

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

February 17, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Ruais called the meeting to order.

Mayor Ruais called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Kantor.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Kaw-uh, Goonan, Dexter, Fajardo, Bonilla, Kantor, Trisciani, O'Neil, Terrio, Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, Vincent

Absent: Alderman Thomas

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. The Mayor 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. 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.

Madeleine Turner, 36 Charleston Avenue: I am here again for the Manchester Water Works and the problem with the fluoride in the water. I've asked several times when I've been here before in front of you, and I really would like them to put on the ballot that the residents can vote to have it removed. There's no reason why we need that kind of toxic waste in our water. Now, this may be affecting people, and that's why there's homelessness. There's a lot of addictive problems. When you have bad water, we've seen it in many parts of the country, in the world, people react. I have some severe problems and I've been struggling with them. I have to buy bottled water just so that I can have tea to put my medicine in. I have to boil my medicine because I can't even stand a drop of alcohol in the medicine. So I don't think it's right that everyone should be subjected to fluoride. Years ago, the children were given tablets. They stopped giving

those when they realized that they were bad for the kids, and Manchester decided on the help of dentists from Concord and other areas that the fluoride should be put in. Now it needs to come out. That was in 1999. The other thing I have a problem with is the police department. I filled out paperwork at District Court on December 8th for stalking. Now, to this day, the person has not been served. I went today to court; my third time. Now, that's not only using my time, that's using the court's time and everyone else's. There was an incident with one of my neighbors. There were three patrol officers that showed up for an old man that fell down the stairs. Well, I think a stalking order should be presented to someone before three months or almost three months. I just think that some things need to be taken care of and the system isn't working. It's not working for a lot of us.

Troy Micklon, 29 Ode Way: Since the last meeting, a number of residents have reached out to me in support of the ordinance amendment I proposed regarding snowbound vehicles and providing the city with a condition-based mechanism to address vehicles that were plowed around, preventing curb to curb snow removal. In the meantime, I continued reviewing prior meeting minutes and learned that in March of 2023, ward three resident Jen Drociak brought forward a related idea. That proposal allowed continued enforcement 12 to 24 hours after a snow emergency ended. The solicitor's office at that time raised legal and operational concerns with that time based approach, and that proposal was ultimately received and filed. My proposal was structured differently. It is not time based and does not extend snow emergencies. Instead, it clarifies when a vehicle remains an obstruction under existing law, specifically RSA 262:32, and applies the current snow emergency penalty schedule already contained in 71.99. I have updated my draft to further address these concerns raised in 2023, to ensure that they align cleanly with chapters 70 and 71 of our ordinances. I also want to briefly follow up on something that I found while reviewing the meeting minutes going back to 2022. At the October 18th, 2022 meeting, former Police Chief Aldenberg formally recommended implementing a second impound lot on the west side due to storage limitations during snow emergencies. During the board discussion, a west side overflow location including Rock Rimmon, was referenced if the need arose. Given that in the January 20th meeting of this year, the current chief noted that the Derryfield impound lot had reached capacity during a recent storm, I simply asked for some

clarifications. Has a west side overflow impound lot ever been activated, and if not, should the board revisit that prior recommendation given ongoing capacity constraints? I raised this from an operational standpoint; if towing remains a primary enforcement tool during these events, understanding available impound capacity is important.

Jim O'Connell, 265 Prospect Street: I was speaking with Chairman Barry today with regard to a bill that is coming to the House. House Bill 1831. This came out of committee this past week with a recommendation not to pass 10 to 8 or 8 to 10. It's going before the full House on Thursday. This is the bill that would undo the piece of legislation that would cost Manchester taxpayers \$10 million. It would reduce Manchester's funding next year by \$10 million. And so we're hoping, I hope that common sense prevails and that this bill is passed on the House floor in Concord on Thursday. In speaking with the chairman today we spoke about recommending you, Your honor, if you would join a letter from both boards, from the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, and 'll be seeking this at the Board of School Committee meeting tomorrow night, that we would write a letter in support of this bill asking for support of this and that this, what I consider, a vindictive action against Manchester taxpayers be undone. The second thing and much more pleasant item is I know that before you tonight, you have the nomination of Stan Garrity as school board member for ward nine. I want to commend Alderman Burkush and the work that he did. I'm grateful that he included me in that process. And he did extensive work in ward nine, looking for a really good person to follow in the footsteps of a man who will be difficult to replace, former Mayor Bob Baines. I think we have found he has found an excellent person in Stan Garrity, who clearly will represent the interests of ward nine and is a well respected and well known gentleman across the city, in our community, and in ward nine. So I strongly support and recommend that he be placed on the School Board. We'd love to have him ready to be with us tomorrow night at our meeting.

Deb Roux, Ward 12: Like me, I'm sure many of you have never heard the Declaration explained in the way I'm going to break it down tonight. No one talks about the Declaration anymore and it is not taught in our schools. And yet this document was created as the foundation for our Constitution. There are six seeds of liberty found in the Declaration of Independence. Our Founding Fathers believed in these six principles.

Principles that, when followed, have made America the most prosperous and freest nation in the world. We are coming up on our 250th anniversary of the signing of this great document, we need to remind ourselves of these principles and live them out, or we're going to lose our nation. We will no longer be one nation under God. The United States of America has had one constitution since its inception. The national average for the length of a constitution is only 17 years. So I'm thinking these principles that our Founding Fathers chose to build our nation upon were the right seeds to sow into this nation. So the six seeds of liberty, and I'm going to read right from the Declaration as I highlight these, there is a divine creator, and it says, we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator, and endowed in this case means given or granted rights that are given by a higher power or given by God. Inalienable rights come from God with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. So all of these rights come from God and not from man. So man can't take any of these rights away from us. Government exists to protect these inalienable rights. Our Founding Fathers knew that people have a way of seeking more power and authority over others. So they instituted a government that would protect these inalienable rights that come from our God. And it says right here that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men or among each one of us. There is a fixed moral law or absolute truth. And it says right here, and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them. So our Founding Fathers knew that there was this law of nature, where if you look at nature, the easiest example to share is that any animal will defend itself, defend its young, and defend its property. So that's where we get the Second Amendment. We have the right to defend ourselves. And Nature's God is the Ten Commandments, that makes us a moral people, or gives us the absolute truth that we should live our lives by the consent of the government. The consent of the government is number five. Deriving their just powers of the government. Deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That means the people tell the government what they can and can't do, and we do that as a body. And then the people's right to change their government, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it and institute a new government. So if we find the government is not applying these principles or these seeds of liberty, then we can change the government to remind them

of what needs to happen. So I just want to continue to educate everybody on these beautiful founding documents, given that this is the 250th anniversary of our nation.

Bobby Mc, Proctor Road: I'm here at this place and time to help acknowledge ideas for us all to think about when it comes to visioning the future of the city. These ideas came about when I recently learned we will not be having a Saint Patrick's Day parade. This parade has been in our tradition since 1995. Covid tried to shut it down in 2020 and 2021 but failed. And now, short years later, we are here exactly one month before Saint Patrick's Day, with no parade to look forward to because of the disputes between the city and the parade committee. It is the mayor of the city's job to broker deals between parties, building negotiations that hold solid in time. Our past traditions to help better our future vision by holding ground, knowing who we are. This being said, right now in 2026, people are claiming that Ireland is becoming unrecognizable due to the forced and leveraged and unwanted migration. The largest population of Irish people in the world is now the United States. Out of these 50 United States, the largest population of Irish people is in New Hampshire. And here we sit in the Queen city of this great state, listening to this guy talk about how we won't be having a parade. It is important to envision the city properly by holding on to our traditions and moving through time as a whole, creating branded gravity as to what this place once meant to our forefathers and what it will mean to generations ahead. Please all Irish people, help in all the ways you can to figure this out.

Susan Howland, 211 Exchange Avenue: I'm here tonight to express my strong support for the shelter for the aged and infirm and the engagement center at 200 Elm Street. I was the homeless services director for the City of Manchester and Granite United Way for eight years, starting in 2008. So I have a little experience in this area, and I have to tell you that I strongly believe that this engagement center and shelter will be the best community asset that we have in the city of Manchester in our fight against homelessness. So I strongly hope that you'll support this effort, because I know that our community will work hard to make it work. I'm currently the vice president of community relations and development for the Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester. We fully intend to be a part of this center, and we're hoping to have office space, and we will have a team of people there on a regular basis. We plan to staff at 40 hours a week. We

will have our critical time intervention team, our care transition team, we will have experts there that will help people to enroll in Medicaid and Medicare. And of course, we will have our homeless outreach team there as well. We're fully committed in doing everything that we can to work with our partners, Families In Transition, Hope for New Hampshire Recovery, any of the housing programs, the city of course, and any other programs and services that would like to be there. I know Health Care for the Homeless plans to be there as well. So this is a really important thing for our city. Some of our most at risk residents could really benefit from this. We also need to have a place for people to go in the winter when it's freezing, and in the summer when it's super hot and dangerous. And this would be a safe, good place for those people to be.

Chris Potter, 470 Silver Street: I'm a school board member and a taxpayer and a believer in fiscal responsibility. I think we have a duty to use the funds the public gives us responsibly and to provide quality services. So how much money does it take to give our 12,000 students a quality education? The baseline budget that I expect we will send you tomorrow is for \$251 million. That's no major changes, simply maintaining the improvements we've made over the last four years, letting them work up through the system. We're facing a 13% increase in our health care costs. We also have a large increase in special education costs out of district placement and transit. These are inflationary costs and legally mandated costs. There's nothing we can do about these increases. We've already spent down our reserves to only 5% of our annual budget. The tax cap amount, the full tax cap amount, only brings us to \$235 million, \$16 million short. So we have some options. We can lay off between 40 and 100 staff. If we want to be at the low end of that close to the 40, it involves other sacrifices like making students walk two miles to school or entirely ending athletics, except for students who can afford to pay themselves. So I'm asking you to override the tax cap to fully fund the \$251 million baseline budget. That doesn't even represent what an ideal district would look like. I want to remind you that this is fiscally responsible. We spend \$4,500 less per pupil than the state average. Investing in education improves public safety, our economic competitiveness, and our home values. It seems like a big tax increase, but this is actually only where we would be if we had gotten the full tax cap amount in the last three years or two years. The district got a reduction in its allocation from the city last year. Even though you all increased the tax rate, most of that went to the city side.

We're only asking you to keep up with inflation. So in closing, I want you to imagine one of our students leaving West after the bell rings. Are they going to have to walk two miles home? Are they going to have a sports team to play on? Will they be leaving a class of 20 or a class of 30? You know, when we look back in 20 years, what will we wish that we had done? What is wise for this district is to invest in education. Don't make the students pay the price.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street: We live in a city of variety. We are the biggest city north of Boston. We have lots of culture here. Back in the early 2000s, we had tons of festivals. They're gone. We don't celebrate anymore. We don't even celebrate our city's birthday. We don't. The last two years, this board and the mayor hadn't even announced that our birthday is coming on June 1st. The public is not notified. It's not the kind of city we want. We want to see a responsible and a proud city. We're trying to build a downtown, and it really irks me that you guys, whoever the ones that are involved, cannot meet with the Irish. This committee of the parade has been going on for years. They've been using the same route all the time. What is the difference? It helps our downtown businesses because it's in the middle of winter. It gives them a boost to get through the winter. And you can't sit down and communicate. At least let the public know what the big difference is. What is it that you're stuck on? We at least deserve that much. We are trying to build a city. I don't want to see it destroyed. We've already lost too many arts, too many festivals, too many things in this city. And we can do better. The last thing I want to say is I want to stick on homelessness. You need to stop putting everybody in the same basket; everyone needs to stop doing that. There are people out there that are living in their vehicles with children because they can't afford an apartment. This year, senior citizens and those on disability receive a 3% increase in cost of living. 1.5% of that went to Medicare. That leaves you 1.5%. If your rent goes up 28%, guess what? You're out the door. That's why you opened that new shelter. I've been telling you it was coming for months. The law is now into effect. It does not consider our seniors, our disabilities, or those that are really, really poor. I'm still working and I have to leave an apartment of 25 years. Not because I can't afford to live there, because I've lived there for too long. I'm not paying a mortgage, I'm paying rent, and they still will not mediate what the judge has said. So when you pay your rent and it comes back to you, why is that the tenant's fault? Try to do something about it.

Mayor Ruais asked if there is anyone else present that did not have the opportunity to sign up that wishes to speak.

There were no others wishing to speak.

*On motion of **Alderman Terrio**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written communication.*

PRESENTATIONS

2. Presentation from the Economic Development Office on its 2025 Manchester Economic Update, and from the Manchester Development Corporation on its 2025 Activities Update.

Jodie Nazaka, Economic Development Director: I promised the City Clerk and the mayor that in order to get on the agenda tonight, we would keep this short. So we will move efficiently throughout the evening. The Manchester Economic Development Office, as many of you know, wears many hats. We work to elevate Manchester as a premier destination to live, work and play. We lead business retention and expansion efforts. We support new business attraction. We also serve as staff support to several boards and commissions throughout the city, including the Manchester Arts Commission, which we took on last year, the Central Business Service District Advisory Board, which oversees the downtown activities, as well as the Manchester Development Corporation, MDC. And that's why tonight we are doing a joint presentation, and we're here to update you both on the 2025 Manchester in Motion report, which I believe was handed out to you in advance of this presentation, as well as the MDC activities from 2025. I'm pleased to share the second annual Manchester in Motion report, which acts as a report card for our city and highlights our progress as well as the opportunities we have ahead. It highlights a city that thinks boldly, grows strategically, and acts with purpose. I'll provide a very high level overview. As I mentioned, we're going to move quickly through this and then Amy will walk you through MDC's 2025 activities. Manchester has always reinvented itself since the beginning of time, and 2025 was certainly no exception for us. Our downtown is active and growing, new industries are taking root, and both our neighborhoods and commercial corridors continue to evolve.

