

**COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
APRIL 11, 2005 – 7:00 P.M.**

**CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS – 1ST FLOOR
100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE**

Board Members

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Cumulative From 10/03</u>	
			<u>(P)</u>	<u>(A)</u>
Robert Brady	P		14	2
Jennie Brooks	P		13	3
Marie Conroy	P		10	3
Marjorie Davis		A	5	11
John Hurley	P		7	9
Robert Pascal	P		14	2
Sanford Rosenthal	P		16	0
Robert Smith	P		16	0
William Goetz	P		7	1
Michael Kimmey	P		6	1
Alfred Imgrund	P		4	0

Staff Present:

Margarette Hayes, Community Development
Assistant City Attorney
Karen Reese, Housing Community Development

Margaret A. D'Alessio, Recording Secretary

Guests

Diane Smith	Johanna Yen	Rolando Hall
Rafael Cruz	Pati Duke	Paul Mocombe
Oliver Black	April Kirk	Janet Erlick
Susan Bain	Beryl Glansberg	F. J. Shaw
Kristen Barrett	Steven Spaulding	Evelyn Grooms
Monica Cupid	Gainus Wright	Jana Gray-Williams
Dayna Bhaggan	Toni Hernandez	Esther Baylor
Jennifer Stewart	Twan Russell	Dr. Rosalind Osgood
Lebedee Wright	Marcenia Wood	Marie Harrison
Lillie Frye	Johnny Dunnlap	Clarence Lawrence

Call to Order

Chair Robert Brady called the meeting to order at approximately 7:07 p.m. and roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes – March 14, 2005 Meeting

Dr. Goetz stated that the last sentence on page 7 was not said by him, and therefore, asked that his name be removed from the minutes. Margarette Hayes stated that she believed Alfred Imgrund had made the statement.

Motion was made by Jennie Brooks and seconded by Alfred Imgrund to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2005 Meeting as corrected. Board unanimously approved.

The Secretary did review the tapes of the meeting of March 14, 2005, and Ms. Hayes was correct. The statement in question had been said by Alfred Imgrund.

Ex Parte Rule

The Assistant City Attorney stated that she would clarify the rule on "ex parte" communications. She stated that tonight was when the Board would be applying policy regarding the CDBG grants. She explained that if any Board members had met with representatives of the facilities, such disclosures would have to be made at the beginning of the discussion. She stated that this was a quasi-judicial proceeding and they would be applying City policy that would impact the rights of the various individuals coming before the Board. She explained that "ex parte" meant a communication between a Board Member and one or more of the applicants outside of a public forum without other applicants being present. She explained there is a presumption that it creates a prejudice in favor of the applicants. In order to preserve the applicant's due process rights, the Board Members needed to disclose any visits, communications or contacts.

The Assistant City Attorney continued stating that in the Ordinance there was a section called "Access to Public Officials" which spoke about this very thing. She further stated that this also appeared in the ULDR because that was part of the ordinances where City government applied policy.

Sanford Rosenthal asked if they needed to mention everyone that they had visited.

CDBG Funding Cycle Applicant Presentations

Chair Robert Brady clarified that the Board would first be discussing the ranking system and then the order of applicant presentation.

The Assistant City Attorney stated that she believed disclosures should be made first. She reiterated that it is important that a level playing field be established for each applicant.

Chair Robert Brady asked if any applicants were absent from tonight's meeting. Ms. Hayes stated that she would call the roll, but she believed everyone was present. She began to call the roll as follows: Atlantic Institute, Broward Homebound Program, ComServ, FAU Small Business Development, First Call for Help, Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre, Future Starts Youth Sports Association, Girl Scouts of Broward

County, Mount Olive Development Corporation, Russell Life Skills & Reading Education, Starting Over, Susie C. Holley Cradle Nursery, Women in Distress, City of Fort Lauderdale – Parks & Recreation – Aquatic Program, and the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department – Graffiti Reduction and Community Quality Improvement Project.

Ms. Hayes announced that the representatives from the Girl Scouts of Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale, Parks & Recreation, Aquatic Program were not yet present for tonight's meeting. She stated that since the representatives were normally called for their presentations alphabetically that could be the reason for them coming later on.

The following disclosures were made by members of the Board: Sanford Rosenthal stated that he had visited all the facilities with the exception of First Call for Help, Susie C. Holley Cradle Nursery, the City of Fort Lauderdale Parks & Recreation, and the Fort Lauderdale Police Department.

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Alfred Imgrund asked if visits could be made between this application and the actual vote. Ms. Hayes stated that could be done.

Marie Conroy stated that she had received an invitation from Dr. Yen from the Atlantic Institute and last year she had visited First Call for Help.

Dr. Goetz stated that he had visited the Atlantic Institute of Oriental Medicine and First Call for Help.

Robert Pascal stated that a year ago he had done volunteer work at Starting Over, and had spoken with Ms. Bain recently.

Michael Kimmey stated that he had visited Atlantic Institute of Oriental Medicine and First Call for Help.

Robert Smith stated that he had visited Atlantic Institute and First Call for Help.

Jennie Brooks stated that she had spoken with Dr. Osgood at Mount Olive Development Corporation.

John Hurley stated that he had visited Women in Distress, and First Call for Help.

Chair Robert Brady stated that he had visited the Atlantic Institute of Oriental Medicine.

Chair Robert Brady asked if the Board had to disclose communications or visitations to the facilities prior to the applications being submitted. The Assistant City Attorney stated they did not have to make such disclosures.

Ms. Hayes instructed the applicants to come forward and speak clearly when making their presentations to the Board. She stated that a member of the Community Development Staff would time each applicant for 5 minutes when making their presentations. After each 5-minute presentation, time would be allotted to the Board Members for questions.

Jennie Brooks stated that she was the President of her Homeowner's Association, and her Treasurer was one of the applicants for the grant. The Assistant City Attorney stated there was no conflict of interest involved in that case. She further stated that the Board Members were to disclose anything that might be prejudicial.

Robert Smith stated that he wanted to compliment everyone for their time and efforts regarding their presentations.

Ms. Hayes stated that if any applicants had any information to be distributed to the Board, she asked that such information be given to staff who would then give it to the Board.

Atlantic Institute of Oriental Medicine

Chair Robert Brady explained that this program would provide no-cost medical care, preventative care, and community services to low-income and no income residents of the City of Fort Lauderdale. Medical Services will include acupuncture and herbal supplements. Community Services would include classes and cultural offerings such as thai-che classes, quejong classes, food therapy classes, Chinese cultural classes, and informational sessions.

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Johanna Yen, President Atlantic Institute of Oriental Medicine, stated that she was honored to have the opportunity to present a briefing of their institute which had been established 10 years ago. She stated that they moved to the Downtown area 2 years ago. She stated that the school has made steadfast progress. She explained they were going to establish an urgent care facility for low-income and no income individuals. She stated it would provide oriental medical treatments and other therapeutic classes to help individuals improve their overall health, especially the senior citizens. She stated their doctors and professors were experienced. She remarked that this was the first time their facility was seeking assistance from this Board. She explained that in the future they wanted to establish travel acupuncture to better serve the individuals who needed their assistance. She asked this Board to grant their request so they would be able to continue in their services.

