

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
 CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

March-15-2009

Present

L. Wallace, Chair
 A. Marino, Vice Chair
 V. Amato
 P. Pessina
 R. Bantum
 R. Pelletier
 P. Murray
 G. Faulkner Jr.
 A. Watson
 D. Mitkoski
 E. Noglow

Absent

B. Plum
 M. Podolin

Also Present

M. Wackers
 K. Russo
 E. Roberts
 J. Alexander
 ** All Public Hearing Presenters
 noted below in the text.

Linda Wallace called the meeting to order at 5:05PM.

Linda Wallace called for the Committee to review the minutes from the November meeting; Grady Faulkner motioned to approve the minutes. Phil Pessina seconded and the Committee approved the motion.

Motion to approve the November Meeting Minutes.						
<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Linda Wallace, Chair (Social Service and Housing Relations Seat)			X			
Anthony Marino, Vice Chair (Real Estate Seat)			X			
Vincent Amato (Greater Middletown Preservation Trust Seat)			X			
Grady Faulkner (Common Council Seat-DEM)	X		X			
Ronnie Bantum (Minority Seat)			X			
Donna Mitoski (Handicapped Seat)			X			
Patricia Murray (At-Large Seat)			X			
Evan Noglow (Middletown Housing Authority Seat)			X			
Richard Pelletier (Labor Seat)			X			
Phil Pessina (Common Council Seat-GOP)		X	X			
Barbara Plum (Planning and Zoning Commission Seat)						X
Matthew Podolin (Youth Seat)						X
Avery Watson (Low and Moderate Income Seat)			X			
Vacancy (Banking and Insurance Seat)						X
Vacancy (Elderly Seat)						X
<u>TALLY</u>			<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>
Motion Approved						

Linda Wallace called for Public Comments.

Earle Roberts presented his concerns about the Shepherd Home Improvements proposal, with regard to the number of clients that they have and the rate of success they have in finding better more permanent stable living situations. He also commented that the location of the facility and the lack of sidewalks put pedestrians and motorists at risk. He also expressed a desire that other cities and towns that send clients to this facility should also provide funding for this facility.

Linda Wallace opened the public hearing for 2009 CDBG applicants.

First, Bruce Marktodd and a student named Mary Anne represented the **Literacy Volunteers of Central Connecticut's Middletown Parent Literacy program**. The Mdn. Parent Literacy Tutoring Program will provide at least 50 parents with English language tutoring and mentoring in order to make progress toward their work, family & community goals & to become self sufficient. Tutoring will be facilitated by volunteers who have successfully completed our in-depth tutor training. Funds from this grant will help us to recruit, train & support more volunteer tutors, recruit assess & evaluate parents & to plan for the development of this family literacy program. Our overall goal is to expand our program to better meet the needs of low & moderate income Mdn. Parents who have low literacy skills & do not earn a living wage. National Institute for Literacy statistics estimates indicate that in Mdn. close to 6,000 adults are at the lowest level of literacy. This means that they do not have the skills needed to earn a living wage.

Linda Wallace asked if the \$5,000 would be used for salaries and if you do not receive the \$5,000 then will you still fund this teacher position? Bruce Marktodd replied that it was for salaries and it would reduce the number of students that would be able to go through the program.

Phil Pessina asked if the new tutor would be for the North End? Bruce Marktodd replied that it would be for the North End program.

Grady Faulkner asked how do you ensure that this program does not duplicate other efforts? Bruce Marktodd replied that a study was conducted for the area and it found that our program does not duplicate any other efforts in addressing language attainment or literacy.

Grady Faulkner asked if all 50 clients will be from Middletown? Bruce Marktodd replied that they will all come from Middletown and primarily from the North End.

Grady Faulkner asked if this is an English-as-a-second-language program or a literacy program? Bruce Marktodd replied that this is primarily an English-as-a-second-language program, but also assisting immigrants from English speaking countries that are effectively illiterate.

