

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 26th DAY OF JULY, 2021

The Caddo Parish Commission met in an American Rescue Committee Meeting, on the above date, at 12:00 p.m., in the Government Chambers, with Mr. Johnson, Chairperson, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, and Johnson (5). ABSENT: None (0).

Bishop Brandon gave the invocation, and Mr. Johnson led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Kelly Todd discussed that the Volunteers for Youth Justice assist the Juvenile Court in handling truancy from Kindergarten to 5th grade students and that from February 2020 to October 2020 the Department of Education estimated over 16,000 children had missed school during the pandemic. She added that their team of 5 is shorthanded and have several hundreds of cases each. She stressed that truancy is a serious issue and could lead to future possibility of delinquency in youth if they are not in school.

It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to suspend the rules that we will be able to ask questions during citizen's comments.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Mr. Atkins inquired as to why Volunteers for Youth Justice was not listed for their review. Mrs. Bryant acknowledged that the Commissioners received two requests from Volunteers for Youth Justice totaling \$3 million and the Committee requested to have both requests removed. One of the requests did not meet the criteria and the other was determined as a school board function.

Mr. Johnson concluded that after review of funding available the requests by Volunteers for Youth Justice was forwarded to the School Board office for their larger budget and to share the responsibility.

Damon Humphrey, Image Changers, advocating funding for housing and education explained that the MLK Community lacked of affordable housing and many live in poor conditions. Their organization has built homes and developed a park in the area without prior assistance but to expand their goals to build more affordable homes Mr. Humphrey requested \$1 million to build more homes and to supplement their educational tutoring program which they received NGO funding previously.

Pastor Bryan Wilson discussed The Lab School of Shreveport by the Galilee Family Enrichment Center as an infrastructural project that incorporated S.T.E.A.M. initiatives. He expressed that Lab School is needed to teach youth how to manage their skills to keep youth from turning to the streets. He added that based on LEAP testing from local elementary to high schools, 90% students are underperforming.

Mr. Atkins asked if their program is ongoing. Pastor Wilson acknowledged that the program is necessary.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know how self-sustaining is the program. Pastor Wilson acknowledged that they continue searching for funding and have a donation program for local business leaders to invest in their programs.

Mr. Johnson also asked how much it costs to maintain operations annually. Pastor Wilson replied with their asking amount of \$1 million to upgrade school, staffing and recruiting students, and to feed students. He added that he has children that commute to participate in sports programs and that children in their community need activities.

Mr. Burrell reminded Pastor Wilson that the American Rescue Act funding is one-time source and is not an ongoing funding.

Mr. Jackson asked whether they have requested assistance from the School Board with the S.T.E.M and S.T.E.A.M. initiatives. He advised that the Parish could assist in startup funding but they would need to determine how to be self-sustaining. Pastor Wilson elaborated on how they are looking for resources to support their program and he envisions their center being the avenue to train and invest in the youth before they lose their life.

Mr. Jackson asked Pastor Wilson for his perception on the effect of a community to see schools and churches close down and boarded up and the perception of a youth when they see closures of structures in their communities. Pastor Wilson acknowledged that he experienced the devastation of his childhood school being closed down and that it felt like things were dying off.

Mr. Cawthorne commented that Galilee Baptist Church is an anchor in their community and that they should assist them to help target the nuances. He advised that before coming before a body and asking for something to discuss what has been done to support the need.

Mr. Burrell commented that Pastor Wilson should call his program STEAM instead of STEM and exemplified that they are picking up steam in their concept and that the "a" in steam includes agriculture. He advised that agricultural grants are available by the USDA. He stated that he managed entrepreneurial programs with the previous pastor of the church and encouraged Pastor Wilson to adopt those two letters to the STEAM acronym.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know how much of their request is allocated for infrastructure improvement. Pastor Wilson acknowledged that the full amount is for infrastructure.

