal Deferred Maintenance."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,300,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 710725 FY25 Deferred Maintenance Program."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 710825 FY25 Perimeter Road Erosion Repair."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711025 FY25 Roadway Program."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711125 Sidewalk Rehab and Expansion."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711225 Residential Sidewalk 50/50."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711325 Commercial Sidewalk 50/50."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711525 Signal Replacement-Elm/Brook St."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711625 Traffic Signal-Deferred Maintenance."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711725 Traffic Signal-Cilley/Jewett."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 711925 Rail Trail Maintenance."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 712025 School Parking Lot Rehabilitation."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Seventeen Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$117,500,000) for 2025 CIP 712125 Various Capital Improvement Projects (EPD) to pay for various Capital Improvement Projects by the Environmental Protection Division, and for the payment of all other incidental costs related thereto. Projects include but are not limited to: design and construction of combined sewer overflow mitigation projects, upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant, projects to address aging and failing environmental infrastructure and projects necessary for compliance with the Clean Water Act."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000) for the FY 2025 CIP 810025 Technology Projects (Information Systems). "

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Nine Hundred-Fifty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Three Dollars (\$3,952,753) for the 2025 CIP 810625 MUNIS ERP Financial System (Info Systems)."

ought to pass and layover.

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

38. Report(s) of the Committee on Lands & Buildings, if available.

The Committee on Lands and Buildings respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the Tax Collector's recommendation regarding the auction of city-owned properties be approved and further that the Tax Collector and City Solicitor be authorized to accept the second highest offer should the initial buyers fail to close.

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

City Clerk Normand stated we have several other committee reports that aren't on the agenda.

The Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from the Chair of the Manchester Arts Commission to release funds in the amount of \$15,000 for mural artwork to be done at 160 Lake Avenue be approved.

***Alderman O'Neil** moved to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.*

***Alderman Long** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Ruais called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Levasseur being duly recorded in opposition.*

The Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from the Chair of the Manchester Arts Commission to release funds in the amount of \$6,000 for a summer internship program to allow student artists the opportunity to create a mural at Ray Cross Field be approved contingent upon final approval from the Park, Recreation & Cemetery Division.

*On motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.*

The Committee on Public Safety, Health & Traffic respectfully advises, after due and careful consideration, that the following traffic regulations be approved:

STOP SIGN

On Blackstone Street at Overland Street, southwest corner
Alderman Burkush

CROSSWALK

On North Street, west of Ash Street
Alderman Goonan

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Chestnut Street, west side, from Harrison Street to Prospect Street
Alderman Long

On Merrow Street, west side, from Irwin Drive to a point 155 feet north
Alderman Morgan

RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Chestnut Street, west side, from Prospect Street to a point 140 feet north
(ORD 10663)

Alderman Long

On Merrow Street, west side, from Irwin Drive to a point 65 feet north
(ORD 8044)

Alderman Morgan

SLOW CHILDREN

On Belmont Street at Fiske Street
Alderman Morgan

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

39. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$250,200) for the FY2025 CIP 211225 Additional Parking Spaces (Lease), CIP 410425 Police Fusus—Crime Center Platform, CIP 410325 Police ShotSpotter - Gunshot Detection and CIP 810525 General Assistance (Rentals).”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the FY2024 CIP 212224 School Based Dental Program-Medicaid.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Million Two Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$2,277,742) for the FY2024 CIP 510724 USDA Urban Forestry Grant.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars and Eighty-Six Cents (\$147,728.86) for the FY2024 CIP 710024 - Annual Street Reconstruction (CDBG).”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) for the FY2023 CIP 710723 - CMOM Study, Design & Construction-Sewer Bond.”

“Amending the FY2023 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twenty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars and Eight Cents (\$22,494.08) for the FY2024 CIP 711924 Sidewalk Rehab and Expansion.”

“Amending the FY2023 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the FY2024 CIP 712624 - Commercial Sidewalk 50/50.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-One Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars (\$21,283) for the FY2024 CIP 713724 Household Hazardous Waste Collection—Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for the FY2024 CIP 713824 Bigbelly Waste Management System.”