Dr. Goetz stated that as part of the breakdown in their budget, salaries were listed for two doctors and he asked if they were receiving \$35,000 each. Ms. Yen stated that was the salary for the doctors for a 40-hour week. She remarked that some doctors provided volunteer advice. Dr. Goetz asked if those doctors would work in other places or just at this facility.

Rolando Hall stated that he had done the work in requesting the grant for this facility. He stated that these two doctors worked 20-30 hours per week with the students and patients and that would be their salaries.

Dr. Goetz stated that they had listed that the Federal Family Educational Loan Program had given this facility grants in the amount of \$835,000. He asked if that was in regard to loans for students. Mr. Hall explained that was in regard to student loans.

Robert Smith stated that the hours of the clinic were listed from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m, and there were few employees, and therefore, he asked if volunteers would be used at the facility. Mr. Hall stated that the students did a lot of the work, including the interns. Robert Smith asked who supervised the facility. Mr. Hall stated there were two doctors, along with a Clinic Director. Ms. Yen stated they wanted to set up a program and the roving van. Robert Smith stated that \$100,000 was very reasonable for such a facility. He asked if copies of the evaluation could be given to the Board. Mr. Hall stated they did not have it completed, but wanted to evaluate their achievements every six months.

Alfred Imgrund asked if there were medical doctors on staff. Ms. Yen replied there were internal medicine doctors and other MDs. She explained that the oriental doctors had licenses to operate. Alfred Imgrund asked Mr. Hall what his qualifications would be after he graduates. Mr. Hall stated that he would be a DOM, Dr. of Oriental Medicine. He added that he had done the work on the grant pro bono and that it was his gift to the school.

Marie Conroy stated that she had visited with Dr. Yen. She stated that the roving vehicles would visit senior citizens and were open to the medical services being offered. Ms. Yen stated that one-third of Americans already used alternative medicines which totals about \$6 Billion. She stated that she wanted to serve the community. She stated they needed the help of this grant. Her school had begun with only \$10,000. She advised that individuals were contributing to her school after discovering the services provided.

Alfred Imgrund stated that a letter was received stating that the Institute would absorb the cost of student staffing for the clinics totaling \$199,000 and was listed as other funds in the proposal. He asked if the grant was not given to the facility would their program be able to continue. Ms. Yen stated that the community always helped her. She felt this Board would also assist her in her endeavors.

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Sanford Rosenthal stated that if the facility did not obtain this grant as requested, would they be able to partially begin their program. Ms. Yen stated that she would find a way to move forward.

Chair Robert Brady welcomed Mr. Fred Shaw who was with a Canadian group and was not a CDBG applicant. He explained that he was attempting to develop low and moderate-income housing in the CRA.

Broward Homebound Program

Chair Robert Brady stated that this group was requesting \$25,000 and provided case management services to the elderly and disabled adults ages 18 through 59. He further stated that elderly and disabled clients who can afford to pay partially for services received discounted rates based on individual financial situations. He stated there were strict guidelines in order to receive the following services: homemaker services, personal care, adult day health care, home-delivered meals, medical supplies, and an emergency response system. He stated that services were supplied to enable individuals to be able to continue living on their own.

Diane Smith, Executive Director of the Broward Homebound Program, stated that this is a non-profit agency established in 1986 by a concerned group of senior citizens seeing a need for these types of services in their community. Custodial services were required by these individuals in order to be able to continue living in their homes. She stated that in 1989 their services were expanded to assist permanently disabled adults through a contract with the Department of Children & Family. Such program was known as Community Care for Disabled Adults. She stated that program provided in-home services for permanently disabled adults ages 18 through 59. She explained their third program was their Handicap Meal and Medical Supply Program for which they were requesting this funding. She explained it provided home-delivered meals for such individuals, and they were the only existing program of this type in Broward County. She further stated they had 70 clients for the meals program, but there were 129 people on a waiting list for such services. She advised that out of the 129, 26 of those were City residents that could not be provided the service. She stated that last year the agency served 1,054 unduplicated clients, and the City provided service to 164.

Ms. Smith further stated that 16% of their clients served were residents of Fort Lauderdale, and 19% of the clients of disabled adults were City residents, and 181 people were served through the disabled program, and 49 were City residents making up 27% of the clients served. She explained they were requesting \$25,000 to be able to serve 22 additional clients for the next fiscal year. She stated that it costs \$1128 per year to provide 7 home-delivered meals to a disabled adult x 52 weeks and x 22. She further stated that they had received funding from the City through their non-profit funding for many years, but about two years ago they received a letter stating that the City would no longer be making such contributions. She continued stating that due to budget cuts from the Department of Children and Family and other funding sources, they needed to come to the City and request funding, especially since many of their residents were being served by this program.

Ms. Smith stated that their services are provided to individuals in their homes and she would be glad to set up a home visit for anyone who desired to meet with an individual that was being served by this program. She reiterated that individuals wanted to remain independent and continue living in their homes as long as possible.

Chair Robert Brady asked if all 22 additional clients that would be served through this grant were residents of the City of Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Smith stated that they prioritized clients regarding their disabilities. Chair Robert Brady stated that this budget was the City's and the County had their own programs. He explained that this Board had the fiduciary duty to the

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citizens of the City, and that they should be provided for first. He stated this was this Board's priority. He stated the funds given were to be used for residents in the City of Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Smith stated that if it was stipulated in their contract that the funds were to be utilized only for citizens of Fort Lauderdale, then that would be done. She further stated that they did receive funding from the County, but there had not been an increase in four years. She stated that they did received funds from other cities in accordance with their non-profit funding.

John Hurley asked how long Ms. Smith had been with the organization. Ms. Smith stated that she had been the Director for 11 years, but had been part of the program for many years. John Hurley asked what the funding level had been from the City before they had stopped making contributions. Ms. Smith stated that they had received about \$8600 to \$9200. John Hurley asked for some further information regarding meals-on-wheels and asked if any of the efforts were duplicated. Ms. Smith replied that they served individuals 18-59 and people over 60 were serviced by other organizations.

Michael Kimmey asked how many individuals were served through their Meal-On-Wheels Program in the City of Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Smith stated that they had just finished their statistical reports, but she did not have that information with her this evening. She stated that she would call Ms. Hayes tomorrow with the information.

Robert Smith asked why the number of individuals being served in the City of Fort Lauderdale were less than the previous year. Ms. Smith explained that the figures were only from July through January. She explained further that the individuals they served were below the poverty level and either received SSI or Social Security disability.

Marie Conroy asked how they arrived at the \$25,000 figure. Ms. Smith explained that she attempted to show that there were 26 clients that were Fort Lauderdale residents. She stated they tried to keep the meal price the same so the subcontractors would not increase it, but due to increases in gas prices rates could be raised. She stated that in an attempt to alleviate some of the expense, they tried to have them deliver two weeks twice a month, as opposed to 7 meals once a week.