Mr. Johnson requested Administration to arrange a meeting with the Superintendent, the Mayor and the CAO to discuss programs they could collaborate on.

Bishop Randall, representing NWLA CDC Housing Funding, introduced the many programs that they have partnered with the Parish on such as afterschool, code red, road to home ownership programs and project Laurie helping adult men transition into society and a separate program transitioning young men into productive adult life. Their transitional programs include life skills training. The funding requested is for housing that impacts children. He introduced Felton Colar to speak on the building.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know what is the purpose of the funding request of \$1 million. Mr. Colar explained that the homes need to be renovated or remodeled to fit HUD standards and that he reviewed each home and paired costs of materials at the time of the application.

Mr. Johnson referred to Mrs. Bryant whether the application can meet the guidelines if they use the funding to upgrade the homes then sell them. Mrs. Bryant acknowledged that the application meets the guidelines but there are specific requirements that they must report to the Treasury. Mr. Colar stated that he can provide the additional documentation and information to support what they are doing and that their goal is to keep rent as low as possible.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know should they transfer the American Rescue Plan dollars to the E. Edward Jones Housing fund for organizations requesting housing dollars through that program. Mrs. Bryant acknowledged that they would still need to meet the guidelines of the ARP and any proceeds for selling the house would have to be returned to the Parish by 2026.

Mr. Johnson advised the organizations regarding housing funding that there are guidelines to be aware of.

Mr. Jackson advised that there are other funding sources available and wanted to know if they were buying homes by the block versus individual homes across neighborhoods. Mr. Colar acknowledged that they have properties by the block. Bishop commented they also have homes for their home ownership programs, which transforms communities one block at a time.

Mr. Jackson mentioned that they have received \$39 million from the Louisiana Housing Corporation with 15% to be allocated for housing programs and reassured that there is more funding coming.

Mr. Cawthorne mentioned that there is a perfect storm brewing and leveraging dollars requires they open dialogue to multiple communities.

Calvin Lester, Grace Project, introduced their goal is to rehabilitate houses and stabilizing neighborhoods in Allendale and Lakeside neighborhoods. He mentioned that the houses are architecturally outstanding but are dilapidated, abandoned and neglected. Without profit, their concept is to sale the home for the cost to rehabilitate it. He explained that they have sought other funding sources and that they are willing to work with other community organizations regarding housing.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know how and why does Grace Project see housing as economic development. Mr. Lester acknowledged that rent is the first bill to be paid and neighborhoods have low stability with fewer home owners. He explained that having home equity supported family education or starting a business. Furthermore, that they plan to circulate dollars in the community by hiring small contractors or artisans from the neighborhood to fix the homes.

Mr. Jackson requested that Mr. Lester provide some information on job opportunity and if they are participating with the state housing funding program. Mr. Lester responded that there are people who have the skills necessary to work on homes such as roofing, flooring, painting, electrical and plumbing. He explained that the skilled traders may not have a business or are bonded. Mr. Jackson explained that having bonded workers would reduce the risk of shady work and that opens opportunities for those bonded contractors. Mr. Cawthorne commented that revitalizing neighboring lots would show a difference.

Mr. Lester exclaimed that their research exposed many homes on blocks in the Allendale and Lakeside neighborhoods that have dilapidated, adjudicated or abandoned properties. He added that they worked on legislation in the 90's to create a Parish redevelopment law for properties adjudicated to the City and the Parish can clean up properties and offer them to non-profits.

Mr. Atkins inquired how they plan to address the titles to the properties they plan to work on. Mr. Lester acknowledged that they will follow guidelines with legal help and legislation for their non-profit to acquire title to the properties. Mr. Burrell commented that there is progress in clearing titles for redevelopment initiatives and recounted his experience in re-housing and economic development as successful by following the guidelines.

Mr. Johnson asked whether their target areas were in the approved I-49 Inner City corridor. Mr. Lester declined that they were aware of the third rail situation.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know more about their experiences in doing housing. Mr. Lester acknowledged and explained that Grace Project was designed to rebuild housing in the City of Shreveport and for the last 40 years they have developed affordable housing and home ownership homes in Allendale. They plan to employ resources to move forward with their initiatives.