“Amending the FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount Four Hundred Three Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars and Two Cents (\$403,748.02) for the FY2024 CIP 810924 Compensation.”

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2024 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Five Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Three Hundred One Dollars and Fifty-Two Cents (\$532,301.52) for the FY2024 CIP 811024 12-Month Pilot Prog. For Cleaning, Maint. Safety & Hospitality Service.”

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

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

40. Ordinance:

"Amending Section 33.081 by adding paragraph (I) regarding Preventative Health Care Hours."

*On motion of **Alderman E. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to waive the reading by title only.*

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to Ordain.*

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Levasseur stated the long-awaited big issue that everyone was here for is a change to an ordinance. *I move to amend Section 130.13 Camping in Public Spaces of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by repealing subsection (B) Enforcement in its entirety.*

City Clerk Normand stated I would add that in Section A you will see in the center of the paragraph that says living accommodation anytime between sunset and sunrise has been struck as well.

Alderman Levasseur responded so we are striking that in Section A, taking all of Section B out and the C becomes B and D becomes C.

City Clerk Normand replied correct.

Alderman Levasseur stated there is no provision in here for the arrest of any individual. Any person who violates this provision shall be subject to a fine of up to \$250. If I may, Your Honor, since I have been in this seat for what feels like three decades, I have never once seen our police officers arrest anybody because they were on a sidewalk sleeping. They have done their best to move them and I believe that over the last couple of years there has always been a bed available for people who may have been on the sidewalk camping. There has always been a bed available because of the good

and kind people of this city. I wish we could spend a lot more time offsetting all of the things that were said here tonight by a lot of people. I think they have good intentions but I don't think they really understand what this downtown has gone through for a decade and what seems to be even worse this summer than in the past. I was in Londonderry for a sign wave two weeks ago. I met two wonderful nice people. I told them where I was from and they said we don't go to Manchester. This was not something I brought up and this wasn't something I was talking about. I didn't bring up homelessness. I just said I am from Manchester and they said we don't go to Manchester anymore. I can't tell you how many people don't come to Manchester but I know it is a lot. You speak to downtown business owners like all of us do, and I do on a more regular basis, they are really frustrated with what is going on in this city. I want everyone else to know that this Section B is not in any ordinance in any other city or any other town and there are 126 cities and towns in this state. No other city or town has that added to their ordinance Your Honor. Manchester is the only one and now we fit in with the rest of the cities and towns in NH.

Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Terrio stated Alderman Levasseur is right. During my prior term on the Board and I don't know if it was 2020 or 2021 but we amended this ordinance by adding the enforcement provision because we were advised to so that part of the ordinance is relatively new. Your Honor, Alderman Levasseur is right. This just calls for a fine. People were saying they were going to be going to jail and be arrested but that is not part of this ordinance. You and I had a discussion on...what this does is it allows everybody in the city, not just the homeless, but the residents to use our sidewalks and to use our parks equally. Could you elaborate as to what you see as far as enforcement and could you talk about the increase in shelter beds?

Mayor Ruais responded as I have talked with Chief Aldenberg and everybody else on the Board, to me this is a tool in the toolbox. If the police come upon an encampment, they should have the right to break up that encampment if need be. I have done ride alongs and roll calls every single month and I have gone down and around the city with the Community Policing Division as they have done their walks in the downtown area.

