

**MINUTES OF THE CITIZEN OUTREACH COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON APRIL 5, 2017**

A Citizen Outreach Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 7:00PM at Rehoboth Lighthouse Full Gospel Church, 409 Washington Street, Haverhill.

Committee Members: Committee Chairperson Barrett, Councillors LePage, Sullivan and Vargas. Council President Michitson also attended.

Department Heads: Mayor James Fiorentini

Attendees: Angie Esteves, A.Planco, Rafael Jemeniez, Micheal Ross, Juan Marte, Nicolas Moreta, Hartell, Cesar Vasquez, Daniel Vasquez, Joe Fantini, Keith Boucher, Carlos Entier, Joe O'Leary, John Cuneo, Lisa Bellis, Josh Baver?, Teddy Maith, Robert Lemons, Kevin Burke, Janet Begin, Alison Ney, Ellen Medvitz, Bridget Farrar, Fred Hobbs, Bomelia Almorte, Jorge Tiburo, Robin Sorriel, Courtie Chursh, J. Allen, Troul Den, Kat Everett

Agenda: Collaboration with Citizens regarding upcoming FY'18 budget hearings and associated neighborhood concerns.

1. Keith Boucher spoke of the need for the removal of snow on sidewalks. He asked that sidewalks (at least one side) on the densely populated busy main streets to be clear before children are sent to school. He presented a map that highlighted Washington Street, Grove Street and High Street. These roads are very busy feeder roads to Tilton, Consentino Silver Hill and Bartlett schools. The city should make a priority of clearing those sidewalks to keep children from walking in street. He also urged that the city get the word out to citizens of the requirement to clear sidewalks. Apply the resources (media, robo calls, social media and schools) necessary to inform citizens of the need to clear sidewalks. He also praised the idea of making bus stops safer by identifying them clearly.

2. George Moriarty, representing Northern Essex Community College, spoke of NECCO's commitment to bringing the opportunity of both non-credit and credit classes to the citizens of the Mount Washington neighborhood. They are working with the working cities grant to bring access to job training and educational opportunities to those who could take advantage of improving skills. He also said the satellite office of Valley Works, which moved up to NECCO, is moving to a location in the downtown area. The hope was it would be available and centrally located to those who need their services.

3. Hartell Johnson - Sidewalks need repair throughout city not just near schools. Job Resource Center needs to be near downtown.

4. Angie Esteves - Health Fair at Silver Hill School April 29th will do blood pressure screenings, eye exams and dental checks. Working with the Chamber of Commerce. A Multi-Cultural Committee will be forming with a meeting to be held April 12th. There are plans for many events this summer under the Working Cities umbrella.

5. John Cuneo - on behalf of the Working Cities grant. They have plans for many events in the summer. Working to quantify there data of changes as the sustainability of the project will depend on their ability to show their progress. The Federal Reserve is both supportive and demanding task master. They are 6 months into grant and have spent little so far this summer will roll out more events/programs.

6. Janet Begin discussed the opportunity of establishing a wild flower Montessori pre- school in the Mt. Washington area. There is a grant that will help her set up and outfit school but she will need another source of revenue to take on scholarship students. She envisions a class made up of

half tuition half scholarship students. She hopes the city could assist in this as it has been noted that this early intervention before age 6 can have a tremendously positive impact on a child's success in life and as a student.

7. Josh Bower - He is again going to have a Community Garden at his property. They now have fencing up around gardens to keep critters out. Many folks have plots and it has been very successful. He looks forward to another successful season.

8. Kat Everette - Spoke of the needs of the community and the work done by members of the Rehoboth Church. The members of the church feed 80 to 120 children each week. The church runs a teen drop in center. They are also continuing to work to bring men to be involved fathers for their children. POSE has applied for a grant from the department of labor to add in their continued work.

9. Angie Esteves - spoke of the need to address the opioid crisis on the neighborhood level. Reach out to the community through the bodegas and barbershops to spread word. More has to be done.

10. Allana LeBlanco - spoke of the how positive and full of love the evening had been.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda E. Barrett, Chair
Citizen Outreach Committee

April 12, 2017

c: Mayor Fiorentini
City Councillors