Rudy Glaze, Lakeside Area Association, addressed the dilapidated housing and overgrown areas in Lakeside area. He explained that with the funding they will clean up their area and accept commitments from people in the area to help maintain their area. He added that homeowners were left unaware of the City no longer maintaining alleyways behind homes and are now overgrown. Their neighborhood gave away pandemic-kits for elderly in Lakeside, Allendale and Cooper Road areas and plan to do pandemic-backpack kits for children returning to school.

Mr. Johnson asked what their plans were for the dilapidated homes. Mr. Glaze acknowledged that depending on the condition they would try to rehabilitate it for homeowners.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know who they were working with. Mr. Glaze responded that he is interested in working with Grace Project now that he is aware of their initiatives. Mr. Jackson expressed that he can help organizations in his district if they come to him and prefers to see organizations working together. Mr. Glaze explained that he able to speak to Grace Project previously, and will keep their initiatives in mind for the future. Mr. Jackson exclaimed that he wants Mr. Glaze to act now due to limited resources and having organizations collaborate. Mr. Glaze explained that he spoke with Mr. Green to get started on cleaning out areas in the neighborhood and then have the residents in the area commit to maintaining it going forward.

Mr. Cawthorne commented that his concept helps economic development and asked who will repair the properties damaged by storms. Mr. Glaze declined that they do not have a company but have been approached by companies.

Mr. Johnson mentioned that each application is important, but they are over budget by \$9.5 million. He explained that there are more requests than funding and their goal today is to determine the amount to be awarded and to which organization that they will recommend to the full body. Mr. Burrell asked the Committee to consider reducing each request by 20% that would be \$1.6 million under the budget and if they reduced each request by 17% they would be underbudget approximately. Mr. Johnson stated that their goal is to be under the budget and prefers reviewing each organization separately.

Naisha Walpool introduced Operation Neighborhood Reinforcement Peace Practitioners, a mobile crisis intervention team, as an organization that treat mental illness in Shreveport and Caddo Parish to help reduce violence and assist law enforcement and first responders. She explained that their 24-month program assist in de-escalation and crisis intervention, patrol neighborhoods and go out on non-emergency related emergencies. Mrs. Walpool elaborated that her personal and professional development and as a grassroots activist has given her the drive and insight that their program is needed in poverty-stricken, high crime and under-served areas.

Mr. Johnson commented that their business could be contracted with local law enforcement and exemplified how 211's non-emergency calls could be routed to her business. Then he asked for more business details such as the number of employees and if they are currently operating. Mrs. Walpool acknowledged that they have 13 employees and are working with SPD, Mayor Perkins and Bonnie Moore at Community Development on assignments. She explained that their program was recently mentioned in the news when a Peace Practitioner that started with non-violent calls that turned violent.

Mr. Cawthorne referenced Dr. DeGruy's book titled "Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome" regarding how the Peace Practitioner locates and targets that pathology. Mrs. Walpool acknowledged she has studied under Dr. DeGruy and spoke gravely about how evident the mindset is in pre-dominant black neighborhoods in Shreveport and that her findings lead to mental health being a factor to de-escalate red zone areas.

Mr. Burrell requested clarification on the business structure of Operation Neighborhood Reinforcement Peace Practitioners and that her services are to de-escalate high crime areas. Mrs. Walpool

explained that they are not currently a non-profit but have drawn the articles to file as a non-profit organization and their goal is to de-escalate crime.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if they have spoken with Angie Wilhite, Public Information Officer with the Shreveport Police Department, who has worked with the VA and other agencies to target mental behavior health initiatives of Operation Neighborhood Reinforcement Peace Practitioners. He advised her that it's important to communicate with other entities that may be doing similar business concepts. He advised that Angie Wilhite is working daily on crime prevention. Mrs. Walpool acknowledged that she read about Angie Wilhite, but has not spoken to her. She further explained that their goals may not align with what the SPD is doing; however, in the future she hopes to expand their operations to contract licensed mental health professionals. It was also mentioned that due to funding, her and her team are operating out of their homes.

