SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE: FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 44, 2013 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND development programs to be funded under the community DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2015.

HELD:

Thursday, September 18, 2014

LOCATION:
Council Chambers
Scranton City Hall
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania

## CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT
PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
WAYNE EVANS
(Not present)
JOSEPH WECHSLER
WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK
KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

MR. MCGOFF: I'd like to call this public hearing to order. Roll call, please.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.
MR. WECHSLER: Here.
MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.
MR. ROGAN: Here.
MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.
Mr. Gaughan.
MR. GAUGHAN: Here.
MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.
MR. MCGOFF: Here. The purpose of said public hearing is to hear the testimony and discuss the following:

FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 44, 2013 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2015.

For the record, we have with us a
representative from OECD Director Linda Aebli, Mary Maroni and Tom Preambo and Solicitor Gene Hickey.

MS. AEBLI: Thank you, City Council, for inviting OECD to this public hearing this evening. This year we are going to be submitting the 2015 action plan and like other years this year is a little different because with the 2015 action plan we also have to submit the 2015 to 2014 five-year consolidated plan. For those that don't understand what the consolidated plan is, it's a five-year plan that outlines how the City of Scranton is going to use their federal dollars for the next five years, and it's not activity wise, it's project wise. If you want plan to have bridges for the next five years, bridges have to be in the consolidated plan, so if it's not in the consolidated plan we cannot fund it so we have to be sure that when we submit the consolidated plan the projects that we plan to fund for the next five years are included in this plan.
activities that we submitted, that the administration has submitted and do have you any questions?

MR. MCGOFF: Yes.
MS. AEBLI: Do you have any
questions why we selected the ones that we did? No?

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one question, for example, Meals on Wheels received a 67 percent internal score, can you just explain how you score the app1ications?

MS. AEBLI: Yes, I'm going to let Tom Preambo, he oversaw the application process so, Tom, you want to answer that?

MR. PREAMBO: Sure. With every application that's received in our office starting last year OECD created an evaluation criteria. The criteria is made up of four components, there is the need component which is provides 30 points, feasibility and readiness component, which is 25 points, and applicant capacity which is another 25 points, and then the applicant's finances, and that's another 20
points, so that gives you a total possibility of 100 percent in a score.

Each application, as I said, is
evaluated with two members on a team who are assigned to evaluate each application though the office, and going through the applications there may have been a history with the application or with the applicants, a documented history of performance within OECD and the applicant, so these are all performance measures, and I'll give you an example. Under the needs component for 30 points will the proposed project serve sea low to moderate income people? General question, all right? The true purpose of all of this funding coming from HUD is to serve the low to moderate income people, okay?

The next question, has the applicant indicated how many people will be served? The percentage that would be low to moderate income. All right, that's a huge question because 51 percent of our individuals served with our funding must be low to moderate income people, okay? So if that information
is not in, if that component information is not provided in their application they will receive a lesser score. So that gives you an idea.

It's a shorter version without getting into more detail. This information has been available to all of the subrecipients and all of the applicants since last year. It was something that was created out of internal dialogue that OECD had in 2012 with all of the subrecipients and the grantees with the HUD consultants. They never knew how we measured their evaluation against -- or their application against another applicant, so this component, this process, was initiated because the subrecipients and the subgrantees had a requested us to do so, okay?

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.
MR. PREAMBO: You're welcome.
MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.
MR. ROGAN: I just have one -- it's not a question, $I$ know the answer, but just for the public, especially with our
neighborhood police patrols and paving, we always get questions, well, why not here, why not there? As we know, it's income based. Can you talk a little bit about how because of the census, the change in the census that we be able to get into some areas that previously we couldn't and we may be blocked out of some areas we previously were able to use those funds?

MS. AEBLI: Sure, the neighborhood police patrol they are -- July 1 since the 2000 census became available by block -MR. PREAMBO: 2010.

MS. AEBLI: 2010, I'm sorry, became available the whole map changed. I was very surprised at some of the areas that were taken out and some of them that were put in that was very -- I was surprised on some of them because I would have never thought it was to be a low to moderate income area. However, the neighborhood police patrol only can walk in low to moderate income areas. Currently we have three neighborhood police patrol and we are going to add one more if the 300,000 is approved by city council.

The paving is also we'll be able to -- we put 600 --requested $\$ 630,500$ in paving. We'll be able to go into streets that we were not able to pave before, which is a good thing. We did not pave the West Lackawanna Avenue bridge, and the reason for that is we are right now only in the design stage and we are going to look at how we are when we receive our funds in August. There may be a necessity to move some money around and if we have additional money for the West Lackawanna Avenue Bridge we could put money into that project then, but to hold it up without knowing where all of the additional money is coming from would be foolish, we would have a timeliness problem with HUD.

