

MOTION

EDUCATION & NEIGHBORHOODS

The original Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils limited the neighborhood councils to using city funds that they might receive to just neighborhood improvement projects.

In November 2002, the City Council and Mayor adopted Ordinance #174975 that also allowed neighborhood councils to spend money on their operating expenses. The City Council and Mayor adopted a budget that provided \$50,000 a year to neighborhood councils for these expenses.

At the same time, the City Council approved the Neighborhood Council Funding Program (Council File #02-0699) that detailed the procedures through which neighborhood councils could request, receive, and spend their funds.

As the program has evolved, Neighborhood Councils have found that their funds could also be effectively used to support the efforts of other organizations with which they have formed partnerships to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. Schools need books and security cameras. Students, the next generation of community leaders, need opportunities and incentives to be motivated by the concept of civic engagement. Non-profit youth diversion programs could benefit from scholarships for after-school programs.

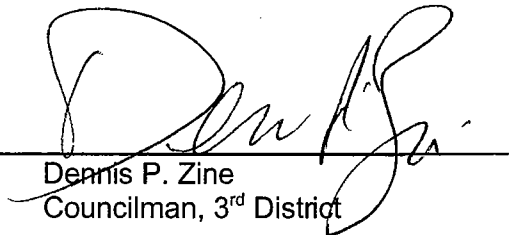
The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment believes that the neighborhood councils have done a commendable job in spending their money, and accounting for it in a responsible and transparent way. The Neighborhood Councils have earned the ability to be given the maximum amount of freedom to determine the best way to spend their money.

Because of Ordinance #174975, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has been unable to authorize these types of expenditures through the Neighborhood Council Funding Program. For this reason, the Neighborhood Council Funding Program would need to be amended in order to provide neighborhood councils with more options and flexibility in the expenditure of their City funds, in a way similar to the City Council's General City Purposes funding allocation for discretionary expenses.

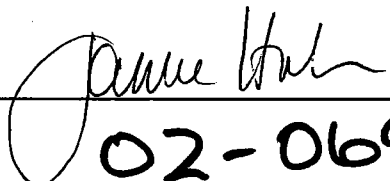
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Office of the City Attorney and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment be requested to establish a City Public Purposes Grant Program for neighborhood councils, so such that neighborhood councils can donate funds for public purposes consistent with City, State and Federal laws, thereby permitting neighborhood councils the greatest range of options beyond neighborhood improvement projects and operating expenses.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Office of the City Attorney and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment report to the Education and Neighborhoods Committee within 60 days with Program recommendations and a draft amendment to Ordinance #174975, as may be required.

PRESENTED BY: _____


Dennis P. Zine
Councilman, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: _____


02-0699

CM

12/10/2004