NEW BUSINESS

The Committee moved onto the first item under New Business: *Continue Discussion on Comprehensive Local Plan for the Use of American Rescue Plan Funds.*

Mr. Jackson stated that he is misunderstanding how the Committee is handling each applicant's request and how the funding is going to be allocated. Mr. Johnson explained that their meeting is to bring the total amount under budget and make a recommendation to the full body. Mr. Jackson suggested doing a 20% cut across the board.

Mr. Burrell said that this committee is "picking winners and losers". He suggested looking at a more equitable way of completing this process. Mr. Burrell pointed out that he was not clear on the guidelines. Mr. Johnson reiterated that the Committee is only making a recommendation to the full body; once it gets to the full body, that recommendation can be amended.

Mr. Atkins said that the Commission should be providing funds to those organizations most prepared to make a positive impact on the community. He also said that not all of these organizations are equal in their experiences and capabilities and ability to make a positive impact on the community, which is why he is not in favor of a 20% cut across the board.

Mr. Hopkins mentioned that these funds were intended for replace of the Commission's income. He suggested to go ahead and approve Administration's plan, then peruse the other projects.

Vivian Athletic Association

Mr. Hopkins asked Administration to look into this request to see if it can be put in the Budget for 2023 or 2024. Dr. Wilson said that they can look into it.

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins** to remove the funding request for Vivian Athletic Association. Motion carried.

State Fair of Louisiana

Mr. Johnson explained that is categorized as revenue shortfall because there was no fair in 2020.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, to recommend to the full body the State Fair's appropriation request of \$300,000. Motion carried by acclamation.

Save Our Sons

Mr. Johnson explained that it is an organization who puts on events to decrease violence and promote safety.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$25,000 for Save Our Sons. Motion carried by acclamation.

Rutherford House

Mr. Johnson explained that it is for preplanned roof repair delayed by low placement during COVID.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$100,000 for Rutherford House. Motion carried by acclamation.

Rho Omega & Friends

Mr. Johnson explained that the Let the Goods Times Roll Festival did not happen in 2020 due to the pandemic.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$50,000 for Rho Omega & Friends.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Red G Enterprises

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if there was any additional information regarding this request. Mrs. Barnett explained that they would like to partner and collaborate with the Parish to restore economic growth in the community and gain greater access to the purchasing process.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to remove the funding request for Red G Enterprises.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Operation Neighborhood

Mr. Johnson explained that this is an organization for the treatment of the mentally ill and reduce violence in Shreveport.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to remove the funding request for Operation Neighborhood.*

Mr. Atkins said that there are some redundancies with this organization and Shreveport Police Department.

Friendly Amendment by Mr. Johnson *to remove the funding request for Operation Neighborhood today, but reassess a lesser funding amount once the organization has reached out with the police department.* Mr. Atkins accepted.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know the deadline for submitting the strategic plan. Mrs. Bryant said that the overall plan has to be submitted on August 31, 2021. She also said that there are certain reporting requirements that have to be made ongoing and will continue until 2026. She also cautioned that if the federal government looks at the plan and feels like the Commission is not headed in the right direction, it could jeopardize the second tranche of funding.

Mr. Burrell said that he does not always agree with “large organizations with large budgets that just creates job opportunities”. He would like to see more collaboration with the grassroots organizations who are already in these neighborhoods.

Dr. Wilson pointed out that all of the funding requests for these programs will not be upfront. He said that that the Commission will not receive the second tranche of funding until next year. Mr. Johnson explained that there should be a disclaimer for these organizations stating that they may not get the funding for the second year.