Second, Arthur Meyers represented the **Russell Library's Moving Ahead Job and Career Services program**. This project addresses Priority Three in the Consolidated Plan for Housing & Community Development, 2005-2010: Promote & Improve Middletown's Economic Opportunities & Labor Force. It implements the Plan's objectives of providing access to quality job training resources & employment placements & the opportunity for advancement through adult education. The project meets an urgent need in Middletown by helping unemployed and underemployed adult & elderly residents build their job seeking skills or change careers.

Grady Faulkner asked about the other funds that are leveraged by this request? Arthur Meyers replied that the Library leverages funds from the City of Middletown, other non-profits and volunteers who perform in-kind services.

Linda Wallace asked about subcontractor costs in the budget? Arthur Meyers replied that a part-time staff person, a licensed job coach, computer class instructor would be the expenses under subcontractor costs.

Grady Faulkner asked if this enhances the unemployment offices services? Arthur Meyers replies that our program works closely with the unemployment office and we have provided space for the Job Van to provide their services at the Library.

Third, Jeff Pugliese and Jim Lesser represented **Middlesex Chamber of Commerce's Middletown Worker Prep Program**. The primary mission of the program is to help find work for unemployed & displaced workers in the City of Mdt. Before beginning the job search, Chamber staff members help clients create effective resumes & prepare for job interviews while providing job coaching & employment retention training. We maintain consistent contact with both clients & employers to foster the best possible environment for not only placement into employment, but long term job retention as well.

Linda Wallace asked if the program interacts at all with the Library job program? Jeff Pugliese replied that we teach some of the workshops that the Library offers and some clients that go through the library service are referred to the Chamber and vice versa.

Evan Noglow asked how do other towns in Middlesex relate to this program? Jeff Pugliese replied that Middletown is the primary source for jobs, there is little opportunity in other Middlesex towns for Middletown residents that have transportation challenges to find employment outside of Middletown.

Avery Watson asked what type of training do you do for the clients? Jeff Pugliese replied that the program provides training for job seeking skills and follow up job retention skills. Some have these skills and need little training; some have poor job skills and need significant training.

Fourth, Ron Krom represented **St. Vincent DePaul's Amazing Grace Food Distribution Initiative program**. We are seeking funding to add an additional day in which Amazing Grace Food Distribution Initiative (Food Pantry) is open to Middletown residents. Many of our potential guests are employed at low-income jobs, working Monday through Fridays and struggle to make ends meet. We continue to see an increase in the number of people who are seeking help throughout our entire agency. In 2008, St. Vincent DePaul Place provided approximately 275,000 meals between our South Kitchen (Meals and Outreach Program) and our Amazing Grace Food Pantry, or 23,000 meals each month. It has been requested by the Mdt. Coalition for Children that we open this additional day if necessary to meet the increasing needs of residents who work during the week & find it inconvenient, if not impossible to get to the Pantry during our current hours. The additional day would allow for more qualifying Mdt. residents to supplement their food bill by shopping once a month for perishable and non-perishable food, free of charge.

Vincent Amato asked if residents from surrounding towns are served and if you refer them to services in their communities? Ron Krom replied that it is not a significant number of clients from surrounding towns, but we receive far more food from surrounding communities than clients.

Phil Pessina asked what do you expect for number of clients for the expanded Saturday hours? We can only serve 70 clients in a 3 hour window, so it would represent a 25% increase.

Grady Faulkner asked if other food distribution services exist in Middletown? Ron Krom replied that small ones exist in various churches, but they primarily address food issues with members, and distribute only nonperishable foods.

Fifth, George Brusznicki represented **Community Renewal Team's Homeowners Consoling & Foreclosure Prevention program**. CRT is proposing to provide group education, one-on-one counseling, mortgage mediation & a small amount of direct funding to help Middletown families avoid foreclosure & remain in their homes. Through the CT Dept. of Social Services, CRT is currently the provider of Eviction & Foreclosure Prevention Services in the Mdt. area. In 2008, more than 70 Middletown residents filled out pre-applications to obtain foreclosure prevention services from CRT; it is expected that the numbers will rise in 2009-2010.

