

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL – APRIL 26TH, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Gary R. McCarthy, at 7:40 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mr. McCarthy called upon Rev. Art Hudak, associated with First Reformed Church.

Mr. McCarthy called upon Councilmember Barbara Blanchard to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk called the roll and the following members of the City Council answered to be present:

Present – Councilmembers Joseph L. Allen, Denise K. Brucker, Mark W. Blanchfield, Margaret C. King, Thomas Della Sala, Barbara J. Blanchard and Gary R. McCarthy.

Absent – None

Also Present – Mayor Brian U. Stratton, City Clerk Eileen M. Versaci and Corporation Council L. John Van Norden

At this point in the meeting Mr. McCarthy asked if there were no objections, he was like to take Agenda Item #9, #10, and #11 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2010-67 Adopted Unanimously

Mr. Blanchfield invited Marc Gronich, Executive Assistant, Jewish Educational Resources of New York, to come inside the rail to accept a resolution proclaiming May 12th, 2010, “Jerusalem Day” within the City of Schenectady. Mr. Gronich thanked the Mayor and the City Council for these resolutions.

Resolution No. 2010-68 Adopted Unanimously

Mr. Della Sala invited Heather Workmen and Diane Wilkinson to come inside the rail to accept a resolution welcoming New York Nemesis to it new home in the City of Schenectady. They thanked the City Council for the resolution.

Resolution No. 2010-69 Adopted Unanimously

Ms. Brucker invited Neighborhood Watch Captains Sean Allen, Lou Canceliere Dave Wilkinson, members Jamie Allen and Jackie Canceliere to come inside the rail to accept a resolution honoring them for their roles in the rescue of a five-year old child on February 22, 2010.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. **A Resolution** on the 2010-2011 Consolidated Plan, including the “Proposed Consolidated Plan Action Plan” and a “2009 Consolidated Plan Amendment.”

Mr. McCarthy invited all who wished to speak on Public Hearing #1 to come Forward (7:50 p.m.). The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized:

Mark Townsend, 315 Sullivan Rd.,- First of all I would like to thank the people who put a coordinator for fund raising in the CDBG Plan, there has been need for this. Also, I see that Weed & Seed has been cut from funding. This is a very good program and I would like to see this reinstated at least for one-half year funding.

Jason Planck, 208 Jackson Ave., - I have said for the last 7 years that the city needs to have an affirmative action plan for persons with disabilities and minorities that live in the city. The mayor and his staff have not appropriated the C.D.B.G. monies to assure that persons with disabilities have a meaningful access to all programs, activities, and services of said grant. For last 3 years, the City and County have had a contract to handle the affirmative action services for which has not lived up to the contract requirements and have failed to assure equal access to these grants. The City still has not done an economic disparity study to help assure access to jobs and to the grants. The city still has not done an affordable and accessible plan for access to homes or rentals units in the City, nor implemented procedures designed to fulfill the 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead Decision, to maximize community integration of persons with disabilities. The City of Schenectady persons with disabilities are living in poverty 4 times hiring the non-disabled and the State rate of only 3 times. With the New York State unemployment rate at 70% is too high and not having a plan to help is poor planning and misappropriate said grant. In conclusion: the affirmative action contract needs to be reviewed and the goals must be met and not allowed to be overlooked to point of just attending meeting after meeting of getting nothing done.

Ravi Randall, 25 Chestnut St., - I would like to speak on CDBG Funding for a Community Market. This market would be on State Street, in a building that is not occupied, any unoccupied business redefines an area. There are many grants out there for obese children and this could bring a nutrient food plan to the inner city and CDBG money could get this project off the ground.

Kim Siciliano, YWCA, 44 Washington Avenue. – On behalf of the YWCA, we are thanking you for your continued support of the Consolidated Plan for the

funding of the Front Street Pool . The YWCA has overseen the operation of the Front Street Pool since 1997. The Front Street Pool offers an affordable operation for recreation for the citizens of Schenectady. Thank you for your support, because without CDBG Funding we could not operate this facility. Thank you again.