The report touches on areas of our economy, including housing, workforce, industries, downtown growth, events, travel and tourism and trends. Our work ethic and pride is the engine behind much of this momentum here in our city. Technology, health care, advanced manufacturing and biofabrication are transforming ideas into economic impact in Manchester. Since 2020, Manchester has maintained steady employment growth, a diverse labor force, and consistent business activity, all while keeping unemployment below the national average. Today, Manchester's unemployment rate is at 3.2%, compared to the national average at 4.4%. Our population growth has grown to approximately 116,000, with a median age of 37 years young, which is promising. However, as you can see here, our downtown median age is trending upwards over the years from 33 in 2023 to 38 in 2026, and projected to increase to 42 in 2034. Median household incomes continue to rise, driven by emerging industries and new residents relocating from higher cost markets outside of Manchester, and Manchester remains highly ranked nationally for our quality of life, including recognition as the top 150 Best Places to Live by US news, number three Best Run City in America and top 100 Small to Mid-sized cities by livability.com. Housing remains one of our most dynamic sectors in Manchester, and we continue to rank strong in our housing market in 2025 with high demand and limited supply. While median home prices remain elevated compared to our pre-COVID levels, they are still below the state median. Our median home price here is around \$500,000, where the state median is around \$540,000. Our home ownership vacancy rate is at just 0.8%, and rental vacancies remain similarly tight, though we are starting to begin to see some softening as new rental units start to come online and continue to come online. Office vacancy rate in Manchester is at 8.8%, significantly below the national average of 18.4%. This reflects both the adaptive reuse of our office buildings and the strength of our labor market. New Hampshire has the sixth highest concentration of tech workers in the country, and many of them are located right here in Manchester. And for more than a decade, Manchester has been upskilling its workforce at nearly twice the rate of the state overall. Employment trends show continued momentum, particularly in our downtown core. Manchester's identity today is defined by two powerful forces. First, the new gen wave of young small business owners and entrepreneurs in our downtown reinvestment, which energizes our commercial districts. Second, the regen surge in the Millyard, which is positioning Manchester as a global leader in biofabrication. And together, these trends are shaping

a high tech, business friendly, and sustainable future for the Queen City. In 2025 alone, we welcomed 94 new businesses. We also achieved a major milestone with the adoption of the city's new land use code, creating new opportunities for residents, developers and entrepreneurs while modernizing a regulatory framework. Downtown Manchester continues to gain strength, investment in housing, increased return to office activity and expanded events programming are driving foot traffic and economic activity in our city. Employee presence downtown has grown 35% since 2021, reflecting more people living, working and spending money in the heart of our city each day. Events and tourism also play a critical role. Concerts, festivals, sporting events and outdoor recreation continue to draw visitors from across the region, supporting local businesses and expanding our tax base. This slide here shows a snapshot of just some of the many, many events that happened in the city, adding foot traffic and visitor spending potential into the city. While visitation did dip in 2025, consistent with state and national trends, including a significant decline in Canadian visitors, overall interest in Manchester as a destination remains strong, particularly among visitors with higher disposable incomes. Visitors spent an average of \$200 a day and spent on average two nights at our local hotels. Manchester's parks had higher visitation in 2025 summer months when compared to 2024. And in short, Manchester is growing with intention. We are investing in infrastructure, we are strengthening our workforce, expanding housing, supporting our entrepreneurs and positioning our city for long term resilience. And with that, I'm going to turn it over to Amy to share an update on Manchester Development Corporation's work in 2025. And we'll take questions at the end.

Amy Chhom, Manchester Development Corporation Chair: I'm here to give you a brief update on Manchester Economic Development Corp., what we've accomplished in 2025 and the momentum we're carrying into this year, 2026. MDC, just as a reminder, was founded in 1985 under Mayor Bob Shaw. It was created through a merger that empowered us to act as the city's economic development authority at a time when there was none. We were seeded with \$1 million from the airport land sales, and have remained primarily self-funded ever since through our loan programs and Hackett Hill land proceeds. No city subsidy has been required. Our mission has never changed. It's to facilitate the highest and best use of the city's assets for the benefit of all of its citizens. Under the direction of the Mayor and Board of Mayor and Aldermen, we

advocate, support and facilitate economic development from business retention and attraction to expansion opportunities across Manchester. The people behind that mission matter. Our 12 member board brings together experts in commercial real estate, banking, housing, finance, law, government relations and nonprofit leadership all which volunteer their time and expertise in the service of this city. And no more than three are allowed per ward. And there are restrictions on the number that cannot live in the city of Manchester. I'd like to thank Mike Harrington, who's here showing support, who is a member of our board and resident of Manchester. We don't operate in isolation. Manchester Development Corp. works hand in hand with Mayor Ruais, the Manchester Economic Development Office and this body, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, provides critical oversight. You approve our strategic plans, our loans and our acquisitions. That partnership is what makes this work possible. Now for the numbers. In 2025, it was another strong year. Manchester Development Corp. generated a net profit of \$117,248. This is the second year in a row where we exceeded historical revenues since 2000. That result allowed us to make the \$50,000 transfer to the city for the second year in a row to help fund an administrative position in the Manchester Economic Development office. That's Manchester Development Corp., directly strengthening the city's capacity and not drawing on it. We currently have \$1.78 million in capital available for programming, even after purchasing a new property in 2025, and we have \$1.743 million in receivables through below market loans, actively supporting businesses across Manchester. Our strategic framework continues to guide our work across five pillars: site control, development review, public and private partnerships, advocacy and grants, financing; and each initiative we pursue ties back to one of these. The results were visible across the city in 2025 alone. We issued two new loans to downtown businesses and provided four grants supporting facade signage and streetscape improvements. These sit alongside a long track record of investments from Strange Brew and To Share Brewing and the Palace Theatre Trust and many more. These businesses that are thriving in Manchester today are in part because Manchester Development was there when they needed capital, and I'm pretty proud to say that the two loans we issued this year are the first loans that have been issued by Manchester Development Corp since 2022, when we issued Covid recovery loans. Our track record runs deep. Everything from the Chase Block at 1037 Elm Street and the Dunlap building at 967 Elm Street. Both of these brought a projected well over 100 downtown jobs at the

time, and these projects are widely credited with catalyzing the broader renaissance of downtown. That would be the Dunlap Building, currently in redevelopment for residential on the upper stories, and that would be Chase block, which was vacant and burned out at the time that it got redeveloped in 1999 into commercial space, and continues to act as that at this time. Beyond lending, Manchester Development Corp. has strategically acquired and repositioned properties for the long term benefit of the city. The Granite Street lot became Giorgio's Restaurant, a gateway anchor for downtown. The residents at Manchester Place set the template for downtown residential development and 23 Amherst Street. The Rex Theatre, purchased blighted and vacant in 2016, is now a thriving performing arts venue through our partnership with the Palace Theatre Trust. And in October 2025, we added to that portfolio. Manchester Development Corp. entered into a purchase and sales agreement for 30 Amherst Street, directly across from the Rex. This acquisition reflects our commitment to the thoughtful, long term investment in Manchester's urban core, and positions Manchester Development Corp. to support future projects that enhance pedestrian access, complement our cultural amenities, and drive continued economic growth in that corridor. The bottom line is MDC is profitable due to the commitment and passion of our volunteer board members. We are active in investing. We're generating returns, and we're returning dollars to the city, putting capital into downtown businesses and acquiring strategic properties. And we want to continue to do more. And we need your support to continue the efforts of our prior leaders and grow our city for our future residents. We are available to the BMA, and we offer our services to be a trusted advisor to the board on any real estate dispositions and acquisitions providing non-partisan, experienced real estate expertise dedicated to helping you make the best decisions for our city. Our foundation is strong and the future is bright.

Mayor Ruais: I was going to save this for new business later on, but two appointments to the Manchester Development Corporation that I was going to make later, are Alderman Dexter and Alderman Trisciani, who will soon be joining your board.

A. Chhom: Welcome aboard.

Mayor Ruais: I saw the question mark, so I wanted to eliminate any doubt as to our participation on this.

Alderman Kaw-uh: You mentioned wanting our support or our help. What can we help you with?

A. Chhom: Well, there may be times where there are opportunities that we are just not financially sound enough to proceed forward with, and would look for relationship building or introductions that might help us get to that point. But mostly we can help you. We can help you make decisions when there's an RFP that needs to be issued. We can help you understand the responses and the impact of those responses and what they could do for our city. We're not looking to make decisions for you. We're looking to help, advise and consult for you.

Alderman Fajardo: What comes to mind is Wilson School, which is in the queue here. So perhaps that's an opportunity to leverage some of your expertise. But question for Director Nazaka, on page six of your presentation, you highlight that Manchester is the number one housing market in the US. I always struggle when I hear that because it sort of doesn't mesh with the reality of what people are experiencing in our community in terms of trying to access housing and that sort of thing. I know that we want to tout that as something that's a good thing within our community, because there's demand. I guess I'm just curious to hear from your point of view, what's the balance there? You know, as far as what the economic impacts may be when we have such a low vacancy rate, what, if anything, is your office doing or what are the conversations that you may be having or thoughts that you may have around how to move the needle on that? I know we're developing and we're building. Is there any way for you to help us expand that conversation and think about it in a bit of a more nuanced way such that it reflects the reality here?

J. Nazaka: So this distinction here is from 2025. We are no longer the number one hot housing market in the country going into 2026. We have been bumped down from that. Which to your point is not necessarily a bad thing because if you look, this ranking is taken from Realtor.com and their ranking is simply supply and demand. So when they're tracking that, there's different ranking sources through Zillow and through other sources. But Realtor.com simply goes through supply and demand. So markets that have a really strong demand, how long they stay on the market, how quickly they're selling, how much they're selling over asking price. That's how Realtor.com is using their hottest

housing market distinction. So in 2023, all the way through 2025, we were top of the list going toe to toe with New Haven, Connecticut, Worcester, Cambridge. There's a lot of New England communities. We're not really there anymore because we have been adding more to the housing market in regards to rentals. Also, the market has softened a little bit. And I've had a number of conversations with the mayor where at times that narrative has been a little overused because it is now creating a narrative where we are not really achievable to live here any longer. So it has been something of a topic of discussion in the office and towards the end of 2025, we're not really there anymore because we're kind of out of that conversation. We're now focused more on creating achievable goals of how do we set the standard for people that are looking to relocate here? And just one final example, when we were working with our consultant about developing a brand narrative and how do we attract people to living and working in Manchester, a lot of what they were originally pitching us on was outside attraction, getting people to move to Manchester. And we actually said, that's not something we really want to promote right now because we have a hard time even housing people that are living in the city that are being pushed out of their homes. So attraction for outside residents isn't something we've been really pursuing in 2025. It might be a different narrative by the end of 2026, depending on how many new housing units we can get online.

3. Presentation from the Health Department regarding its Community Needs Assessment.

Anna Thomas, Public Health Director: To my right, we have our two deputies, if you wouldn't mind introducing yourselves and what branches you oversee.

Phil Alexakos, Deputy Public Health Director: I am one of the deputy public health directors.

Elaine Michaud, Deputy Public Health Director: I am the other deputy public health director. And we have sort of split the department. So I oversee many of the community outreach programs. So our neighborhood and family health branch and our healthy aging branch, who are addressing both ends of the spectrum of our age group that we have within the community.

P. Alexakos: And my side of the house is sort of the public health protection branches. So the Infectious Disease Prevention Branch and the Environmental Health and Emergency preparedness branches. So if you have any questions in those regards, we're certainly available at any time to talk about those with you.

A. Thomas: So in front of you, you should have a packet that we put together. Not only does that include these slides, but in addition to that, what we wanted to do was a quick crosswalk for you about a whole compendium of needs assessments that we just released. It's something that we are required to do every three years for accreditation. We do this in partnership with lots of nonprofits and our healthcare organizations like our hospitals. And in addition to that, we also have to produce a community health improvement plan every three years, and then a strategic plan for our department every 3 to 5 years. So those things bundled together are the kinds of things that we have to show to meet accreditation standards. So just so you know, the history of the health department, we were actually created in 1839 at a town hall meeting, probably very similar to this. It was at the same meeting that the police and fire departments were created. And ever since then, the department has certainly grown and changed to adapt to the needs of the community. We do have five branches, so not only the ones that were mentioned here, but we also have a public health and safety team that's composed of community health workers that will serve every ward of the city, and we always encourage you to reach out to them if you have residents who have basic needs. We're also the fiscal agent for health care for the homeless. A lot of people don't know that and we have had that relationship for over 40 years. In addition to that, we also have the ROAR team, which is the Rapid Overdose Assessment and Response team. That team has been working diligently over the last three years to reduce overdoses and fatalities in the city, and we've had some amazing results from that. In addition to that, we also have two fixed facilities. So one is on the east side, right downtown. That's the main building of the health department. But a few years back, we also were asked to take on the senior center. So we have the West Side campus as well. So those two fixed buildings. But in addition to that we have mobile operations. So we have a dental van that now goes to all 20 public schools and also visits the senior center. And we also have a preventive health van that we can bring into different areas of the city, which makes it really helpful when we want to reach hard to reach

populations in our partnership with healthcare for the homeless. We also have a mobile primary healthcare van, a fully functional primary healthcare van where you could basically do everything that you would need to do for primary healthcare that you would have in a fixed doctor's office. The other kinds of things that we also have brought to the city is the fact that, and you all know our budget is heavily grant funded, and we are pretty savvy at leveraging the dollars that we have. And we try to make money on the money as much as we can. We also bring dollars into the city to help other city departments or other initiatives. So, for example, we have a grant that we were able to leverage some of those dollars to help fund for emergency sheltering in the city and those kinds of partnerships we've developed over many years. Several of us sit on boards. We've sat on funding organizations. So we have these strong partnerships that if we need to tap into them from time to time to help offset, you know, the burden to the taxpayer, we've had a lot of really great partnerships that have been part of our success. So in addition to that when we look at health, I think it's important, just so you understand, that when we look at health, we look at it very holistically and health is often produced in communities way beyond the health care delivery system. So when we talk about education, for example, and the value in education, that's a significant driver of our health status. Housing, public safety, all of those things roll up into our health status. There's also sort of abstract things that contribute to our health that we don't often talk about at government tables. So, for example, whether or not we attend faith based services on a regular basis. That actually can add 4 to 14 years of life expectancy to our lives. That is part of the research that is showing how health can be improved in communities, that social connectedness is really, really important, and believing in something bigger than yourself has been shown in the research to actually be a protective factor to health. In addition to that, things like knowing your sense of purpose and something as simple as being purposeful, being engaged in employment, can add extra years to life expectancy as well. All of these things we actually look at when we design intervention work that we want are built into the solutions that we offer to residents. So resiliency is a word you hear a lot about. And that is all part of what contributes to our health status. And I kind of give this sort of visual so people can understand the kinds of things that we strive for when we work with residents. So when people are really living in crisis, and we know a lot of people who are unfortunately, sometimes it could be your own family member when they're kind of focused on their

own individuality and what they need to address at that moment in time. Sometimes it's you're struggling to make ends meet, or you're just trying to put food on the table for your family. Those inner circles are your lowest level of resiliency. That is what we have found in the research. As people start thinking outwardly as they think about community or their higher sense of purpose, that's actually when their resiliency is at their highest. We really try to push people out of these circles to think more about a whole community around them, rather than kind of their own individual needs. And we actually build that into the interventions that we deploy throughout the community. So in addition to that we've also produced a lot of very specific reports as they are needed, as we've seen priority areas bubble up in the community. And not only do these reports end up in a document, it doesn't just sit on the shelf, but we actually engage the community and our partners around these solutions. Sometimes they are issue driven, sometimes they're systems driven, sometimes they're population driven. So all of these things you can find on our website, we actually have a special page just for the public health data. And in addition to that we also try to follow up on these measures over time. So these are just a snapshot in your packet. You have the top 25 public health achievements in 2025. And in addition to that, there's a listing of the emerging priorities that we're starting to lose sleep over. And we wanted to make you aware of both of those lists. But this is just to give you a sense of how we work on issues with the community, we're actually driving these numbers in a favorable way. So something like teen births years and years ago, we had over 185 babies being born to very young mothers before they were ready. We worked with the community. We did all of this intervention work, and now we've reduced those numbers significantly. And you can see that trend line in the bottom left hand corner, things like overdoses. Certainly the last few years we've been working nonstop on that. We have had the lowest number of overdoses and fatalities that we've had in a decade; we're really proud of that work, but certainly not done. We have plenty of work to still do. We also worked with the school district and other community partners around community schools years ago, when we had three neighborhoods in the city, two on the east side, one on the west side that were persistently impoverished, meaning the majority of that neighborhood was living below poverty for more than 30 years. And we knew that kids coming from those neighborhoods were showing up in our schools and not having basic needs met. So we worked on a community schools model. We were able to get significant grant funding. We actually leveraged the work of Granite United