Linda Wallace asked if the program was eligible? Michiel Wackers replied that it was eligible.

Grady Faulkner asked are the TARP funds from the federal government? George Brusznicki replied that this program is about helping clients. It is about working with clients and banks to renegotiate a loan.

Grady Faulkner asked if the funding is needed due to demand? George Brusznicki replied that we need this funding to deal with current situation.

Grady Faulkner asked if you are keeping up-to-date on federal funding? George Brusznicki replied that we work closely with CHFA and the State.

Avery Watson asked if participants need to be income eligible? George Brusznicki replied that there are income eligibility requirements for this program.

Sixth, Janis Astor DeValle represented **Green Street Arts Center's After School Program**. The Green Street Arts Center respectfully requests a \$15,000 grant from the City of Mdn. to help support the Center's After-school Program, a multidisciplinary arts education program serving children & youth ages 7 -18. Support from the City of Mdn. will directly impact our deserving students by maintaining access to arts education for these children & teens who otherwise may never have the chance to explore their creative potential. Our job at Green St. is to ignite that spark by helping our students identify & nurture their individual talents. Our after school arts curriculum includes courses in Sound Recording, Songwriting, Music, Ideography, Art & Science, Photojournalism, Playwriting & Performance, (Peer Education) Choreography, Salsa, Break-dancing, Tap & Visual Arts. Through its multidisciplinary arts programming, Green St. gives young people the chance to explore their creativity, increase their self-esteem, cultivate their appreciation of the arts & develop practical skills for everyday life in a safe, productive environment. In addition to arts education, we provide our students with a nutritious snack, health & wellness education and an hour of homework help each day thanks to our Wesleyan & high school students, parents & other adult volunteers.

Avery Watson asked how much is tuition? Janis Astor DeValle replied that a full paying student that receives no subsidies tuition will pay \$3,000 for after school programs from September to June between 3pm and 6pm, Monday though Friday.

Avery Watson asked about the average income of families that participate in the program? Janis Astor DeValle replied that the average income is \$14,000 and we use income tax returns to determine eligibility.

Seventh, Sandra Steele represented **Solid Rock Faith Deliverance Ministries' Raegan's Training Program**. Provide employment training for limited clientele persons. Training would consist of resume preparation, how to dress for success, interviewing techniques, job skill assessment, the art of salary negotiations, computer training, step-by-step job search, job placement, retail training & Entrepreneurship.

Linda Wallace asked if you are a 501(c)3? Sandra Steele replied that they have been for 10 years.

Phil Pessina asked who else will help you? Sandra Steele replied that 2 staff members that will assist with job placement, resume and forklift training.

Grady Faulkner asked do you have access to a forklift? Sandra Steele replied that they did have access to three types of forklifts and the training would lead to certification and OSHA credentials.

Linda Wallace asked that an updated budget is needed for the forklift aspect of the programming? Sandra Steele replied that she would submit it.

Phil Pessina asked how many client do you have? Sandra Steele replied that she had 25 clients.

Patricia Murray asked did you find other funding? Sandra Steele replied that she had not found any other funding.

Eighth, represented Shiloh **Baptist Community Development Corporation's Camp Shiloh program**. Camp Shiloh will be a six-week haven that will create & maintain an invigorating & positive environment of fun. We will work to change the thinking of our youth in order to affect their behavior. Our project will launch a special outreach to the youths of the City's North End to help the City of Mdn. address its Priority One CDBG goal for the upcoming program year.

Linda Wallace asked about the relationship with other Shiloh entities? These were all separate entities.

Patricia Murray asked what past funding has been received? That section of the application was not submitted, but it will be provided.

