HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Minutes of January 5, 2010

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Council Chambers  7:00 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICIAL        Delores Holmes

ALDERMAN PRESENT:          Jane Grover, Mark Tendam, Judy Fiske,
                          Lionel Jean-Baptiste

A Quorum was present

STAFF PRESENT:            Carl Caneva, Jonathan Webb, James Pickett,
                          Sol Anderson, Elke Purze, Richard Eddington, Patrice Quehl

OTHERS PRESENT:          Marcia Achenbach, Rosemary Jean-Paul, Mr. Falk, Marsha Fincher, Hubert Fincher, Ben Schanir, John Chisholm, Lina Hoffman, James Heller, Cristina Cortesi, Kim Wolowiec-Fisher, Eb Moran, Beryl McCantion, Joanna Spilioti, Barbara Levin, Paul Seldon, Elizabeth Gordon, Tana Paul, A. Fernando Friero, Bennett Johnson, Sara Bgor, Dorothy Williams, Bonnie Wilson, Maria Santa Lucia, Ruth Belzer, Antoniette Edware, Martha Arntson

CALL TO ORDER
Alderman Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2009 MEETING
*Alderman Jean-Baptiste moved approval, Alderman Fiske seconded, approved 5-0.

MONTHLY TOWNSHIP BILLS
*Alderman Jean-Baptiste moved approval, Alderman Grover seconded, approved 5-0.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste asked about the legal bills; Elke Purze, Deputy City Attorney, reported the case is pending in federal court and she has approved the bills as invoiced.

ORDINANCE 55-O-09 AMENDING THE CITY CODE BY ADDING TO TITLE 9, “PUBLIC SAFETY,” CHAPTER 6, “MINORS,” A NEW SECTION 5, “COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY TRUANCY PROGRAM.”

*Alderman Jean-Baptiste moved approval, Alderman Grover seconded, approved 5-0.
Patrice Quehl, Evanston Police Youth Advocate, summarized the history of the proposed ordinance. The ordinance was first presented to the Human Services Meeting in July of 2009. The Committee directed the Community Accountability Board (CAB) to present the proposed ordinance to the City-School Liaison Committee; it was presented on October 22, 2009. At that meeting the City-School Liaison Committee recommended endorsing the CAB Truancy ordinance.

Alderman Holmes asked if the proposed ordinance was also presented to the school boards districts. Ms. Quehl replied no, the ordinance was not presented at any of the school board meetings. Alderman Grover noted that there was a change to the penalty provision, which now states “… a fine up to one hundred dollars” previously it stated “…fine of not less than one hundred dollars.” She expressed appreciation for the letters of support from the various Human Services agencies that were included in the agenda packet.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste voiced his concerns and the residents regarding interaction of the police within the community. Richard Eddington, Chief of Police, clarified that all processes through the Community Accountability Board will be followed before a citation is issued. This ordinance pertains to chronically truant students that have ignored the CAB attempts to address any truancy problem. There could be issues other than not wanting to be in school that needs to be identified and resolved.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste asked if this ordinance is passed will the police approach a youth out of school during school hours. The Chief replied yes, currently they approach any youth they encounter in the community during school hours. They do so if anything is suspicious or to ensure everything is okay with the youth. He does not anticipate an increase of police/youth contact with the passing of this ordinance.

According to Patrice Quehl staff placed a list of questions regarding the ordinance was included in the agenda packet for this meeting and in the Roundtable and the Evanston Review. A press release was provided with the ordinance information; names and numbers were included for the community to call with questions.

Christina Cortesi, from Evanston Township High School Student Assistance Program, gave a detail description of the steps that would be taken before this ordinance would be put into effect. The process starts at the school; the school identifies the chronic student and implements their absentee policies. If that is unsuccessful the truant officer makes a visit to the student’s home and the assistance of the Community Accountability Board is offered. At CAB, families can meet with different agencies to assist/support with issues that prevent the student from attending school. If the truant officer offers CAB and it is refused,
then a ticket will be issued. The fine is a pressure point to get the family to help get the student back in school.

*The ordinance was approved 5-0 to advance to the City Council for consideration subject to the Law Department review of the following:

1. How would the penalty be imposed?
2. Clarify the wording in the ordinance regarding the responsibilities of the City of Evanston, District 202, District 65, Police Department and the Community Accountability Board.
3. Look into developing an Inter-agency/City agreement about roles and responsibilities

ORDINANCE 1-O-10 ENACTING A PERMIT FEE FOR CHILD DAY CARE HOMES

Citizen Comments
Mr. Falk, 1218 Dewey Avenue, does not support this ordinance

Marsha Fincher, 1400 Ashland Ave, does not support this ordinance

Eb Moran, 2522 Isabella, does not support this ordinance.

Joanne Spilioti, 831 Steward St, does not support this ordinance.

Beryl McCanton, 1712 Greenleaf St, does not support this ordinance; she requested the City increase the number of children allowed within the home day care should the City impose a fee.

Alderman Holmes clarified that this proposed ordinance is not powered by revenue for the pending budget but rather to recoup the costs of Fire, Property Standards, and the Environmental Health Departments inspections.

The community comments relayed the following issues:

1. The City does not take the Department of Children and Family Services (State) medical form, why?
2. The proposed fee is too high
3. The space is not measured by the City to calculate how many children are permitted within the home, however it is measured by the State
4. The City conducts inspections at the time of permit renewal and the State makes frequent site visits.
5. The State does not require payment; why does the City?
6. Fingerprinting is done by the State: why does the City duplicate?
7. Why does the City duplicate what is conducted by the State?

Carl Caneva, Environmental Health Division Manager, stated the ordinance drives the practices of the inspectors.
Alderman Jean-Baptiste is concerned that the issues identified are exactly the same as last year. He felt until the issues have been clarified this item should be tabled.

*Alderman Jean-Baptiste moved to remove the item from consideration until the issues identified are rectified. Alderman Fiske seconded, Approved 5-0.

Alderman Grover suggests aligning licensing paperwork with the Department of Children and Family Services

**ORDINANCE 3-O-10 ENACTING A NEW SECTION 10-3-13 OF THE EVANSTON CITY CODE, “USE OF MOBILE TELEPHONES WHILE OPERATING A MOTION VEHICLE”**

*Alderman Fisk Fiske moved approval, Alderman Tendam seconded; Approved 5-0

*Citizen’s Comment*
Ben Shapiro, 150 Dewey Ave, recommends approval of the proposed ordinance.

John Chisholm, 2501 McDaniel, recommends approval of the proposed ordinance.

Linda Hoffman, 9W. Hobbard recommends approval of the proposed ordinance.

James Heller President of the Evanston Bicycle Club supports the proposed ordinance.

**REPORT FROM THE EVANSTON MENTAL HEALTH BOARD ON PROPOSED FY10 AGENCY FUNDING LEVELS**

Marcia Achenbach, Chair of the Mental Health Board gave a brief report of the proposed funding to agencies for fiscal year 2010.

Kim Wolowiec-Fisher, Barbara Levin and Paul Seldon of the Mental Health Board do not support the proposed 25 percent funding reduction.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste thanked Ms. Achenbach for a thorough report but said he cannot support the proposed funding at this time. The proposed funding has to be reviewed in the context of the budget not at the level suggested.

Alderman Tendem and Fiske also agreed the funding has to be reviewed with the City’s budget in mind.
UPDATE OF CITIZEN REVIEW OF POLICE COMPLAINTS
Alderman Jean-Baptiste moved approval, Alderman Tendam seconded;
Approved 5-0.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicola Whyte
Department of Health and Human Services