C.H.E.S.S. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE & COMMERCE

Maureen Pollack, Co-Chair Stephanie Sylvestre, Co-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2026
Time: 6:30pm
Place: This meeting was held in the Democratic Caucus Room, 888 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT, 4th Floor and remotely via Zoom.

The CHESS Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chairs Pollack and Sylvestre, and Committee Member Reps. Goldberg, Gross, McKeown, Price, Walston, and Yeager. Rep. Wirz was excused. Also in attendance were Rep. Adams; Bridget Fox, Chief of Staff; Anita Carpenter, Grants Officer; Moira Sawch, CDBG Administrator; and members of the public.

Co-Chair Pollack called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. CHESS32.021	**<u>REVIEW/DISCUSSION;</u>** of Stamford's non-compliance with Timely Expenditure Requirements of its Community Development Block Grant Program 08/05/2026 – Submitted by Moira Sawch	**RECOMMITTED TO STEERING 8-0-0**

Ms. Carpenter and Ms. Fox reviewed this item in detail and there was extensive discussion.

Stamford has failed the HUD timeliness standard for five consecutive years. Much of this is due to the Legal Department's backlog of getting agreements to the recipients. An outside firm has been hired to assist with inventory of outstanding balances. Administration is working with them along with internal City controls to ensure corrective strategies for compliance moving forward.

HUD considers a CDBG expenditure to be timely once an agreement is executed, the purchase order is executed, and the non-profit is paid. Administration will be submitting a report to HUD in September.

Committee members requested an updated spreadsheet regarding the status of projects, and a report from the Legal Department on the merits of hiring outside counsel.

A motion to recommit Item # 1 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Pollack, Sylvestre, Goldberg, Gross, McKeown, Price, Walston, and Yeager in favor).

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
2. CHESS32.022	**<u>APPROVAL</u>**; of the de-obligation of unspent prior year CDBG public improvement funding in the aggregate amount of ~~approximately $1,250,000~~ $1,163,690.05 08/05/2026 – Submitted b Moira Sawch	**APPROVED AS AMENDED 8-0-0**

Ms. Carpenter stated the actual amount should be $1,163,690.05 and there was a brief discussion.

A motion to amend the amount of Item #2 to $1,163,690.05 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Pollack, Sylvestre, Goldberg, Gross, McKeown, Price, Walston, and Yeager in favor).

A motion to approve Item # 2 as amended was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Pollack, Sylvestre, Goldberg, Gross, McKeown, Price, Walston, and Yeager in favor).

3. CHESS32.023	**APPROVAL**; of the re-allocation of available prior year CDBG balances in the aggregate amount of $1,000,000 to a new Public Improvement Project(s). 08/05/2026 – Submitted by Moira Sawch	**POSTPONED DEFINITELY 3-1-3**

Ms. Fox reviewed this item. This funding is for a building-wide code-compliant sprinkler system at the Nathan Wider Community Center. This sprinkler system has not been part of the scope of any other grants. The Administration is committed to supporting community centers in Stamford.

Several Committee members stated they would need to see the data for the justification of this project before being able to approve it, as this is the process for all other CDBG items. There was a lengthy discussion.

A motion to postpone consideration of Item #3 definitely to be reconsidered at a Special Committee Meeting at a date to be determined before the 9/8/26 Board Meeting at 7:30pm and with receipt of requested information from Ms. Fox was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 3-1-3 (Reps. Sylvestre, Gross, and McKeown in favor; Rep. Walston opposed; Reps. Pollack, Goldberg, and Yeager abstaining).

Co-Chair Pollack summarized that the Committee has requested from Ms. Fox the following information on Item #3 by August 25th: a breakdown of how the funds will be spent within the budget, how the project meets the HUD requirements, when the expenditures will be made, and why this project was chosen over other projects.

Rep. Gross would like to see a breakdown as to who will be served and impacted by this project.

Co-Chair Pollack adjourned the meeting at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Pollack, Co-Chair

This meeting is on video.