At this time, Mr. Atkins' motion carried by acclamation.

Northwest CDC Grace Project Image Changers

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to allocate \$2M for housing in the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund for housing projects.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Mr. Johnson suggested that this be listed under the Commissioners' category.

MLK CDC

Mr. Johnson explained that this is to support business entrepreneurial training for startups and new businesses.

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *that this be included in the TruFund request and increase TruFund's appropriation to \$975,000.*

Mr. Atkins suggested to keep their request at \$950,000 since they are lumping the organizations together.

At this time, Mr. Cawthorne's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (3). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins and Hopkins (2). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Lakeside Neighborhood Association

Mr. Johnson explained that this organization will use the funding to provide repairs to property damage due to storms and area beautification.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$50,000 to Lakeside Neighborhood Association.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Mr. Burrell has concerns with non-committee members not having a vote during this meeting. Mr. Johnson explained that this is only a recommendation to the full body, and any Commissioner can make amendments once it gets there. He also explained that this is how the committees have been working since at least he's started on the Commission. Mr. Johnson further explained that any person can speak and make suggestions to the Committee, but only the committee members can vote on the motions made during committees.

Kennedy Center

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$120,000 to the Kennedy Center.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Holy Angels

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$178,978 to Holy Angels.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Galilee Family Enrichment

Mr. Atkins said that as this program was presented, it does not fit the criteria. Mr. Johnson said that it does fit the criteria. Mr. Atkins argued that this is to upgrade the school, but there is also a program. Mrs. Barnett explained that early childhood education is covered under the guidelines, but higher education is not. She also mentioned that the guidelines discourages funding programs.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$800,000 to Galilee Family Enrichment.*

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if this would fit if it were a one-time pilot program. Mr. Atkins said that it was determined that this does fit the guidelines. Mr. Burrell argued that this is not an ongoing program, but a pilot program. Mr. Atkins agreed with Mr. Burrell.

Amendment by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to request the School Board to do a 50/50 split on \$1M with this project.* Mr. Atkins accepted.

Mr. Cawthorne said that he is not comfortable with this amendment because he is not sure of how the School Board will vote. Mr. Johnson said that if the School Board does not agree with the proposal then the funding could back to \$800,000 from the Commission.

Mr. Jackson hopes that each entity—the Commission, School Board, and the City—is having a conversation on how these dollars can be invested into the community.

Mr. Burrell mentioned that the majority of the City's funding is going towards safety.

Mr. Johnson explained that the motion on the table is \$500,000 for Galilee with the caveat that the Parish will meet with the school board to see if they will also put up \$500,000 for the project. If they don't, the Commission then has the option to add an additional \$300,000 to bring their funding back up to \$800,000.

Fit For Life

Mr. Johnson would like to move this line item into Sporting Events, but leaving the Sporting Events budget at \$100,000.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson** *to move Fit For Life line item into Sporting Events, but leaving the Sporting Events' at \$100,000.* Motion carried unanimously.

American Rose Society

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$55,000 to the American Rose Society.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Mr. Johnson asked Mrs. Barnett for the total recommended funding amount for the Other Organizations category. Mrs. Barnett said that the current total for that section is \$3,370,978.

The Committee then moved onto the Other Public Bodies category.

Water District 7

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body an*

appropriation of \$1.4M for Water Works District 7. Motion carried by acclamation.

Ward II Industrial Development Corporation

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$1M to the Ward II Industrial Development Corporation.*

Mr. Hopkins said that this amount should take care of their revenue loss. Mr. Johnson mentioned that some of that was a loan from the Parish. Mr. Hopkins agreed and said that there may be another way to take care of that portion as well.

Dr. Wilson also mentioned that there is a potential “secret squirrel project” in the works concerning a perspective purchaser of the entire park. He will let the Commissioners know more about that project if it comes to fruition, but at this time, he cannot go into details.