Rev. Diana Fletcher, 842 Strong St., -- I am here this evening on behalf of the CDBG Funding for the program of Weed & Seed, which is a very viable and productive program. When I read in the newspaper that other programs are being funded and have two or more components, and that Weed & Seed was not I just could not believe that. I ask tonight to please go back to the drawing table and fund the Weed and Seed Program.

Sharon Carter, 4 Cucumber Alley -- I am speaking tonight as a city resident of over thirty years, board member of the Hamilton Hill Arts Center. I want to begin by thanking this body for funding the Hamilton Hill Arts center, not for just this year, but for many years. We are living in an increasingly violent City and much of that violence take place in homes, behind closed doors. Schenectady County's domestic violence rate is almost double over any of the other counties in the Capitol Region and we also had the most child abuse and neglect and the numbers keep rising. This means that thousands of Schenectady's 10,000 plus youth, deal with very difficult family situations, making a bad situation worst. When our children go to school, many are confronted with bullying and violence. We have all heard that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Why is it so many people will lock up teenage offenders, spending millions on incarceration, yet youth programs which cost a mere fraction of that are not funded. Make no mistake about it, you will pay now or pay later. Therefore I propose that the City Council amend the CDBG Budget to; one, give greater priority to youth employment and youth activities, including recreation and arts that provides an alternative to streets and gangs; two, to restore funding to continue Weed & Seed program and three, reduce the \$800,000 for Code Enforcement as a way of providing for one and two.

Treasure Clayton, 1336 Waverly Place, I am a mother and a resident of this community. There are children dying and committing suicide that are in need of programs such as Weed & Seed. We need funding doubled not taken away. We need the same efforts that are put into downtown to be put into Hamilton Hill. I suggest you don't forget the little people, that you create more job opportunities, better housing, better education. We need a community center/town hall where we can meet together as a community as people. This is your City, according to the positions that you hold, I ask you to take a second look around and then ask yourself if you are satisfied.

Beverly Perryman, 874 Emmett Street – I have been before you before, but today I am very sad for why I am here. I am here for the youth in Schenectady, it is a shame that our youth are killing one another and it is a shame that they have nowhere else to go. We are very committed to our youth. We have been going to meetings every Monday to talk to our youth and we need you to be involved also. Our students in Schenectady perform poorly on Standard Tests, they are the lowest as far as graduating. What can we do? First, their parents should help, their community should help, their Clergy and Church should help. We all should be involved. This past week we put together a petition with two hundred twenty two names of people supporting that we should give priority to funding for youth and youth activities that provide alternatives to street gangs, restore funding to the Weed & Seed Program and reduce the funding of \$800,000 to Code Enforcement. I hope people are listening because our kids are dying in the streets.

Micki Conn, 1024 Glenwood Blvd. – I want to start by thanking you for funding The Hamilton Hill Arts Center once again. I want to tell you that after 40 years, I run into adults that got started, got a leg up, developed values through the Hamilton Hill Arts Center. And so I am glad that we are able to continue and I hope that we will be to continue into the future. I also want to speak a little bit about Weed & Seed, because as a member of the Hamilton Hill Community, I have worked along side other non-profits with Weed & Seed because I am so busy as director of the Arts Center. I really valued the idea that there was a person that could pull together people from the Hamilton Hill Community and that person was able to organize groups. Many things would not have happened without Weed & Seed. To be honest we also have had funding from Weed & Seed that has helped us to offer enriched opportunities. We will still have art, but think how much richer it could be with the funding from Weed & Seed. Thank you.

Guido Iovinella, 700 Craig Street – Schenectady is facing a social crisis right now. We have some of the highest rates of juvenile violence and juvenile crime in New York State, the most dangerous schools in the Country. As you are well aware, we have had murders recently. These are symptoms of a decaying community. However, this is not a community that lacks pride it has values just like other communities. I want to say as Director of Carver, we are doing our part and we want to continue to partner with the City of Schenectady, because we are losing our youth. They are losing hope; the suicides last year, never happened before in a community like this and for the first time, I have seen a resiliency lost in our own young people. The programs that come before you today are addressing those issues. Carver received \$16,500.00 from CDBG, and we

appreciate it, but it is really a drop in the bucket. We are not out of the woods even though it has been close to a year without a suicide. I have worked closely with Weed & Seed and this helps all the programs to work together. We need to support this community; they do not need to be left out any more. I'm seeing this community after 22 years, raising up and saying "no more".

