

City of Reading  
City Council  
Work Session  
Monday, September 15, 2008

**Council Members Present**

Vaughn Spencer, President  
Stephen Fuhs, District 1  
Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz District 2  
Dennis Sterner, District 3  
Stratton Marmarou, District 4  
Maria Baez, District 5  
Jeffrey Waltman, District 6

**Others Present**

L. Kelleher  
C. Younger  
S. Harrity

**Call to Order**

President of Council Vaughn Spencer called the work session to order at 7:10 pm.

**Managing Director's Report**

Mr. Younger highlighted the report distributed to Council at the meeting covering the following:

- Human Relations Commissions receipt of the new assistance award amendment from HUD doubling the amount of funding from last year.
- Recap of EMS receivables

**Report on PDB, FDB ,and City wide Diversity Board**

Mr. Younger distributed an activity report. Council President Spencer suggested that Council review the report and issue questions or comments separately.

Mr. Fuhs suggested that the Council President form an add Adoc Committee to seek out members for the City Wide Diversity Board. He noted that the City wide Diversity Board was to replace the Fire and Police Diversity Boards.

Ms. Goodman–Hinnershitz agreed and suggested providing the Adoc Committee with a timeline.

Mr. Waltman agreed and suggested that the Committee receive assistance from the Administrative Oversight Committee. Ms. Kelleher stated that display adds seeking volunteers for the boards are placed in the newspaper approximately two to three times per year. The Council also suggested posting flyers at the Hispanic Center and the NAACP.

Continued discussion on this topic will occur at a future Committee of the Whole meeting when Mr. Hottenstein is available.

### **2009 CDBG Action Plan and Consolidated Plan**

Mr. Waltman inquired if the 2009 CDBG Action Plan has been finalized or amended. Ms. Kelleher stated that to her knowledge the plan presented has not been amended. She noted the need for Council to review the Consolidate Plan as this plan drives the actions contained in the 2009 CDBG Action Plan.

This topic will be reviewed again at the October Finance Committee Meeting.

### **Graffiti Abatement**

Steve Harrity, manager of the County's Graffiti Abatement Program, reported that this is a three year project to cure the quality of life problems associated with graffiti. He stated that this Abatement Program will use people placed on probation and assigned to community service. He noted that the first sweep is planned for the area between Oley and Spring Street into 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Harrity explained that the removal process begins with notification to the property owner. After the three day notification period abatement of the graffiti via power wash or paint can occur. He noted that it is easy for juveniles and young adults to create more than \$5,000 worth of damage in one evening.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the continued tagging of the water tower near the bypass. Mr. Harrity stated that a mural is planned for the tower. He described how the use of murals deters graffiti. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz requested that the group considering mural under the Lindberg viaduct.

Mr. Sterner inquired if the parent can be held responsible for the damage caused by their children.

Mr. Marmarou noted the use of Gault Decision that allows juveniles to be tried as adults. Mr. Younger noted the need to research this ruling due to the belief that juveniles can only be tried as adults for severe crimes.

Mr. Spencer noted the large problem with enforcing the daytime curfew. He expressed the belief that students violating the daytime curfew have an easier time vandalizing properties as the majority of the population works daytime hours. He suggested combining the enforcement of the graffiti and daytime curfew ordinance.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the underlying problems with curfew, truancy and graffiti / vandalism.

Ms. Goodman–Hinnershitz inquired if the survey from the Gang’s Steering Committee has been obtained. Mr. Younger stated that he will follow up with Mr. Hottenstein.

After a discussion Ms. Kelleher was asked to prepare an amendment to the graffiti ordinance that will charge both the juvenile and parent with responsibility.

The Work Session concluded at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Linda A. Kelleher, City Clerk