Avery Watson asked when will this program take place? This is for the summer of 2010.

Ninth, Lydia Brewster and Izzi Greenberg represented **North End Action Team's Building Homeownership & Preventing Foreclosure program**. Building Homeownership & Preventing Foreclosure: Increasing Neighborhood Stability will provide education and access to services which increase homeownership through homeownership preparation, financial literacy education, foreclosure prevention & education, eviction prevention for residents of foreclosed properties & employment & training opportunities. Project Goal: to increase homeownership, prevent foreclosure & eviction & increase neighborhood stability.

Avery Watson asked how many people own homes in the North End? Lydia Brewster replied that there are many homeowners, but the area is mostly renter occupied. Would be looking to increase the homeownership rate. Since we have started this program, 9 people have purchased a home with NEAT's assistance and they are all low and moderate income families.

Vincent Amato asked if cleaning up the North End is spreading problems to other areas of the City? Lydia Brewster replied that it is possible to cause spreading but that is not a reason to allow it to exist in the North End or anywhere in the City. Code enforcement is key.

Tenth, Matt Pugliese represented **Oddfellows Playhouse's Neighborhood Troupes Program** for At-risk Youth. In the 1980's Oddfellows recognized that there were many young people in Middletown who had no access to after-school programs & developed the Neighborhood Troupes, a successful model for involving low-income and minority youth in free, weekly arts-based activities that are both educational & recreational. Today, Oddfellows has 4 Mdn. Troupes - 2 from Maplewood Terrace and 2 from the North End. Each Troupe is led by a professional artist/teacher who is particularly sensitive to the needs of at-risk youth and each Troupe has 2 Wesleyan University work-study teaching assistants.

Linda Wallace asked how do you recruit clients? Matt Pugliese replied that we take advantage of NEAT, the school system and door-to-door solicitations.

Vincent Amato does this funding go to the 40% that are non-Middletown residents? Matt Pugliese replied no, that is a separate tuition based program. This is for target neighborhood troupes that only have Middletown residents.

Phil Pessina asked if Oddfellows works with the Green Street Arts Center? Matt Pugliese replied that they do.

Avery Watson asked if you compete with the Green Street Arts Center? Matt Pugliese replied that both organization do promote the arts, but we have different focuses. Oddfellows has strength in the performing arts that the Green Street Arts Center does not.

Linda Wallace asked while this is a small request, what will happen if you do not get the \$5,000? Matt Pugliese replied we need it and we would have to look elsewhere.

Phil Pessina asked what ages do you serve? Matt Pugliese replied that they serve ages four all the way through high school.

Eleventh, Donna Hylton and Jim Kurk represented **Shiloh Christian Church's Adventures in Learning program**. In this proposal we plan to highlight an award winning program that has earned "The Distinguished Community Service Award" at the United Nations, October 2007. We are looking to expand the program with greater impact. The program has been sustainable on its own merit for 17 years but we

would like to add more opportunity to the program and expand its scope. The Adventures in Learning Summer Outreach is requesting funds to help to underwrite the cost of conducting the 2010 program. The funds would be applied to the acquisition of computer hardware & software for the technology learning center, meals for the participants, transportation & learning material. The children are exposed to academic & non-academic subject in creative ways. Kids are taught in a broad range of areas: technology, science, music, art, dance, languages, writing, reading, math, cooking, drama, physical fitness, safety & health. They are also taken on educational & recreational field trips to places of interest such as: Mystic Aquarium, the Science Center, the Recycling Plant, Quassy Park, Pierson Park and the Dinosaur State Park. This program is offered to the community free of charge, serves a diverse population of children from 6th grade and under. Children from grades 7th - 11th grade are trained & deployed as camp counselors & high school senior who demonstrate a level of maturity are then prepared to become camp teachers. This moves children along a continuum of growth from year to year.

Linda Wallace asked is the \$12,000 for equipment was for computers? Donna Hylton replied that is was.