Way. They redirected \$1.5 million of their funding over three years to those three neighborhoods. And we reversed those poverty trends. That's in the upper right hand corner. It's pretty dramatic. And then certainly our dental program has been amazing, the fact that we can go to the schools and treat as many kids as we do. And again, that is another big achievement over many, many years of building that out. So what you'll have on the website and I didn't want to produce ten documents for you, this is going to be way too much information. But there's ten documents that I'll call attention to that are available on the website. But the ones highlighted in green are the ones that I think for you as alderman are the quickest reads and also the ones that are more relevant to your specific wards. So the one that says resident and community leader input, I think that's really helpful because it's the voice of the residents. We did a lot of surveying of the community in addition to that, that City Health dashboard, that is a whole packet of data points that are driven down to a census tract level, a neighborhood level. So if you really want to get a sense of what your ward looks like and unfortunately it doesn't marry up perfectly with your ward, but it closely aligns with your ward. That's a great place to start as well if you wanted to see some of those benchmarks and how they fare in your ward specifically. And as I already mentioned, those top 25 achievements and those emerging health priorities. So I'm going to quickly just give you some data points on some of the areas that we're focusing on now and the things that we're going to be looking at over time. So also in your packet you have what we call the portfolio primer. And in that are basically ten lessons learned over years and years and years of working towards population health improvement. And one of those things that we have learned over and over again is where you live matters. So there are great differences within neighborhoods of the city, and that's what happens when you have a city this size or larger. And when we drill it down to these census tracts, you could really see the striking difference between neighborhoods. Every neighborhood has a certain level of need, but they're different. It's not cross-cutting throughout an entire city, and it causes us to have to do interventions differently on a neighborhood level, depending on where that need is greatest. This is just a snapshot of two neighborhoods compared side by side, just to show you those differences and then also to the right, this is something that is updated every year about adults and how often they experience frequent mental health distress. And this, you can see, is highly concentrated within a handful of neighborhoods on the east side and also on the west side. So again, place matters. So when we talk about the

physical environment that also can drive your health status, the map to the right which will also be in your packets, is really just a quick snapshot of several years of where pedestrian accidents are occurring in the city. Those yellow dots are actually children under the age of 18. And as it was already mentioned, we have a lot of walking schools, kids walking to school on a regular basis. And sometimes, unfortunately, depending on those neighborhoods and the design of the neighborhoods that could be a higher risk area for kids to be traveling through. But that's also a high risk area for other populations in the city as well, like our older residents. To the left is life expectancy. So how long you're expected to live by neighborhood. So the lighter area is the lower age compared to the darker areas around sort of those center city carve outs. And again, that body of research is not something that just happens by accident. That is based on a whole bunch of factors that roll up into our life expectancy. I'm going to pop through just three different segments of the population. So challenges to a healthy start, in other words, are very young. So we focus on a lot of home visiting with expectant mothers, for example. We work closely with the schools. We do a lot of work to try to expand access to the services in the city for youth on a regular basis, but just some soundbites just so you have them. And this we just got from the school district that when they're doing kindergarten readiness assessments, they're seeing about half of the kids are one grade level behind in reading as they enter kindergarten. I think that's important as we talk about the district, because there's often discussions about what's happening in the district, but we're not talking about what's happening at home before kids enter the district. So you know, to the mayor's credit, he understands by forming a commission on child care that this time, at this point in the lifespan, is really critical to child development and can predict how they will do in the district as they enter it and go on. Other things that we're concerned about are things like whether or not kids are qualifying for free or reduced meals, which is a poverty measure. What's concerning and is on your emerging priorities list is the number of kids who are under the eyes of child protection in the city, and that averages about 550 unique alleged victims of child abuse and neglect. That number has not changed over the years. And again, I think that is something that we need to be working more closely on because that is a significant number. There's a whole bunch of categories that fall under child maltreatment. Educational neglect, for example, is one of those categories. So to healthy living, when we look at sort of the adult population, we're also seeing things like residents who not only are living below

poverty, but that mental distress that I mentioned highly concentrated in certain areas of the city and certainly things like a rise in chronic diseases that is adding to the years of potential life lost. So when we start looking at life expectancy and seeing those variations in life expectancy, a lot of the drivers are the fact that we have residents who are not living healthy lives or they're not living in health promoting neighborhoods that are optimally designed around health. And these are things that we could be working on. And certainly, we've seen a rise in the number of people who are experiencing homelessness in the city and whether they're originally from the city or not. But we've seen the numbers here, and that is something that certainly the city has been hyper responsive to. And then lastly, when we talk about aging, this is really important because this is actually the first set of years that the percentage of people living over age 65 is now surpassing the percentage of our youth age 17 and younger. So more and more people are going to be living longer and that population will only continue to grow. You think about the history of Manchester. It was never really designed around aging. It was designed around the mills. So we have a lot of catching up to do in the physical design of the city. We have about 1 in 3 of our residents age 65 and older, living alone. About 1 in 4 report having fallen in the past year. Not all leading to hospitalization, but certainly self-reporting that they've fallen. All of these things are ending up as other measures that you'll see on that emerging priorities list. Including the rise in chronic diseases and especially around brain health. We're seeing an ever increasing number of residents with Alzheimer's, dementia. As people live longer, we're going to continue to see those numbers rise. And then in addition to that this all comes into cost of the health care delivery system and beyond. So there has been a report, cost to the community analysis that will be in part of that compendium of ten documents. And in that it will show you that we're probably spending about \$111 million in the community on the kinds of things that could be prevented, and that if we start investing in prevention activities more upstream, we could probably return that to about a twofold increase in the return on investment. When we work with the hospitals, for example, and the dollars they're investing, they see this firsthand. They see it in their ERs. They see who's filling up hospital beds. There are lots of preventable conditions that they're having to treat, and we're trying to do everything we can to get upstream to reduce those numbers and ultimately create a healthier community.

Alderman Kantor: I have concerns about the fluoride in our water. I know I had a long day, a long educational thing. And so where do you stand on that?

A. Thomas: Well, I mean, it's not something that I personally stand on. I think it's something that the voters have to stand on. You know there is a lot of debate in the country about a whole host of public health issues right now. And as far as the dental community is concerned, they are still in favor of community water fluoridation. And I think that's where we have to rely on the expertise. So, you know, we concentrate on offering dental treatment because that's something that we can do locally. And I have to give a shout out to folks like the National Guard and other dentists who are volunteering their time on the dental van to help treat children in the city. And we treat about 600 children every year and offer them free services. So we spend a lot of time trying to provide education as well. So we talked to them about brushing regularly and all those good hygiene practices. So that's where we spend our time, mainly, but certainly there's lots of conversations across the country right now. I commend you for showing up and trying to educate yourself. And we had a conversation about that, you're just trying to get facts straight for yourself and your constituents. So I appreciate that.

Alderman Kantor: I just believe in freedom of choice. We should bring it to the voters for that. A couple questions on the reduction in overdoses. Yes, we discussed this before. So with that, we don't really know how many overdoses we have that are really going on because of all the Narcan that's given out, like candy, which is a problem because we have non-medical people distributing Narcan, which is medical. I think it's really hard. And it is misleading to the public to really state that we have really gone down in overdoses when we really don't know. And we do get a lot of phone calls on the call log for overdoses. I guess there's a lot to it. And I know you have a big job, and I really appreciate this presentation, but I think that that's a problem because there are so many people suffering. I just believe we need to find a way to lead them into recovery, in a better way. Instead of handing out needles, which I know we don't hand out needles, but other organizations hand out needles within the city, which is a problem.

A. Thomas: I'm going to stop there with that because that's not something that we've had control over, as you know.

Alderman Kantor: I do know. And that's why I brought that up.

A. Thomas: But to your point, I think about the overdoses. We do know and we talked about this before. There's a lot of community reversal that happens that won't become one of these numbers. But that has been happening the past decade.

Mayor Ruais: Narcan has been a standing order where anybody could get it.

A. Thomas: I mean, for years, years and years. This has been widely available throughout. So it's not that this is a new pattern being able to hand out Narcan. We've been handing out Narcan for many years. We talk often about how we have to start with recovery in mind, right? The whole goal is recovery, and we all embrace that. But I think I'm going to quote the mayor here because he likes quotes. You can't recover if you're dead. So I think we've always had the mindset that the first part of this is the life saving part of it, that we have to make sure that people are not dying from these overdoses. And that's where we've seen that dramatic decrease in fatalities. The next step, though, is making sure that they're getting into the places that they need most for treatment and for help when they're ready. So that is a big push that we're now doing as much as we possibly can, but we certainly have to do our part to make sure that we're not losing any more lives. That is essential.

Alderman Kaw-uh: One of the slides had a map of the city where it pinpointed all the different pedestrians involved in collisions. That was with motor vehicles. I find it kind of really quite concerning to see so many of them scattered on the map, especially centered in the downtown, in the center city, and especially where a significant number of them involve children. So I think everyone on this board would agree that we need to make sure Manchester is safe for people of all ages. And I was wondering if you could speak to any efforts or initiatives that the health department is working on on that front, because that does seem pretty significant.

A. Thomas: Yes, it's striking. I will just tell you, we had a walkability expert come to Manchester years ago and assess the neighborhoods. And this is someone who has gone all over the world and evaluated walkability. And he came to Manchester and he went to present the results. And I don't even know how many hundreds of cities he's

been to. And he said, I've never seen anything like this. And part of what he was saying is that there's no rhyme or reason to the grid and the layout of the city. And there were no traffic calming measures. And you see all of the time that people are cutting through back alleys, and I often see people going the wrong way on one way streets cutting through the city. It does explain why, unfortunately, sometimes this leads to a pedestrian accident because there are some places where there's high rates of speed. I'm always amazed at the very tight configuration of the neighborhoods and the ability of a vehicle to flip onto its roof. It's amazing. The laws of physics can do that. But so we have been involved in some of that work where we were actually auditing neighborhoods and color coding them and looking for optimal ways to build the safety into the neighborhoods. But all of that work now has kind of led into the age friendly action planning that we're doing. And I'm going to look over at my deputy to kind of fill us in on the importance of that work and the ways you can get involved in that, which I think you already are.

E. Michaud: As folks may remember, I was here just a few months ago. So we've launched the plan implementation phase and a few of you, we thank you for your efforts and participation, but we are now breaking it down into we have seven working groups, one of which is we've got the building spaces, but we also have walkability and safety and certainly in the open passage and transportation side of things. And in those we are clearly looking at sidewalk accessibility, safety, what options can be made on crosswalks, the lighting, all these other alternatives that we're looking at, we're not reinventing the wheel. As we understand from DPW, there was an audit done of all the sidewalks in 2021. I'm told there's about 400 miles of sidewalks in the city of Manchester, which is shocking to me, but they're there. And the idea that we can look at things to assist as part of our age friendly plan, but looking at not only for older adults, but it's going to obviously benefit all ages in the city. So that is one arm. I know, Alderman, you've been involved with the housing side of things and the transportation side of things. I think you will see that there will be topics and ideas brought forward by these groups who are working in these particular spaces and who have the experience and the knowledge to make some recommendations.

Alderman Fajardo: I just want to start by saying the work that your whole department does in our city, it gives me a chill. Honestly, I have always known public health workers are champions, but I feel like in my capacity as alderman and getting to know you all more directly and in some cases working with you Phil directly, hats off to you. You have a ton of respect and admiration from me. Appreciation as well. Two things came to mind, bouncing off of Alderman Kantor's comments regarding overdoses. You were talking about the ROAR team. Can you connect the dots for me there with how you are tracking where overdoses are and what action you're taking?

A. Thomas: It's an excellent question. So we created the ROAR team. Actually in 2019 is really where we started seeing a spike in overdoses and fatalities. And it was really around 2022 that we said enough is enough. So I actually called the CDC because they had a rapid response team that they could deploy from the national level to come to local communities. So that's what we did. We had them visit Manchester on several occasions. We convened the community. We had all kinds of meetings with folks. They visited different providers in the community and so forth, and they kind of spit out a whole list of things that we did not have in place in the city. So we enacted all of these things, including the ROAR team. One of the gaping holes was that we did not have enhanced outreach that was available in the event of an overdose spike, and we worked with the police department, and I can't say enough about what the police department has done in this space. They've also helped to do outreach with the crew, where over the years they were going out and responding to overdoses within 24 to 48 hours. Because time is of the essence. When somebody overdoses, you need to get to them as quickly as you can. To, hopefully get them connected to services, but certainly to do a welfare check just to make sure they don't overdose again. So these teams were doing all this enhanced outreach. But in addition to that, the police department created a dashboard. And it's literally a real-time, almost like a syndromic surveillance tool. And I think it's pretty novel in this country where it maps out the overdoses every three hours. So we're able to look at that in real-time. And it also tracks up the trend line. So if we see a spike, we can quickly mobilize the team to go to those neighborhoods, hyper focus on those neighborhoods, and deploy whatever resources are needed. Sometimes the overdose spike is happening in an organization, so it's no secret that sometimes the shelters will experience a spike in overdoses. But sometimes it's in a neighborhood, and

that's where we can deploy the teams. So it's really been a phenomenal partnership. And it's an invaluable tool for us because it can keep things in real time for us and ultimately prevent any future spikes from occurring. So that's huge. And certainly the array of providers that we have in the community working at different points in the continuum, whether it's recovery or even more upstream than that. We are very fortunate in the city to have people who are truly committed to this. So none of this can happen by itself. It really does take an army. And, we're just very fortunate that we've had so many good partnerships to work with.

Alderman Fajardo: As a follow up to the point you raised about Narcan being administered by non-health care professionals or non-professionals, that's essentially outside your data set. But I mean, that's been outside your data set for X number of years, I guess. Can you also connect the dots between that?

A. Thomas: Yes. So one of the very first things that the CDC asked us when they were here was do you have a seat at the table at the Overdose Fatality Review Commission at the state? And we said, what commission? So the regional director for AMR and I work together to kind of reinvigorate or actually create an overdose fatality review commission at the state level. And what we do with that is literally look at comparing the data that you can gather around people who have died from an overdose, and comparing it to the people who have survived an overdose to look at what are the differences and yet the common denominators. So having that knowledge of kind of unfortunately learning from those we've lost to prevent future loss of life has been essential. So AMR does collect data on whether or not Narcan was administered prior to them responding. So that is something that they do have a trend line for over time. And it is something that we do monitor as well. Because if we see a decline in that happening, then we do get a little worried. Is it because it's not readily available in the community, and do we have to change that? But all of those things are essential to saving life.

Alderman Fajardo: So it's like you can infer certain things based on what you can collect and see what is out and happening outside of what you can collect.

A. Thomas: Right. It's not perfect, but it's more than what a lot of communities have. I'll tell you that much.

Alderman Fajardo: Shout out for Beech and Maple Streets, to not be neighborhood highways in the future.

