

## Town of Hamden COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes of a Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

### Meeting Recording:

C:\Users\plemoine\Documents\Zoom\2023-04-12 18.20.08 CDCAC Regular Meeting - Wednesday, April 12, 2023\video1575311944.mp4

### Minutes

#### 1. Attendance/Roll Call:

Attendance: Tanisha Asbery, Michael Brooks, Brian Courtney, Jameka Jefferies, Michael Johnson, and Thomas Whitbread; Representation from the Town of Hamden were Linda Davis Cannon; Clerk for the Commission, Patrice A. LeMoine and Suzanne LeMoine.  
Absent: Candance Birks.

2. **Comments from the Public:** No one from the public was present.

3. **Reconvened meeting/Call the meeting to Order:** Chairman Courtney noted the Commission has reconvened from recess from the April 11, 2023 meeting at 6:41 p.m.

4. **Minutes:** The members reviewed the minutes of March 8, 2023 meeting. Mr. Brooks motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Johnson. All members were in favor.

#### 5. **Community Development Manager's Report:**

a. PSA (Public Service Agency) – The Commissioner will meet with those applicants who submitted a request for block grant funding and will present their application and talk about the program that the funds will cover. Each applicant will be given 15 to 20 minutes to present.

The applicants scheduled for this evening were as follows:

#### **Columbus House:** Funding Request is \$14,200

Ms. Malynda Mallory and Mr. John Sanford introduced themselves and then presented the organization's project for funding. If Columbus House were granted the funds, they would direct the funds for emergency shelter services to those individuals who are from Hamden. They provided examples of the current support services they are currently offering, at two locations to both men at one location and a second location to women and children.

#### **Hamden's CERT:** Funding Request is 17,760

Mr. Robert (Bob) Freeman, a retired Firefighter from the Town of Hamden, and now a volunteer working with Fire Chief Jeffrey Naples who is director of the Hamden CERT program. Unfortunately, CERT is limited to what they can budget for and receive very few funds through the town. CERT averages 3,200 hours per year in volunteering their time toward emergency

support programs. During COVID, they volunteered over 5,800 hours. This entails working closely with the Keefe Center, helping those residents who are displaced due to a fire and are in need of food, temporary shelter, clothing and other services.

CERT has been in existence for 19 years and is required to service all second alarm emergencies. There are two, maybe three, programs CERT is focusing to fund this year. One is a six-person water cooling circulation vest system. This avoids the firefighters from heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and transporting to a hospital. There is the rehab services CERT provides during the extreme weather conditions, including warming blankets and then the water cooling system for the firefighters; this includes supplementing traffic management, and finally, there is a need to purchase safety equipment and safety uniforms for the CERT crew during emergencies. The safety uniforms would last 10 plus years.

On another note, Mr. Freeman mentioned that CERT received notice that they were awarded funds from 2 previous years block grant funds that were to go toward a special vehicle. He added that this vehicle contains \$30,000 of emergency equipment that is weather sensitive and currently there is no place to store this vehicle. We recently learned that the funds are available, however, Mr. Freeman has made a number of attempts to contact the Town of Hamden to receive the funds with no avail. He inquired with the Commission to ask if someone would assist CERT to retrieve the funding. Mr. Courtney agreed to contact Ms. Hazen regarding the funding for CERT and other organizations.

**The Village Inc.** (Children's Afterschool Program): Funding Request is \$20,000

Ms. Melissa Jones, founder and operator of The Village, was unable to attend this meeting this evening and Ms. Melinda Chapman, associate director, offered to present the application on behalf of Ms. Chapman. She gave an overview of the program's mission, vision and the services provided to the students. This current term, there are 27 students registered and approximately 15 are guaranteed to attend each day, five days per week. There are in-services scheduled when available and affordable to The Village. The request for \$20,000 is to purchase a van so that the organization can transport the students from the various schools (middle-school and high school) to one of their two locations, Pershing Drive and Putnam Avenue.

**Partnership Center for Adult Daycare, Inc.:** Funding Request is \$20,000

Ms. Vicki Croco thanked the Commissioners for meeting with her and noted that she is pleased to be working for the agency as their director. The agency has been in operation for 39 years in Hamden. They are a small, nonprofit, not associated with any other organization; offering one-on-one care to approximately 12 seniors per day. PCAD has a total of 24 adults registered, but those coming day-to-day varies. The current request is \$20,000 to support the RN and LPN nurses salaries. She spoke of the medical model the center follows and what challenges they incurred during COVID and noted they have one RN and one LPN on duty, who split their hours to cover the daycare operation. They have struggled over the last two years finding college students looking for community services and for students who are looking for internships. She is looking to SCSU, Quinnipiac, and Gateway's nursing and social work program for student volunteers.

**Literacy Volunteers for Greater New Haven:** Funding Request is \$10,896

Director, Mr. Lou Perno gave an overview of the LVGH’s program. The number of clients they serve; how they provide the services, helping several from all ages learn and improve their reading skills, and assisting those of the Spanish language learn to read English. Before closing his presentation, Mr. Perno read an essay from a young student who received services, which is called “Never Stop Learning and Trying.” A well written summary of the services received and someone so young could benefit from the LVGNH.

He noted that the LVGNH was approved for funding from the 2022-23 block grant, however, to-date the organization has not received the funds. Mr. Perno returned the phone calls, but no one has replied. Mr. Courtney recommended he contact Ms. Davis Cannon and Ms. Hazen for direction and he will contact Ms. Hazen as well.

**Allocation:** After receiving information from the applicants, Mr. Courtney asked if the Commissioners were ready to grade the applications. A discussion was held and at this time the Commissioners went into session to review the current funding program and the 8 applicants.

After final review of the applications, Mr. Courtney read the Commissioners decision to allocation funding to the following organizations:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Proposed Funding</b>	<b>Recommended CDCAC Funding</b>
BHCare LLC	14,200.00	0.00
Columbus House	15,000.00	0.00
Hamden CERT	17,600.00	10,000.00
Hamden Rovers, Inc.	19,553.50	17,182.00
Hamden/North Haven YMCA	20,000.00	10,000.00
Literacy Volunteers of GNH	10,896.00	10,000.00
Partnerships Center for Adult Day Care	20,000.00	10,000.00
The Village Inc.	20,000.00	<u>10,000.00</u>
<b>Total CBGB Funding</b>		<b>\$67,182.00</b>

Mr. Courtney requested a motion to approve the funding as read above. Mr. Johnson motioned to approve the allocation as presented and was seconded by Mr. Brooks. The chair then called for a vote:

T. Asbery	aye	J. Jefferies	aye
M. Brooks	aye	M. Johnson	aye
B. Courtney	aye	T. Whitbread	aye

The vote carried unanimously (6 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstained)

5. **Adjournment:** At 8:57 p.m., Mr. Courtney requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Whitbread motioned and was seconded by Mr. Brooks. The motion unanimously passed.

Submitted by: Patrice LeMoine, Clerk for the Commission