Mr. Hopkins would like to keep the appropriation at \$1M, but if there is a way to roll of the loan portion, then it would decrease the amount to \$500,000. He said that they would need to get with Legal to determine if the Commission is able to forgive that loan.

At this time, Mr. Hopkins’ motion carried by acclamation.

Southern University

Mr. Johnson explained that this is the Youth Build Program, which teaches students hands-on training. He said that that request is \$500,000.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$500,000 to Southern University.*

Mrs. Bryant said that there is an issue with the funds going to a higher education institution. Mrs. Barnett said that there is only mention of early education in the rules, not higher education. Because of that, there is nowhere for the Commission to report on that type of funding.

Mr. Darrin Dixon wanted to know wanted to know if the funds could be given to another organization that is affiliated with the organization that is not higher education.

Mr. Johnson said that he does not want to lose this vocational piece. He explained that this training will help students who cannot go into college get the experience they need by hands-on training.

Mr. Cawthorne suggested that they could have a discussion with the school board and possibly bring this program to one of the high schools. Dr. Wilson pointed out that the Career Center already exists with the Caddo Parish School Board.

Mr. Johnson explained that this program is for the students who dropped out of school, particularly between the ages of 17 to 25. He said that these are the people who need the help.

Mr. Atkins proposed that the Committee approve the funding, but leave the host blank until Mr. Dixon can come back with a solution.

Dr. Wilson said that Dekalb County in Georgia just received a \$900,000 grant for their Youth Build Program. Administration has contacted them to see what the process is. It is his understanding that the timeframe for the grant is closed out, but hopefully will be reopening next year. He said that they will apply for it in concert with Southern University. Dr. Wilson said that this might be another avenue for additional funds.

At this time, Mr. Johnson’s motion carried by acclamation.

Shreve Memorial Library—STEM Technology Shreveport Memorial Library—UVC Air Purification

Mrs. Bryant said that they received a letter from the Shreve Memorial Library stating that the library has received funding through the American Rescue Plan. They received \$47,064 for eighteen locations for a total of \$894,000.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to strike both proposals for the Shreve Memorial Library. Motion carried by acclamation.*

Sewer District No. 2

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$242,000 to Sewer District No. 2. Motion carried by acclamation.*

Public Defender's Office

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$457,729 to the Public Defender's Office.*

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if this was the Commission's responsibility. Dr. Wilson said that the Commission has helped them in the past with accounting and benefits. He said that they desperately need the help. Mr. Atkins also mentioned that the courts were not in session because of coronavirus, so it had a direct impact on their revenue stream.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried by acclamation.

Pine Hill Water District

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$434,438 to Pine Hill Water District. Motion carried by acclamation.*

Lakeview Water District

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$750,000 to Lakeview Water District. Motion carried by acclamation.*

Fire District No. 8

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$350,000 to Fire District No. 8. Motion carried by acclamation.*

Fire District No. 7

Mr. Hopkins explained that this should be categorized as payroll expenses and revenue replacement, but they are using the funds to purchase two fire trucks.

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$250,000 to Fire District No. 7. Motion carried by acclamation.*

Fire District No. 6

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$150,000 to Fire District No. 6. Motion carried by acclamation.*

Fire District No. 4

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$12,721 to Fire District No. 4. Motion carried by acclamation.*

Fire District No. 3

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$33,662 to Fire District No. 3. Motion carried by acclamation.*

Caddo Community Action Agency

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$1,086,500 to Caddo Community Action Agency.*

Mr. Burrell wanted to know where the new amount came from. Mr. Johnson said that they included premium pay of \$1,500 for each employee and a \$500,000 mobile equipment request.

Mr. Burrell then wanted to know if they received CARES Act funding. Dr. Wilson said that he is not sure if they received any CARES Act funds, but this request is for the Head Start Program. Mrs. Bryant said that if they did, it would have come through us because the Caddo Parish Commission is the actual grantee. She said that they have not received a direct allocation for Head Start.