Alderman Bonilla: One, I want to echo, if it wasn't for Narcan, I wouldn't have had six additional months with my little brother. So I thank you for saving his life and giving us six additional months with him. The other thing that I want to elevate, and which I really appreciated you talking about, was on our page six. I don't know what page on the slide, but challenges to a healthy start. So the first point you touched upon was 50% of Manchester's kindergarten students enter kindergarten one grade level behind. You know, for years, sitting on the school board, I heard test scores. Test scores, test scores. This is why we don't give them. This is why we do give them that data point that you gave us for what it is. So if people are in specific levels of income, hungry, emerging, bilingual, because we know at the end of the day, we want all of our children to learn English. Yet, like we heard, I've heard certain specific testaments as well about keeping tradition and culture. So we'll teach our children our cultural language, but it also is, they will emerge to learn the English language. All that factors into our children coming in. 50% are, like you said, one grade level behind. So again, thank you for providing that input to all of us here at the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, because I think it's spot on. I know it's spot on.

A. Thomas: If I could make one comment about that, too. I do think if there is anything that we can be doing as a city is really focusing on early childhood literacy. And I will tell you, there's a program that the pediatricians have called Reach Out and Read. And what they do is, as they're in a regular primary care visit with a child and the parents, they will prescribe the parent a book. And they actually hand them a brand new children's book and tell them you need to read so many additional hours. Because we know that that is going to contribute to their health status later in life. It is really, really important. I would love to see a campaign in the city that is about Manchester Reads or whatever it's going to take. I know the library has been more than instrumental in really trying to bolster that. The tough thing is getting to those families before they enter the district. So that's the sweet spot. And that's really where we need to focus next.

Mayor Ruais: That's one of the things that we had talked about with the child care initiative, with the National League of Cities, was those early literacy programs that other cities have implemented, and what can we learn from them? So there's something like the Dolly Parton initiative is one example where she sends thousands of books into communities because a lot of people just don't have access to them. So there's a host of things that we can look at, but that early literacy portion is critical, and that's one of the reasons why we included it in there. We have School Committee Member Turner on that to have that school board perspective as well.

Alderman O'Neil: You know, just some of the things emerging. I'm going to jump all over the place here. But the emerging health increase in Alzheimer's disease, brain disorders, etc. one of the women I asked we pray for, a good friend to many of us on this board, just died at 63 and had Alzheimer's for ten years. So there is something going on. And she's not alone, right? Alderman Kantor, I'm right with you on this Narcan thing, because when I saw it come out in the paper, the way it reads is that overdoses are down, but it really is that deaths are down. That's not how the data reads; that's not how I'm seeing it. I'm seeing deaths are down. The reasons that Alderman Kantor and others talked about over there is because of the availability of Narcan. I'd love to see specific data on that.

A. Thomas: You'll have in your packet a graph that actually shows us from AMR. I think it's page eight, it's the one that has these four graphs on it. But in the bottom right that's actual deaths. But there's the same graph for just overdoses that's not in your packet, but that it is mirroring what the deaths look like.

Alderman O'Neil: I saw it come out in the paper. That was my first reaction. It's great that less people are dying but are overdoses truly down? Very interested in this dashboard from the police department.

A. Thomas: It's amazing.

Alderman O'Neil: Yes. You mentioned three mobile units. Mobile dental lab, mobile health care for the homeless. And I didn't write down the third one.

A. Thomas: The other one is just a preventive health clinic that we will run when we do off site. So that's a great place where we can do things like STD screening, counseling, all of those things off of that. It's not as fully equipped as what we have for health care for the homeless. So it's really just meant for health screening. And even that is minimal, for what we offer off of it. But it's another tool that we have to get out to certain neighborhoods.

Alderman O'Neil: I reached out to you not too long ago. It had to do with public transportation. And the ward team speaks how many different languages?

A. Thomas: The public health and safety team, they speak seven different languages.

Alderman O'Neil: It's fabulous. It should be a resource to many. And they speak some languages you wouldn't think we have within Manchester.

A. Thomas: And they're very well trained too. That's the other piece of this. They come with great credentials.

Alderman O'Neil: You talked about young people and hunger and you originally talked about three neighborhoods. And then you focused on two census tracts with totally different stories. Where is the third neighborhood?

A. Thomas: So there's one on the west side. It's a carve out. It's census tract number 20, and then there's two on the east side. It's typically 14 and 15. I think 20, I can't remember if that's in Alderman Vincent's or Alderman Barry's ward.

Alderman O'Neil: I think that continues to be an issue in this city. Young people getting fed. Schools do a great job before school and at lunchtime. They don't do after school programs. But places like Salvation Army, Boys and Girls Club, feed you before school, feed you after school. I know it's kind of in Elaine's wheelhouse, but we can do a better job with that. And how can you expect a young person to learn if they're hungry? Then I'll end with this. And this is something that came up when we had our friends from San Antonio come in. One of their programs they had was this initiative with a firefighter and a nurse. Do you remember that? I called it the frequent flyers. That's not what they

called it. It was the people that utilized the emergency room the most and they targeted them. They got complete cooperation from the hospitals that they had these teams. I think it was a firefighter and a nurse that would go out to make sure they're checking their blood pressure. They're taking their medicine for diabetes. And there wasn't this expanded list. It was a very concentrated list.

A. Thomas: They're high utilizers. But the hospitals can actually stratify that data, and they'll often pull out that it's usually like 5% of their population that uses whatever proportion of excessive healthcare time. And there are examples of this across the country where they'll hyper focus on just that 5% to try to drive down the hospital visits and the frequent flyers. That is a program.

Alderman O'Neil: We have never done it here.

A. Thomas: Not at that level, but we could. But it's expensive. You've got to pay staff and you have to follow up with the hospitals.

Alderman O'Neil: And that's the key. The hospitals are the key in this thing. I mean, I'm not suggesting Chief Cashin shift off the squad, but if money was found for that, I wonder if we could find money to do something. In that mobile health care and the communities that I've read about it has made a huge difference.

A. Thomas: Yes, it has.

Alderman O'Neil: We need full cooperation from the hospitals to do it. There's no plan, as you're aware of, with that?

A. Thomas: Well, there could be. We're always open to looking into things.

Alderman Sapienza: You mentioned neighborhoods and poverty, right? Can you explain what exactly is the driving force behind that and for example, if people don't have enough food, my understanding is there's plenty of free food available. Also, let's say they don't have enough money for clothing, right? There's clothing available, if I understand it correctly, either for free or almost free. Right?

A. Thomas: Your points are well taken. There are some nonprofit faith organizations who provide a lot of that. We also have great partnerships with lots of other nonprofits who've stood up food pantries. We've done the Healthy Corner Store initiative. Again, this is all sort of the ARPA funded work, and Elaine's been a leader in that.

Alderman Sapienza: To eliminate the food deserts. Right? That was the idea.

A. Thomas: Yes, to address all of that. But the fundamental thing that drives poverty is really a whole combination of whether or not people are gainfully employed, whether or not they have health insurance, whether or not they can afford their rent. Keep in mind, this is a high renting community and the fact that people don't own their homes, so anything that they're having to earn and spend is basically paying for where they live, and they're not necessarily earning beyond that. And so sometimes it's overwhelming because the cost of rent in certain neighborhoods of the city can be really high, and especially if you have any other complexities with your family, for example, like medical needs and you don't have health insurance. I mean, there's things that compound and compound and compound in some cases. We have families that are generationally in poverty. They were raised in poverty. They have kids. Their kids are in poverty.

Alderman Sapienza: So in your opinion, the number one driving force of poverty is the high cost of living? It's not social dysfunction?

A. Thomas: I don't know if I would rank any one driver. I think there's a whole plethora of things that contribute to poverty. I mean, this is a national conversation. It's not just the City of Manchester's conversation, but I think one of the ways we drive down poverty is we create neighborhoods of opportunity, and we educate the masses, and we provide places for people to work and be gainfully employed and purposeful. I think all of those things which you just heard a presentation on our economic development, I mean, those are all good factors of what's happening in Manchester. And I think those are some of the contributing things that's driving down poverty, which is a good thing.

Alderman Sapienza: I guess what I'm saying is we do have a social safety net. It exists. Right?

A. Thomas: To a certain extent, yes. I agree with you.

Alderman Sapienza: I think it exists to a large extent. We have EBT cards. We have all kinds of resources available out there for people who aren't making it for whatever reason. But you're saying it's the high cost of living.

A. Thomas: I didn't say that. You said that.

Alderman Sapienza: I thought you did. I thought you said that it was the high cost of living. No, the high cost of rent.

A. Thomas: One factor of many.

Alderman Sapienza: About kindergartners being a grade level behind in reading. How is it possible that a kindergartener is a grade level behind in reading? In other words, if a four year old kid can't read or a five year old kid can't read, isn't that okay?

A. Thomas: You'll have to have this conversation with the school district. They're the ones who shared this data with us.

Alderman Sapienza: Understood. But that did get brought up tonight.

A. Thomas: I think it's important because I think they assess this so they know what they're starting with when a child is entering the school district. So they have their own assessment tools to measure these children. So by the time they're entering first grade and beyond, a big measure is third grade. Because that kid's not only just learning how to read, but they're reading for learning. And that's a big transitional time. So these early years are really critical, whether it's kindergarten or beyond. But that's one baseline that we can look at.

Alderman Sapienza: Maybe it's semantics, but do you mean that some kindergartners aren't prepared to learn? Whether the kid entering kindergarten is reading upon entry into kindergarten, I don't think that's really a big deal.

A. Thomas: I see what you're saying.

Alderman Sapienza: So it has more to do with how prepared that child is?

A. Thomas: Yes, I think there's a holistic story there that they are starting where they're expected to be at that point in their lifespan. And I think that's where the school district is measuring that. And they're already anticipating that they're going to be spending some time catching these kids up because they're not where they're expected to be for that age.

Alderman Sapienza: I know we talked about family planning before. I think you mentioned it briefly. I think it's very important because the things that I see in my role at the courts, the more family planning, the better, because I think that that really needs to happen.

Alderman Kantor: I just want to say I'm really sorry to Alderman Bonilla for him thinking that I was against Narcan. I wanted to bring some clarity to that. First of all, I'm so sorry, because it's so hard. Who isn't affected by drug addiction? And it's so painful. And we do want to save lives. It's just heartbreaking. My point about Narcan is the fact that we don't know when they're taking Narcan. If they're not going to the hospital, we don't know if they have overdosed. So there's no follow up. So that's what I wanted to say. And saving lives is essential and it's heartbreaking. I'm sorry for your loss.

A. Thomas: We do talk about and you've talked about you have this goal of Manchester being sort of the best mid-sized city, you know, in this country. I want you to all know, especially in that City Health dashboard, what that dashboard does, and that document compares us to the other 500 largest cities in the country. And what you have to know is that when we look at all of these benchmarks, Manchester actually fares really well, not on all measures, but on most of the measures. So as far as where we are at for health, holistically, we're in a really good spot compared to a lot of cities our size. So I just want you to know that there's still work that has to be done, but comparatively, Manchester actually is in a really good place.

Alderman Kaw-uh: Something I didn't hear during the discussion about poverty was the impact that stress can have on health. And I just wanted to clarify that it's not necessarily just being able to eat food one day or wear clothes out and about. It is also

about the significant psychological stress that living paycheck to paycheck, or being behind on things like rent can have on a person and their family. And that it's basically there are boatloads of research out there on the short term and long term impact of that, and I just wanted to highlight that for the public.

Mayor Ruais: Your slide on resiliency, I thought was really good on that point. We talked about it. I'm sure Randy Stevens can attest to this. The opposite of addiction is not recovery, it's connectivity. And so having places like the senior center, Hope for New Hampshire Recovery, it's hugely important to make those connections.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

4. Minutes from the February 3 Special BMA, Special BMA (TIF District Public Hearing), Regular BMA, and Finance meetings.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON BILLS ON SECOND READING

6. Recommending that Ordinance Amendment:

"Amending Section 36.40 Community Revitalization Tax Incentive of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester regarding the terms of tax relief."

ought to pass and be referred to the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration.

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)

7. Recommending that Ordinance Amendment:

"Amending Chapter 117 Food Service Establishments of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester to refine definitions, exemptions, and permit requirements."

ought to pass and be referred to the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration.

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

8. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$125,000

for CIP 711725 Traffic Signal - Cilley/Jewett be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)

9. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$50,000 for CIP 711825 Amoskeag WB Design & Construction be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
10. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$116,753 for CIP C160060926 200 Elm, Fire Suppression/ADA Improvements be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
11. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$600,000 for CIP C500071226 Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTP) be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
12. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$150,000 for CIP C500071226 Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTP) be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)
13. Recommending that the request from the Planning and Community Development Director to make the Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Division the administering department of CIP 713006 Crystal Lake Conservation Fund be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Terrio who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

14. Recommending that the request from the Human Resources Director to update the job class specification for the Urban Forester position be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
15. Recommending that the request from the Water Works Director for the following changes to the department's complement:
 - Remove one (1) vacant Public Services Worker IV position, grade 109;
 - Add one (1) Water Works Utility Supervisor position, grade 116, and update its job classificationbe approved.
(Unanimous vote)
16. Recommending that the request from the Public Health Director for the following changes to the department's complement:

- Addition of one (1) non-affiliated, exempt, City-funded Public Health Specialist II position, grade 115;
- Change one-half (0.50) FTE of the Infectious Disease Branch - Public Health Nurse Supervisor position, grade 119, from grant-funded to City-funded;
- Change one-half (0.50) FTE of the Administrative Assistant II position, grade 105, from grant-funded to City-funded;
- Change the Environmental Health Specialist I position, grade 110, from City-funded to grant-funded

be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)

17. Recommending that the request from the Fire Chief for the Emergency Management Manager position (grade 122) to be added to the department's list of exempt positions eligible for overtime be approved.
(*Unanimous vote*)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

18. Recommending that the following traffic regulations be approved:
- NO PARKING ANYTIME**
On Walker Street, south side, from South Main Street to a point 65 feet easterly
Alderman Barry
On Lake Ave, north side, from Hall Street to a point 50 feet east
Alderman Bonilla
On Jewett Street, east side, from Merrill Street to a point 30 feet south
Alderman Terrio
- METERS - 2 HOURS 8am-6pm**
On Myrtle Street, south side, from a point 67 feet east of N Church Street to a point 60 feet west of Chestnut Street
Alderman Dexter
- RESCIND METERS - 2 HOURS 8am-6pm**
On Myrtle Street, south side, from N Church Street to a point 60 feet west of Chestnut Street (ORD 7735)
Alderman Dexter
- RESCIND 30 MINUTE PARKING- 8am-5pm, MON-SAT**
On Walker Street, south side, from South Main Street to a point 65 feet easterly (ORD 8484)
Alderman Barry
(*Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Thomas who was absent*)
20. Recommending that the request from the Parking Manager for permission to sell outdated parking meters be approved.
(*Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Thomas who was absent*)

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

5. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the FY2023 CIP 611423 ARPA Homeless Response and Emergency Shelter Operations.”

“Amending the FY2025 and FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) for the FY2025 CIP 711725 Traffic Signal - Cilley/Jewett.”

“Amending the FY2023 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the FY2025 CIP 711825 Amoskeag WB Design & Construction.”

