

**CITY OF NORWALK  
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 15, 2025  
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Nicol Ayers; Chair, Heather Dunn, Anne Wennerstrand, Doug Sutton, Greg Burnett, Barbara Smith, DaJuan Wiggins

STAFF: Lamond Daniels; Chief of Community Services

OTHER: Anna Vivian Estrella; Human Services Director, Deanna D'Amore; Director of Health, Sherrelle Harris; Library Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Ayers called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called as reflected above.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Diane Lauricella  
21 Little Fox Lane

Ms. Lauricella wanted to know if there would be enough money in the budget for creative methods to increase community outreach for infectious disease prevention. She also stated she felt there should be fully funded, full-time lead and toxic material inspectors and free kn-95 masks. She also wanted to know the status of the renovation of the main library

## **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

A. Regular Meeting: November 20, 2024

**\*\* MS. DUNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **DISCUSSION**

A. Presentation on Community Services Department FY 26 Budget Proposal & Goals

Mr. Daniels presented the Budget proposal. He noted there had already been a discussion with the CFO about increases, decreases, and spending. He stated the goals and priorities of the proposed budget. He proceeded department by department to explain the reasoning behind the budget requests.

Mr. Daniels presented a slide show covering the following topics

- Introduction to the leadership team.
- The Mission Statement.
- The Goals.
- An overview of the FY26 Budget Proposal.
- A summary of the Budget Drivers.

Ms. Estrella made her presentation on Human Services. She showed a slide and discussed the following:

- The summary of budget changes

Ms. D'Amori made her presentation for the Health department. She showed slides and discussed the following:

- The FY25 vs. FY26 Health Department budget comparison.
- The summary of budget increase.
- The driving requests for the budget increase.

Ms. Harris made her presentation for the Public Library budget. She showed a slide and discussed the following:

- The FY25 vs. FY26 Public Library Budget Comparison.
- The summary of the budget changes.

Mr. Daniels Continued with a series of slides discussing the following:

- The Community Services grant budget.
- The FY25 vs. FY26 Department level budget comparison.
- The total budget for FY25 and FY26 breakdown by percentage for each department.
- The budget increase from FY25 to FY26
- The conclusion describing the key drivers of the increase.

Mr. Burnett wanted to know if there was a priority item that needed funding and if so what was the total budget request for that item. Ms. Estrella stated it was the Community Resource Hub. She said it would be a loss to the city if it was not championed. Ms. Harris indicated the library's main priority was the book budget. Ms. D'Amore noted her priority was staffing and having the infrastructure in place to meet the community needs.

Mr. Burnett wanted to know what the program impact would be if they didn't receive their priority request item. Ms. Estrella said the Hub would lose three full-time staff members resulting in a personal and community impact. Ms. Harris stated that cost increases would make it impossible to keep up with the needs of a growing population. She noted it would result in residents going to other libraries to find what they need. Ms. D'Amore indicated the need to meet the lead mandate. She explained if they couldn't hire the additional staffing for the lead mandate the funding would have to come from other areas. She also noted that it would impact their clinical services and what they can offer to the community.

Ms. Smyth was interested in the discussions about the Community Resource hub positions. Mr. Daniels stated there seemed to be a commitment by the CFO and mayor to identify necessary funding to keep the program in place.

Ms. Dunn had questions about collaboration with other departments. Ms. D'Amore indicated there was a collaboration to meet demand. Mr. Daniels said conversations were being held to prevent duplication of services. Ms. Dunn wanted to know where the funding was going to be budgeted. Ms. Estrella pointed out they collaborate with the family center. She explained the operations and relationships with all the parties involved. Ms. Ayers stated it's important for the committee to acknowledge and understand their work regarding partnership. Mr. Daniels pointed out that the services offered are open to all residents of the city. Ms. Dunn indicated she felt the hub should be the first line of defense that she could refer people to.

Ms. Ayers thanked the team for always referring back to the efficiency study. She acknowledged the award received on behalf of the Community Resource Hub. She also thanked the Ritter Foundation and Per and Astrid for their help.

Ms. Ayers wanted to know if the Library budget included the employee positions that were vacant in the last budget cycle. Ms. Harris indicated yes.

Mr. Daniels indicated the items listed in the budget were not wants, they were needs. They were programs that would keep Norwalk comparable with the surrounding communities.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

There were no action items

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MS. DUNN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
China Mayhew  
Telesco Secretarial Services