

St. Petersburg City Council
BUDGET, FINANCE & TAXATION COMMITTEE

Committee Report for the Meeting of July 16, 2009

Members: Chair James R. "Jim" Kennedy Jr., Vice-Chair James S. Bennett, Jeff Danner, Wengay M. "Newt" Newton Sr. , & Karl Nurse (Alternate).

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of June 18, 2009

1. New Business

a. Daystar Life Center, Inc.

Mr. Joshua Johnson, Housing and Community Development Director, advised that Daystar Life Center, Inc. had completed the two projects (super flush toilets and hurricane shutters) that had been approved in the 2008-2009 CDBG contract and that the organization would like approval to utilize the remaining uncommitted amount of \$6,780 for the following projects: architectural design for renovation of the interior of its facility; and a change to the scope of service for the project that includes a schematic and preliminary design, complete architectural contract construction documents and updated electrical and HVAC to support the new space. If approved by council, Mr. Johnson advised that in order to meet a National Objective of the CDBG program, Daystar would also have to make the improvements to the facility. Mr. Johnson advised that administration recommends Daystar's request. Mr. Nurse inquired about future project funding and if Daystar had money for the proposed project. Ms. Shanya Bruce, Daystar Life Center, Inc., commented that this was a feasibility study and that her organization currently did not have any funds budgeted for the future project, but would seek funding based on the information provided by the study. Mr. Dave Metz, Deputy Mayor/Neighborhoods, requested that Daystar have the architect design a phased plan. Ms. Annette Howard, Housing Development Specialist, commented that this request was part of the original application submitted by Daystar. Mr. Bennett moved to recommend the recommendation and Mr. Nurse seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Social Services Funding

Ms. Rhonda Abbott, Manager of Social Services Planning, indicated that the administration is considering the following items regarding Social Action Funding: simplify the process this year – on-line applications, engage Social Services Allocation Committee for review and recommendations, priorities (adult population, match, homeless prevention services, and homeless services),

change the name of the program to Targeted Community Funding to better represent the program, cap the funding award amount – minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$40,000 per agency, and keep the programs/agencies that are part of the community “infrastructure” in the homeless arena out of the competitive process. Ms. Abbott indicated that the following programs would be kept out of the competitive process: Pinellas Homeless Coalition for the Homeless (\$25,000), St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP)(\$26,000), 211 Tampa Bay Cares (\$25,000), and discretionary funds for the Outreach Teams (\$12,000). Ms. Abbott indicated that the above mentioned programs total \$88,000, leaving \$338,000 for the competitive bid process with applications available on-line starting July 20. Ms. Abbott indicated that the priority listing identified as adult population would include families and that the County is making changes to their program as well. Ms. Abbott indicated that agencies are merging and working together to increase efficiency and impact. According to Ms. Abbott, the discretionary funds for the Outreach Teams listed would be used for bus tickets to reunite out of town families or to provide a hotel room for a family in need. Mr. Newton inquired about the 211 services and how participants are tracked. Mr. Newton inquired about the HPRP stimulus funding and indicated that citizens are in need of help now and wanted to know if money was currently available. Ms. Tish Elston, First Deputy Mayor/City Administrator, indicated that she was not aware of any advance spending approval for the HPRP stimulus funding. Mr. Nurse inquired about where the funding would be used. Mr. Newton confirmed that the money would go directly to the landlord or utility vendor. Mr. Kennedy suggested that domestic violence be added to the priorities list. Mr. Kennedy wanted to make a stated priority concerning domestic violence. Council discussed the services offered by CASA. Mr. Bennett suggested that following the priority item identified as Homeless Prevention Services, staff could include domestic violence, runaways, and alcohol abuse. Mr. Bennett indicated that he was pleased with the City’s process and added that the County’s process was disintegrating. Mr. Kennedy commented that he saw the value in the caps of \$10,000-\$40,000; he commented that he felt the change would help the agencies involved develop realistic funding expectations. Ms. Abbott indicated that the rating system helps determine how much of the requested amount is funded. Mr. Newton shared concerns that the cap may cause agencies to increase their funding requests. Discussion will continue at the Social Services Allocation Committee meeting scheduled for July 17.

c. Notification Bid System

Mr. Louis Moore, Purchasing Director, described the current vendor registration process and explained that NIGP codes are used to identify which vendors to notify of specific requests for bids. Mr. Moore indicated that vendors could register on the City’s website. Mr. Moore indicated that the Purchasing Department is currently updating and validating all local database vendor listings. Mr. Moore indicated that the Purchasing Department is reaching local vendors, but that the department is not seeing many local vendor responses. Mr. Moore

indicated that an advertisement educating vendors on how to register would air on the City channel in the near future. Mr. Nurse inquired about a link on the front page of City's website. Mr. Moore agreed that a link on the City's homepage would be a good idea. Mr. Newton inquired about the permitting process for businesses and wanted to know if the Purchasing Department worked with the other departments to obtain contact information for local businesses via permit files. Mr. Moore explained that the Purchasing Department works closely with the Small Business Assistance Center to train and educate local vendors on how to register as a vendor in the City's system, and what steps are required to participate in the City's bid process. A follow up discussion has been scheduled for the next Budget, Finance & Taxation Committee meeting.

2. Continued / Deferred Business
 - a. None
3. Next Meeting Agenda Tentative Issues

July 30, 2009

- a. Great Exploration Children's Museum
Chris Ballestra, Downtown Enterprise Facilities Director
- b. Notification Bid System
Louis Moore, Purchasing Director

August 20, 2009

- a. Mahaffey Management Study Update – AMS Planning & Research
Brad Scott, City Auditor

4. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

**BUDGET, FINANCE & TAXATION COMMITTEE
PENDING / CONTINUING REFERRALS**

July 16, 2009
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<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DATE REFERRED</i>	<i>REFERRED BY</i>	<i>SCHEDULED / HEARD ON</i>	<i>RETURN DATE</i>	<i>STAFF RESPONSIBLE</i>	<i>SPECIAL NOTES</i>
Home Energy Loan Program (HELP)	04.23.09	Kennedy		08.2009	DeYampert	Kennedy requested update on status of HELP.
Deferred Compensation Plans and Pension Plans	05.28.09	Bennett		08.2009	Cornwell	Requested that staff begin looking at the possibility of offering a voluntary 401 pension plan option to non-union employees.
Mahaffey Management Study Update – AMS Planning & Research	06.18.09	Scott		08.20.2009	Scott	Update on management study.

Notification Bid System	07.09.09	Nurse		07.30.09	Moore	Review of current notification system. Discussion on how to increase local awareness.
Cooperative Brokers	07.09.09	Danner		09.24.2009	Grimes	Cooperative Brokers-commissions on City leases.