“Amending the FY2023 and FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$325,000) for the FY2026 CIP C160060726 Aged and Infirmed Shelter Project.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (\$116,753) for the FY2026 CIP C160060926 200 Elm, Fire Suppression/ADA Improvements.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000) for the FY2026 CIP C500071226 Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTP).”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the FY2026 CIP C500071226 Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTP).”

Alderman Sapienza requested that agenda item 5 be removed from the consent agenda.

Alderman Sapienza: I'd motion to table this until item 24 so we can talk about it kind of more at once.

There was no second.

Mayor Ruais: It's on consent as the mechanism to get it to Finance. But we can address it in item 24. So if the will of the board at item 24 was to kill this, we can kill it there.

What I would ask is that we not remove it at this time. Allow me to make the presentation and if there's a want to terminate it, then the board has that will. But this is just a mechanism to get it to Finance so that we can consider it for item 24.

Alderman Sapienza: When you say the mechanism to get it to Finance, it seems to me like it's all over the map tonight. More so than the usual process.

Michael Intranuovo, Assistant City Clerk: Resolutions, specifically when it's dealing with funding, as you can see on the consent agenda, the resolution gets referred to the Committee on Finance. That goes for the mayor's items as well as any other resolution. Then you can see on the Finance agenda, these resolutions go there to be voted on, that will then report back to the Board, and then all of those resolutions are on item 30 of the board's agenda for a final vote.

Mayor Ruais: There's no attempt here to sneak anything through. This is just a mechanism to get it to Finance so that we can discuss it on my item 24.

*On motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman Vincent**, it was voted to refer the Resolutions to the Committee on Finance.*

- 19.** Recommending that the request from the Highway Chief Engineer for the following changes to the parking regulations on Hanover Street which will allow the Downtown Sidewalk project design phase to progress be approved:

CROSSWALK

On Hanover Street, east of the private way (old Nutfield Ln)

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Hanover Street, south side, from Nutfield Ln to Chestnut Street

On Hanover Street, north side, from Elm Street to a point 260 feet east

On Hanover Street, north side, from a point 340 feet east of Hanover Street to Chestnut Street

NO PARKING – LOADING ZONE

On Hanover Street, north side, from a point 260 feet east of Hanover Street to a point 80 feet further east

RESCIND METERS- 2 HOURS

On Hanover Street, north side, from a point 50 feet west of Chestnut Street to a

point 60 feet westerly (ORD 7787)

On Hanover Street, north side, from Nutfield Ln to a point 158 feet west of Chestnut Street (ORD 7784)

On Hanover Street, south side, from Nutfield Ln to Chestnut Street (ORD 7780)

RESCIND NO PARKING- LOADING ZONE

On Hanover Street, north side, from a point 110 feet west of Chestnut Street to a point 48 feet westerly (ORD 7692)

RESCIND NO PARKING- LOADING ZONE 8AM-8PM MON-SAT

On Hanover Street, north side, from Chestnut Street to a point 50 feet west (ORD 8485)

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Thomas who was absent)

Alderman Dexter requested that agenda item 19 be removed from the consent agenda.

Alderman Dexter moved to table agenda item 19.

Alderman Dexter: This has to do with the Hanover Street parking. There's some concern from some of the businesses in the area about safety, about children's safety. And thank you, Director Thomas, for the graphic about downtown. It is kind of pertinent to this. I am asking to table this until we can have some further discussions with some of the businesses and bring it back in the very near future because the funding will expire soon.

Alderman Trisciani duly seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR BUSINESS

21. Nomination:

Arts Commission

Michael Garcia to fill a vacancy as an alternate member, term to expire December 1, 2027

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

22. Confirmation of Stan Garrity as the Ward 9 Board of School Committee Member.

*On motion of **Alderman Burkush**, duly seconded by **Alderman Barry**, it was voted to confirm Stan Garrity as the Board of School Committee Member for Ward 9.*

Mayor Ruais: Congratulations, Stan.

- 23.** Communication from Jeff Belanger, Planning and Community Development Director, requesting authorization to demolish and remove hazardous buildings and all personal property located at 129-131 Parker Street.

Alderman Barry: The quicker, the better.

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

- 24.** Update from Mayor Ruais regarding homeless and a request for approval of funding and three related contracts to support the continued operation and longer-term stability of the Aged and Infirm Shelter.
(Note: The related Resolutions attached here are on the consent agenda to be referred to the Committee on Finance.)

Mayor Ruais: So building off the conversations that we've had on the board regarding homelessness in the city of Manchester, I wanted to come forward with a presentation this evening. Included before you is the packet that I had sent to the board on Thursday morning. And in addition to that, there's a list in there of the community partners that are engaging at the engagement center currently. So we have a list of all the partners that are in there for the resource fairs that we have on Thursdays. I wanted to include these first slides that we have here of what the perimeter around Families In Transition looked like several years ago. There's some other snapshots from around the city as well. And I include them here and I include the follow up of what we are seeing now is what I want to get away from, what I talked about in my inaugural back in January, when I talked about last week in the state of the city, was, I don't want this city to be reactive anymore. I feel like we are in a position we are in this grace period right now, where we're not operating from a crisis perspective, that we finally have an opportunity to start planning for the longer term. So as a result of that, that's what is in your packets. Tonight is a look at what it will cost to fund the 200 Elm Street aged and infirm shelter/winter warming during the winter months, and an engagement center piece as well for a 12 month period of time. As you'll recall, last September when we voted on the 19 month plan, that funding was included in September. So that gave us a 19 month runway. So what we're looking at, what I would ask for tonight, the reason for the votes for some additional funding is because every dollar that we invest now gives us more of a runway, more of a breather to start planning for the long term. And as I've said, I think

that future boards should have the opportunity to not operate in a crisis mode where we have a period where we have one month until funding runs out. This is what we ran into in the last two years. One month until funding runs out, or two months until funding runs out. And instead of having a good, thoughtful, substantive conversation about how we should be addressing homelessness in the city, we were operating in a crisis mode. So what we have before you tonight, first and foremost, is the three contracts that we had discussed previously. Those contracts are funded from what we did last year and from the funding that is tonight. And then there is additional funding included in those three votes that would carry us into a longer period of time in March. And that buffer that that gives us, as I say, at the end of my packet, that buffer that the funding that I'm asking for tonight allows us to plan for the future years. So just a couple of key takeaways. To summarize, I don't want to bury the lead. I'll put some of the important hits up front that we have in this presentation. Again, I don't want the city to go back into the condition that we were in before. We have an opportunity now to plan ahead. We've seen progress with the comprehensive approach that we've been implementing over the last couple of years. I'll remind everybody that after the Supreme Court allowed us to ban camping in the city, we were the first city in the United States to ban camping. Following that Supreme Court decision, we also gave the police department an extra half \$1 million to patrol in hotspot areas. As you'll remember what it looked like right outside of the library at Victory Park, what it looked like at Veterans Park, I believe that we have made progress, particularly in those two areas, and that is due in large part to the work of our police department and the efforts that they've done to help clear those areas, write citations, make arrests. That, I think, is an important piece to this when you're dealing with this comprehensively. The second piece to this, I believe, is the successes that we've seen out of the engagement center. And thirdly, on housing, which we're still working to make progress on, this approach is more cost effective. We'll hear from Director Michaud later on about the costs that are associated with inaction and hoteling. Also, the first budget that we had worked up on 39 Beech Street in 2024 was a little over \$1.2 million a year. What you'll see in your packets tonight is an average annual operating cost of under \$900,000. So we've shaved \$300,000 off of that. This plan gets us out of that crisis mode. I believe that there's a broad consensus that we've heard on the previous board and this board, that we don't want the aged and infirmed on our streets. Right now, there are between 15 to 24 individuals that are at 39 Beech Street

right now who are either over the age of 65 or they are in wheelchairs or they are utilizing walkers. I think we have a broad consensus in this city that we want them to continue to have a shelter, a roof over their heads. I also think that there's broad consensus that during the winter months, as Chief Cashin will tell us later on during the winter months, we don't want to be operating on an as needed basis for winter warming that is extraordinarily cost ineffective to have firefighters coming on a daily time and a half rate. The location, as I said in the packet, the location that we were utilizing before 39 Beech Street was the Cashin Senior Center. We certainly don't want to have that as an option going forward into the future. We're not creating services here. We are looking to co-locate services. That's why you have that list in front of you of the 25 groups that are currently operating at the engagement center. But as we heard from the mental health center, they want to co-locate exclusively or have a staffer in there 24 hours or the 9 to 5 for the engagement center. They want to have a staffer there co-located to connect individuals with a mental health condition with services, get them out of the condition that they're in being unhoused and into a stable life. We have Randy here from Hope for New Hampshire Recovery. They have also offered to co-locate in that facility and have a staffer there throughout because the goal here ultimately is to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring. So somebody comes into the engagement center, they get connected to services and they get out. We are not creating a service. We are co-locating. We are removing the inefficiencies that we currently have in our system to have it under one location. This opportunity allows for us not to have multiple widespread encampments across the city, as Chief Cashin will get into, and we have on a later slide, but allows this to be in one location. Get people connected. It gets a lot harder when we start sending our community groups around the city to get into an encampment to try and connect them. It's much more efficient, much easier to have it in one location. A couple other points I would mention real quickly: this is not a city run shelter. We are helping to provide the funding, but we are not running the shelter. We have individuals here who have done a really good job of overseeing the shelter. We're going to get into the rules later on that we have. We're going to get into the consequences of those who have broken the rules and show that they are operating this with a full intent to enforce the rules that are in there. But this is not a city run shelter. I'm not requesting any city dollars. As you will see in the packet, this is opioid abatement funding. As I said last September when I asked for the funding from this board, which

was affordable housing trust fund dollars and ARPA dollars, if you give me the opportunity to have these dollars, I will go out and raise additional dollars. So what you'll see here is that we were awarded a quarter of a \$1 million grant from the CDFA that is scheduled to go before the governors and council in March. So we've done what we said. If we got some initial appropriation, we would go out and we would raise the additional dollars. So what's before you tonight is charitable gaming, some ARPA funding with the remaining dollars that we have, and this is not the entirety of the remaining dollars, but there's ARPA funding in there and there's opioid abatement dollars as well. So services and connections, as we'll see, we have over the last two years in the engagement center, and we can have Chief Cashin come up in a little bit and talk about pre-2024, what that data collection looked like and the data from then. But in the two years from the engagement center we have placed 90 individuals into housing. 66 vital documents have been procured. So one of the things that we learned was a huge prohibitive barrier to people getting out of homelessness was a lack of identification, like birth certificates or licenses, non-driver IDs. It's hard to get a job and it's hard to get housing if you don't have these documents. So we worked with a nonprofit to help connect people with the dollars that they need to go buy them. 29 people have gotten employed, 51 people have entered into detox, and 4,282 provider connections have been made. I believe there was a question about where these individuals are going, where they're being housed. One of the questions I followed up with Director Michaud, who can come up later on and talk about this, we get the aggregated data that we see here. But in terms of John Smith getting a job at Home Depot, we have to be really careful. Our community partners are making those connections. Again, this is not a city run shelter. Our community partners are making those connections. And because that is personalized information, they cannot give out information that identifies an individual because of privacy concerns. Community partners, I have that list before you, the main item that I wanted to note in the community partners was the want of our community partners like Hope for New Hampshire Recovery, like the Mental Health Center, is to co-locate at a facility like this because we want to break down some of the challenges, the barriers that they have faced in the past of trying to identify and engage. There are two that I can talk about right now. There are more that we are in conversations with. So one of the items in the funding package is dollars that would allow for us to renovate that bottom floor. If we

were able to renovate that bottom floor, we can create that specific office space as opposed to just throwing a desk upstairs. We can renovate that bottom floor to have that specific space. So as I mentioned in the packet, the rent right now that I currently have listed in there is for \$132,000 for that top floor and that bottom floor, that rent number comes down significantly if we can get 4 or 5 of our community partners to pay a very nominal fee for rent. But if they're able to be located there from 9 to 5, somebody is coming in off the street, they grab a cup of coffee, they sign in, and immediately you have New Hampshire employment services there. You have Hope for New Hampshire Recovery. They're getting you into recovery. You have our welfare department there. You have the opportunity to get connected. You're breaking that cycle as quickly as humanly possible, and you're getting on your way. That's the intent behind this.

Encampment snapshot. So I'll have Chief Cashin get into the data more directly, and when I turn it over to him at the end of this. But as we can see in the encampment activity data from 2024 and 2025, we have seen a decrease in encampments around the city. So we are closing encampments. There are fewer that are carried over and fewer encampments identified. This is all while we are increasing our outreach. So as we have more people going out, we identified a lot more. We identified more encampments in 2024; we are seeing a significant decrease in encampments in 2025. It runs through the emergency operations center with our NET team. They're going out and doing this outreach, and we have a NET team meeting on Wednesdays, where we go through the data that comes in, and we have a really good entire aggregated city response to this amongst all of our departments that work in this space to go through these and ensure that we're connecting people, breaking down that encampment when we have to, but providing notice, connecting those that are in encampment to any kind of services that they would want that are existing in the city and getting them out of that area in that environment. The other part that I'll have Chief Cashin talk to is the size of the encampments. As we have up here, the size of the encampments is significantly different now, whereas it used to be 20 or 30 or 40 individuals, now we get things that are coming through the Manchester Connect app that are more one, two, three like spot ones that they'll find on a trail that they're able to immediately go out to address and close off their list. But so these operational changes matter. The more that we're able to increase the contact that speaks to the importance of the Manchester Mental Health Center, Hope for New Hampshire Recovery, the ROAR team that Director Thomas had

talked about. They are out there every single day talking to people, trying to connect them and get them out of encampments, get them out of homelessness and into a better life. Here is a snapshot from winter warming at the Engagement Center from 2024. For the month of December 2025, as you can see, with the exception of 1 or 2 days in December winter warming, those that are utilizing that at 39 Beech Street is significantly reduced from the year prior, so 28% reduction. So on average in 2024, we had 60 people per night in the engagement center. We have averaged in December and I can get January data as well. But in December we averaged 43, so a 28% reduction year over year. Here are the rules that are currently in effect at 39 Beech. These will transfer over in their entirety to 200 Elm Street. So I won't read them off to you, but they're all there in your packet. These are all the rules that are currently in effect. These rules will also be in effect at the new location. You can see the disciplinary outcomes. So along with the rules we also are enforcing the disciplinary outcomes here at 39 Beech Street as well. And you know, I can have Chief Cashin or Chief Marr talk about the numbers of concerns or complaints that they have gotten around 39 Beech Street this winter. They are significantly reduced when compared with the year prior. But you can see, I think that they've done a good job at addressing the concerns that many on this board rightfully shared last year about behavior that was either going on in there or out there or outside of that environment. I thank the team for their work and ensuring that discipline is being enforced there. So the funding piece, that's what we can start talking about. You know, I'm happy to answer any questions you might have, but I outlined in the packet what the request is. It's three votes on funding. Again those three votes are for opioid abatement, charitable gaming, and ARPA funds. The intent behind those is to give us that longer runway that we need well into 2027. So that funding that I would put in the budget this year that's \$75,000 for charitable gaming this year, the \$75,000 in CDBG funding, which has historically been in the budget dating back 4 or 5 years. So I'm not changing anything on that. And then when you add that CDFA funding that we applied for last year, we were awarded, waiting approval, when you add all those dollars up and you add the allocation that I'm requesting tonight, that gives us that longer runway to start preparing for a year over year, that gives us, I believe, as a board, the opportunity to start really discussing this much more in depth than the crisis mode that we have been operating under for the last several years. With that, I would turn it over to Chief Cashin.