Sanford Rosenthal asked if individuals could be placed on the program that could afford to pay for their meals. Ms. Smith explained that there were private meal providers in the area for individuals who could afford to pay for their meals, but the price would be higher. She stated such individuals would not be high priority clients, if they could afford to pay for their meals. She reminded the Board that there was a large waiting list of individuals who could not afford to pay for their meals, and those people needed to be helped first.

ComServ, Inc. – Protectman

Chair Robert Brady explained that this program would provide age appropriate HIV prevention education to elementary and middle age school children by empowering youth to develop positive self-images and convictions that will enable them to abstain from sex, delay sexual encounters, and/or develop knowledge of safe sex practices and face other challenges presented by their peers and social settings.

Norman Powell, President of ComServ, Inc., stated that on February 17, 2005, the Sun-Sentinel reported that AID cases had increased in Florida sharply during 2004, and there was an unexpected 24% increase throughout the State. The Broward County Health Department reported a 49% increase in such cases in 2004. He stated the State was in a crisis situation. He stated that reports were provided that HIV cases in children ranging in ages from 5 to 19 had increased by 2,000% since 1997, and there was a 1,000% increase in individuals ranging in age

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from 20 to 29. He stated that it is important to note that decision-making skills, behavior patterns, and self-images are developed at an early age and will determine an individual's future actions. He further stated that it is important to expose children to prevention models at an early age that they can identify with and instill in them the knowledge and tools necessary to meet the challenges they will become faced with. He stated this is the reason for Protectman who will empower the youth with morals and education to face their challenges in every day life.

Mr. Powell stated that they had spoken to the Broward County School Board about this program and suggestions were made to enhance student achievement of a higher order in reading, writing and science as outlined in FCAT. He stated that was done and emphasis is being placed on negotiation, decision-making and reasoning skills.

Dr. Goetz asked if any similar programs had been developed previously and what were their success rates and how was such success measured. Mr. Powell stated that there has been nothing like this, but there had been programs targeting youth with traditional materials that children tended to draw away from.

Alfred Imgrund asked for further description of the corporation. Mr. Powell explained that ComServ was a non-profit organization since 2003. He stated they had worked with other organizations and agencies regarding HIV prevention. He stated further that it was a one-man operation and volunteers did paperwork for him. He explained that he was the individual that went out into the schools. Alfred Imgrund asked who was going to be Protectman. Mr. Powell stated that had not yet been decided, and they were going to build on the books and develop the character before an individual was placed in the uniform. He reiterated that he was already incorporated into the school system and stated he was an authorized provider for HIV prevention. He added that he was also a consultant in connection with the peer program they had recently developed. He further stated that he was certified at the master level by the American Red Cross to teach HIV, and could teach nationally.

Jennie Brooks asked for further information as to how this program would help in regard to FCAT. Mr. Powell explained that they would enhance the cognizant skills in reading, writing, and math. He stated that Tequesta Trace did pick the character for the program.

Chair Robert Brady asked when the letter from Tequesta Trace had been received. Mr. Powell stated that the Assistant Principal authorized him to use the letter from last year.

Sanford Rosenthal asked if this program had been presented to the school children. Mr. Powell confirmed. Sanford Rosenthal asked if they could attend one of his presentations, but the phone number provided for the organization was not a working number. Mr. Powell stated that anyone could observe his presentations and the phone number was a working number. Chair Robert Brady asked for the correct phone number for this organization. Mr. Powell stated it was 954-296-1829.

Alfred Imgrund stated that it was indicated that another \$39,000 was anticipated, and asked what were the source of those funds. Mr. Powell referred the Board to the budget itemization sheet. He stated that a lot of it was in-kind.

FAU Small Business Development Center

Chair Robert Brady stated that this organization provided individualized business skills and training to the residents of Fort Lauderdale who wanted to start a small business, or needed the technical skills to successfully operate their business. He advised the request being made was for \$18,188.

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Rafael Cruz stated their organization-helped individuals live the American Dream of owning their own business. He explained that they helped individuals prepare for their futures and come out of poverty. He stated that skills were available that have existed since ancient times and such things were taught to people. He stated they offered training in classes and management skills to create a business plan and teach people to manage their cash flow. He further stated that business was not about making money off people, but improving the quality of other people's lives through the profitable exchange of goods and services.

Jennie Brooks asked how this program was marketed among the younger people. Mr. Cruz stated that their marketing strategy was several fold. He explained they marketed through the radio with local heads of operations, along with a partnership with the County Library, flyers, website, and an outreach program in the community. He stated they had the backing of the Small Business Administration and were mandated to deal with minorities, the handicapped and veterans, and any one else that needed their services.

MEETING RECESSED AT 8:17 P.M.

MEETING RECONVENED AT 8:28 P.M.

Chair Robert Brady stated that John Hurley had to leave the meeting due to a prior engagement.

Chair Robert Brady further stated that they were going to continue with Mr. Cruz's program regarding FAU Small Business Development Center.

Jennie Brooks asked how many participants were involved in the program at this time. Mr. Cruz stated that last year they saw about 3,000 people in the County organization. He stated they had an Association with this City over two years ago, but funding had been cut. Jennie Brooks asked if there were participants from Broward County at this time in the program. Mr. Cruz confirmed.

Jennie Brooks asked if a breakdown could be provided regarding the ethnic groups that participated in their program. Mr. Cruz explained that such statistics could be provided in more detail, but there were about 35% African-American, 20% Latino-Hispanic, and the rest were mixed. He stated that the numbers were conservative and were probably higher. He added that over 50% women participated in the program.

Dr. Goetz asked if the Library was to be the primary site for training. Mr. Cruz replied it would be the site for counseling. Dr. Goetz asked if this type of program existed elsewhere in the Country. Mr. Cruz stated that they were part of a national group that was funded by the Federal Government and through local State universities and colleges. He stated they were also mandated to seek other funds to assist with their program. Dr. Goetz asked if the counseling and educational process was applied in the Country. Mr. Cruz stated that was what all such centers did in their programs, along with programs developed specifically for their local areas. Dr. Goetz asked what was the success rate of individuals starting businesses say out of 100 people being counseled. Mr. Cruz stated there were many variables involved and such an answer could not really be provided. He stated that it was easy to start a business in today's society, but to run it successfully through a 5-year period which was critical, there was a failure rate in South Florida of about 42% due to lack of technical skills, access to capital, and skillful training.

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Chair Robert Brady stated that if the failure rate in South Florida was about 42%, what is the success rate for those who went through this program. Mr. Cruz stated that they did not keep such figures, but a report could be prepared if the Board desired it.