Grady Faulkner asked how much in-kind services go into the program? Donna Hylton replied that there were ten counselors and five teachers who contribute to in-kind service.

Linda Wallace asked if other sources of funding have been sought? Donna Hylton replied that this was the first the program has sought grant funding.

Ronnie Bantum asked is this just for computers? Donna Hylton replied that it was also for transportation costs.

Phil Pessina asked how many children would be served? Donna Hylton replied that 70 children would be served.

Evan Noglow asked do you turn away people? Donna Hylton replied that they do not.

Twelfth, Debra Hopkins represented **H.O.P.E.'s Homeownership providing empowerment program**. The proposed project is to develop a team to assist in the development of a strategic plan to address & create affordable housing. The implementation of this plan would look at the blighted properties in the City of Mdn., potential housing & land that can be purchased for rehab and/or new construction. This initiative is to address the priority of the Consolidated plan of 2005-2010 to increase access to affordable & decent housing. We are currently in dialogue with Sterling Realtors, LISC, Nehemiah Housing, Jeff Bianco. In the exploratory stages HOPE is occurring expenses in the area of consultants & administrative expenses. Given the foreclosure state we feel that HOPE has the ability to reach a segment of the community that is often left behind.

Linda Wallace asked what is the outcome for this request, since it is for planning funding? Debra Hopkins replied that it is to find sites for affordable two-family dwellings to be developed.

Vincent Amato asked that they look through out the town and not concentrate on one property. Debra Hopkins replied that they are looking throughout the City and particularly at blighted buildings.

Avery Watson asked will this help people directly? Debra Hopkins replied that this will be for architectural fees, engineering and feasibility consultant costs.

Thirteenth, represented **Connecticut Legal Services' Removing Barriers to Stability**. This project provides low & moderate income Mdn. Residents with a combination of information, screening, advice and/or representation regarding the various complex assistance programs available. These services help people chronically or newly out of work survive in the current economic downturn. The administration of the programs is not centralized. Without guidance, it can be a difficult and daunting task for an individual or family to put together a package of need subsistence benefits. Provision of this guidance requires expertise in the complex eligibility requirements for each program.

Fourteenth, Bruce Taylor represented **Godfrey Memorial Library's Open to All: Handicapped Accessibility project**. This project will make Godfrey Memorial Library handicapped accessible for families seeking to trace their history. It is the only public library in CT with this mission. The building constructed in 1951 and never altered, is perched on a steep slope on Newfield Street. Unfortunately, the Library cannot be used by persons in wheelchairs, those with mobility difficulties, or by the growing number of elderly city residents. The steep slopes without railings are dangerous to navigate. Nor are such residents able to work or volunteer in the Library. A new 100-foot long, 4 foot wide ramped walkway from the parking area is needed. The current sidewalk varies from 2 to 2 1/2 feet wide, has an uneven bituminous & concrete surface and has no railings. The height of the front steps varies from 6 to 8 inches. The heavy front door does not have an automatic power opener.

Linda Wallace asked if there was a way to document income? Bruce Taylor replied that there was no method to document income currently. The library is free to use, but many retirees are on fixed income.

Phil Pessina asked what would happen if this was not funded? Bruce Taylor replied then the building would not become accessible.

Donna Mitoski asked if you have tried to get the carpenters union to contribute or assist with this project? Bruce Taylor replied that they would look into it.

Evan Noglow asked if there was any other similar library in the State? Bruce Taylor replied that the Godfrey is the third largest in the state, but it has the largest online usage.

Grady Faulkner asked who owns this institution? Bruce Taylor replied it is a privately owned 501(c)3.