Mr. Johnson also mentioned that Administration will be looking to see if all the employees are full-time to receive the full \$1,500 premium pay.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried by acclamation.

Black Bayou Watershed

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if this could be funded in 2022 for Capital Outlay since it is a Parish park. Dr. Wilson said that it could be.

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to remove the funding request from Black Bayou Watershed.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Mr. Johnson asked Mrs. Barnett for a total for Other Public Bodies. Mrs. Barnett get a total of \$6,617,050.

The Committee then moved onto the Agencies category.

District Attorney's Office

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$726,544 to the District Attorney's Office.* Motion carried by acclamation.

The Committee then moved onto the Commissioners category.

Others Previously Approved

Mr. Johnson said that the Commission approved LSU for \$1M, Bel-Di-Gil for \$1.1M, Safe Summer Workforce \$200,000, and the Greenwood Water Project for \$750,000. Mr. Johnson said that this can be reduced if the LSU, Bel-Di-Gil, and Greenwood projects are all taken from the Oil & Gas Fund.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$200,000 for the Safe Summer Workforce.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Green/Food Infrastructure

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts to include urban gardens to this request.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if the Commission already approved other projects similar to this. Mr. Johnson said that there was a request from the Urban Garden non-profit.

Substitute motion by Mr. Atkins, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$750,000 for Green/Food Infrastructure request to include the Urban Garden project.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know who would hold these funds. Dr. Wilson said that the Parish will, so the organizations would have to apply through the Parish.

Laptops for College Students

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$13,000 for laptops for college students.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Direct Funding for Caddo Parish Citizens

Mr. Johnson explained that this project is in collaboration with the City of Shreveport.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$432,000 for direct funding for Caddo Parish citizens.*

Mr. Atkins stated that he will be voting no on this request.

Mrs. Gage-Watts explained that this is in collaboration with the Mayor's Guaranteed Income (GI) project.

Mr. Hopkins agreed with Mr. Atkins. He will be voting no on this request. He has no issues with economic development, providing masks, helping citizens with rent, etc., but he does have an issue with providing direct funding to citizens.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (3). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins and Hopkins (2). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Security Trailers

Mr. Johnson explained that the Commission already approved this request.

Cash Mob Project

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend to the full*

body an appropriation of \$130,000 for the Cash Mob Project.

Mr. Atkins asked for more information regarding this request. Mr. Cawthorne said that this idea is being used around the nation. He explained that this is a mechanism for people who were attempting to reopen. It is to literally mob the entity or business with as many clients as possible, he said. Mr. Cawthorne further explained that it is an effort to re-energize businesses that were negatively impacted by COVID.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know who would be implementing the program. Mr. Cawthorne said that it will be the African-American Chamber of Commerce.

At this time, Mr. Cawthorne's motion carried by acclamation.

TruFund

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mr. Johnson, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$975,000 for TruFund.*

Substitute motion by Mr. Atkins, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to reduce the appropriation to \$600,000. Motion failed*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins and Hopkins (2). NAYS: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (3). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Cawthorne's original motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Cawthorne, Gage-Watts, and Johnson (3). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins and Hopkins (2). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Sickle Cell Softball Tournament

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$50,000 for the Sickle Cell Softball Tournament.*

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if this fits in revenue replacement. Mrs. Barnett said that it does allow for assistance to small businesses and non-profits, but is limited to declines in revenues. She said that they were not able to have the softball tournament in 2020 due to COVID.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried by acclamation.

LSU Health—lab expansion and water monitoring system

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$50,000 for LSU Health. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, Hopkins, and Johnson (4). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: Commissioner Gage-Watts (1).

Mrs. Gage-Watts will be abstaining from this vote due to her employment with LSU.

Sci-Port—IMAX Theater

Mr. Johnson said that this is in collaboration with the City and the School Board.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$400,000 to Sci-Port.*

Mr. Jackson would like a caveat be attached to this request that the Caddo Commission will not be responsible for maintenance of the IMAX theater. Mrs. Bryant explained that these are one-time appropriations.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried by acclamation.