Victoria Cooper, 224 Hamilton Street - I am a member of the Hamilton Hill Neighborhood and I'm here to support Weed & Seed. If Weed & Seed were not funded, it would leave a great void in our neighborhood.

Marion Porterfield, 842 Strong Street – I'm Weed & Seed Site Coordinator. First of all I would like to correct some gross misstatements in an article that was in the Gazette. It stated that the funding was cut at the Federal level. Well our last federal grant ended last year, so there was no current funding so we did not get cut as stated. It also stated that a report was missing from the website. The report was submitted and I have it available for anyone who might want to see it. Lastly, the reports due on June 30, 2010, are not there and they will be by that date. I feel these things need to be corrected. I'm asking that the Weed & Seed Program be funded so we can continue the good work started in this community to make Hamilton-Vale area a good place to live, we are a part of the City.

Marva Isaac, 403 Duane Ave – I would like to talk about Weed & Seed, the accomplishments, organization, collaboration, residents involvement financial leadership, block ambassador, (here I am). In fact, funding for youth project SKIP. All these things Weed & Seed has done in this community we need to have Weed & Seed funding. What about the \$800,000 to Code Enforcement. Come on Mr. Mayor, we can do better than that. Cut that money in half and give it to Weed & Seed.

Bill Sopolyer, Franklin Street – Executive Director of the Family Health Clinic. I want to thank you for prior funding, but I'm here tonight for you to reconsider the funding request. When I look at the reason for this grant, I asked myself two questions, one-why sample the money. We have to raise \$551,000 for the clinic. There is no State funding. The second thing is it is a matter of creditability. We are applying all over the country for grants. The first question people tend to ask us, foundation and such, is what has your local community done for you? Last year the county funded us and we were about to lose three other grants when the county came through, the grants came around. Why is the clinic important to the City? The obvious answer is we provide care to about 2500, uninsured patients. One thing is we are the only provided of free mental health care and we have about 250 mental health patients. Where would these patients go?

Bill Spolger – One thing people don't know about, we do a lot of pre-employment physicals for people that want to go to work. Last year we did over 450 physicals. I certainly want to ask you to reconsider our application for funds. Thank you.

Dr. Tepper – I'm co-director of the Clinic, I want to say a few words. What do we do? We take care of a large sector of the community that otherwise would have no place to go other than the Emergency Room, if we weren't here. This is not the long range solution to health care, but we take the people who do not have health care now. Who are we? We are physicians who volunteer our time, free, all specialties, all at no charge, obviously we need help. Hope you will consider the impact this would have on the community without this clinic. Thank you.

Margaret Anderton, 834 State Street - On behalf of the guests, staff, board and volunteers of Bethesda House - THANK YOU! Your partnership has helped to make a dream come true - sixteen of our city's most vulnerable citizens who formerly survived on our streets now have a place to call home at our new facility at 834 State St. We have space designed for our day programs - space that is bright and beautiful, lending respect and dignity to the difficult process of seeking help. Your assistance in securing a suitable location, your provision of funds for the building project and of course your on-going funding of the vital services we provide to the residents of this city are greatly appreciated. Mayor Stratton - thank you for keeping Bethesda House in your proposed budget at the same level of funding as last year. We know that just keeping funding level during difficult economic times is a great gift. However, we are going to request that you and the Council consider doing more. Bethesda House is now housing more than half the city's chronically homeless, disabled persons in permanent supportive housing - this is right and just AND it is economically efficient and cost effective for the city. Bethesda House has saved the city and the taxpayers from the extraordinary cost of homelessness to a community - costs for emergency services, police and fire services, and the cost to businesses. If you increase funding to Bethesda House, you will simply be passing on to us some of the savings the City has reaped from our new housing units and expanded services. Bethesda House is staffed 24/7; has excellent outdoor lighting and a video surveillance system thus increasing the sense of safety and security in the neighborhood. Community groups are using space at Bethesda House to offer an even wider variety of programs and services of interest to all City residents. Because of the economy, Bethesda House has an increase in guest numbers. Persons who have never needed assistance before are coming in for emergency food from our pantry, a hot meal, clothing or rental and utility assistance through our Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. The Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-