Alderman O'Neil: I want to confirm the contract amount. The engagement center, \$63,000.

Mayor Ruais: Yes, if that's the number that I have.

Alderman O'Neil: The staffing contract is \$390,000?

Mayor Ruais: So \$391,400. So Chief Cashin can talk to what that accounts for, like how many staff that accounts for. But yes \$391,000 for staffing, \$220,000 for winter warming and engagement center.

Alderman O'Neil: I got \$110,000 for winter warming.

Mayor Ruais: \$220,000; it's right here in the the packet.

Alderman O'Neil: I'm the one that keeps going to these numbers, and they don't mean anything to me until somebody tells me where they're at. I don't buy this, that we can't say where they're working or we can't say where they had success in recovery. We can do it. We've done it for years here. We had, you know, Hope for New Hampshire had ten people in recovery. We can say that; that's not a violation of anything. So these numbers just bothered me for a while. These numbers that just get put down; 29 individuals have secured employment. I want to know where. I want to know where. I don't want an individual name. I just want to know where they're working so that if they're working at Ace Hardware on Hanover Street, I can make sure I go in there and bring some business. 51 individuals have entered rehabilitation programs. Where? 90 additional homeless individuals have been housed. Where? Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority? Neighborworks? That's what I'm looking for. This means absolutely nothing to me. It means nothing to me because I don't know where the numbers come from. Did somebody just make up a number? That's important to me. I don't know. I don't know if Jake does these. I don't know who does the numbers. Somebody had to provide the numbers.

Mayor Ruais: So we aggregate the numbers. If you want to speak to it, we aggregate the numbers from our community partners.

Jake King, East Coast Evolution Leadership: So what exactly are you asking?

Alderman O'Neil: Where are the 29 individuals working?

J. King: I know where some of them are working.

Alderman O'Neil: Well, how can you put down 29 have gained employment then? That's what I'm looking for, to see these numbers, but it can't be backed up. They mean nothing to me.

J. King: So they can be backed up. But it's none of anybody's business here.

Alderman O'Neil: That is my business because you're asking. It's public money being used to fund what's going on. We've done this before, so I don't want to hear it.

J. King: Do you want me to answer the question?

Alderman O'Neil: Answer the question.

J. King: So we run the shelter. We make sure the rules are followed. We make sure that the disciplinary actions are taken. We make sure that everybody's safe. And we make sure it's a safe place for all the providers to come in. The providers come in, the case managers, there's lots of case managers from lots of different agencies. They sign in, but they are not at liberty to tell us who they're working with right in our center, because of HIPAA and other standards.

Alderman O'Neil: Is it not you who provides this info?

J. King: They do, they provide that info to us unless we know that we get them a job. If one of my staff gets somebody a job, we write that down. We put that in HMIS and we get that information. The information comes from the collective, as has been talked about, the collective.

Alderman O'Neil: So it could be any one of these eight groups.

Mayor Ruais: So that's that's what I was going to mention, is that what I can do is ask for what they are willing to share. Hey, we have a great relationship with X. We've hired three people through workplace staffing or, you know, there are a couple staffing companies that are on there. I can do an email to that list of 25 and say, can you broadly tell me where individuals have been hired? I mean, to the extent that they are able to share information, I'm happy to ask them for it.

Alderman Trisciani: So it's not a HIPAA violation, but to Jake's earlier point, it's none of our business where they're working. I think that getting that data, it's not up to us to go to those businesses and support them to see if they're working.

Alderman O'Neil: I'm speaking for myself. I'm not speaking for you.

Alderman Trisciani: I'm okay with that.

Alderman O'Neil: Anybody can put down a number. Is 29 a number? Is it 19? Is it nine? I don't know.

Mayor Ruais: I will ask the question and what they can share, I will make sure that I get it to the board.

Alderman O'Neil: This means nothing to me right now.

J. King: May I speak to that really quickly? Just so you're aware, we will never put down a number unless we can verify it. But we have standards. We're not even allowed to know.

Alderman O'Neil: Right. I understand now. You're not providing these numbers.

J. King: Some of them we are; some of them.

Alderman O'Neil: But we're not providing the total numbers here. You're not saying that.

Mayor Ruais: It's an aggregate that he gets from the groups. When we request information, they will send us the information. He puts it together. And that's what I get. And I distribute and share.

J. King: And we will never put a number down unless it's verifiable. I would rather look bad than give false information because false information solves nothing. I'm just going to put that out right now. There's not a number on there that I didn't put down that I don't know is factual. And that will always be the way. Maybe this will ease some minds when it comes to Narcan. A place like this is great because if we Narcan somebody and we have to do it, we always call AMR. No matter what they want, we will always call an ambulance if Narcan is used, which means every OD that happens on our property, is recorded. So we will never give false information.

Alderman O'Neil: Groups coming in here all the time looking for housing funding from us. I want to be able to sit here and say we're supporting somebody, an organization. This is not talking about you supporting an organization that is making a difference in the community. That's what I want to know. That's what I want to know. Some of these people have gone to Neighborworks. They've gone to FIT. They've gone to wherever. That's what I want to know.

Mayor Ruais: I will send that. I will do the outreach to those 25 groups and get what I'm able to.

Alderman Sapienza: It seems like this whole thing has grown exponentially beyond what was originally proposed. Not too far back, we were told that there was a maximum of 20 people, and it was the neediest people in the city, the blind, the crippled, etc. and it just seems like this thing has gone exponentially beyond that. I'm looking at the agreement here, just as a compensation the vendor will provide the city with. And I'll be brief, with a detailed invoice with respect to each month, no later than the 10th of the month, the vendor will charge the city for the services at the rate of no more than \$73,520 per month. I mean, that's a lot of money. I mean, it just seems like this thing has just gotten out of hand, quite frankly.

Mayor Ruais: So it's \$300,000 less than what we've been paying in aggregate. One of the concerns, I think, rightful concerns, was that we were paying \$30,000 a month at 39 Beech Street. This is more than half of that amount cut off of that. So we've saved everywhere we can. I think I would have Director Michaud come up and talk about the hoteling budget that we had in FY 2001, when we went a million and a half over the welfare budget, because we were putting people in hotels, as we're required to through the RSA. I think the concern that we would have, as I articulate in the packet, is that for rough instances, if we had 100 people, which is what we've had between the 40 bed shelter and the 60 or 65 people that are engaging in winter warming, those 100 people, we as a city would be required to hotel. The amount that Director Michaud gave us was \$3,750 a month per person, roughly \$110 a day to a hotel per individual. So you're looking at \$375,000 for one month of hoteling for those 100 people that we now have at the engagement center for far cheaper per month. So when I talk about this being a cost effective way and by the way, these aren't city dollars. Again, this is ARPA. Before, it was affordable housing trust fund dollars. I don't want to take from that. These are charitable gaming dollars. It's our CDFA funds. These are opioid abatement funds, which is for 17 years. I don't think we're going to be in the same position 17 years from now. But that is a 17 year effort that we have through opioid abatement.

Alderman Terrio: Now that we have a city auditor, are we able to audit these contracts in these organizations to look for efficiencies and cost savings?

Mayor Ruais: Certainly. I think Alderwoman Fajardo last year asked how much money in aggregate had been spent since the beginning of 39 Beech Street. All ARPA money.

Alderman Terrio: I mean, I would like to do that in the future. I don't think anything nefarious is going on. But to look for cost savings and efficiencies and avoid redundancies, I think we should in the near future.

Alderman Kantor: Is this a low barrier or high barrier shelter?

Mayor Ruais: I listed off the rules that are currently in place at 39 Beech Street. And all those rules will come into effect over at the new location. One of the things that I talked about in September was if there's something that you are looking for, I am more than

happy to go to the solicitor and say, what can we do legally, under the various rules that we fall under for federal requirements for those in need? But if there is something that you are not seeing on those rules, by all means, let's bring it to the solicitor and see what we're allowed to do.

Alderman Kantor: So do you check IDs?

J. King: Oh, we don't check IDs. We're not allowed to check IDs for certain shelters. But if we are told to check IDs, we will check IDs.

Mayor Ruais: And if that's something that we're told is okay to do, more than happy to do it. I don't know why we wouldn't.

Alderman Kantor: It's very important that we are serving American citizens as well. And only American citizens. The other thing is sex offenders. Do you allow sex offenders?

Mayor Ruais: I don't think we're allowed to not allow them in.

Alderman Kantor: So technically, this is a low barrier shelter.

Mayor Ruais: Yeah, however you would want to classify it. I listed off the rules that are on there.

Alderman Kantor: Well it does say in the contract that you can't refuse anyone that is under the influence.

Mayor Ruais: That's illegal.

Alderman Kantor: So that is low barrier. So that's been my big thing, is protecting women.

Mayor Ruais: Individuals when they've been too intoxicated, when they've been disruptive, you have removed them.

J. King: Yes.

Alderman Kantor: My concern is protecting women in their spaces as well as men. And for me, excessive drugs and drugs are being used and then people are overdosing inside.

J. King: It happens. That's what happens with addiction.

Alderman Kantor: And some people are outside using drugs right on the property at 39 Beech Street. And then they go back in. So this is triggering for someone that is trying to stay sober. This is where this has been a problem since day one when I came on, when I saw an amazing group, Gatehouse, pull people off the streets, making a difference in people's lives.

J. King: We have more than half of those people back.

Alderman Kantor: Bottom line is, you know, once, twice, I'm not saying anything about you specifically, I'm talking about the situation in allowing this to go on and not protecting female spaces. And I did bring up and help two other women get into housing, get on the list when Adrienne Beloin did not. So I just feel for me, that we're right back to the same thing. It's just now on Elm Street. And are you going to be able to keep the drugs off of the property? And it's going to affect all the neighbors. It's just how it is. And what is the definition of aged and infirmed? What is the definition? Is there a clear outline of what is aged and infirmed?

Mayor Ruais: So we can share the definition. They've been working on it the last couple of weeks. Right now, I believe the number is 17 or 15 that are currently either over the age of 65 there. The other numbers in there are those that are utilizing walkers, those that are in wheelchairs, that would be infirmed, obviously aged would be over the age of 65. Those who are infirmed are the ones that are using walkers, using wheelchairs. There are some individuals that are missing limbs that would classify as infirmed as well, individuals that are being released from the hospital. As we've talked about, there is no respite care. It's certainly not nearly enough respite care. Randy can speak to this point. No respite care in the state of New Hampshire, so an individual will get released from a hospital. If they're homeless, they'll be right out on the streets. I think the purpose that we've defined for or the need for this is what you were describing, I would prefer to

have it in one location than in 30 to 40 encampments around the city and all of your wards. We had a great meeting last week. Chief Cashin will speak to that when he comes up. We had a great meeting last week with police and fire and talked about this being a new location that we have to lay down the law early and often and set that expectation of behavior. I think the numbers bear out that they've done a good job of enforcing the rules there. Of course, you're never going to be 100%, but I think they've done a good job of enforcing that. And the police and fire with squad one and with the community policing team will be on it from day one. And to your question, because I know we've chatted about this offline, Chief Cashin will speak to that transition period as well.

Alderman Bonilla: Jake, look, I wish you had your red sweater and khaki pants because you're doing us a favor. Honestly. So with the IDs, we heard it briefly before. If they have an ID, I think that's something to be cognizant about. And Alderman Kantor, when I look at these do nots, that barrier seems pretty hefty compared to other spaces that we've heard of. When I'm looking at figure two, I'd love Chief Cashin to just disaggregate that number.

Mayor Ruais: We had that conversation yesterday. He can deep dive what that contract is, the engagement center, the winter warming piece.

Alderman Bonilla: Please, because I know that certain people may confuse that and think that's just two people; it's like a full house of people. But overall, Jake, thank you for providing clarity to all of us. Because again, while I recognize Alderman O'Neil's intent and like knowing that we're making an impact, and I do, I do feel with you that, we all want to make sure that we're making an impact with dollars that are not city dollars at this moment. I do understand the importance of privacy. And again, thank you for providing clarity to all of us. But overall, I'd like to hear from our experts as well to provide us clarity with the dollar amounts.

Alderman Dexter: You just mentioned centralizing this, bringing it to one location instead of encampments around the city. We're moving it from 39 Beech Street to ward three, Elm Street. So my concern is, what are the security measures being brought into place? Can you talk about the building itself, also the surrounding area? Are we going to see

an uptick in police and fire response and patrols? There may be a perception of the downtown businesses, real or perceived, of the fact that an uptick in foot traffic and stuff because it's now closer to the downtown area. Can you speak to those points?

Mayor Ruais: Yeah. I'll have the expert speak to it, Chief Cashin, with our conversations with the police department as well. But last year, ahead of the vote on September 2nd on the funding package, we held a meeting with all of the businesses. How many was it? 90 letters that we sent out? We cast a very wide net to any business that was in a two mile radius of that location and invited them to the emergency operations center to have conversations with them. We've had subsequent conversations with the immediate abutter. We're putting up a fence that Chief Cashin can talk to one of your security questions. But we're also removing all of the video camera equipment to have that on the premises as well. The locks we're updating and changing to have that security in place as well. Given that the police department is a half mile away, they're there. They're in that immediate vicinity. It's not far, obviously, from Merrimack Street with the fire department. So squad one is in immediate availability, the premises as well. I'll let him speak to the infrastructure in the back, which I think is remarkably different from what we have at 39 Beech Street right now, where that whole half or horseshoe in the back is open. And that's where I think you saw a lot of the migration from that back into the neighborhoods that doesn't exist at this location. So it's going to be a very different location from an infrastructure standpoint. But I'll let the chief speak to that.

Alderman Dexter: I look forward to hearing all that.

Alderman Kaw-uh: So when it comes to folks without an ID in our community, I just wanted to emphasize the fact that that is actually part of what the engagement center is helpful for because a number of homeless individuals in our community may lack an ID because they have lost it, or it has somehow gotten misplaced in the churn of the life that they're trying to navigate. And some of the service providers who are able to connect with these individuals are able to then help them get connected back to whatever government they need, like local government, state government or federal government that needs to reissue certain identification to them. Because it's hard to access, for example, Medicaid or get housing or find a stable job without those identifying documents. So it's sort of like a first rung on the ladder, and I just wanted to

make sure that was said. It's one of the core services provided at the engagement center.

Mayor Ruais: So one thing I would note is that last year I called over to the president at Members First Credit Union and said, hey, we are running into this problem right now. One of the things that Jake and Melanie are telling us at the engagement center is that people can't afford the \$10 or \$15 for a non-driver's ID or an ID. Would you be willing to make a contribution to this effort to get people IDs? And they gave \$1,000. Now they couldn't directly donate to the city. So I called Catholic Charities where I used to work, and I said, would you mind being the intermediary for this? So \$1,000 went to Catholic Charities. We're able to draw down on that account to get people identification, because we recognize that that's a prohibitive barrier. So rather than just allow people to stay on the streets and not get ID and not get that first rung on the ladder to getting Medicaid, Medicare, housing, jobs, we actually are able to provide that so we can get people off the streets, break that cycle and into a sustainable life. Absent the engagement center, they're going to be going to encampments all around the city saying, can I get you an ID? Can I get you an ID? A far less efficient situation I could not imagine.