Alfred Imgrund stated that a projected measure of success was not being provided regarding this program. Mr. Cruz stated that they did keep track of their program. Chair Robert Brady asked what percentage of companies closed after one year in connection with their program, after the second year, and up to the fifth year. Mr. Cruz stated that the Small Business Administration determined how to keep track of such figures which were through impact goals, including jobs created and businesses started. He stated that at least a couple hundred jobs had been created, along with businesses being started, and were not all-low income. He explained they helped businesses start anywhere from lawn service companies to \$250,000 to \$500,000 corporations. He stated they helped anyone who came to their program.

Dr. Goetz asked what percentage of low-income individuals who this program helped remained in business for five years, compared to those who did not go through this program. Mr. Cruz stated those numbers were not readily available because they did not have figures of individuals not in their program. He explained that the 42% figure provided encompassed all of South Florida. Dr. Goetz stated that the government, therefore, had a way to track these numbers, and asked for him to compare the individuals who went through this program to the 42% figure. Mr. Cruz stated that such information could be provided to the Board.

Sanford Rosenthal asked how long this program had been in effect. Mr. Cruz replied that the Small Business Development Center had been in existence for 20 years, and he had been Associate Director for 4 years for Broward County. Sanford Rosenthal asked if this program helped non-profits get established. Mr. Cruz stated they did not, but there were other organizations that did so. He stated they would help a non-profit with their business plan.

Robert Smith stated that poor individuals could not afford newspapers, and therefore, they could not be reached about this program through that type of marketing. Mr. Cruz stated that brochures and flyers were distributed, and libraries were used effectively in the outreach community programs. He explained that a successful marketing program was not one-tiered, but was a full spectrum. He added that whether they received this grant request or not, they would continue with their work.

Mr. Cruz thanked the Board and Ms. Hayes for a smooth and fair process.

First Call for Help

Chair Robert Brady stated that this request is for \$75,000. He continued stating that this was Broward County's only 24/7 comprehensive help line service which significantly benefited low and moderate-income residents in crisis and suicide intervention.

Beryl Glansberg, First Call for Help, stated that presently they were projecting a 3% increase in their call volume for this year. She explained that of the 75,550 calls during the last year, about 38,150 came from residents of this City. She stated that over 50% of the calls were from low-income individuals and families in this City, and were requests for basic needs. She further stated that 7,800 referrals came from family success centers, and a letter of support had been provided by that group. She stated that the Salvation Army referred about 3100 individuals, the Food Pantry for Cooperative Feeding referred about 3000 individuals, and the Coalition to End Homelessness about 2600 referrals. She stated that about 25% of the homeless population in the City called their 211 line for assistance. She stated that 211 served 90 Million Americans

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over 32% of its population. She explained there were presently 134 active call systems in 26 States.

Ms. Glansberg stated that in 2004 during the hurricanes, they had relocated to the EOC and no service had been missed. She stated they had deescalated about 6 suicides. She further stated that a historic notice came out last June from HUD known as CDP-0407 and the top paragraph stated as follows: "This notice describes how CDBG funds may be used in part to establish and operate 211 calling systems. Due to the nature of many community service referrals, it appears that many users of the 211 lines were low to moderate income persons." She explained that this exempted them from identifying the personal information of a caller. All calls are anonymous and confidential. She stated this was gratifying support shown for the national growth of this program. She added that significant letters of support were supplied by other agencies. She stated that 211 has been active in the 10-year plan to eliminate homelessness in the County. She explained there was now a mandate in the State to involve 211 in the homeless continuum of care. She further stated that 211 was the one number to call and reduced duplication of services and linked low income people with the services they needed, and enabled providers to locate the necessary services.

Chair Robert Brady stated that this was a wonderful program and he liked to hear about the reduction of duplication services.

Robert Smith stated that he had referred many individuals to this program, and there had been satisfactory assistance provided.

Ms. Glansberg provided copies of their tri-lingual cards listing the specialty help lines that were available. She reiterated that the 211 line was for everyone.

Dr. Goetz stated that their promotional marketing figure was listed at \$4,600, and he asked how they were able to market the program for that amount. Ms. Glansberg explained that they received a small foundation grant from First Data Western Union and were approaching the Children's Services Board in connection with their Public Awareness and Education Funding Taxonomy to fund 211 regarding behavioral health care needs. United Way was also assisting. She stated that funds were always needed for marketing. She had been informed that a billboard would cost \$14,500 for one month.

Dr. Goetz asked if they could earmark portions of the grant for specific items such as marketing, or did the grants have to be done in a general manner. Ms. Hayes explained that the budget sheet explains their structuring for the funds, but if an award is granted to them, the Board could specify the parameters for the funds which would become part of the agreement with the City.

Chair Robert Brady stated that these were reimbursable expenses.

Ms. Glansberg explained that all the CDBG monies received were matched dollar-for-dollar with United Way responding to emergency needs funding for their general operating support which was very critical. She stated these were the only funds they were able to get for operating expenses.

Dr. Goetz asked if the Board wanted to grant any of these groups more money than being requested could that be done. Ms. Hayes stated that such decisions would have to be justified. Chair Robert Brady stated that less could be given than what was being requested, but the applications would have to be amended to request additional funds they could not justify it, and if they even did it right now, the advertising would be violated. Ms. Hayes stated that everyone else would have the opportunity to adjust accordingly.

Ms. Glansberg invited Mr. Imgrund to see their operation. Chair Robert Brady stated that all information would be provided by Ms. Hayes.

Chair Robert Brady stated that every year he wanted to provide 180% of what was requested for this program.

Alfred Imgrund stated that letters of commendation had been supplied, and he asked if monies were contributed by the municipalities and groups offering such praise. Ms. Glansberg stated that they received a small amount from the Homebound Program such as \$3,000 to \$4,000, but then nothing. Alfred Imgrund remarked that funds appeared to have been cut off due to budget restraints in the City.

Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre

Chair Robert Brady stated that this group was requesting \$125,250. He stated the program provided cultural and educational programs to children and families of the City through innovative and culturally sensitive arts and education and community outreaching programs. He explained that the programs would include theater classes for low income and minority children ranging in ages from 3 ½ to 18 living in Fort Lauderdale, in-school programming including "A Bridge From Me to You," and "From Page to Stage" to historically under serve public elementary schools and collaborating with other cultural, social service, and other government agencies to provide quality community outreach programming across the City.

Janet Erlick, Executive Artistic Director, stated that they were located in Downtown since 1952 and their mission was twofold. She stated that part of it is art for art sake and represented theaters and art form, and protecting it and creating artists and future leaders. She stated they also had a community service element and used the arts to address social issues which was the program they were requesting these funds for today.

Ms. Erlick stated that their partnerships in the outreach program were with local groups and worked closely with the School Board and other agencies. She stated they wanted to create citizens with social responsibilities through the programs. She stated that through their various branches they were presently serving 65,000 people in Broward County, and of that 39,000 were within the City's limits. She stated that 15,000 of the students were minorities, and 10,000 were from under served communities that were traditionally low-income. She stated they were in partnership with various groups. She stated the programs provided to the School System was "A Bridge From Me to You" which addressed issues of fighting and bullying where students were not able to be successful in the academic arena due to other situations being in conflict. She also stated they used the arts to help teach reading in the "Page to Stage" Program, and an arts infusion program was also created for teachers so they could be more effective teaching students from a wide variety of backgrounds. She explained that all their programs were linked to the Sunshine State Standards.