Housing Program is ARRA (stimulus) funded for twenty-two months (program began in November 2009). In the first four months of the program, we assisted one-third more households than we projected to serve in the entire twenty-two months of the project. These are folks in danger of becoming homeless primarily because of the loss of a job or unemployment benefits maxing out. The Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, which is a partnership between Bethesda House, SICM, the YWCA, the Legal Aid Society, the Schenectady Community Action Program and the City of Schenectady, assists with rent and/or utilities providing these households the time necessary to secure new employment thus avoiding homelessness. Our numbers are overwhelming and will continue to grow until the economy recovers or later because homelessness has not yet peaked. Homelessness, during tough economic times, is a lagging indicator. We have not yet experienced the depth of the current housing crisis. Bethesda House staff is valiantly trying to meet the needs of the increasing numbers of folks coming through our doors, but there are only so many hours in a day. An increase in funding is necessary to provide adequate staffing to meet the increased demand for assistance. Bethesda House has two programs funded through the Consolidated Plan: Safe Haven • Homeless Prevention

Funding last year for each program:

- Safe Haven . \$16,590
- Homeless Prevention . \$50,000

Amount requested for this year for each program • Safe haven . \$75,000 (facility is now staffed 24/7)

- Homeless Prevention . \$75,000 (numbers have increased dramatically and most households need six –twelve months Case Management assistance).

Rev. Van Stuart – Thank you for letting me speak tonight and all the others. I have to let you know you probably won't be hearing much of a different story, but my talent is to think outside of the box and what you heard is a different thought about \$800,000 for Code enforcement. I must say after sitting on Advising Committee that came together to put together the budget for the Consolidated Plan. There were about 6 of us, and many things we came up with, with this out of the box thinking was not adhered to or considered in the end, the budget came out looking pretty much like it did last year with maybe \$5000.00 for Root and Wisdom and a program dealing with green house things. What I would like to see is Weed & Seed not to be thought of just as a commutation of a Federal program. Without the federal funding, the program dies and that is the condition we have. If there is no grant we shut the program down. We just see the same groups getting money over and over. What are they doing that is better than what I'm doing and nobody can answer the question. How do you get a community together if nobody in power ever goes forward with them to make them feel that you care about them, it is not enough to go to church and to come

see people when it is election time. Where are you when somebody wants to rebuild the park? I will be looking for all of you, including the attorney on May 22nd, when we all are rebuilding Jerry Burrell Park, will be looking for you. We spent \$800,000 for Code Enforcement to make 21,000 visits to tell them something was wrong with their house, out of all the 3 houses were rehabilitated. We had more homicides and suicides in this City then we had houses rehabilitated. Why can't we take some of that money to make our community better?

Rev. Phil Grigsbey – Director of the City Ministry and a City resident. Thanks for not having the hearing on some other night and taking the time tonight. I must break ranks with Free Clinic and State that the “Food Pantry” is not asking for funding. We are holding our own, because of the support of the Community. We are able to keep up services. We offer to the Council, the Mayor and Corporate Council to be sponsors for our Harvest Food Drive. We would much rather have you spend the money for Weed & Seed. Because of our troubled youth, let's not end our Weed & Seed program now. Weed & Seed functions bring people together. That is the function of Weed & Seed. I encourage the Council to look at the policy of Code Enforcement; there are issues to be looked at. I advise Council to take a session to see what policy would be for the betterment of our community. Thank you.