MR. ROGAN: Thank you.
MS. AEBLI: You're welcome.
MR. MCGOFF: Speaker sign-in sheet, first speaker Michael McHale.

MR. MCHALE: Members of council, OECD. My name is a Michael McHale. I've been asked to represent the United Neighborhood Centers here today. Three projects that we are asking for your
consideration that are, of course, Project Hope, which I am the director of. Project Hope serves underprivileged children from throughout Lackawanna County. This year we have registered approximately 300 children. We had an average daily attendance of about 212. Of course, that is considerably fewer from previous years due to funding cuts. In the past we have registered generally about 600 kids and had an average daily attendance of about 475,480 so it is down considerably from years past.

We are seeking alternative sources of the income, but without the city's input and $0 E C D$ money our program wouldn't be in existence. We provide all kinds of activities for the children. There is a ropes course, swimming, boating, and all of those things really provide an alternative to the city streets fro these children.

In addition to just our programming for the kids, our program really has a tremendous community impact. We have over a dozen kids from the Youth and Workforce Investment Program through Career Link who
are doing jobs up at Project Hope and Camp St. Andrew for us. Out of the 70 people that -- additional people that we hire to help run camp I counted over a dozen that came up through the camp program, so we have kids who are now in their college years. We have one young woman who is a junior at Bucknell who came up through the camp program, she is working for us. We have three kids from Keystone College who are all working in either education or exercise science or sports and recreation management, they are all kids that came up through our camp program that were working for us this year, so our program also other than providing a safe haven for children ages 3 through 12, we are also serving underprivileged kids from the ages of, you know, 14 when they can start to work through the Workforce Investment Program through 21, kids who in college, who got something from our program as youths and are now looking to give back. So that is a tremendous impact that we are seeing. Me, being on board for 16 years now as the director of Camp St.

Andrew, starting to really see the fruits of our labor and kids who come up through our programs who are doing amazing things. We had two kids who really were troubled and were in the office most of the time and they have since graduated high school, they are both in the military, one was just made a Lance Corporal, the other is Private First Class in the Army so those are two of our success stories as well so we are ask for your consideration.

MR. MCGOFF: May I?
MR. MCHALE: Yes.
MR. MCGOFF: There is an educational component to your program as well, is there not?

MR. MCHALE: Yes, there is. We have six teachers from the Scranton School District who are on-site, they are working with the kids ages 5 through 13, they provide educational enrichment. These children who would otherwise not be getting any educational enhancement during the summer are receiving benefits through the teachers that we have from the Scranton

School District.
On behalf of Lisa Durkin she asked me to read the following letter: "We also present for your consideration the program SCOLA. In 2011, UNC merged with SCOLA who had been providing adult 1 iteracy programs for the past 25 years. At the time of the merger, state funding was cut and the program continues to struggle financially. The SCOLA Learning Center serves hundreds of families annually through individual tutoring, computer 1 ab programs and classroom instruction.

According to the 2010 census, nearly 18 percent of the citizens of Lackawanna County are educationally disadvantaged. The SCOLA Program teaches adult 1iteracy, ESL and citizenship and is an essential service to the community and the continued development of the community."

And last --
MR. MCGOFF: Continue.
MR. MCHALE: Pardon me?
MR. MCGOFF: Please continue your

MR. MCHALE: I was also just going to ask you to consider the Bellevue evening teen program when allotting your funds.

Bellevue serves about 75 kids a night, they are providing meals to these children through the Weinberg Foundation, educational activities, all different kinds of arts programs and the developing center operates from six to ten and serves children ages -excuse me, young adults ages 13 through 18. So when you are making your allotments we are asking you to consider the Bellevue evening program as well. Thank you very much.

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Ozzie Quinn.

MR. QUINN: Good evening, Ozzie Quinn. President of the Hill Neighborhood Association. I'm here tonight to ask the city council to fund and support Police Chief Graziano's neighborhood police program. The Hill Neighborhood under, as Linda said, the 2010 census that increased the eligibility in blocks, okay, and for the police to go down the street and come back
down.
Now, we feel that the neighborhood police is a very, very important component of government. There is no doubt about it. Who wouldn't like to sit on their porch or be able to take a walk to the corner store, down to the convenience store without being terrified, and with a patrolman on beat we feel that it would greatly improve the neighborhood in many aspects, okay?

It would make the people feel a little more secure, and sure of what's going on and be able to -- the policemen would be able to if he saw not only criminal activity, if he saw code violations the policeman could actually put a summons on the person who was violating the codes, and we speak of a two-prong approach and now you have three policemen, neighborhood police, and one for our area that patrols North Scranton also, and with our area expanding we see the need for additional police, and I spoke to the chief and he is very much in favor and backing the Hill Neighborhood association in regard to having an officer
on beat in the Hill Neighborhood. So unequivocally, the Hill Neighborhood Association 100 percent backs the chief in his application for a funding under the public services for their neighborhood police. Thank you very much.