Ms. Erlick further stated that they were focused on developing the entire child so they could be successful in whatever field they pursued in their lives, and this was not just about creating actors, artists or designers. She stated they were expanding in partnership with one or two affordable housing agencies and would create a space in Downtown that would be mixed-use plus an affordable housing element, along with their theatre so they could help residents in their own neighborhood. She stated if they were not granted this request, then they would have to reduce the number of individuals being assisted through various partnerships.

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Chair Robert Brady asked for some further clarification of the breakdown of the monies being requested. Ms. Erlick explained that the request should be reduced by \$4,000.

Dr. Goetz asked how many individuals were served by this program. Ms. Erlick stated that about 39,000 individuals were helped which included all the branches of the program. These monies would serve about 9700 people. She stated that about 5000 children and teachers were affected by the previous programs mentioned. She replied that she would be happy to supply all the demographics the Board might request.

Jennie Brooks asked if the Bridge Program was an ongoing program with the schools. Ms. Erlick stated that this program was in its 13th year, and last year the funding had been cut. This year only 5 schools had been worked with due to those funding cuts, but other programs such as the reading program had been established with some of the schools. She stated that the Bridge Program did not serve all the schools as previously done.

Oliver Black, Programming Director, stated that the schools involved in the Bridge Program this year were Wilton Manors, Horizon, North Fork, Walker and Dillard.

Robert Smith stated that part of the monies would be spent in school programs. Ms. Erlick confirmed and stated that some of it went for scholarships because the County monies could not be put towards such programs. Robert Smith asked for a breakdown regarding monies spent in and outside of the schools. Ms. Erlick explained that a budget had been provided outlining the expenses and the programs. She further stated that about 50% of the monies were earmarked for in-school programming.

Chair Robert Brady asked if the monies for scholarships were only to be provided for residents of the City. Ms. Erlick confirmed and stated the grant was for schools and students within the City limits.

Future Stars Youth Sports Association

Chair Robert Brady stated the request is for \$157,426. He explained the program provided healthy competitive sports for future leaders, and focused on building self-esteem and self-reliance through participation in State, national and international events.

Marcenia Wood stated that she wanted to read a sponsorship letter they sent out when seeking funds. She read as follows: "Lady Law and Order is a youth building successful grassroots girls basketball family. Their mission is to provide healthy competitive sporting activities for Broward County future leaders. Their goal since 1994 has been to help build self-esteem, self-discipline, and self-reliance through participating in State, national and international competition. However, it just doesn't stop, nor is it limited to just sports." She stated that every girl who has participated in their program for at least 6 years graduated high school and continued on to college with scholarships either through athletics or academic programs. She stated that she was presenting their request today because it was challenging to try and have a community attempt to fund such a program since most monies went toward the prevention of crime.

Ms. Wood asked for help to keep the children with a mindset of self-discipline. She stated that Coach Judge Wright would now speak in regard to a brother program known as the "Florida Roadrunners Program."

Judge Wright stated that in 1989 when he sat on the Bench, it occurred to him that time needed to be given back to help save the younger generation, and he then organized the Florida Roadrunners. He stated that he later operated under the umbrella of the Future Stars of

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America. He explained that he wanted to get the children out of the ghetto and into college so they could return to the community with a successful life. He stated that he also worked with the Youth Basketball Organization and was proud of their success. He added that he had already turned out many well-known stars. He stated that he also dealt with the education component of such programs providing after school study and homework tutoring services, along with FCAT studies.

Dr. Goetz asked how many youths would be taking advantage of this program. Ms. Wood explained they looked to help 40 girls, and explained that the lodging was the highest expense. She stated they only traveled about 7 months out of the year, but it was a 12-month program. Dr. Goetz asked how many students had taken advantage of this program. Ms. Wood explained that all of the girls who had participated in this program for at least six years had received scholarships and went on to college. She stated that 8 girls so far had been consistent in the program. She stated it was a small amount but this was not an easy task. She explained further that the girls had to keep an average of 2.5 in order to be eligible to play high school ball, and asked the girls to seek a 3.0 average in order to be able to enter into a division one school.

Robert Smith asked if they had been spending about \$250,000 during the last 6 years. Ms. Wood stated they had not and budgeted at about \$30,000 per team, but reductions had been made. She stated that she had not included the number of girls that had participated in the program for less than six years and had graduated from high school.

Jennie Brooks asked if less funds were granted than what had been requested would the program continue. Ms. Wood confirmed and stated it was better to receive something than nothing. She stated these programs kept children out of prison.

Judge Wright stated that he had hundreds of students attending college.

Chair Robert Brady stated that he supported the program. He advised that this request was 54% of the total CDBG funds available, and therefore, a motion might be made to reduce the requested amount.

Alfred Imgrund asked what source of funding had been received in prior years by this group. Ms. Wood explained that private funding and sponsors had assisted in offsetting costs. She stated that parents did not have the funds to help and reminded the Board that they were located in a low-income area. Alfred Imgrund asked what was the total budget for last year. Ms. Wood explained that \$30,000 had been budgeted per team, and they had spent about \$15,000 per team last year for only 4 teams. She stated that sponsors and parents had supplied such funds. She stated they were attempting to obtain consistent funding for their program. Alfred Imgrund stated that in seeing that funding was not being obtained from other sources, it had an affect on his decision regarding this program.

Judge Wright stated that he lost sponsors due to company takeovers.

Alfred Imgrund stated that such a loss had nothing to do with the program requesting the funds. Judge Wright reiterated that he operated under the umbrella of this organization.

Girls Scouts of Broward County

Chair Robert Brady stated that this group was requesting \$76,102. He further stated that this program was to provide after school programs and weekend activities for girls living in high-risk areas enabling them to develop to their highest potentials and become responsible and resourceful women.

Monica Cupid, Director Grants Development, stated that they had been around since 1912 and in Broward County since 1935. She continued stating that they had more to offer than just selling cookies and have enriched many young lives. She stated that girls are finding themselves in situations around the Country making them more vulnerable than ever before. She explained that they found the answers through several key studies conducted by their research institute. Some of the findings were that 41% of pre-teen girls are afraid of being bullied, 6 out of 10 teen girls diet and 12% of those girls go to extremes with dieting and have bulimia and anorexia, 30% have been sexual harassed, and 17% use alcohol and drugs due to not feeling safe. She stated that 1 in 4 girls want to leave home due to family violence, and 34% of teen girls worry about being forced into sexual situations. She reiterated that this organization helps to alleviate these problems. She stated that research has proven that the more relationships that girls have with responsible and caring adults the better it is for their futures. Girls are then more likely to seek help to avoid responses to negative experiences, and become more self-reliant. She stated that only 1% of these girls ever end up in juvenile court. The organization helps them to make good decisions and be good citizens. She added that this group serves at least 1200 at-risk girls per year. She stated the funding provides a full year of service for the girls.