James McClaron – Good Evening. 20 Years ago, I was working in a business I wanted to be in since I was in the 6th grade. Well with technological change and administrative thinking, I was not needed anymore. I had no other marketable skills. I was almost homeless. Than I ran into the people at Bethesda House. They gave me the same services that they offer constantly. It was wonderful to have something to keep me going. Now I work part time for Bethesda House. It's been a long time since I had a job that I look forward to. I'm asking the Council to help us, keep us going and continue to do what we do best.

Leslie Wiedmann-Herd – I work with Root and Wisdom. We started about the same time as Marion, but we do it the other way, we Seed then Weed. We are proud that we are in our 5th year of a self funded program out of Cooperative Extension. I'm one of the three founders, unfortunately two had to move on because of the lack of funding for salaries. Roots and Wisdom was modeled after a program in Boston. What we offer is unique and brings not only city kids but suburban as well. We know we make a significant contribution to the City and the goal of the CDBG grant to ensure all the residents have a viable and lovable community. What Root and Wisdom needs in order to continue our program in Schenectady is operational support for salaries. We are grateful for the \$5000 for

supplies, the problem is, we really need program support. Thank you for your continued support of our program.

Vickie Hurewitz – Thank you for having this Public Hearing on a regular Council night. I'm here on a couple of issues. The first one is a proposal that I put before the Committee and it didn't get funded, it is for a Community Market. This project came out of cooperative effort between Better Neighborhoods, Weed & Seed, and Habitat for Humanity, Concern for the Hungry, and the Capital District Wellness Fund. We have been working for about a year to get this project going. We have identified the site, between Brandywine and Veeder Avenue. Our plan is to start with a lunch bazaar. Local food vendors will sell lunches and snacks, have an area where people can sit down and eat. The second phase would be an affordable farmers market. I plan to have produce at wholesale prices. Weed & Seed has great input to our Market Project. Also, it is my understanding that President Obama has eliminated that program but the Department of Justice is picking it up and we need something like Weed & Seed in place so that we can be ready for new funding that is coming down the pike. Excited about getting this project going and look forward to getting your help in doing it.

Robin Boyd – I'm a resident of the County of Schenectady. I have lived here for 40 years, grew up on Hamilton Hill, giving one person's opinion, "Robin Boyd". I would like you to reconsider funding the Weed & Seed Program. Prior to the suicide in the Hamilton Hill – Vale neighborhood, I knew little about Weed & Seed. After the suicide and murders, I became a volunteer for Weed and Seed. I urge you to fund Weed and Seed. Now is not the time not to fund this program.

Seeing no other speakers to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared this Public Hearing #1 closed (9:05 p.m.).

2. A Resolution on the Adoption of a Plan for the Northwest Schenectady Urban Renewal Area.

Mr. McCarthy invited all who wished to speak on Public Hearing #2 to come forward. The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized:

Jason Planck, Schenectady – The Urban Renewal Plan from the Administration is a failed policy, is not getting what is going on. This is nothing but a tax break for developers and nothing for the neighborhoods. Accessible housing needs to be on the plate. We do not need new housing stock, and we have over 100,000 units and only 60,000 people. Rehab the stock we have.

PD Voorhis – I'm not going to express an opinion on this matter because it will pass anyway.

Mary McClain – I attended the presentation of the Northwest Schenectady Urban Renewal Plan. The plan includes the two hundred block of State Street. I asked the presenter how the Oleander mattresses were going to be incorporated into the plan. The answer was the planning had not gotten that far yet. Surely there must be a code violation here somewhere. Those store fronts were not intended for storage. They were not used like that in Schenectady Retail hay-day. So why is the condition tolerated today? Several things can be done about the problem. Hang sheers in the store windows so that the mattresses are concealed or ask the antique dealers in Town to borrow furniture to make an attractive window. I'm sure the dealers would be very willing to do it. What does there now need to be fixed?

Seeing no other speakers to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared this Public Hearing #2 closed (9:15 p.m.).

- 3. A Resolution** on condemnation of one vacant lot on Barrett Street and four vacant lots on Seminary Place.

Mr. McCarthy invited all who wished to speak on Public Hearing #3 to come forward. The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized:

Seeing no other speaker to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared the Public Hearing closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Brucker moved that the minutes of City Council meeting of April 12, 2010 be approved as submitted by the City Clerk. It was seconded by Ms. Blanchard. Hearing no objections, Mr. McCarthy declared the minutes approved as submitted.

COMMUNICATION:

Official:

From the Office of the Mayor a list of Appointments. (dist. 4/26/10)

General:

From the Board of Assessment Review the Grievance Procedure Process:

- Grievance applications must be submitted through the Bureau of Assessment May 1 – May 25, 2010.
- Numbered tickets will be given in the order that the applications are submitted.
- Applications will be date/time stamped.
- Complete information may be obtained on the City Web Site or by picking up a copy at City Hall.

A letter from the Council of Veterans' Organizations to invite City Council to the Memorial Day Services, May 31, 2010 at Val Cemetery at 10:30 am and Veterans Park at 11:00 am.

A letter from the Council of Veterans' Organizations and the Gold Star Mothers to invite the City Council to the Gold Star Mothers Services, on May 23, 2010 at evergreen Cemetery at 2:00 pm.

Petitions:

One petition with 27 names that are against the dock at Riverside Park in the Stockade Area of Schenectady.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Blanchfield: We already heard in great detail regarding the police contract. I just want to reiterate our thanks to the City staff that worked so hard on it and to the PBA who voted for the positive step. There are a couple of items from the Finance Committee on the Agenda #4, increasing the city's commitment by \$30,000 so that our vehicle fleet will be more energy efficient. We have so many large homes and in Public Safety, we are purchasing 2 pumpers from Farra Tire Apparatus, at 1.1 million. We are trying to recover from American France the difference in cost with respect to item #9, which went through Parks. This is the one on banning smoking, just to remind folks we are going to revisit the fine structure.

PREVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS)

Mr. McCarthy invited all who wished to address the Legislative Agenda to come forward. The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized:

Jason Plank: Last week Councilmember McCarthy brought to the Committee Agenda the City's purchasing requirements, but nothing has been brought to the floor

PD Voorhis: I don't mean to sound like sour grapes, but I asked Mr. Blanchfield to do a resolution on the Holocaust of the Huguenots, and gave him the things that were needed and he said not now, maybe a year from now. Then someone from out of town received a resolution "Jerusalem Day". How did this happen, I don't know what it means.

Seeing no other speakers to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared the Privilege of the Floor on the Legislative Agenda closed.

INTRODUCTION OF AND ACTION UPON LOCAL LAWS, ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Consent Agenda –

Resolution No. Ord. 2010-07	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. Ord. 2010-08	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-67	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-68	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-69	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-70	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-71	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-72	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-73	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-74	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-75	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-76	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-77	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-78	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-78	Adopted Unanimously

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (CITY BUSINESS)

Mr. McCarthy invited all who wished to address the City Council on any of City Business to come forward. The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized:

Jason Plank – What I want to talk about tonight is the Affirmative Action Office. We are paying \$50,000 for 20 hours worth of work per week, we have a

fair housing coordinator that we are paying over \$40,000, which comes out to over \$24.00 per hour, and none of these projects have come before the City Council. We need to start putting a plan together. Now Fair Housing Coordinator and Affirmative Action Office are paid by Community Block Grants money that is called Federal Funding which means you are mandated to move forward on this. We need to find jobs for the local community. We need a PLAN.

Alexander Baron – I work for the American Cancer Society here in the Capitol Region and I appreciate you letting me speak to you tonight. I want to talk to you about a few things. Most important is the Cancer burden that is currently facing Schenectady County as a whole. There are two large issues that we need to address, one dealing with lung and bronchial cancer and the other with colon and rectal cancer. Those types of cancer have a high mortality rate in the County of Schenectady. The important thing to know about those two types of cancers that they preventable. Through smoking cessation, there would be less lung cancer. Colon cancer is 100% preventable through early detection with colonoscopy and these are both things the American Cancer Society can provide to the citizens of Schenectady. We are able to help with these cancers because of two special events; one of the programs is that we can provide screenings for the non and under insured. The two events that I want to talk to you about, one thing is happening this Sunday, May 2, in Central Park, Bark of Life with our four legged loved ones. Hope you can join us from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Look for you there.

