

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass, will attend next Tuesday's City Council meeting to discuss the CDBG program.

TAUNTON.—Congressman Barney Frank, D-Mass, congratulated and thanked city officials and residents last night for helping save the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program from elimination under President George W. Bush's 2006 budget proposal.

Frank said a nation-wide, bipartisan effort over the past few months has secured the CDBG program while proving "democracy is still very alive." "The efforts of people from all over the country made this happen, and I can tell you right now this vote is going to come out the right way," Frank said.

Frank said more than 50 senators from both parties signed a March 2 letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee asking to save the CDBG program and keep its current funding level.

The people who filled the standing-room-only City Council chambers last night and worked hard to keep the program alive heard what they hoped for from Frank.

David Bachrach, director of the Mayor's Office of Community Development, has worked tirelessly to save the CDBG program and said it was hard for him to put into words how happy he was.

"This is a huge relief. I'm totally psyched," Bachrach said. Local residents stood up and gave testimonials on how they benefited from the grant program.

After buying a city home that was in need of major renovations, Jeanne-Marie Beatty was laid off from her job. She had nowhere to turn and no money. Beatty saw a CDBG advertisement and said it was "too good to be true" when she realized the program would help her finish her house.

"I couldn't be happier. I'm thrilled the program will continue," Beatty said. "It's a win-win situation for so many people and it all goes back to the community."

Frank said the administration had no horror stories to tell about the CDBG program, because there were none. Rather, Frank said the only reason President Bush proposed the CDBG cut is because the Bush realized he has to reduce the deficit, yet he's committed to tax cuts and the war, "so to do all three he can't."

"It shows the president's philosophy that tax cuts to the wealthy and his commitment to the war in Iraq come first and everything else needs to get cut," Frank said before he spoke at the council meeting. "The president is denying that we have value on our city programs."

Some other city programs funded by the CDBG that local residents spoke about were the business training and lending programs for small business owners. City students also benefited from Project Achieve through the Taunton Area School to Career program.

Bonnie Brown, 17, and Cheryl Bileau, 17, both juniors at Taunton High School, work after school with provided transportation and get MCAS tutoring because the CDBG partly funds Project Achieve. Frank said people should not settle in just yet. City programs suffered from Section 8 cutbacks last year, and Frank said keeping the CDBG should not be used as a bargaining chip to hurt other programs.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ATTORNEY JOAQUIN L. RODRIGUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize attorney Joaquin L. Rodriguez for his many years of service and civic involvement.

Born and raised in Uvalde, Texas, Mr. Rodriguez first attended Southwest Texas Junior College before transferring to University of Texas at Austin and attaining a B.A. in Government. Later, Mr. Rodriguez attended the Texas Tech School of Law and obtained a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law.

After passing the Texas Bar in 1982, Mr. Rodriguez started his legal career and quickly became partner at Knickerbocker, Cowan, Heredia & Rodriguez law firm in Eagle Pass, TX. Over the years of his career, Mr. Rodriguez has mainly dealt within the area of personal injury and the representation of Plaintiffs.

In 1997, Mr. Rodriguez became a founding partner at Rodriguez & Muniz-Berain Law Firm and worked there for 11 years. Afterwards, Mr. Rodriguez found Joaquin L. Rodriguez & Associates in 1999 and has since been working there, serving the citizens of Eagle Pass.

While living and working in Eagle Pass, TX, Mr. Rodriguez has continued to involve himself and serve in the civic community. Among his involvements, Mr. Rodriguez has served as Chairman of the Eagle Pass Housing Authority, Legal Counsel of the City of Eagle Pass Library Foundation, and as Advisory Board Member on a number of local Texas banks. Mr. Rodriguez was also elected as Mayor of Eagle Pass with an impressive 94 percent vote in May, 2002.

Among his honors and awards, Mr. Rodriguez was distinguished as "Professional of the Year" in 1999 by the Eagle Pass Business Journal. He also became a Keeton Fellow of the University of Texas School of Law Alumni Association in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my pleasure today to recognize the accomplishments and services of Mr. Joaquin L. Rodriguez.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily

Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 11

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Robert Bolton, of Maryland, to be U.S. Representative to United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador and U.S. Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations, and Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

SD-419

2 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine S. 241, to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act.

SR-253

Armed Services

Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Chemical Demilitarization Program of the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

SR-222

APRIL 12

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing regarding assessment of Iraqi Security Forces.

SR-222

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael D. Griffin, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Joseph H. Boardman, of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, Nancy Ann Nord, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, William Cobey, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Floyd Hall, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Reform Board (Amtrak), and Enrique J. Sosa, of Florida, to be a Member of the Reform Board (Amtrak).

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine developing a reliable supply of oil from domestic oil shale and oil sands resources, focusing on opportunities to advance technology that will facilitate environmentally