



Lowell City Council

Non-Profit Organizations SC Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: May 5, 2026
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber, Lowell City Hall, Lowell, Ma. / Zoom (Hybrid)

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Liang, C. McDonough and C. Mercier. Also present were Camilo Espitia (DPD) and Elliott Yaffa (DPD).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Liang called the meeting to order noting attendance of the organizations and their missions.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Liang opened meeting to the organizations. Katie Sadlier (Non-Profit Alliance and Lowell Housing Authority) noted the importance of the funding in serving the community. She requested monthly meetings and a concrete plan regarding the assistance by the City. Deb Callery (Merrimack Valley Food Bank) outlined the many programs they provide and the support of the City. She noted recent denial of application for funding due to language contained in their website. Michael Reinke (Riverbend) noted the urgent need for CDBG funding and recent denial without full review by the federal government. He indicated the language in his mission statement is compliant with Massachusetts regulations. Elizabeth Cannon (Lowell Association of the Blind) commented on meeting to review the application focusing on the new regulations. She noted that the actions of this Council blocked funding and was concerned with future funding. Sothea



Chiemruom (Cambodian Mutual Aid Assistance) noted that changing guidelines are affecting federal and state funding.

C. Mercier noted surprise as she was under impression that City would assist with review of new regulations regarding federal funding and that should be happening. C. McDonough noted that the changes are frustrating and questioned the actions of the City. Ms. Callery noted the City did provide that guidance and that her issue was failing to remove language from two years ago in their mission statement. Mr. Espitia noted the organization concerns and described output to them as City needs to ensure that all are in compliance with federal regulations. Mr. Espitia noted plan to meet in middle regarding use of language of the organizations to meet federal standards. Mr. Yaffa noted changes to action plan to adjust to new regulations and that federal government is monitoring this. Mr. Espitia noted the need to work with organizations towards compliance. C. Liang noted that short funding this year will hurt people. C. McDonough noted each organizations said they were blindsided and that indicates a total failure by the City wasting time and money. **Motion** by C. Mercier, seconded by C. McDonough to request City Manager provide a report to the Council outlining concrete efforts by the City to assist non-profits with grant applications to ensure compliance with new federal standards and regulations. Adopted per Roll Call vote 3 yeas (C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier). So voted. **Motion** by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Mercier to have City Manager provide a report outlining recent grant application review by the City regarding the process; including all communications involved with the City and non-profits. Adopted per Roll Call vote 3 yeas (C. Liang, C. McDonough, C. Mercier). So voted.

In closing, Rebecca Ludvino (Mill City Grows) stressed the importance for funding to provide public support and the need to work together.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by C. McDonough, seconded by C. Mercier. So Voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM



Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk