

Andrew Ross

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 9:57 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: FW: Fwd: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative ViolencePrev...

Talk to Toni to see how the IVPA handled the review process. We did not give this to the Alderman. There was a review process for the lead agencies and there is a review process for the sub-grantees. I told them to get DCEO involved in the grant making process. Last I heard they had not done so. I am not happy about that. Let me know. Thanks.

In a message dated 2/14/2011 8:26:39 P.M. Central Standard Time, [REDACTED] writes:

how will the alderman respond to this if asked tomorrow? thanks.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 6:55 PM
To: Andrew Ross
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative ViolencePrevention Grants

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: Robert Baren <robert@donharmon.org>
Date: Mon, 14 Feb 2011 18:48:18 -0600
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative Violence Prevention Grants

Begin forwarded message:

From: "S. D. Price" [REDACTED]
To: "Robert Baren" <robert@donharmon.org>, "Don Harmon" <don@donharmon.org>
Subject: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative Violence Prevention Grants

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.872 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/3443 - Release Date: 02/14/11 01:34:00

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.872 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/3443 - Release Date: 02/14/11 01:34:00

Andrew Ross

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 3:52 PM
To: Andrew Ross; Jack Lavin
Cc: Mica Matsoff
Subject: Re: Fwd: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative Violence Prevention Grants

Rob Baren on Don Harmon's staff put the statement together - Jack's addition was very valuable - the following local press attended - hopefully the story will die:
Austin Weekly, Austin Voice, AustinTalks.org.

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 15 Feb 2011 15:53:14 +0000
To: Andrew Ross [REDACTED] Jack Lavin [REDACTED]
Reply To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Mica Matsoff [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Fwd: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative Violence Prevention Grants

See below -

STATEMENT OF ALDERMAN GRAHAM

In my roles as State Representative and Alderman, I have fought to meet the needs of my community as we battle to make our neighborhoods safer.

The Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative Violence Prevention Grants targeted over 20 metropolitan communities.

The Governor's office sought the advice of community leaders, including aldermen, legislators, clergy and other activist concerning the best way to use these violence prevention funds. In a summer meeting with many city council colleagues and the Governor's office, I recommended three well known community based organizations. These organizations included Circle Family Care, Bethel New Life, Westside Health Authority. That was my sole participation in the grant process. It is my understanding over 45 west side agencies sought these funds.

I recommended respected groups. Respected groups applied. And respected community action groups were chosen by the Governor's office.

A last minute attack on these groups by my opponents stoops to a new low. This tactic suggests a level of desperation that confirms the type of senseless smears some have attempted to employ in this campaign are not working.

Our community understands that advocacy and real leadership produces solid results.

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 15 Feb 2011 14:15:37 +0000
To: Jack Lavin [REDACTED]; Chris Meister [REDACTED]
ReplyTo: [REDACTED]
Cc: Mica Matsoff [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Fwd: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative Violence Prevention Grants

He was there

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 15 Feb 2011 05:42:48 +0000
To: Chris Meister [REDACTED]; Andy Ross [REDACTED]
ReplyTo: [REDACTED]
Cc: Mica Matsoff [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Fwd: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative Violence Prevention Grants

I'm not 100% sure he was there, but I think he was.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 15 Feb 2011 05:28:32 +0000
To: Jack Lavin [REDACTED]; Andrew Ross [REDACTED]
ReplyTo: [REDACTED]
Cc: Mica Matsoff [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Fwd: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative Violence Prevention Grants

Things are even better with these facts (asking for a wide variety of input from a wide variety of com leaders)- particularly if davis was at the conf. The funds may have only been awarded - not yet distributed

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 15 Feb 2011 05:16:42 +0000
To: Chris Meister [REDACTED]; Andy Ross [REDACTED]
ReplyTo: [REDACTED]
Cc: Mica Matsoff [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Fwd: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative Violence Prevention Grants

We asked for the input of Alderman, but we also asked for the input of many other community leaders (I.e. Clergy, State Legislators, etc.). By the way, I don't think it was federal money.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: Christopher Meister [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, 14 Feb 2011 22:25:52 -0600
To: Andrew Ross [REDACTED]
Cc: Jack Lavin [REDACTED], Mica Matsoff [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Fwd: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative Violence Prevention Grants

I hope to have a copy of the press response before it is released at 930 am tomorrow morning.

I've been told that the response is likely to be factual and as follows:

The State received certain federal funds for urban violence prevention. The Governor's Office and DHS called a meeting of the Chicago aldermen (25 to 30 Chicago aldermen) of the impacted neighborhoods (believe to have been identified by the federal government). The alderman, collectively, were asked to recommend large community service organizations in their neighborhoods to be grant recipients.

Alderman Graham recommended (1) Circle Family Care; (2) the Westside Health Authority; and (3) Bethel New Life. These organizations as well as all of the organizations that were recommended by the group of aldermen were then evaluated by DHS staff.

Austin was allocated approx \$1.3 million by the feds through a \$31 million total appropriation. Circle Family Care and Westside Health Authority were qualified to receive federal funds. The bulk of the funds went to Circle and then were suballocated to other organizations, including Truth & Deliverance Ministries and Learning Services. All of these organizations had previously received State and federal funds.

The potential exposure for the Governor's Office from the factually incorrect press release alludes to a scenario where the Governor & Alderman Graham made these funding decisions of their own.

The recommendations of Circle, Westside and Bethel was the sum total of Alderman Graham's involvement in the process.

The other candidates in the 29th ward race - also have received - either directly or through affiliated organizations state and federal funds:

Tommy Simmons - Concern Organization who Cares - Citizens for a Better Westside
Jill Bush - Loretto Hospital Foundation
Mary Gardner - Cook County Forest Preserve
CV Johnson - a truck driving school

On Mon, Feb 14, 2011 at 8:21 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:
They are working on a response but wanted Governor to be aware of the issue

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: "Andrew Ross" <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, 14 Feb 2011 20:26:45 -0600
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Fwd: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative Violence Prevention Grants

how will the alderman respond to this if asked tomorrow? thanks.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 6:55 PM
To: Andrew Ross
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative Violence Prevention Grants

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: Robert Baren <robert@donharmon.org>

Date: Mon, 14 Feb 2011 18:48:18 -0600

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Fwd: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative Violence Prevention Grants

Begin forwarded message:

From: "S. D. Price" [REDACTED]
To: "Robert Baren" <robert@donharmon.org>, "Don Harmon" <don@donharmon.org>
Subject: Governor's Neighborhood Recovery Plan Collaborative Violence Prevention Grants

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.872 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/3443 - Release Date: 02/14/11 01:34:00

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.872 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/3443 - Release Date: 02/15/11 01:34:00

*****Media Advisory*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tracey Alston [REDACTED]

Darlene M. Washington [REDACTED]

29th Ward Candidates come together to speak against questionable appropriation of anti-violence funding directly benefiting the incumbent alderman.

On Tuesday, February 15, 2011, at 9:30 am, candidates for the 29th Ward will hold a press conference in front of the Austin Town Hall, 5610 West Lake Street.

A recent breakfast meeting brought together all the candidates, Jill Bush, Mary Russell Gardner, Oddis "O.J." Johnson, Roman Morrow, Beverly D. Rogers and Thomas Simmons in response to facts uncovered at February 10th Westside NAACP Candidate's Forum and the story by Chip Mitchell of WBEZ addressing the issues, which can be heard at <http://www.wbez.org/story/29th-ward/state-antiviolence-effort-raises-eyebrows-west-side>.

Gardner shared with the group the concerns expressed by Congressman Danny Davis and his disappointment that the Governor did not inform him about the funds being allocated to the Austin community which is represented by Davis in the 7th Congressional District.

The Aldermanic Candidates will speak to the press about cronyism and the clear example of continuous corruption and sleaze coming from this organization. Deborah Graham, who was appointed by the Mayor, continues the practices of deception and 'pay to play' politics. Last summer, Governor Pat Quinn allocated \$31 million for 23 Chicago and suburban communities to fight violence through programs such as mentoring and counseling. \$1.2 million was appropriated and allocated to the Austin community. There was no open request for proposals. The Governor's Office contacted Alderman Deborah Graham directly for guidance. Alderman Graham had the sole responsibility of recommending community agencies from the 29th ward to receive this grant funding.

Concerns arose when it was disclosed at the Westside NAACP Forum and on WBEZ Broadcast that Graham's pastor, Reverend J. T. Abercrombie, via Kingdom Community, Inc. is set to receive nearly three quarters of a \$400,000 grant. The Learning Network Center, an agency headed by one of Alderman Deborah Graham's campaign supporter, Luther Syas, Sr. is set to receive \$100,000. Luther Syas, Sr., circulated Deborah Graham's aldermanic petitions.

###