Homelessness Solutions

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if this was an agency or a general bucket. Mr. Johnson said that it was a general bucket.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know the specific programs. Mr. Johnson said that Hope Connections and the Mission both applied. Mr. Jackson mentioned that Hope Connections should be receiving an abundance of monies for rapid rehousing and other homeless services.

Mr. Jackson would also like to see a line item for COVID-19 or pandemic related activities.

Substitute motion by Mr. Atkins, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to remove the appropriation of \$100,000 for homelessness solutions. Motion carried*, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES:

Commissioners Atkins, Cawthorne, and Hopkins (3). NAYS: Commissioners Gage-Watts and Johnson (2). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Housing Assistance

Mr. Johnson said that this should be stricken out.

Sporting Events

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$100,000 for Sporting Events.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Festivals & Events

Mr. Johnson said that Rho Omega & Friends has been allocated \$50,000 from this line item, so now there is \$100,000 left in the line item to be used for another festival or event.

College Football Games

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$250,000 for college football games.*

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know what college football games. Mr. Johnson said that they are looking at SUSLA and Arkansas Pine Bluff, Northwestern and Grambling, etc. Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if this includes the Independence Bowl. Mr. Johnson said that it does not.

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if these dollars would go to the schools or the Sports Commission. Mr. Johnson said that it would go to the Sports Commission.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried by acclamation.

Mr. Johnson asked Mrs. Barnett for a total funding amount for the Commissioners category. Mrs. Barnett said that the total is \$5.6M. He also asked for an overall total minus the Administration category. Mrs. Barnett said the total is \$45,864,572.

The Committee then moved onto Administration.

Premium Pay

Mr. Johnson said that this has already been approved by the Commission.

Walter B. Jacobs

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$8M for Walter B. Jacobs.*

Substitute motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$6M for Walter B. Jacobs.*

Mr. Johnson said that this Committee has made several cuts throughout this plan. He said that his motion would allow for more wiggle room in case additional requests come forward.

Mr. Cawthorne wanted to know if this was enough money to finish the project. Dr. Wilson explained that Administration was planning on making a recommendation to use some money from the Reserve Trust Fund to finish the building.

Dr. Wilson also mentioned that the Parks & Recreation Budget is very limited budget. An analysis was conducted on this particular project, and it will generate revenue to pay for the expanded cost of operating it.

Mr. Cawthorne wanted to know if the State was going to put up some funding for this project. Dr. Wilson explained that they sent a request to the State for \$6M, but only received \$50,000.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know why this park is being funded differently from other parish parks. Dr. Wilson said that this particular project meets the ARP guidelines. Mrs. Bryant also mentioned that this project is more substantial than the Parks Budget or any other budget to handle.

Dr. Wilson said that this is a worthwhile investment for the Parish. He said that this particular park receives about 40,000 visitors per year. There's also an educational piece associated with this park. Dr. Wilson said that this investment will benefit all of Caddo Parish.

Mr. Jackson believes that \$6M is a compromise. He said that it gets the budget to where it

needs to be.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's substitute motion carried by acclamation.

Broadband

Mr. Johnson said that this is in collaboration with the City and the School Board. He said that the City is putting in \$5M, and the School Board is putting in \$21M.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$2M for broadband.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Revenue Replacement

Mr. Jackson wanted to know if these monies would go into the General Fund. Mrs. Bryant said that it would go across the funds that were impacted by COVID with loss revenues. Mrs. Barnett said this is not a one-year number, but a four-year number.

It was **moved by Mr. Atkins**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$21M for revenue replacement.* Motion carried by acclamation.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know the total appropriation amount for the ARP funding. Mrs. Barnett said that it is \$43,854,572.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to send this amended summary of request for the ARP funding to the full body for consideration.* Motion carried by acclamation.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned.


Assistant Commission Clerk