Fifteenth, Elizabeth Nocera representing **Middletown Public Schools' Accessibility Enhancement for Youth & Family Services project**. Middletown Schools is applying for funding for accessibility code upgrades and capital improvements to the 310 Hunting Hill Avenue annex building, which will house the Middletown Youth Services Bureau (YSB) and Middletown Parent/Family Resource Services. Items included in this proposal will assist the district in upgrading the annex building to address accessibility codes, to include: installation of accessible ramping at the front entryway, reconfiguration of the restroom facilities to meet accessibility codes, painting & upgrade of the interior office space, accessible classroom & conference space for the parent/family resource & youth services programs & provision of a reception area. There have been no previous code upgrades of this building to address the public facility provisions of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

Vincent Amato stated that this sounds like a school budget project.

Richard Pelletier asked if improvements are not made what will happen? Elizabeth Nocera replied that the building will not be used by the public.

Vincent Amato stated that the City should find other space.

Linda Wallace asked for a description of the youth offender program? Elizabeth Nocera replied that the youth offender program takes juveniles that are in the court system works on the issues before them.

Phil Pessina asked will the Youth Service Bureau budget include improvements to the building? Elizabeth Nocera replied that it is not part of the budget.

Avery Watson asked what was the \$20,000 previous grant used for? Elizabeth Nocera replied that it was used for window replacement.

Sixteenth, Cliff Johnson and Carl Rodenhizer represented **Mercy Housing's Shepherd Home Improvements project**. A 70 bed long-term transitional residential facility for homeless men & women working toward self-sufficiency & permanent housing, operated by Mercy Housing & Shelter Corp (MHSC) in Middletown on the campus of CVH since 1988. Necessary improvements have been postponed due to a lack of funding, including upgrading the kitchen, an area of just over 200 sq. feet in which 210

meals per day are prepared and cooked. The current kitchen lacks space & surfaces for adequate food preparation & for post-prep of cooked food. By utilizing an adjacent room, the work area will expand from 209 sf to a total of 489 sf and allow for separate food prep & cooking/post-prep areas - and more efficient, hygienic meal production. Improvements will benefit over 140 different homeless men & women during the 1st year and each year thereafter. Mercy's Director of Facilities planned the project in consultation with plumbing & electrical professionals, the Middletown Health Inspector and CVH authorities.

Ronnie Bantum asked how long is the lease? Carl Rodenhizer replied that the lease is in 5 year increments.

Seventeenth, Robert Rudewicz represented **The Connection's Eddy Shelter Security Project**. The Eddy Shelter provides 24 hour access to emergency shelter for adult females & males over the age of 18. The purpose of the Eddy Shelter is to engage each resident through comprehensive case management & provide access to substance abuse treatment, healthcare, employment assistance, housing & mental health services in an effort to end homelessness in Middlesex County. The Connection, Inc. is proposing the installation of new beds & mattresses to enhance the safety, health, well being on the residents. The new beds & mattresses were picked because they offer the best protection against bed bugs & similar pests from finding places to thrive. Recently the shelter has experienced having issues with bed bugs. What started in one, three person occupancy room has spread to nearly five rooms. Buying new bedding is the most cost effective measure versus an undetermined period where we would need to contract Terminex for a routine spraying of the building. The Connection, Inc. is in addition proposing the installation of floor tile in the shelter main hallway. Due to use & water damage, areas became unsafe & needed to be removed. An asbestos abatement company removed the floor in 2008 leaving a concrete floor. Installation of a new floor will improve facility contributing to the safety and well-being of our residents & staff.

Anthony Marino asked if the state owns the building? Robert Rudewicz replied that the State does own the building, but the Connection is responsible for the interior.

Anthony Marino asked what kind of lease? Robert Rudewicz replied that it is 5 year lease with 5 year extensions.