Our police officers are second to none when it comes to compassion and empathy. They are not looking to hurt anybody. They are simply trying to enforce the laws and ordinances that we have on the books. I trust them to use their discretion and to use it wisely. I don't have any problem moving forward with this. On the subject of shelter beds, I have been very clear that I believe the Engagement Center is an important thing for this city to have and that is why I advocated to include funding in the budget for it and that is why I will be going to Hillsborough County in the next week to advocate for the county to offer \$407,000 to help maintain the Winter Emergency Operation Center. I believe that is an important thing for the city to have. Also, I will go even broader to provide a little bit more perspective on some of the things that were said this evening. Since the beginning of this year, we expanded the Continuum of Care with an addition of 15 community partners, we launched a weekly resource fair at the Engagement Center where we had 10 new community partners coming in, all with the idea to connect people to services and treatment and break the underlying cycle of addiction or mental health or employment. We also rewrote the city's strategic plan to address opioid overdoses. We undertook a collaborative effort with Members First Credit Union to launch a pilot initiative to get people driver's licenses. We created a bus pass program that provides 30-day bus passes to ensure reliable transportation to job interviews, we sold 15 parcels of land with 100% of the proceeds going to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. That is going to be solidified at the end of the month and I know for a fact that at least two individuals are going to come to the Board meeting in August requesting some of those funds so that they can provide affordable housing in the city. We have our zoning rewrite that is being undertaken right now that will hopefully be completed by the end of the year; all with the idea of creating more housing in this city. The suggestion that I or this Board don't take this seriously and believe in a comprehensive response is simply factually inaccurate and it is not borne out of any piece of reality that we have undertaken over the last six months.

Alderman Terrio stated just to add to that, we had discussed increasing the number of beds available.

Mayor Ruais stated the National Alliance for Mental Health talked about this in December. We have an over-reliance on shelter beds. What I was talking about is the

need to create more transitional units like rapid rehousing, SROs, and single-room occupancies. There are two things that I want to accomplish by the end of my term. One would be a long-term sustainable solution to the Engagement Center that doesn't have Manchester bearing the entire financial burden of that, and two, creating more of an outlet. Right now, as we all know we have a .6% vacancy rate in our city. So, let's say we fix every underlying cause of homelessness. Where do they go after that? They can't afford \$2,500/month in rent. For me, the idea would be over the next 18 months to work to provide more SROs, more transitional units or something like that to break the backlog that we have in our shelters. Right now, even if we fix everything they don't have anywhere to go after that. However, I do also believe that enforcement plays a key role in this as we heard tonight from a lot of the individuals in our downtown business community, I trust the police to use their discretion and use it wisely. No one is going to prison or jail as a result of this. This simply allows the police to have the legal authority to move people if they are engaging in illegal activity and that is homeless or otherwise. It is not directed specifically to individuals who are homeless. It is any kind of congregation or some form of illegal activity that may be occurring that is detrimental to our sidewalks, our businesses, our residents or visitors who are coming to the city.

Alderman Terrio stated I would like to add one thing to that. A lot of people, not only tonight but I have heard it all around the city, complain that a lot of the new development is out of reach and too expensive but I have actually seen economic studies where...yes, a lot of the new development is expensive but the studies I have seen state that it has a positive effect in all stratifications. There are people who are living in housing who can afford more but it is not available to them so when the expensive housing comes, they move up and that has a positive stabilizing effect on rent. It also creates more housing at the bottom. It's, for lack of a better term, like musical chairs. People looking at this expensive development as a bad thing, it is not. It has a positive influence on the whole demographic in rentals.

Mayor Ruais stated two other things that I would add is earlier in the spring we continued funding for our ROAR team; that Rapid Overdose Assessment & Response Team to go out into the communities of those who are experiencing homelessness or

are otherwise engaged in drug activity and have had an overdose. We have that team available, which I think has been extraordinarily consequential in seeing a dramatic reduction in overdoses and overdose fatalities. This Board funded that. Half of all of our overdoses in the previous months were among those who were experiencing homelessness. We continue to fund that program because we are taking the addiction seriously within this community. The second piece I would add, and I talked about this last year and earlier this year in my State of the City Address, is that I am a strong proponent of adding homeless courts to the city's complement. I have already met with the circuit judge, the CoC, and a number of our community partners. We all met at the Engagement Center to talk about how do we launch that. No one is looking to penalize an individual for being homeless. Nobody wants to stop and add anymore blockades or barriers or prohibitive functions to getting someone housing or employment or otherwise. This is just an important piece to the comprehensive response.