PD Voorhis – One thing I'm concerned about is Habitat for Humanity buying SACC TV building for \$187,000 and I believe that the building needs \$350,000 in repairs to bring it up to code. Where does a not for profit get that kind of money?

Geoffrey Whittle – I'm here on behalf of my daughter and son-in-law, Matthew and Jennifer Clark they have a parking problem on Lorraine Avenue and Starr Avenue. The problem is a "no standing" sign on Starr Avenue that has been there for twenty-three years, it was put up because people were having problems from Gaylord's Tavern parking there. Gaylord's since that time has built a lot. My son-in-law and daughter cannot even park next to their house, because of a sign. They have a 2 month old baby. They can't even pull up to get there baby out of the car, without being in violation of the law. In front of their house is a fire hydrant. What they are looking for is some type of relief. They have contacted the Mayor's office, City Engineers and enormous departments. The County Legislator, Phillip Fields, suggested we come here and present this problem. Their property is land locked, there seems to be no engineering reason that this sign should be there

except 23 years ago it was requested by the residents. They are seeking some kind of relief from the Council, mainly to have the sign moved back so they can have a couple of parking places. We ask for your consideration.

Mr. McCarthy – The Mayor will speak to you in the hall.

Gerald Plante, 227 Front Street, Schenectady – Going on 4 plus years, I have pursued to clean up graffiti vandalism that seems to permeate our daily lives more and more. Since that time I have talked about it to City Council persons. Sadly, nothing is being done to clean up the graffiti vandalism for several years now, especially where it's been for a very long time. There have been neighbors in the Stockade/E Front that have successfully painted the underpasses of the Amtrak bridges that span Green and Front Streets over the years. However, they're worse now than when I first made my initial complaints. I asked for anti-graffiti paint from Steve Strichman last August but never received any or a follow-up call to encourage the cleaning of these eyesores! Perhaps the city could have a gallon or two of anti-graffiti paint delivered to Proctor's on the day of the summit and some of you would volunteer to help paint the bridge underpasses along the sidewalk areas where many walk and drive by on a daily basis. I'll supply the rollers and paint brushes. This would be a good first step in letting everyone know we're serious about getting rid of blight in our city. This year I decided to host a graffiti summit – Schenectady first. I contacted Keep American Beautiful aka (KAB) who also developed graffitihurts.org. They have sent me material on how to deal w/the ever growing problem of this blight. They have also wished us luck on this quality-of-life issue that is not going away. Hopefully, there will be enough ideas during the summit on how to rid the city of these unwanted eyesores. The public is encouraged to list ideas and sign a petition to encourage our Mayor and city officials as well as business to strategize on coming up with ridding graffiti vandalism. I've also asked local artists if they'd come up with plans for painting blank walls w/murals or anything but ugly/threatening tagging symbols, poor art and trash that are painted on buildings, bridges and so forth. The City of Boston hires an artist who puts up his work of art before the graffiti vandals do on blank walls throughout the city. Other cities are doing the same as well as hosting graffiti summits as I am doing. The City of Albany has an anti-graffiti van that they use to go around the city and when graffiti is spotted they go about erasing it. They've included funding in annual city budgets to deal with this problem. If Schenectady can't afford two people and a van to rid our streets and neighborhoods of this blight, then perhaps another idea would come forth – anyway you look at it it has to be done! Thank you and hope to see you at Proctor's on Saturday, May 8th at noon.

Rev. Phil Grigsby, Schenectady – We have a sign that will be put up in Grout Park. We are having a Zita Dinner on May 7th from 4:30 to 6:30 at Christ Church, \$5.00 for adult, \$2.00 for kids, the playground design is red, white and blue, the kids picked out the colors.

Marva Isaac, 304 Duane Avenue – I want to talk about lower taxes for seniors, so that they can stay in their homes. I think seniors should get help to repair their home. Landlords don't repair homes. These seniors have no place to go for help to keep their homes.