Dr. Goetz asked for some further clarification as to the amount of girls being helped by this program. Ms. Cupid clarified that 400 girls were served last year and this year's request for funding would help them to serve 450 girls.

Mount Olive Development Corporation

Chair Robert Brady stated that this corporation has requested \$130,678.75. He stated the center would provide short-term industry specific training and employment services that will empower residents with job-related tools to acquire permanent employment. Thereby, enabling residents to obtain economic self-sufficiency by promoting economic growth within the City.

Dr. Rosalind Osgood, Chief Executive Office, stated they were distributing a corrected budget because the original one did not account for other funds that they were putting toward the program described. The total request amount was not being changed. She explained this corporation was a community based and developed corporation to provide public services, affordable housing, and entrepreneur adventures. She stated that under their public services component, they streamlined their services to provide services to individuals with HIV and substance abuse issues. In the process of meeting those needs, they also had low-income and homeless individuals requiring assistance. Therefore, they did a need assessment on everyone and everyone who came through the door would either be provided a service through their organization, or would be referred to someone who could assist them. In 2004, they were awarded case management dollars which aided them helping HIV people. Their public service committee did a survey and they found that 75% of people would benefit from computer training, 65% in job training and placement, and 35% specifically showed interest for training in the medical field.

Ms. Osgood stated they began to design an Economic Empowerment Center and worked in partnership with the CRA. They were proposing to serve 115 clients through the various trainings and monitor them so data could be provided regarding their success rates. She stated they were proposing more of a mentoring center which they felt would add value to the community.

Chair Robert Brady asked for a motion to accept the corrected budget provided by this corporation.

Motion made by Jennie Brooks and seconded by Robert Smith to accept the corrected budget provided by the Mount Olive Development Corporation in connection with their request for CDBG grant funds. Board unanimously approved.

Dr. Goetz asked for further explanation of the statement "Membership of MODCO should be vested only in members who are in good standing in the congregation in Mount Olive Baptist Church." Dr. Osgood stated that evidently the Board did not have a copy of their updated By-Laws. Previously, that statement meant that MODCO was incorporated in 1994, and there was a time when Board Members who belonged to the Church had done a lot of malfeasance. Therefore, at that time the By-Laws had been changed, but since that time the By-Laws had been amended and such clause had been removed so they could target more individuals who were not members of the Church, and include constituents representing the population being served.

Dr. Goetz stated that he had read that in their financial statement dated 2003. Ms. Osgood stated the By-Laws had been amended in May, 2004, and policies were changed as a result of the audit conducted the prior year.

Robert Smith asked if some programs required certification. Ms. Osgood explained that they built a relationship and believed in minimizing duplication and found professionals who performed various services. Partnerships were made with certain groups that provided certifications for various jobs. She explained that once such programs were completed, certifications were granted. She further explained they had a business consortium at the Church and dealt with various business owners regarding on-job training programs.

Jennie Brooks stated that she had seen things accomplished by this group, and she felt they did a lot to help individuals get back on track and be positive role models for the society.

MEETING RECESSED AT 9:38 P.M.

MEETING RECONVENED AT 9:46 P.M.

Jennie Brooks asked if less monies were granted than what had been requested could they continue on with their program. Ms. Osgood stated they were proposing to serve 115 clients, but whatever monies were granted they would service as many individuals as possible with such funds. She stated they were submitting this proposal due to the high demand for such services. She reiterated that if skills were not taught to individuals to help them gain employment, then they could not be helped socially or economically.

Russell Life Skills & Reading Education

Chair Robert Brady stated that this group was requesting \$50,000. He stated they were dedicated to tackling the highest illiteracy rate of inner City youth and the lack of educational resources available to them. These programs engage students in creative learning experiences that foster a love for reading and enhance communication skills. The mentoring program promotes self-empowerment and positive life choices by engaging various professionals to speak on topics such as drug awareness, sportsmanship, goal setting and career choices. The Helping Hand Outreach Program provided assistance to children and families in the form of clothing, books, food, school supplies, and referrals for counseling when necessary.

Twan Russell stated that he was the founder of this program and were a young organization that began about 6 years ago. The first center was at Oswald Park and over the past years they

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serve over 300 children. He stated that they were monitoring their children in the last 3 years to rate their success. He stated that the school system had gone from phonics to whole language. He explained that they went back to the basics of learning 60% phonics and 40% whole language. He stated that phonics was how most people learned to read and their results were greater and comprehension was better. He stated they did not do homework. He proceeded to introduce Dr. Paul Mocombe who designed their curriculum.

Dr. Paul Mocombe stated he was a philosopher by training, along with being a structural Marxist meaning that he was a phenomenologist. He explained that his curriculum emphasized linguistics. He stated they were taught the rules of grammar, and two years ago they began to use FCAT as a measurement, but emphasized that they did not teach FCAT strategies. He stated the logic behind this was that if a child understood the basic rules of grammar, they could read and understand anything. He stated that 55% of their children passed the FCAT last year. He explained they had a great success rate.

Robert Smith asked how their success rate compared to students without their training in regard to the FCATs. Dr. Mocombe stated that 67% of their feeder schools did not meet adequate yearly progress, and presently they serviced 75 children coming from such schools.

Dr. Goetz asked if they serviced all 67% of the students or were other programs available in the area. Dr. Mocombe replied there were no other such programs in the area and mostly focused on homework issues. He stated they focused on teaching children how to read and comprehend. He further explained that 75 students were at Oswald Park. He stated that 67% referred to the schools in the area. Dr. Goetz asked if the funds would be used to reduce the teacher ratio. Dr. Mocombe explained the funds would be used to maintain the ratio of 10 to 1.

Dr. Goetz further asked what it meant regarding advancing one level. Dr. Mocombe stated that the FCAT measured a student's achievement level from 1-5, and they wanted to improve those levels.

Chair Robert Brady clarified they wanted to increase their abilities by 20%. Dr. Mocombe confirmed.

Dr. Goetz asked what the passing score was on the FCATs. Dr. Mocombe replied it was 3.

Sanford Rosenthal asked if there was a waiting list to enter this program. Dr. Mocombe replied there was a huge waiting list and Oswald Park had about 80 children on that list.

Alfred Imgrund asked how this program compared to the public school program. Dr. Mocombe stated that if the school system emphasized phonetics, he believed there would be a 99% literacy rate.

Sanford Rosenthal stated that the biggest problem today with school children appears to be behavior, but in their school it was very quiet when he had visited it. Mr. Russell stated that consistency was important regarding school children, along with love. He stated that once a child had self-respect, they respected others. He stated they had four centers at this time. He added that children respected athletes, and therefore, they tried to tie that into their program.