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Quinn. Marie Schumacher.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
Council.
MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.
MS. SCHUMACHER: My first question is the public notice that was in the paper on the 10th of September totaled about \$8.6 million with an estimated amount of $\$ 3.1$ and usually the administration makes a cut at meeting the expected amount, was that done this year or not?

MS. AEBLI: I'm not sure what you mean? The article that was in the paper lists every application that we received.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah.
MS. AEBLI: Does that answer your question?

MS. SCHUMACHER: No, because, I
mean -- yes, I made that assumption, but usually we see what the administration has cut -- the cut the administration has made and I --

MS. AEBLI: I can give you a copy of this.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay.
MS. AEBLI: It will ifst every activity and then what the administration is recommending to city council.

MS. SCHUMACHER: That would certainly be helpful.

MS. AEBLI: Is that what you're --
MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, that's what I'm referring to.

MS. AEBLI: No problem.
MS. SCHUMACHER: And then in this late May counsel at the recommendation of the $0 E C D$ removed roughty $\$ 1.7$ miliion from the current years budget with the understanding that attempts would be made to make the effected recipients well in the next budget and are you able to tell me (a) are all of those recipients on this list; and (b) how much would they receive in the
proposed budget if they were simply made well for the May reductions?

MS. AEBLI: I'm not sure about every single one of them, the majority of them were public services, $I$ believe. When you look at this, I'd have to go back and see what we -- what they lost and what's on here, but I believe we funded everyone that lost money, if that's what you mean.

MS. SCHUMACHER: To the same extent that they lost --

MS. AEBLI: I would have to look, Marie.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah.
MS. AEBLI: I'll get back to you.
MS. SCHUMACHER: And then how many of these applicants have not requested OECD funds during the past five years, if any?

MS. AEBLI: I think there every applicant has put applications in every year. There is no new ones.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And how are the availability of applications for funding advertised to the city citizenry? I don't recall -- well, usually I see something and
it says 1 ike roughly the beginning of August or July this cutoff date for the receipt of the applications, but $I$ saw nothing this year to indicate that --

MS. AEBLI: I believe I did. Again, I'11 have to look for it. Yeah, I'11 catch up to you.

MS. SCHUMACHER: And then do you have the percent the requested amount is of their current year budget for these hopeful recipients?

MS. ABELI: Say that again, Marie?
MS. SCHUMACHER: Do you the percent that is being requested is of their total budget for the coming year?

MS. AEBLI: I do not. I do not.
MS. SCHUMACHER: Or what it was for last year just from the 990 or whatever.

MS. AEBLI: From other sources of funding? $I$ would have to look --

MR. PREAMBO: I'm not certain that that's a requirement in their application, Marie.

MS. SCHUMACHER: No, but as part of the research $I$ wondering if could --

MR. PREAMBO: But what I'm saying is

MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes, I understand that.

MR. PREAMBO: I don't believe that's a requirement in the application so we wouldn't know that.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay.
MS. AEBLI: Excuse me, Marie, in the emergency solution it's a match so they have to match the funds that we provide them.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, and then is the amount -- well, it was $\$ 50,000$ in what was published and in the requested amount, can you tell me what's in there for the tree planting?

MS. AEBLI: Zero.
MS. SCHUMACHER: What?
MS. AEBLI: Zero.
MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, Council, you have got to do something about that. We --

MS. AEBLI: Okay --
MS. SCHUMACHER: Go ahead.
MS. AEBLI: We had $\$ 2.5 \mathrm{million}$,
that is the projected amount that we believe we are going to be receiving and the three items -- well, the two items are the Section 108 is \$253,000, and the other Section 108 that we have to pay is $\$ 171,500$.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Right, got it.
MS. AEBLI: And our 20 percent admin is $\$ 500$ so there is a million right there. Our cap on the public services based on $\$ 2.5$ is $\$ 375,000$.

MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm sorry, did you say two or three hundred and seventy-five?

MS. AEBLI: $\$ 375$ is the public service cap based the $\$ 2.5$ million. 300 of that is going to the neighborhood police patrol, so we only have $\$ 75,000$ to play with to give to the other public services, so it was tight. We gave everyone -- loves the paving program and that's $\$ 630,500$. We gave 200 to demolition of hazardous structures.