Alderman Barry stated first of all, I wrote some things down regarding some of the comments that were made here tonight. I continuously hear the blame game and blaming it on our former mayor. I can assure you that it wasn't the former mayor or the former Board that put us in this situation. It is a very complex situation. Mayor Gatsas had to deal with it and Mayor Craig had to deal with it and you, Mayor. You have seen first-hand how complex the situation is. It is not an easy fix. One of the things we hear is we can't arrest our way out of it. I agree but we need to do something about bad behavior. I have received numerous calls in reference to our homeless situation. Unfortunately, it has been from frustrated residents who feel that they can no longer visit the parks that they have enjoyed in years past. They claim that they are being harassed, used needles are being left behind, trash is not being picked up and they do not feel safe anymore. I would hope that people dealing with homelessness would be respectful of their surroundings as well as other residents in our community. They also continuously use our parks, sidewalks and businesses as their outdoor bathrooms. I feel especially bad for Mr. Saidel who is a personal friend of mine, and the other business owners who spoke tonight and have also called me. This is totally unacceptable behavior. As far as services in our city, I would recommend to anyone who is dealing with homelessness to visit our shelters throughout our city, especially 39 Beech Street. There is staff available that will assist you with your needs. They also

have a resource fair every Thursday from 10 AM until noon. There are several organizations there to assist you. We also offer free identification assistance that will help you with employment and other programs that require identification. 39 Beech Street also has food available, showers, bathrooms and laundry assistance. To the many advocates that came here tonight and speak frequently, please take the time during your busy lives to visit our parks and sidewalks to speak with the homeless population and assist them with keeping our parks and community clean. Please also advocate for them to show respect for others in our community. I want to thank Chief Aldenberg and the whole police force for making sure that we are safe and protected. It is not an easy job but I have the utmost confidence that you and your staff will handle this situation professionally and with care to ensure that the safety of our community is maintained. I also want to thank Irina Owens, our Homeless Director, who is here with us tonight. I had the opportunity to meet with her today. She has her hands full. It is a tough situation. I know that tomorrow she is going out with Sgt. Mackin to a ride-along. That will certainly be an eye opener. I know she is new to this but I have confidence that she will do a good job.

Alderman Burkush stated as you know right down the middle of Ward 9 runs the rail trail. A lot of people have been working very hard to clean up the rail trail to get it usable. People just don't want to go on the rail trail. They don't feel safe. We have continually dealt with, like everybody else, drug paraphernalia and vandalism. A lady who abuts it and has little kids at the end of Marguerite Street doesn't want to go on the rail trail. My three-and-a-half-year-old granddaughter was riding her bike with her family and came upon and witnessed an overdose. Right down there now there is an encampment and the Fire Department squad was on the scene. They have dogs and they sent the dogs out after the firefighters. The people of Ward 9 are hardworking and don't want to use this great resource. It is unfortunate but I am going to support this change in the ordinance. We have a new business, Juliano's Pools, just south on Gold Street. I was there buying chlorine and sure enough there was a police officer dealing with vandalism which they caught on tape which was done by homeless people. I support this. The trails are a great resource and we need to use them.

Alderman Fajardo stated I wanted to also, in addition to acknowledging our Police Department also acknowledge the Department of Public Works as well as the Fire Department and a lot of other departments in the city that all contribute to trying to get the city's arms around this challenge. From what I have seen directly and also heard about our police, they tend to be pretty humane. I think that says a lot about the values of the department when they are thinking about an individual's dignity. I know that that will continue with the passage of this ordinance change. I think it is already illegal to do a lot of the things we are hearing from people. Certainly, drugs and I don't need to name all the things but things that are already illegal. I am concerned that without the homeless courts in place and without additional rapid rehousing, SRO's and all of the resources that we need, we are putting this forward before we actually have created a downstream system to catch the effects of all the people who inevitably go through the system. I really worry about the destabilizing effect it will have on the community and on everybody. I don't intend on supporting this without a broader set of actions in place behind it.