Eighteenth, Jennifer Saines-Pinch and John Elmore represented **Community Health Center and Friends of McCarthy Park's McCarthy Park Rejuvenation project**. The combined cooperation, efforts & funds of a Community Development Block Grant, the Mdn. Dept. of Parks & Rec, The Community Health Center, Wesleyan University, Mdsx. County Community Foundation, Stonehedge Landscaping, Bianco Giolitto Weston Architects & Friends of McCarthy Park have in the past seven years transformed McCarthy Park into a more visible, inviting, handicap accessible & user friendly city amenity. We propose that improvements continue in the upgrade & creation of passive & active recreational activities & in the enhancement of the aesthetics of the park. Specifically, the upgrade of the tennis & basketball courts, the reinstallation of a walking path around the soccer field & the installation of bike racks, benches & picnic tables. We also propose that the rusty chain link fence along Hotchkiss St. be removed & replaced with an aesthetic yet cautionary border of bollard & chain.

Donna Mitoski asked if they have approached Wesleyan University for assistance? Jennifer Saines-Pinch replied that Wesleyan has provided assistance such as getting access from High Street and Wesleyan has corrected some water run-off issues.

Vincent Amato asked is this not a City Park? Jennifer Saines-Pinch replied that it is a City Park, but the Parks and Recreation Department has barely enough resources to maintain the parks at a minimum level.

Avery Watson asked about the use of the park? Jennifer Saines-Pinch replied it is open to the public. The sports field can be reserved, otherwise it is a first-come-first-serve.

Anthony Marino asked about the \$11,000 secured from the Parks and Recreation Department? Jennifer Saines-Pinch replied that it is largely in-kind services that the Department has volunteered to do.

Evan Noglow asked what the \$5,000 is for? Jennifer Saines-Pinch replied that it is for a walking track.

Nineteenth, represented **Shiloh Manor's Shiloh Manor Repairs project**. To increase the quality of life by providing decent & safe housing for elderly seniors by renovation of windows, roofing, carpet & sidewalks, common areas and walkways.

Linda Wallace asked for a breakdown of the project components. Sheryl Ford stated that she would submit the information.

Anthony Marino asked how old the building was? Sheryl Ford replied that the building was 10 years old.

Twentieth, Michiel Wackers represented the **City of Middletown and the Middletown Police Department's North End Cameras project**. The Mdn. Police Dept. is proposing to continue their 2006 "Operation View" project. The 2006 project has proven successful in decreasing criminal activity with the area of the cameras. The proposed project for 2009 is to install two cameras within the same area (1) Green Street and (1) Liberty/Pearl Streets. These cameras are successful deterrents for criminal activity, assist with surveillance operations & aid in the prosecution of offenders committing criminal acts within the view of the camera system.

Twenty-first, Lucy McMillian and Barry Simons represented **Gilead Community Services' Liberty Affordable Housing project**. Gilead Community Services is pursuing the purchase of residential property located at 169 Liberty Street. Once purchased, the property will allow low income housing for five residents who receive supportive case management services from Gilead Community Services. The current purchase price is \$175,000. Gilead Community Services is required to put down \$43,750 toward the purchase of the house in order to get a mortgage. Gilead is requesting \$25,000 in CDBG funding to put toward this downpayment. Gilead has an application pending with Liberty Bank foundation for an additional \$10,000 and Gilead will fund the remaining \$8,750.

Linda Wallace asked how the mortgage process was going? Lucy McMillian replied that they were working with Bank of America and Liberty Bank and see who can give the best financing.

Linda Wallace asked if this request was for a down payment? Barry Simons replied that it was.

Linda Wallace asked about the incomes of the renters for the affordable housing? Lucy McMillian replied that the rents would be affordable.

Evan Noglow asked who determined purchase price? Barry Simons replied that it was the owner?