That goes up to eight, almost $\$ 830,000$. Let me see. The fire truck we -- the city is planning on leasing a fire truck in 2016 and we provided $\$ 100,000$ there and that would be for the first year lease and then every year
after that the fire department would put an application, a CDBG application in for the annual lease amount for the following year. Novembrino pool was $\$ 220,000$ and that's it.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Well, that's one that I think you people have to take action. You cut the budget to smithereens this year from the operating budget, we have -- I mean, Mr. Santoli has given of himself for free, may I continue, for a considerable number of years. He has saved -- that last wind storm can you even begin to imagine what it would have been like if those trees numbering in the last time I recall checking is well over 300 trees removed that were dangerous, that looked healthy but if you ever went out with Tony he would take his stick and put it right through the tree because it was eaten out from the inside.

We have been spending our money, our tax dollars, on treating the hemlocks so they don't die up at Nay Aug Park. Kiss that goodbye. I mean, everything we have invested if you don't continue that program
they will die, so I really think that you need to find a way to put something back into that and not restrict it to tree planting. We also need to continue removing dangerous trees and treating the hemlocks.

And then finally, did $I$ understand
that the Project Hope and SCOLA money is used across Lackawanna County because Lackawanna County gets it's own funding, are we funding from this --

MS. AEBLI: No, we are not.
MS. SCHUMACHER: -- people from outside this area?

MS. AEBLI: No, we are not.
MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.
MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.
MR. PREAMBO: Council, I'd just like to add something just for council's information, the tree planting is an eligible activity in low-mod areas as such tree planting. The federal funds cannot be used described by what Ms. Schumacher had requested for tree injections of insects and tree trimming. We cannot do maintenance and that's considered a maintenance item. It's
strictly tree planting, just for clarification.

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Mayor

## Connors?

MR. CONNORS: Good evening, Council. Jimmy Connors, former mayor of the City of Scranton and board member of the Community Development Advisory Committee. I first want to compliment Linda and Tom Preambo and Gene Hickey and the whole staff of OECD for the job they did on putting together the application. They only have $\$ 2$ 1/2 million to work with. I think when I was mayor we had $\$ 4$ million. Mayor Peters when he was in office had $\$ 12$ million of community development money to work with so you can see it's shrinking, but we have been meeting with the OECD staff and they have kept us informed of all of the reasoning that they put in and I think I can speak for the rest of the committee we were all very pleased with the work they did.

Along with Ozzie Quinn, I'm a member of the Hill Neighborhood Association and long time neighborhood activist. I think
that the neighborhood police patrols are one of the best programs that we have ever had so I would urge you to fund that program and I think all of the other decisions that the staff made were wise and so I just am here just to speak on behalf of the OECD staff and city council and the work you are doing and thank you.

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mayor Connors. Anyone else who cares to speak? MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening, City Counci1, OECD. Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton. I also support the neighborhood policing program. Having prior experience in law enforcement I support law enforcement all the way. I hope that OECD and whoever has it make those decisions also support the neighborhoods and citizens of Scranton and do the best they can to allot as much funding to the neighborhood police department and the police officers in the City of Scranton as they can.

My next area is a lot of people were concerned about the people who have gotten OECD grants in the past and have not repaid
them, can we find out do we have anyone delinquent, like, Alexander's and other places who were given money throughout the years and they were just curious about if that money has been repaid and if it has not been repaid what's steps are in the process to try to get that money from these people? MR. MCGOFF: Well, go ahead.

MR. HICKEY: I can answer the question, there are delinquents. We have changed the policy in OECD when Mayor Courtright came into office to start to actively pursue the delinquents and within the next 30 days or so you are going to see that come to fruition with Court filings pursuant people who have not made payments, so it's unfortunately a big list and it's going to take some time to get everybody into the loop with regard to who we are going to go after, but the process will start within the next 30 days with Court filings.

MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, as long as there is a process.

MR. MCGOFF: Just a point of
reference, those loans are not part of the action plan that we are --

MR. HICKEY: They are not part of the proposed action pl an and none of the people that are delinquent are part of the proposed action plan.

MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.
MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay. Well, as long as there is a plan being placed into effect and the citizens are kept advised of what's going on. Thank you.

MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.
MR. MCGOFF: Ms. Aebli?
MS. AEBLI: Yes, I would just like to add one thing, during this process of the five-year consolidated plan, it was a requirement for the City of Scranton to create a Citizens Advisory Committee and the administration worked with city council and they both selected several residents of Scranton to be on this committee and I'd like to personally thank the following people, I'm very happy that the Honorable Jimmy Connors came this evening to speak on behalf of the committee. Chris Falzette,

James Williams, Michael Spoher, Jenny Gonazles and Nell Donnelly are the members of the Citizens Advisory Committee and I'd like to personally thank them. Thank you. MR. MCGOFF: Anything else?

Anything from council? Public hearing adjourned.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

