



Immaculate Conception Shelter & Housing Corporation

February 16, 2010

Testimony of Fred Lynn, Executive Director, Immaculate Conception Shelter & Housing Corporation in OPPOSITION to two of Governor Rell's Proposed Mid-Term Adjustments

First, I'd like to state that I understand the difficult situation you find yourself in with regards to balancing Connecticut's budget. We understand that in the end, sacrifices must be made to some organizations for the better good of the state. My goal is to perhaps point out the impact the proposed cuts will have on future jobs for CT, which will in turn affect economic growth and neighborhood revitalization.

Immaculate Conception Shelter & Housing Corporation recently was awarded \$20,000 by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. This grant would allow Immaculate to conduct an adaptive reuse study for the church at 560 Park Street, where Immaculate runs its shelter. The study will also include estimate cost of the renovation. It is clear to see that adaptive reuse projects preserve the architectural heritage of historic sites while accommodating 21st century needs and uses by incorporating housing, retail, commercial, office or community spaces.

The affects are countless. From the jobs created in conducting the study, to the jobs created in renovating the building/site, to the jobs created once the new business(es) are established and up and running, this project can only have positive impact on economic growth and neighborhood revitalization in one of Hartford's most poverty-stricken neighborhoods.

And please keep in mind, Immaculate is not the only grantee with potential of being affected by the Governor's proposed 40% cuts to line items of the Connecticut Humanities Council and the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. 40% is a substantial amount to cut and will indeed halt numerous projects that were counting on the funding.

In conclusion, I hope that after reviewing the information regarding cutting the line items of the Trust and Humanities Council that you will find that these severe cuts are detrimental to the economic impact on jobs as well as neighborhood revitalization. This is not the best choice for Connecticut.

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