Twenty-second, Ron Krom represented **St. Vincent DePaul's Soup Kitchen Relocation Project**. St. Vincent DePaul Place operates the Soup Kitchen and the agency's administrative, outreach and housing support offices out of a facility at 617 Main Street. This facility is owned by the Diocese of Norwich but is maintained by St. Vincent DePaul Place. The Community Health Center (CHC) has a proposal to develop a new health care facility that would include their medical, mental health and dental clinics on a new site. If the CHC project is approved, CHC's medical facility at 625 Main Street would become vacant. St. Vincent DePaul Place would like to transfer the ownership of its current facility to CHC and receive title to the CHC medical facility. This project would be contingent upon the approval of the CHC proposal and sufficient funding to cover the costs of renovation and relocation. We would vacate the 617 Main Street building and move our programs off the Main Street site to the property in the rear.

This project will involve transforming the current medical building into a soup kitchen, with refrigeration, pantry, and offices. St. Vincent DePaul Place does not have the funds available to pay for a project of this scope and would require this CDBG funding to make the project viable.

St. Vincent DePaul Place was founded in 1980 to meet the needs of the poor and homeless in Greater Middletown.

Linda Wallace asked what are the benefits? Ron Krom replied that the new building would be handicapped accessible, all the functions of the soup kitchen and St. Vincent Depaul would be on one floor. The Soup Kitch would be taken off of Main Street and the soup kitchen storefront could return back to retail.

Linda Wallace asked what will happen to the Main Street building? Ron Krom replied that the it would be a building swap with the Community Health Center. St. Vincent Depaul would get the rear clinic building of the Community Health Center and the Community Health Center would get the Soup Kitchen building.

Twenty-third, Michiel Wackers represented the **City of Middletown's Miller Bridge Acquisition & Demolition project**. This is a slum & blight elimination request for the Miller & Bridge Redevelopment project. In 2000 the Common Council determined that the Miller Bridge neighborhood was no longer viable as a neighborhood & the properties should be acquired & demolished. Since then the City has acquired about half of the properties through either tax foreclosure or with a Section 108 CDBG loan. With the downturn of the housing market prices for properties in the Miller Bridge area have dropped significantly. Recently a property has been marketed for \$45,000. It is our understanding that this property has been stripped of its copper piping & is vacant. This property was gutted by a fire a few years ago & rehabbed. Since this property is listed publicly for sale, federal regulations are less cumbersome when using funds. The City would not need to hire two appraisers to determine fair market value. Also, the fact that it is vacant means no relocation expenses.

Twenty-fourth, Michiel Wackers represented the **City of Middletown's Compact Fluorescence Exchange program**. This proposal would distribute compact fluorescence bulbs to low and moderate income elderly renters & homeowners & recycle the old incandescent bulbs. The goal is to reduce energy consumption & therefore make the cost of housing for these residents more affordable. Families would be eligible for up to 10 bulbs & would be exchanged at their residence to ensure that there is a 1 for 1 replacement. Theoretically, this could save as much as \$100 a year for each household in energy usage. 500 bulbs would be purchased so a minimum of 50 households would benefit. Bulbs have an estimated life of five years.

Twenty-fifth, Michiel Wackers represented the **City of Middletown's Section 108 Loan Repayment obligations**. This grant request is for the repayment of the Section 108 Loan that Middletown had taken out in 2003 for the Miller Bridge Redevelopment Project. A section 108 Loan borrows funds that are repaid with CDBG grant funds.

The future repayment schedule is:

Covered by 2008 grant funds	July 2009 - \$33,772.45
Covered by 2009 grant funds	Jan. 2010 - \$3,198.95
	July 2010 - \$35,198.95
Covered by 2010 grant funds	Jan. 2011 - \$2,534.95
	July 2011 - \$36,534.95
Covered by 2011 grant funds	Jan. 2012 - \$1,780.15
	July 2012 - \$37,780.15
Covered by 2012 grant funds	Jan. 2013 - \$941.35
	July 2013 - \$39,941.35

Twenty-sixth, Michiel Wackers represented the **City of Middletown's Program Administration. Project Administration of Middletown CDBG program**, including all HUD reporting, bill paying and subgrantee monitoring.

Seeing no more business the meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Michiel Wackers, Deputy Director of Planning, Conservation and Development