Alderman O'Neil stated first of all, I think we owe a debt of thanks to Tim and Mark and the four individuals who have served as Rangers during the life of the program. My observation is they show great compassion out there and great patience. I am glad to hear that the two that are remaining will stay employed in city government. The four that have served deserve great thanks. It was a tough job; a very tough job and they did it with great compassion. Secondly, I think Alderman Barry touched on this but Mr. Saidel has stayed committed to be on Merrimack Street. It is a third-generation business with a number of employees. He could move to other locations in the city or outside the city but to have that right across the street had to be absolutely tough for Mr. Saidel and his business. I saw something maybe a month or six weeks ago and I almost broke into tears. There were people on Amherst Street taking pictures of the homeless passed out or sleeping or whatever they were doing like it was a circus act or something. They were there with their phones taking pictures of these people. That is what it has become. They think that these people are second class citizens; those that need help. I was very taken aback by that. It is my understanding that because of the training that the Park Rangers had regarding our athletic fields and our parks, they have been the ones responding to the needles. Is that correct, Tim? We have to come up

with something. I am up at North a lot and Central and I was just down at South tonight in between meetings. We have to come up with a plan because the needles exist there. I do want to thank Tim for the number of times he has addressed graffiti at our youth facilities. It is greatly appreciated. We have to come up with a plan because these needles are out there and I am afraid a child is going to get hurt. That needs to happen as soon as possible. I have been asking as we have had discussions about this with professionals that I trust like police officers, firefighters, healthcare providers, and some social service people I know, what is the percentage that is ready for housing? It is not 100% and we have to stop thinking that. We can create 10,000 units of housing. The number as I am told by people I trust, between 5% and 20%. Twenty might be high but it is somewhere in there. We have all experienced trying to help out people who were ready for the next step but to find out, and I know you get sick of hearing me talk about the Veteran who lived for two years at 199 Manchester Street and nobody identified that he was ready for housing. He is now living in Independence Hall over on Somerville Street. He served our country faithfully as a Veteran. We have to come up with a mechanism to identify whether it is police, fire, public health people or the Homeless Initiatives Coordinator...whoever it is we have to figure out a mechanism to identify...

Mayor Ruais interjected I actually have an answer for that.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked are we going to vote on the motion. It seems like we are going pretty far into the weeds.

Mayor Ruais stated I am just allowing Alderman O'Neil to speak.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I don't see it. We have a motion here about the ordinance and now we are talking about something that isn't related.

Mayor Ruais stated we are in the discussion period. We will take a vote but we have one more speaker that signed up, Alderman Long. After that, we will take the vote.

Alderman O'Neil stated my final point is I have been down four or five different days now for baseball at Manchester Little League, formerly South, and I want to thank Alderman

Burkush for his work down there to get rid of a fence that was causing all kinds of problems. There is still work to be done. The people refer to that as the homeless highway. Alderman Burkush talked about that. They refer to cutting through the park, the soccer fields, and the baseball fields to get on the trail or get over behind South Willow Street the homeless highway. That is coming from people around Manchester. We have to do something about that. Alderman Burkush touched on that. I don't have all the answers but I want to thank him for his work down there. He has done some great work and I know he has more initiatives that he wants to do. Thank you, Jim, for that on behalf of all the families that go down and use Precourt Park.

Alderman Long stated I just wanted to dispel some of the things that were said. First of all, somebody talked about rent control. We don't have control over rent being charged. That is a state issue. Somebody talked about kindness and grace. Sgt. Makin, if you have been with him when he is dealing with the homeless, there is a guy with kindness and grace. Guess what? Kindness and grace works both ways. They also have to respond with kindness and grace and often times they haven't. Then somebody mentioned that the unhoused are put under one umbrella. There are some people that are unhoused that are wonderful people and we are looking to help them and they are using our services. It is the ones that are criminals that we are looking to prevent in our neighborhoods. What is wrong with that? I have about 10 or 15 minutes left but I will just say one more thing. We do need to find...I spoke with Irina and Owen about finding a location that in my opinion has to be $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away from a neighborhood but has bus routes or what have you for them to go. The criminal element is just moving to one of our wards. That is the bottom line. They are not going to Chicago. They are moving to one of our wards. To find a place that we can move them to is essential.