J. King: We work really closely with city welfare. So we know that this shelter and this engagement center is for Manchester residents only. Never mind people from out of the country, but Manchester residents only. So we might end up with somebody from another community for a very short time. But we work with them and quickly find out where they're from. And then make sure that the people who are responsible for them end up taking them in, if you will. So we pretty much only deal with Manchester residents.

Alderman Barry: You actually threw me off, Jake, when you said you weren't asking for IDs. Because one of the things that we pushed for, just like the mayor just said, was that we found an outlet in this case, the credit union, to come up with some money so that if someone didn't have an ID, they could get it. I would highly recommend that you do ask for IDs because number one, you should be keeping a list of who's coming and who's going. And so we know if we have repeats and all that, not that you have to give us the information.

J. King: Right.

Alderman Barry: I think it's important because if they don't have an ID, the only way you're going to know if they don't have an ID is if you ask them, and if they don't have one, ask them why don't you have one. And what can we do to get you one? Because if we're hoping that they're going to go out in the workforce or they need Medicare or Medicaid or whatever they need we have that outlet for them.

Mayor Ruais: They are required to sign in.

J. King: Yes, they're required to sign in. I can speak to a couple layers of that real quick. One, some of the funding that is coming in makes it illegal for us to ask for IDs. We can't ask for their ID, but one of our intake questions is, do you have an ID? And if you don't, why not? Which gives us some flexibility. We can't deny them for not having an ID, but we can make them answer if they have an ID or not so that we can help them get an ID. That is the best I can answer, but we're on the same page.

Alderman Barry: I spoke with you earlier today. Obviously our colleague Alderman Thomas isn't here tonight, but she wanted me to let you know that she is in favor of this as long as there's accountability and that the rules are followed and that people behave, and if they don't follow the rules, then there's consequences that will follow.

J. King: Absolutely. We don't want people not following the rules because we're the ones who have to deal with them 24 hours a day, and it's hard. We believe in accountability.

Ryan Cashin, Fire Chief: Thank you for having us up here. I do want to show my appreciation for this board supporting these projects and how this has gone. You know, I want to take a minute, and I'm not going to give the full recap, but I did want to say a lot of these things have started over the course of many years now. It started back in 2021. Chief Goonan was involved with some of the beginnings of this. This project has been going on for a while. The city has stepped up in a very positive way to address this issue from this board to city employees to partners. People have rallied around this to make this better, and to simply state it, on Friday we had five known encampments in

the city of Manchester with less than a dozen people in them total. Four years ago, it was much higher than that. And those encampments are being worked on. And through this entire process, it has been a process of always compassionately outreaching to these encampments and doing everything we can to try to help the unhoused individuals either find home, find a job through various sources and means. The police have done their job, right? We have to enforce certain laws and rules, and we've done that while also providing compassionate places for these unhoused individuals to go. I'm proud of the effort. There's some city employees in this city that have stepped up over the last few years. I'm not going to name them all, because then I'll forget one, and then they'll yell at me. But I'm going to tell you what. There are a lot of people who have stepped up to make this situation a lot better than it was. In October of 2022, we were basically tasked with trying to get a warming station set up in the winter of 2022-2023. That warming station started at the Cashin Center, and that burn rate was up to \$10,000 a day. We were in an emergency operation at that point. I can assure you, from every bone in my body, I do not want to go back to that situation for more than one reason. Since then, we've opened up warming stations. We've had multiple partners at 1269, 39 Beech Street shelters, engagement centers, partners, outreach squad, community policing, health department, planning, solicitor's office. Every single city department has chipped in to get us to where we are. I can't thank them all enough for that. I feel like the mayor set me up for a lot of things. I'm going to try to blast through them. Basically, the Manchester Fire Department Emergency Management Division has been coordinating the transition of the Shelter Engagement Center and warming station from 39 Beech to 200 Elm for several months now in order to ensure a seamless transition and a smooth transition possible. I can tell you that this has been a multi-phased project. From negotiating contracts to coordinating renovations at the building. I can tell you the renovations are moving forward and expected to be completed in time for the transition. I want to thank East Coast Evolution Leadership and the following city departments: Police, MTA, Facilities, Info Systems, Solicitor, Welfare, Health, Planning, Human Resources, and the mayor's office, and multiple other partners that have made this possible in order to achieve a seamless transition. The basic plan is we are going to operate both locations for a 4 to 5 day span, starting next week. The exact day we are going to identify tomorrow, but next week we're going to start the transition. We will transition the aged and infirmed shelter residents to 200 Elm at some point next week.

We will maintain 39 Beech Street operations for the remaining days until March 1st. At March 1st, 39 Beech Street will close. I'm fairly comfortable saying that we are not planning on extending the warming station beyond March 1st. We believe that the weather pattern is going to change. We're starting to see those changes happen in the warming station right now; it is starting to decrease. Some of the anticipated tasks that we've completed include supply lists, data comparisons. We've had three planning meetings with multiple city departments. The final meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. Some of the things that we're going to be working on at 200 Elm and please ask questions after if I don't hit them, we are working on installing a temporary fence in the back to maintain a safe perimeter for the residents. We are going to be installing a lift in the back to get the aged and infirmed residents down to the back so that they're not out on Elm Street. The mayor has committed to all the neighbors in that area that we're going to do everything we can to keep everyone secure in the back. The shelter is going to be smaller. We are anticipating that to be much more feasible.

Mayor Ruais: Can you speak to the lift for one second just to remove any question that might come up? That lift is paid for how?

R. Cashin: That lift is paid for through the Housing Champions grants.

Mayor Ruais: So not city dollars. This is a grant that we are transferring from its original intended purpose at the other location we were going to do housing at to this purpose.

R. Cashin: Yes, that is correct. We are working on setting up temporary internet and security. We'll be moving cameras this week so that we have security, internet, and basic facilities. The idea is that we're going to set up basically an emergency shelter at 200 Elm until we can fully move all of the remaining items from 39 Beech to 200 Elm. Over the course of the next coming days that plan has been coordinated. It will get a final stamp of approval tomorrow. Again, a lot of city employees and departments have been meeting on this, working on this, and they've done a phenomenal job and I can't thank them enough. This has been a build the plane while you fly it operation from the beginning. I'm open to any questions that anybody wants to talk about. You know, this has not been a straight line. But at the end of the day, the results speak for themselves. I can assure you, as to the mayor's kind words of an expert, I did not take any of these

classes at the New Hampshire Fire Academy. What I do know is that a lot of people have pulled together to make this work. A lot of very smart, motivated people that work in the city, and I really appreciate them. With that, I'll touch quickly on the contracts and then everyone can ask a couple questions if they wish. In order to maintain transparency and accountability with the contracts, what we did was basically break up the contracts for East Coast Evolutionary Leadership into three different contracts. And in those contracts, we were able to through the negotiating team the mayor set up, we're able to negotiate some savings. And also to understand that this is not a static event. So there's the shelter, the engagement center and the warming station. These are three individual things happening in the same place at the same time, and understanding that staffing can move with these things throughout the year. So everything looks different in the summer than it does in the winter. Starting with the shelter. Basically, what we negotiated was to have essentially one staff there all the time. Additional staff will be there at night time to help out. It was determined that two is the bare minimum staff that we need to operate this shelter. Anything below that is a safety hazard, both for the residents and the staff that are working there. The engagement center is for one staff, basically eight hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. That engagement center is where we pull a lot of the numbers out of. That's where we have a lot of connections happen. You know, Charleen and I were speaking about some of the earlier things we'd run into, it was hard when we had a lot of unhoused people on the streets getting them to accept help. When somebody is on the streets, they are in survival mode. And when they're in survival mode, they don't want a ton of help. Well, slowly and surely, we've gotten through those walls. The final contract is for the warming station. A warming station, obviously, is a matter of fatality prevention and can be a matter of life and death. We had winter days this year that were -30 degrees at night. You know, that is a serious time. Nobody should be outside when it's -30 degrees. That is a life safety hazard and a bare minimum as a society I think that we should be offering. The minimum staffing for the warming station is high, slightly higher, that is staffed at three people, as there are going to be more people in the warming station than there are in the shelter and engagement center just due to the weather. These contracts flow along with the seasons. They also flow along with the staffing. It allows ECL to have enough leeway to flex and run the shelter according to their rules and regulations that are also part of the contract. And it also allows the city to

comfortably mitigate any risks of understaffing while providing that at a fairly reasonable price.

Alderman Kantor: What funding is keeping this a low barrier shelter?

R. Cashin: I'm sorry?

Alderman Kantor: What funding?

R. Cashin: The funding?

Alderman Kantor: What funding is keeping this a low barrier shelter?

Mayor Ruais: So last year, what we funded was with ARPA dollars and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund dollars. My understanding is that the advice that we've been given from a legal standpoint is that when federal dollars are involved, but again, like I said before, if there are rules that you don't see present here that you would like to include, more than happy to to work with the solicitor and say, hey, we've had a request. Is this something that we can legally do if it's different with the opioid abatement dollars that we want to use, if it's different with the charitable gaming, if that becomes a different operation, then I'm more than happy to work with the solicitor and the board to identify additional rules to put in place. But, you know, the ones that we have up there are what is in place right now.

Alderman Kantor: Got it. ARPA dollars. Are there going to be medical staff for the aged and infirmed?

Mayor Ruais: So right now, all of those individuals that are transferring over are at the shelter. This is a shelter environment.

Alderman Kantor: It is a city funded shelter then?

Mayor Ruais: City funded. Correct. Not city run. We don't have city staff in there running the day to day operation. We don't have any nonprofits in the state that have the capacity to take on \$900,000 annually. You know, I reached out during the last two

years to just about every large nonprofit in the state. And I said, can I get \$250,000 from you? \$300,000 from you two? I worked. And that's what led to the conversations with the hospitals that got the \$300,000 and change in funding to keep it open during the winter months. But there isn't an entity in the state of New Hampshire that has the capacity to fund this entirely on their own. Which is why what I'm proposing is that we fund it through opioid abatement dollars, charitable gaming, and CDBG funding. Still not city taxpayer dollars, but these are the funding entities that we have at our disposal to fund this. But there isn't a nonprofit in New Hampshire or a business that can shell out \$900,000 a year for this.

Alderman Kantor: Is the homeless coordinator going to have his office down there?

Mayor Ruais: He's there. I mean, his office right now is in my office, but he's down there. I mean, the vast majority of the time he spends his day down there. I'd be happy to set up an office for him there.

Alderman Kantor: Well, because it just says it in the contract. It says that he has the oversight of this. And I was just wondering how the data is going to come through.

Mayor Ruais: We get the data through the team at ECEL. I talked to Owen and we get those monthly reports from Jake who aggregates them from the community partners that are on site.

Alderman Kantor: I saw that there were like 4,000 provided services and I was just wondering what those provided services were.

Mayor Ruais: What that is, is the aggregated number from the 25 different community groups that are in there. So when they're making a connection and saying we talked to them about housing, we got them connected to the continuum of care to get on the coordinated entry housing list. We got them signed up for Medicaid. We got them a job. We got them ID. That all constitutes what those connections are.

Alderman Kantor: But it is still a low barrier shelter. So you're going to allow sex offenders to sleep next to other women.

Mayor Ruais: The guidance that we've been given is that we are required from the federal government.

Alderman Kantor: Well, it just doesn't make for a safe atmosphere for someone.

Charleen Michaud, Welfare Director: I hear your concern in that regard. But from my perspective, if sex offenders were not allowed there, we would have the obligation to hotel them.

Alderman Kantor: I think that they need a special home to recover from that. The shelter Beacon on Brook, that's not being funded. Is that true, mayor?

Mayor Ruais: They don't have the funding.

Alderman Kantor: So to me, I'm for women and children before men that choose to make bad decisions.

Mayor Ruais: Which is why we are working with Family Promise to build that 20 bed transitional living facility to take those women out of there.

Alderman Kantor: When is that going to happen?

Mayor Ruais: My budget next month.

Alderman Kantor: They're going to close. And where are they going to go? And we have all this money that could actually go to something else instead of this. It's the same thing. 39 Beech Street, I said don't build it. They will come. All the first responders, we're tired of it. They were tired of dealing with all the shenanigans and the overdoses and everything. And I mean, and then now we're doing it again, but we're just changing it to only 20 beds. So I just don't, it just doesn't add up to me.

Alderman Goonan: This is a ton of work. And I really commend the city and our partners from health and police and Ryan and fire and welfare. I think we've learned from the past decade. I was in the early part of this, and it was a monumental task. I think we've learned a lot since then, this is a very difficult population, as we all know. And I think

we're doing a good job right now with the engagement center and with all the services there. I do like the idea of sheltering the infirmed at least, those were just terrible situations. I just think you guys did a great job. Jake has done a great job. I'm a big fan. I gotta hand it to you, mayor, this has got to be an unbelievable amount of work to put this together. I'm 100% for it. I think it's going to work well. And, you know, when you talk about Narcan that we were talking about before and whether we can identify every single overdose, I don't think it really matters in the big picture. I think we're getting these people who are coming from all walks of life another shot at treatment, another shot at life. I think with the engagement center, it's going to help. It's going to help them there and it's going to give them a pathway out of homelessness and a pathway to sobriety. So I really appreciate all the work that we put into it.

Alderman Trisciani: I think absolutely, what Alderman Goonan just said, we are seeing the results. We're seeing that this is improving. We are also finally really moving into taking care of this challenge and taking care of our most underserved community members and trying to help them get a leg up. Jake's team has been great. Charlene's team at welfare has been amazing. At this point, this is, for lack of a better term, we're doing Groundhog Day here. You know, watching the meetings prior to being on the board, being on the board again, these are the same questions that haven't changed and the results speak for themselves at this point.

Alderman Trisciani moved to approve \$250,000 in Opioid Abatement funding; \$150,000 in ARPA: Renovations/Overhead funding; \$75,000 in Charitable Gaming funding; the Winter Warming contract; the Engagement Center contract; and the Staffing contract. Alderman Kaw-uh duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Sapienza: If we're going to have 20 aged, infirm people in there, wouldn't we have to have medical on site 24 hours a day?

Mayor Ruais: It is the same condition that we have at 39 Beech Street. We are transitioning over to this for this population, but we're not required to have it on site because we're not providing medical care. We're just providing the shelter as we're currently doing.

Alderman Sapienza: Well, you did say it's going to be different because it's only going to be 20 people and it's going to be aged and infirmed.

Mayor Ruais: It's different in that we're focusing on the most vulnerable. What I heard last year from the board was we don't want to spend \$30,000 a month on rent. We want to reduce it to the people who are most in need and then winter warming. Those were the big ticket items that I heard. So I thought that this plan most closely resembled what I was asked to do.

Alderman Sapienza: 20 aged and infirmed people with no medical on site is going to be a recipe for disaster.

