

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ZONING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2001

PLEASE NOTE, BUDGET WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY.

Present: Ald. Yates (Chairman), Ald. M. Lipof, Sangiolo, Baker, Gentile, Johnson, and Merrill

Absent: Ald. Mansfield

City Officials: Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer), Mark Gilroy (Commissioner of Inspectional Services), Judy O'Brien (Principal Clerk, Inspectional Services), Michael Kruse (Director of Planning and Development), Steve Gartrell (Associate Director of Housing and Community Development), Linda Finucane (Clerk)

REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#123-01 ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT requesting Board of Aldermen authorization to submit to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) the FY2002 Annual Action Plan for the City of Newton and the Brookline-Newton-Waltham-Watertown HOME Consortium. **This Plan must be submitted to HUD by May 15, 2001.**

ACTION: APPROVED 6-0 (GENTILE NOT VOTING)

NOTE: Planning Director Michael Kruse and Associate Director Stephen Gartrell presented the Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Shelter Grant, and HOME programs (attached). The Plan is done in compliance with the Five Year Consolidated Plan submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development last year. It must be submitted to HUD by May 15. The neighborhood improvements in West Newton were developed with input from Alderman Gentile. Alderman Yates asked about the Homelessness Prevention Grant. It is carried out by the Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS). Alderman Yates asked if this service was known to the people of Newton who might be at risk of homelessness and if it was physically and psychological accessible to them. Mr. Gartrell said that all public and private agencies that provide homelessness services meet regularly, are aware of each other's programs, and could easily refer any person in need of these services to JFCS. He promised to provide a copy of the proposal (attached).

The HOME Consortium is well regarded by the housing development community. The Town of Bedford has an active application to join, and several other towns including Needham, Wellesley, and Lexington have expressed interest.

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Alderman Baker suggested that the wealth of information on CDBG and other department programs be made as available as possible via the worldwide web.

Alderman Merrill asked when public works projects funded by the CDBG program in his ward would begin construction. Constituents are beginning to ask. Mr. Kruse said that these projects are managed by the Engineering Department. He will check on the schedule.

The Committee voted to approve submittal of the Annual Action Plan to HUD 6 to 0 (Alderman Gentile not voting).

Respectfully submitted
Brian Yates, Chairman