Dr. Goetz asked if there were any similar programs in the area that attempted to raise the reading levels of students. Mr. Russell stated that most centers focused on homework, and they focused on the fundamentals of reading and writing. He reiterated that only certified teachers were hired for their program. Dr. Goetz asked what was the relative success of their

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program compared to groups emphasizing homework in raising the FCAT levels. Dr. Mocombe stated it was paradoxical because they were not familiar with a program similar to this one.

Jennie Brooks asked how a person was placed on their waiting list. Dr. Mocombe stated that the park retained the list and applications then filled out. Jennie Brooks asked if they had ever considered having the School Board assist in regard to FCAT. Dr. Mocombe stated they worked with Rock Island Elementary and with Friends for Children, and explained there was a social component to the program which monitored the students.

Starting Over

Chair Robert Brady stated that this group's request was for \$36,690. He stated the proposed project sought to expand current occupational training programs for all homeless residents of Fort Lauderdale and surrounding communities, regardless of gender, race, religion or other considerations. Service will assist these people in rebuilding their lives through occupational skills.

Susan Bain stated that she has been working with the homeless in 17 years and founded this group in 1995. She stated they had a building in Fort Lauderdale and West Oakland Park. Besides their in-house clients, they also worked with various other groups.

Chair Robert Brady stated that the Center in the City of Fort Lauderdale supervised the program and utilized their skills, while also teaching them. Chair Robert Brady stated that they were providing a service to the community, along with their training. He asked how long an individual stayed in their program. Ms. Bain stated they usually left after a year to find gainful employment. She advised that they also had a thrift store and taught the individuals retail operating procedures. Chair Robert Brady asked how many people at this time were serviced by their group, and how many additional individuals did they propose to help if the grant was awarded to them. Ms. Bain replied that they had 83 residents. Chair Robert Brady asked if any individuals ever came back. Ms. Bain replied that there was a percentage that came back, but after several times they did go out into the world and become a success.

Sanford Rosenthal stated that their facility was in Pompano and asked if referrals had come to them from Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Bain confirmed and named various groups and organizations.

Dr. Goetz asked how many people have enrolled in their programs over the years. Ms. Bain stated there were thousands, and during the last couple of years about 400-500 people. Dr. Goetz asked how many had completed the program. Ms. Bain replied that about 100 completed the program, and about 150 did not make it. She stated that all became employed who had made it through the program and were still presently employed.

Robert Smith stated that the average treatment programs only helped one out of three individuals.

Susie C. Holley Cradle Nursery

Chair Robert Brady stated that this group was requesting \$76,873. The project requires transforming one of the existing classrooms into a Montessori type classroom. Specially designed materials and equipment were required, along with specially training teachers. The primary goal of the program is to help each child raise his or her potential in all areas of life by promoting development of social skills, emotional growth, and physical coordination, along with cognitive preparation for future intellectual academic endeavors.

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Evelyn Grooms stated that she wanted to acquaint the Board through their proposal about the program. She stated that there were many misconceptions regarding their schools. She explained that most schools were pragmatic and water-downed. She explained they wanted to convert their normal pre-school classroom into a classroom using the Montessori method. She stated the center had the capacity for 131 children ranging in ages from 3 months to 5 years. She explained that Montessori was the result of a system recognizing an intense desire for knowledge and readiness for learning which was inherent in young children. It is a natural time-tested way of teaching that was based on children's developmental needs for freedom within limits. A carefully prepared environment that guarantees exposure to experiences with self-correcting materials that foster intelligent, physical and psychological abilities.

Ms. Grooms explained that Dr. Montessori observed children and what they enjoyed in their natural environment, and then wrote her theory based on such observations. The children were educated with a multi-sensory sequential and self-correcting materials to facilitate learning. Materials were designed to reach the head through the hand as demonstrated by sandpaper letters and numbers, textured fabrics, barrack tablets and thermac bottles. Once the children were oriented to the classroom, the teachers play a passive role. She stated children learn the rules and then free to explore and can make choices within the parameters of their exposure. She stated further that the movement in the classroom was purposeful which leaves the teacher free to observe the children while they are at work, assist if asked, or work with them on an individual or group project.

Ms. Grooms stated that this program for teaching was the most rewarding. Children had a thirst for learning, and the teachers were anxious to being their day. She stated they have been in the community for 50 years and was part of the fabric of the community.

She stated that by introducing the Montessori method would make them a premier center in the City and the County, as it had been in prior years.

Dr. Goetz asked if this is the first pre-school Montessori program in this City. Ms. Grooms replied it would be the first in that area. Dr. Goetz asked what were the successes of these types of schools compared to public and private educations. Ms. Grooms stated that from her experience, these students fared well compared to the other students. She stated that statistics would be supplied to Ms. Hayes for the Board.

Women in Distress

Chair Robert Brady stated that this organization was requesting \$50,000. The program will support counseling and case management services for victims of domestic violence. They provided 54 beds in this City.

Jennifer Stewart, Director of Development, proceeded to show an ad campaign that has been in the Sun-Sentinel recently. She advised that it was an awareness campaign. She stated that domestic violence does not discriminate and crosses all economic and ethnic boundaries. She stated they provided a violence free life to such victims. She explained the proposal was to support outreach and shelter services to City residents. She stated there was a 24-hour hotline and counseling services were also offered to help them begin a new life. She stated there were 531 domestic violence offenses reported in this City last year, and most cases were never reported. She stated that 22% of their hotline crisis calls came from residents in this City, and 15% of the people serviced through their outreach programs came from this City, and 23% of shelter residents were from this City. She stated they were requesting an increase for these funds to expand services.

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Robert Smith asked if all the funds had been spent properly from last year's grant. Ms. Stewart confirmed and stated this was their second year for receiving such funds. She advised that the cost for shelter per night ran about \$54 per bed.

Chair Robert Brady stated that this group had his full support.

Dr. Goetz asked how many of the women receiving help from this group ended up leaving their abusive relationships. Ms. Stewart stated that this was a hard question to answer because many times a woman would leave a relationship many times over. She stated it was hard to measure this on a long-term basis because many women were fleeing for safety reasons. She stated that a program was developed by assisting women pay their initial deposits for a new residence, and this helped women to seek new lives on a more regular basis. She stated their client load was confidential and certain information was not obtainable for the public.

Chair Robert Brady asked how many children were serviced. Ms. Stewart stated that at any given time their shelter contained 50% children. She stated that the outreach center had a smaller percentage of children due to it being up to the mother whether to enroll them or not in the program. She advised that free babysitting was offered, along with counseling for children.

City of Fort Lauderdale – Parks & Recreation – Bass/Carter Park Youth Aquatic and Fitness Program

Chair Robert Brady stated this group was requesting \$125,400. The project will encourage and make available to at-risk inner City youth ranging in ages from 4 through 18 aquatic experiences. There are four tiers of programming offered and they provide the children a feeling of confidence and self-worth, along with additional knowledge.

Gainus Wright was introduced as the head swim coach for the last five years.