Mayor Ruais: Well, it's what we have now, and I would rather have them there than on the streets and in encampments.

Alderman Vincent: I do agree this is a tremendous amount of work that you put into this. And there's lots of parties that truly do care, and they want to make a difference. And we're grateful for that. I continue to support that. I just want to ask a couple of quick questions. Two quick ones, really the \$245,000, it says it's going to get approved on March 25th. Is it? We're good with that? That will be approved?

Mayor Ruais: So the CDFA has approved it. They've had it, it is now before the Governor and Council.

Alderman Vincent: We have a good feeling on that?

Mayor Ruais: A good warm and fuzzy feeling.

Alderman Vincent: I believe you I just want to make sure and I do support this and I will support this because it's a better plan than no plan. And it is the right plan. And you've put enough work into it to show that. I just ask that this is for 12 months, so 12 months from now we're dealing with this now with two weeks left before it's go time, can we try to be ahead of the curve?

Mayor Ruais: Yes.

Alderman Vincent: Not deal with it the month before?

Mayor Ruais: In the last paragraph that I have here, so right now there is \$500,000. So I guess I could have articulated this better at the beginning. We're not running out of money on March 1st. That's what I wanted to get away from last year, which is why we had that 19 month build up in that funding. We're not running out of money on March 1st. There's \$500,000 currently in the account with \$245,000 coming in from CDFA. I'm going to put \$75,000 in the budget that will be there on July 1st. And with the funding that could be approved tonight, we will have \$1.3 million in there. It's going to cost \$969,000 to run it.

Alderman Vincent: No, I get all that. I do get all that.

Mayor Ruais: Basically this is a 17 month buffer now.

Alderman Vincent: But we're not going to wait until month 16?

Mayor Ruais: No.

Alderman Vincent: I'm not trying to say that I don't understand. I just want to make sure that it's known that we're not going to put ourselves in this situation again, because it's important to everybody that's sitting on this board as well as people out there that we're not going to be doing a last minute push, that's all. That's all I wanted to make sure we were tracking.

Alderman O'Neil: I walked in tonight going to vote for this. I'm leaving here tonight voting for this. Sorry; I apologize to you that I got a little heated. I apologize I got a little heated. I had a chance to speak briefly to Jake. If we can't substantiate numbers, they shouldn't be put down. That's all I'm saying. Don't put them down. I take them that they're real. But if we can't verify it, we shouldn't put them down. It's great stuff. If one person got a job or one person got housing, that's great.

Mayor Ruais: So I made the commitment earlier. I will reach out whenever I can.

Alderman O'Neil: I get a little heated on that. But I was voting for. I'm still voting for it.

Mayor Ruais: Your questions were well taken. I'm asking you to fund something.

Alderman O'Neil: I am, and I'm voting to fund.

Mayor Ruais: But you have the right to ask where this is going.

Alderman O'Neil: I apologize to all of you.

Alderman Fajardo: A couple of things that I saw in the contract that I have questions on and a couple of clarifying points, because this is very detailed, and sometimes I think it spins me around in a circle, if I'm being honest. I want to understand that. So figure 1, \$969,400, that's funding 2026 to 2027. Is figure 2, \$889,400 funding 2027 through 2028? And that is reliant on that \$500,000 seed funding?

Mayor Ruais: Yes, that figure one is what it will cost to run it for the next 12 months. You're 100% correct. What the commitment that I made in my inaugural was that I was going to come forward with, hey, if we wanted to fund this in perpetuity, here's what it would cost.

Alderman Fajardo: I clapped for that. Figure two, \$889,400. That's the 2027 to 2028 operating costs. That includes the \$500,000. Do we have that \$889,000?

Mayor Ruais: So in figure three I outline how we would pay for that. What I say in the last paragraph here, if the board were to approve this funding tonight, it gives us \$1.37 million that covers that \$969,000, and leaves us with a balance of \$408,000. That's that nest egg with the funding that we will ask for next year, early on to Alderman Vincent's point, that we will ask for early on so that we're now a year ahead of when the funding would run out so we can spend the next 18 months saying, hey, you know what, Jay? I really don't like this. Can we change it now? We're not operating under that crisis mode. We have the opportunity to call an audible without worrying about people pouring out into our streets.

Alderman Fajardo: Yes. Thank you. And I really support that alone. Plus a lot of the other things that I know that we've heard about and that I know so many people in our community and our city have helped to move the needle on but planning ahead

and creating a strategy is something that I think we're all pretty much excited about at this point. So another question. The bottom floor renovation line item amount of \$75,000.

Mayor Ruais: So that \$75,000 is going to finish the renovations on the top. It's going to finish some of the fencing renovations on the side and in the back. And then of that \$150,000, that's that budget for that bottom floor. So the \$150,000 for tonight, I didn't want to start operating on anything, what I didn't want to do was come in here and say, hey, we've already started on the bottom floor without me asking you. Now I need more money for it. I didn't want to do anything on the bottom floor before we came to you and talked to you about it.

Alderman Fajardo: Much appreciated. So regarding that \$75,000 investment or whatever that specific amount is for the investment on the first floor renovations, is there an opportunity for that investment to go back to the city's rent line item? In other words, can we if we're investing that amount in someone else's building that they own, that they essentially benefit from because we've improved their property, how are we potentially seeing a return on that investment?

R. Cashin: When you're leasing a building, or renovate a building, the improvements that you make stick with the building. So the improvements that we're making is to run, obviously, the shelter on the second floor and then to bring in partners on the first floor offices. You know, there are opportunities there. And, you know, I think the biggest opportunity at the end of the day is the investment, and the return is the reduced amount of encampments around the city. But all those deals have not been negotiated. So, you know, without getting ahead of ourselves, I think the answer to your question, anything is possible, if that's fair. So there's been no direct negotiations.

Alderman Fajardo: So to restate that back, I heard you now just say you have not negotiated that specific thing, but maybe you can and you will now that I've raised it.

R. Cashin: Yes.

Alderman Fajardo: Thank you. There was a lot about conduct for the vendor. There's a lot about laws and regulations that they need to abide by regarding staffing and hiring and that sort of thing. We also have our rules for guest conduct. I'm curious about staff conduct. Is there anything to that effect that is outlined? I guess what my actual question is, is when we choose to outsource the daily operation to a vendor, and we're not taking on that step of staffing, which I understand we can't, nor do I think any of us want to necessarily, so grateful that we have that, I just want to make sure that our community members who are utilizing that space are getting the best treatment and I suppose the utmost professionalism from the staff. And so anyway, long story short, is there any kind of staff conduct that maybe you provide or anything to that effect? I'm looking at Mr. King because I know that you do that staffing work.

J. King: Yes. So we have very strict policies and very high standards. We have a certain amount of training that everybody has to receive a certain amount of experience in the field. Everybody gets background checked. And though we do try to hire people with lived experience with homelessness or within the addiction and recovery they have to have a certain amount of time in recovery for it to be safe for them. And yeah, we have very strict boundary issues. Everybody has to get trauma informed care training. It's very important to us that our guests are getting the best. People are people, we will hire people and be very disappointed by them, but they won't stick around.

Alderman Dexter: Just to come back to my question on security, just one last thing. And I know Chief Marr just stepped upstairs to take a seat, but if you could pop down for a second. While he's doing that, I want to acknowledge the fact that unhoused individuals are not always a problem, and many of them are just in a situation that they can't get themselves out of and do not provide problems to the staff or our city businesses and residents. With that said, when there is a problem, Chief can you just ensure that there's going to be active patrols in the area, especially the downtown businesses? And not just, you know, a reactive approach to this?

Peter Marr, Chief of Police: Yes, absolutely. I can assure you that.

Alderman Dexter: I figured it was a quick, easy question. I hate to drag you down here for that. I also have the background, so I know, I just wanted to kind of get it on the record that that was the plan.

*Mayor Ruais called for a vote. The motion carried with **Aldermen Kantor and Sapienza** being duly recorded in opposition.*

- 25.** Budget projections to be submitted by Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, if available.

Sharon Wickens, Finance Director: Based on estimates provided by department heads, the projected general fund operating surplus for fiscal year 2026 is \$91,000. This surplus consists of an expenditure surplus of \$311,000 and a revenue deficit of \$220,000. Public Works is projecting a \$400,000 revenue shortfall due to reduced chargeback services for the school district. This decrease is offset by an equivalent reduction in overall expenses. However, the department has experienced a particularly challenging winter, resulting in overages and overtime salt and fuel expenditures. After accounting for all factors, Public Works is reporting a net expenditure overage of \$100,000. Comcast franchise fees revenue continued to decline, with the most recent quarterly payment being the lowest received since January of 2003. The tax collector reports an increase in auto registrations, with fleet registrations continuing to positively impact revenues. The forecasted surplus includes a \$110,000 allocation for the contingency account. As of February 13th, 2026, there have been 25 retirements compared to 21 during the same period last year. Severance payments through this date totaled \$961,296, down from \$1,078,543 a year ago. Following the posting of all related entries, the severance reserve account is projected to hold a balance of \$1,763,006. I've also attached a department summary of severance paid through February 16th and a departmental overtime report as of February 6th.

Alderman Sapienza: These are the city numbers right there, not the school numbers.

S. Wickens: That's correct.

Alderman Sapienza: Do you monitor that situation at all? Because it's eventually going to come to us.

S. Wickens: I monitor their bonding, but they're in a completely different financial system than we are.

Alderman Sapienza: Understood. But it is sooner rather than later, it's going to come to us. And I was just wondering if you do any monitoring on that side.

S. Wickens: Not on any of their financial positions. They do submit audit numbers for our audit, but I have no ability to go in and do anything. Although I do believe we have the auditor going in.

Alderman Sapienza: Right. Other than the bonding like you mentioned.

S. Wickens: Yes. So when they do bonding, that is part of the city's bonding. We go out to market and we sell bonds for whatever the projects are that they want to get and we monitor those. But most of their projects are deferred maintenance on the school. That's handled by the Facilities Division here at the city. So they're the ones doing the work and pulling the money out of the project. But it's a school project.

Alderman Sapienza: So let me ask you, say, for example, the building project, the \$360 million bonding, is that monitored by your office at all?

S. Wickens: So, they do have a project manager and at a high level, the Department of Public Works Director Clougherty and others monitor some of the things that are going through. But it's not down to necessarily the invoice level, but it's monitoring at a high level.

Alderman Sapienza: And do you see any issue with that or what at this point?

S. Wickens: I haven't and it hasn't been brought to my attention.

Mayor Ruais: But you can speak to the fact that it's \$231 million now, not \$290 million.

S. Wickens: So that's correct. So they had originally done a bond for \$290 million. And instead of going out and bonding that they knew they were not going to need this money all right up front. So they did a one year bank anticipation note and used cash to pay

that down. And then it came just recently, well last November they decided, that with the cash flow they could do another bank anticipation note. And that was \$80,000. That paid off the first thing and gave them a little bit of money in November. Again, we will go out for the full amount of money which will pay off that. So it's gone from \$290 million because they've been paying with cash to \$231 million. That will be the bond. It won't be \$290 million any longer.

Alderman Sapienza: I asked because it's eventually going to come across us for approval or whatnot. Their budget and it all ties in.

26. *On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Terrio**, it was voted to recess the meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.*

27. Mayor Ruais called the meeting back to order.

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

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

“Amending the FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the FY2023 CIP 611423 ARPA Homeless Response and Emergency Shelter Operations.”

“Amending the FY2025 and FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) for the FY2025 CIP 711725 Traffic Signal - Cilley/Jewett.”

“Amending the FY2023 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the FY2025 CIP 711825 Amoskeag WB Design & Construction.”

“Amending the FY2023 and FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$325,000) for the FY2026 CIP C160060726 Aged

and Infirm Shelter Project.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (\$116,753) for the FY2026 CIP C160060926 200 Elm, Fire Suppression/ADA Improvements.”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000) for the FY2026 CIP C500071226 Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTP).”

“Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the FY2026 CIP C500071226 Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTP).”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

*On motion of **Alderman O’Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Terrio**, it was voted to waive the reading by titles only.*

*On motion of **Alderman Terrio**, duly seconded by **Alderman O’Neil**, it was voted to approve the committee’s report and adopt its recommendation.*

29. Report(s) of this evening's remaining committees, if available.

The Special Committee on Solid Waste Activities respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the request from the Solid Waste Environmental Programs Manager for authorization for the Department of Public Works to extend its contract with Waste Management as negotiated be approved.

*On motion of **Alderman Burkush**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, it was voted to approve the committee’s report and adopt its recommendation.*

The Committee on Lands and Buildings respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the Assessors market value appraisal of the Wilson School Property and the minimum bid as determined by the committee be approved.

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman Bonilla**, it was voted to approve the committee's report and adopt its recommendation.*

30. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2022 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the FY2023 CIP 611423 ARPA Homeless Response and Emergency Shelter Operations."

"Amending the FY2025 and FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) for the FY2025 CIP 711725 Traffic Signal - Cilley/Jewett."

"Amending the FY2023 and FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the FY2025 CIP 711825 Amoskeag WB Design & Construction."

"Amending the FY2023 and FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$325,000) for the FY2026 CIP C160060726 Aged and Infirmed Shelter Project."

"Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (\$116,753) for the FY2026 CIP C160060926 200 Elm, Fire Suppression/ADA Improvements."

"Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000) for the FY2026 CIP C500071226 Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTP)."

"Amending the FY2026 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the FY2026 CIP C500071226 Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTP)."

*On motion of **Alderman Terrio**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to waive the reading by titles only.*

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, it was voted that the Resolutions ought to pass and be Enrolled.*

31. Bond Resolution:

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000) for the 2026 CIP C540072026 Parking Deferred Maintenance.”

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman Bonilla**, it was voted to waive the reading by title only.*

*On motion of **Alderman Bonilla**, duly seconded by **Alderman Goonan**, it was voted that the Bond Resolution ought to pass and be Enrolled.*

32. Ordinances:

“Amending Section 33.026 (Urban Forester) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Section 33.026 (Water Works Utility Supervisor) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

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

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman Dexter**, it was voted that the Ordinances ought to pass and be Enrolled.*

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman O'Neil: I was a little early today for the board meeting, and there was a wedding going on in the Chambers. And it was one of the neatest things I've ever seen. Alderman Trisciani was in here and Director Michaud was in here. And it was pretty neat to see a wedding going on in the Chamber. Never saw that before.

Alderman Terrio: I'm a justice of the peace if you want to get married.

Mayor Ruais: I facilitated Mr. Carnes's wedding as a justice of the peace.

Alderman O'Neil: Apparently, weddings are done here all the time. First time I've ever seen one here.

Mayor Ruais: They make bank off of it.

Alderman O'Neil: It was very impressive, and it was special.

M. Intranuovo: I would say, Your Honor, it is a deal, though, for the public. It's very cheap.

Mayor Ruais: Putting in a plug, I love it. So we had reached out with a couple different emails regarding appointments of Aldermen that I can make to boards and commissions, which you'll have before you. These are the responses that I got from folks on these, and these are my appointments.

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Terrio**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

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

City Clerk

Meeting Start Time: 7:00PM
Meeting End Time: 10:03PM
Minutes Prepared By: Michael Intranuovo