

**CITY OF NORWALK
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Nicole Ayers; Chair, Greg Burnett, Doug Sutton, Heather Dunn, Barbara Smyth,

STAFF: Lamond Danniels

OTHER: AnaVivian Estrella, Deanna D'Amore

1. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

Ms. Ayers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The roll was called as reflected above.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Diane Lauricella
21 Little Fox Lane

Ms. Lauricella wanted to acquire a list of the non-profit organizations set to receive funds allocated through ARPA. She also requested that backup materials be included in the online agendas, citing other committees that include them.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

**** MR. SUTTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

Ms. Smyth noted on page three that she felt there was a response to the question about tracking participants.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED.**

4. DISCUSSION

- a. Updates from the Chief of Community Services, Lamond Daniels

Mr. Daniels indicated he would reserve comments until his presentation.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Health Department

Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments as may be necessary to extend the student practicum/internship agreement between the City of Norwalk health department and Sacred Heart University Health Professions programs for a period of two (2) years ending on December 31, 2026.

Ms. D'Amore explained that this was one of several affiliation agreements with academic institutions to host interns at the Health Department. She noted the successful hosting of two interns from Sacred Heart University. She then expressed the hope that they could have a couple more interns and that the affiliation could be extended for two more years.

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Human Services

Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments as may be necessary with Elm City Village, Inc. and The House of Darla to provide vital services to high-risk youth referred to the Juvenile Review Board (JRB), Care Coordination, and high utilizers of community services in the amount of \$50,000 administered by the Human Services Department. Account # 132010-5796–ACS02.

Ms. Estrella described Elm City Village and their highly specialized style of mentoring. She stated they recruit people with lived experiences who have overcome adversities faced in their lifetime to become productive members of society. She said they wished to extend the program to cover not just the JRP but also the youth they know are falling through the cracks. Ms. Estrella noted the coupling with the House of Darla whose pro-social approach compliments Elm City's mentoring style.

Ms. Estrella answered Ms. Ayer's question as to numbers, stating that to date they have been able to serve 28 youths. Ms. Ayers also wanted to know where the additional funds would be going. Ms. Estrella explained it would be going to salaries and hourly wages for the mentoring. She stated it was a one-on-one mentor-to-child ratio. She also noted that the director for Elm City Village gets involved with virtually every case. Ms. Ayers asked about the program

structure. Ms. Estrella outlined the roles that would be played by Elm City Village and House of Darla over six months. She also noted the program would not be limited to the school year.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. Chief of Community Services

Authorize Mayor Harry W. Rilling to execute any and all necessary agreements, documents, instruments, or amendments with the selected nonprofit organizations, as outlined in the final ARPA Nonprofit Grant Allocations Report. In the amount of \$700,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to 20 nonprofit organizations to support their recovery efforts and continued service to the Norwalk community, as administered by the Community Services Department. Funding Source: ARPA Account 132010-5796-ACS03 (\$400,000) and 140000-5796-ACMF5 (\$300,000).

At 7: 15 p.m. Ms. Ayers recused herself and relinquished her chair to Councilman Burnett.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

Chief. Daniels discussed the finer points of the mental health press conference. He then presented a Power Point presentation covering the following:

- The Final round of ARPA funding and how the previous funding was applied.
- The Financial Allocations overview indicating twenty non-profit organizations were selected for funding.
- The evaluation and allocation process.
- The use of impartial reviewers to evaluate each non-profit application based on ARPA guidelines.
- The distribution of funding categories.
- The funding allocation per category.
- The ARPA funding allocation by category.
- Requested amounts vs. Final Allocation for ARPA funding.
- A summary of organizations and their use of ARPA funds..

Ms. Smyth thanked state Senator Bob Duff and Mayor Rilling for getting the additional funding.

Mr. Burnett thanked Chief Daniels for his efforts in creating a process that ensures the funding's positive impact will be widespread across all of Norwalk's residents.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. ADJOURN

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2024

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
China Mayhew
Telesco Secretarial Services.