Mary D'Alessandro, 7 Washington Avenue – I'm here as President of the Stockade Association and we had a special meeting Thursday, April 22, 2010. I'm here to relay the results of that meeting. There was a motion to support the dock in Riverside Park the vote of the members was 54 No: 39 Yes: Also, a separate vote for nonmembers which was 31 No and 2 Yes.

Mary McClain – Before council can make a decision – a seed must be planted via a suggestion, proposal, recommendation, etc. My argument against the water meter idea is that the seed never should have come out of the package but meters became an issue because City Hall's fingerprints are all over the proposal. I have a print-out and want to read a couple of items in it. Quote "all recommendations by the board were completed after collaboration with City Administrative staff listed above and City Council members prior to publication in this report. Administrative members listed are: Sharon Jordan, Ismat Alam, Carl Olsen, Paul Lafond and John Coluccio. Water meters are a very bad idea. They will be the ruination of the island gardens as we know them. Four neighbors take care of the island garden on Grand Boulevard and Nott Street. It's a large plot and needs alot of water on very hot summer days. We have access to three sources of water. That will not continue if the households are charged for water usage. Water meters will adversely affect the beauty of the City. Other things are happening that need to be addressed. Different groups are independently doing assorted things. Last week, I noticed that three limbs were cut from a tree in front of the post office. The limbs were almost as thick as the tree truck. Trees are meant to give shade. That tree now looks bald. Did Council know the tree limbs were going to be cut? It wasn't necessary! Another issue, according to the Gazette, two granite stones with plaques attached, containing names of victims who dies violently are being planned for placement in the Rose Garden. I think the Rose Garden should be left for weddings. Have the garden committee find a quiet area for remembering victims of crimes. Lastly, if anyone wants to see what beautification is all about, go take a look at Wright Avenue and Central Parkway. The entire street was done. All streets should be done that way. Wright Avenue looks beautiful.

Anneke Bull – Thank you for the Privilege of the Floor, because sitting here tonight, I realize what a privilege that really is. My name is Anneke Bull, and have been a resident of the City since 1969, a former President of SACC and a member. An article in the Gazette last week was very confusing; not only to readers and the people in the community, but even to members while the article was correct in that you have to take TV out of SACC. It is not SACC-TV any more because that has gone to Proctor's, in the hands of Open Stage Media now. It does not mean that SACC is automatically dissolved, dissolution can only occur with the approval of the membership, not only that but the approval of the Attorney General. It is serious business. SACC-TV is in existence and has been in existence since 1974 and I think it has served the community well.

Seeing no other speakers to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared the Privilege of the Floor on City Business closed at 9:55 P.M.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Ms. King – Very quickly, this Thursday is a fund raiser for a very worthwhile organization, Schenectady Day Nursery. The event is Thursday, Jazz Party, good food. It is going to be held at Proctor's, in the gallery, you can still get tickets. Just give me a call. Thank you.

Mr. Blanchfield – Welcome back to Art Hudak for joining us, happy to have you back. Just to let folks know, as was mentioned in the public hearings, Code Enforcement is not for giving folks a hard time, but to provide a safe environment for the children and adults of this City. If you cut the budget for these services the need for the services doesn't go away. We will consider what everyone did say.

The Mayor – Very quickly, I want to thank all the speakers that came out tonight to speak at the CDBG Public Hearing. Which for the first time in a few years, has come back to the regular Monday night City Council meetings, and coincident with when I became Mayor in 2004, is to partnership with the City Council and this Administration, we the budget and City Council takes that budget and makes whatever changes they collectively, dominantly deem necessary and responsible and become the living document. Also, I want to commend our negotiation team, Commissioner Bennett, Chief Chairs, and John Paolino, our Labor Counsel, and Corporation Council for everyone that worked to deliver a contract that I believe will bring considerable change and considerable savings to Schenectady, Commissioner Bennett said it will it doesn't give us everything we wanted. Also, thanks to the Union for their support. Tremendous progress has been made of this contract.

ADJOURNMENT:

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared the meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD

**BY EILEEN M. VERSACI
CITY CLERK**