Alderman Levasseur stated the legal effect of the change of this ordinance...I don't think people realize how huge this decision by the Supreme Court was and is. The reason this was added in, Section B, was a defense that we had to put in place because of the constant threat of lawsuits from the ACLU and the constant threats of police officer's names being put on lawsuits for just doing their job. When we added this in, we thought it would help us be able to avoid lawsuits from the ACLU. What the Supreme Court did is lifted the yoke off of the police departments, not only in Manchester but

throughout this country, to be able to do their jobs without the fear of being sued by the ACLU. The ACLU can find one person, a defendant, who was awarded \$100 by a jury but where they really get you is in their legal fees which can amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars that the taxpayers in the cities have to pay. Emily Rice, our Solicitor, and everyone else who was involved in this in the beginning, did this for a reason. The Supreme Court took this, extended it and gave us back our power and our rights over our own city streets and parks across this nation but what they really did was stop the lawsuits against our police departments for just enforcing a simple statute. I hope that is not lost on anybody. I don't think people realize the stress and pressure the city has been under. We have been pickpocketed for a very long time. Panhandling ordinances or whatever they can find, Manchester is always the place they go. They don't go to other cities and towns across this state and say you guys can't remove a homeless person. We are the ones they always target. Now they can't target us anymore. The relief that was granted to our Police Department cannot ever be...I can't tell you how big of a deal this is just for that fact. It is a great day for Manchester and a great day for the State of NH.

Mayor Ruais asked the Clerk to reiterate the motion on the floor.

City Clerk Normand stated the motion is to amend the ordinance as laid out in what has been handed out to you with the language stricken. That is the first motion. If that passes with a simple majority, it would move to Bills on Second Reading unless this Board is inclined to ordain that tonight and I could go through that step next.

Mayor Ruais called for a vote on the motion to approve the ordinance amendment as presented. Alderman E. Sapienza requested a roll call vote. Aldermen E. Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, Vincent, Thomas, Morgan, Goonan, Long, T. Sapienza, Kantor, O'Neil, Levasseur and Terrio voted yea. Alderman Fajardo voted nay. The motion carried.

City Clerk Normand stated it is my understanding that you want to suspend the rules this evening to Ordain this this evening. The motion would be to suspend the rules, place this Ordinance on its third and final reading and ordain and that requires 10 votes.

Alderman Long moved to suspend the rules, please the Ordinance on its third and final reading and Ordain. **Alderman Levasseur** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Ruais called for a vote. The motion carried with Aldermen Fajardo and T. Sapienza duly recorded in opposition.

Alderman Barry stated Chief I hate to put you on the spot but could we have you come up so we know what the expectations are. I have a lot of respect for you and your officers and I just want to make sure that we are all on the same page. I know that you have one of the most professional organizations in our state but I just want the public to know what your operation is going to be like to enforce good behavior in the parks and take care of bad behavior.

Allen Aldenberg, Police Chief, replied well that has always been the case. We will take appropriate action based on the circumstances that we encounter on a daily basis like we do now. Criminal behavior has always been addressed, not just amongst the homeless population but everybody else and we will continue to do so. Where we can take action on this ordinance, we certainly will. I will never take away the discretion of my police officers to take the appropriate action they see fit. That could just be gaining compliance or that could be a city ordinance. I think one big thing that was very misstated this evening was that...nobody is criminalizing any type of behavior. I think I heard that repeatedly tonight. The city ordinance is not a criminal violation. It is a violation with a fine. Certainly, if somebody then rises to criminal behavior as a result of their actions, then we will take appropriate action like we would with anybody else. I would end by saying that everybody in this city needs to be respectful of everybody else and some of this behavior that I heard about tonight happens and we deal with it on a daily basis. Just because somebody is homeless does not give them the right to engage in violating city ordinances or criminal statutes just like anybody else. This is just another tool in the toolbox.

Mayor Ruais stated thank you Chief.

Alderman Vincent nominated Bob Baines to a second term on the Manchester Public Television Board.

(Note: Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, this nomination will layover to the next meeting of the Board.)

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Vincent**, 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