It was stated that the name was changed to Bass/Carter Park Youth Aquatic and Fitness Program. It was stated this is a low-income and high crime area. Here is a swim team which is a year-round competitive swim program for minority children, along with various other programs. The children travel to compete and visit many museums and other points of interest. Additional funding was being requested so a fitness component could be added to the program, along with a nutritionist.

Mr. Wright stated that the swim program exceeds the physical benefits because there are figurative benefits as well. It keeps children off the streets. He stated further that the children were doing well. He asked the Board to continue supporting their work. He felt they were only beginning to scratch the tip of the iceberg.

Chair Robert Brady asked how many participants of the program were not African-American. Mr. Wright stated there were none at this time, but some had come through the program over the years. He stated that a relationship has been developed with the swim team at the aquatic center to offer diversity and more professionally trained coaching. Chair Robert Brady asked how many participants had been in the program last year.

It was stated that there was a mixed ethnic group in the scuba program. They rotated about 100 students and the average monthly attendance was about 30 students due to other sports taking place.

Dr. Goetz asked how many individual students were served through the Program. He was advised about 200-250 between all the programs.

Robert Smith asked if they had only received partial funding last year. It was stated that full funding had been received.

Chair Robert Brady asked what the additional funds that were being requested would be used for in their programs. He was informed that it would service each program and they wanted to outfit a fitness center at Carter Park, along with a trainer.

Robert Smith asked if the new park would have any type of formal swim program if these funds were not granted. It was stated that it was hard to say and was not in the park's annual budget. Chair Robert Brady asked if a request was made for the budget to include the fitness equipment. It was stated that the budget had been prepared last October for this fiscal year and were presently budgeting for 2005/2006 and had not been included. Chair Robert Brady asked why this had not been included as part of the General Revenue Budget. He reiterated that the funds had been decreased and everyone was requesting an increase. He stated that he was going to be hard on City projects. He was informed that most of the funding for budgetary requests were based on learn to swim programs and after school programs.

Alfred Imgrund stated it was hard to consider these funds for projects that should be funded by the municipality to which they belonged. He asked if funding had been lost from the City. It was stated the pools were opened from Memorial Day to Labor Day and were closed the rest of the year, except for a few programs. Normally, pools in the African-American communities were closed and employees laid off until spring. This was not normally included in the annual operating budget. It was stated that some other pools were opened nightly for adult swimming.

Chair Robert Brady asked how many pools existed in the African-American community. He was advised there were 3 pools in the community and only one is opened at this time. He was also told that Croissant Park pool and the Aquatic Center, along with Fort Lauderdale High School pool, was opened.

Dr. Goetz stated that funds were requested for a fitness center. It was explained that the additional funds were for that purpose.

Chair Robert Brady asked how many people were on the coaching staff. He was advised that there was a head coach and a certified trainer working on stroke development, along with two lifeguards for safety purposes. The lifeguards were City employees and were paid out of the grant. The Board was also advised that the City contributed \$103,000 toward the program. Chair Robert Brady asked if these funds were not granted would the program be able to continue with only the \$103,000 contribution. It was stated that the program probably could not continue because the other costs could not be underwritten, but other individuals would have to be consulted regarding that issue.

Jennie Brooks stated that this was a wonderful program and the students always received awards.

Sanford Rosenthal asked if there was a figure per student regarding these programs. It was stated that the total amount requested could be divided by 250 students. Therefore, it would be about \$1,000 per child. Jennie Brooks stated that amount was not sufficient and individuals helped and contributed to the program.

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City of Fort Lauderdale – Police Department – Graffiti Reduction and Community Quality Improvement Project

Chair Robert Brady stated that this group was requesting \$17,000. The project would raise the awareness of the community that graffiti was not a meaningless crime.

Dayna Bhaggan stated that she was with the Police Department. She stated the City was known as “Venice of America,” but they were unconscionably lobbying for Graffiti Central, and vandalism has increased especially in regard to graffiti known as “tagging.” She stated they had recently documented 178 instances of graffiti in the City limits. They attack commercial property, public property, along with anything that could be reached. The FBI classifies graffiti as vandalism and it affects everyone. Money from taxpayers is being used to clean up graffiti instead of going to enhance City services for its residents. She stated that this program sought to combat graffiti through various components, such as education, eradication, and enforcement.

Jennie Brooks stated that she had participated in the City’s “Paint Another Wall,” and asked if that still existed. Pati Dube stated, PSA, stated that it was done through the individual communities with volunteers. She stated that if equipment was donated, it helped considerably.

Sanford Rosenthal stated that it appeared there were “hotspots” where graffiti continued to happen. Ms. Dube confirmed. Sanford Rosenthal asked if video cameras could not be posted at such sites. Ms. Bhaggan explained that pole cameras cost \$60,000 and then FPL had to install them at the cost of \$1,000, and then an officer had to have an apartment nearby with a TV system to monitor them, and then FPL had to be paid another \$1,000 to remove the camera.

Alfred Imgrund stated he was offended that this group had to come before this Board requesting funding when this service should be supplied by the City. He stated they should be ashamed that this situation exists.

Chair Robert Brady asked if such an education program was in effect elsewhere and what was its success rate.

Ms. Bhaggan stated that there was a program in Baltimore who actually had their school research officers do a program in the schools. She stated that this City cut the budget and reduced their SROs. She stated this proposal would help them catalog a system as to who the graffiti persons were. Ms. Dube stated the budget was cut significantly and stated that the City crew and code officers were involved in the program. Ms. Bhaggan stated the amount requested appeared to be a fair start for the program.

Ms. Hayes stated that she wanted to acknowledge two letters of support. One was from the Council of Civic Associations of Fort Lauderdale, along with Harbor Inlet Civic Association. She stated these were additional letters for this group.

Motion made by Jennie Brooks and seconded by Robert Smith to accept the additional letters of support that had been distributed regarding this request. Board unanimously approved.

Other Business

Ms. Hayes stated that the Board had to make their rankings next month. She referred the Board to the sheet entitled Ranking Considerations, and stated the Board would receive figures to be included in Item Nos. 1 and 3B this week. She asked the Board to fill in the ranking form, along with their overall rankings. Both documents must be turned in to provide an official tally.

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Scorings had been challenged in the past, and therefore, such information was needed to validate the process.

Sanford Rosenthal stated that he was concerned about the ranking system and asked if other procedures could be followed. It appeared they funded the same groups every year, and possibly newer groups should be afforded the opportunity to receive the funds.

Ms. Hayes stated that this item can be discussed at next month's meeting. She added that in next year's process, staff wanted to recommend that they possibly cap an amount for each project. She reiterated that the Board could vote to do that this year.

Chair Robert Brady announced that Marjorie Davis who is a member of this Board for her lifetime had been honored as Distinguished Founder of the City.

Motion made by Alfred Imgrund and seconded by Jennie Brooks to adjourn the meeting. The Board unanimously approved.

There being no other business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret A. D'Alessio
Recording Secretary