

**CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION**  
**JANUARY 19, 2010**  
**6:30 p.m.**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: M. McCarthy, Taylor-Moye, Brantley, Walsh, T. McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, dePara, Silva, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Brannelly, A. Ayala, Bonney, Blunt, M. Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:40 p.m.

The city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2010, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
Cecil Young 99 Carroll Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06607	Taxes and Officer lying under oath.

Mr. Young was called to speak three times. He wasn't present to address the city council.  
*Mr. Young showed up later during the public speaking session, see below.*

Charles Tisdale 192 Frenchtown Road Bridgeport, CT 06606-1905	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
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Mr. Tisdale thanked the city council for honoring his request to speak tonight. He expressed that his was the time of year that they celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday and he felt rejuvenated. He recalled that as a teenager during the 1960's, the noted Dr. King appeared to speak in Bridgeport at the Klein Memorial and United Congregational Church on at least three occasions. Many thought that Dr. King was only interested in the rights of black people, but that wasn't true. He believed that for democracy to work, there had to be a participatory process that resulted in many people coming together to hope and wish for a better Bridgeport. It was fortunate that some in the city were there to

participate. He further recalled how Dr. King stopped in Bridgeport to speak to some friends and how he then ended up in Boston to speak. He mentioned that Thurgood Marshall and Malcolm X also spoke in Bridgeport. He explained that the point he was trying to make was that these people were interested in making Bridgeport a better place and it was good that all backgrounds of people participated in that. He expressed that Dr. King summarized his mission that *"If you want to be important and recognized and great and wonderful, let it be recognized that he who is greatest among you, shall be a servant". And although we all can't be great, we can all serve!*

Mr. Tisdale added that everyone doesn't have to have a college degree to serve and they don't have to be a scholar, noting that Plato, Aristotle and Albert Einstein who was best known for Einsteins relative theory weren't necessarily scholars. He expressed that we only need a heart and soul generated by love to be a servant. He emphasized that in a city that we all love, we have to rise above ourselves to make Bridgeport the best it can be. He further noted that was the spirit that was perpetuated in Bridgeport during the 1960's. He further expressed that that Dr. King's dream should not be forgotten. He thanked the city council for their time allowing him to speak.

*Cecil Young showed up to speak at 6:50 p.m.*

Cecil Young  
99 Carroll Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Taxes and Officer lying under oath.

Mr. Young expressed that Mr. Tisdale was one of the greatest leaders they ever had and he loved and respected him. He stated that with the right kind of leadership kids can be taught.

He went on to speak about the daily struggles for people without jobs and being told that if they can't pay their taxes, their car or house can be taken away. He said this has been done and he felt that the residents in Bridgeport should be given a tax break. He mentioned Council members Baker and Holloway whom he felt should lead the charge in the matter of high taxes that people have difficulty paying. He continued to complain about what he thought were unfair tax breaks given to others, such as developers.

He spoke about the sheriff work that was taken away from him that caused him to lose his medical benefits. He exclaimed the words *"shame on you"* to all eighteen council members who don't speak up and he further exclaimed that *"you can duck, but you can't hide!"*

*The following person(s) signed up to speak tonight:*

Joan Lane & Vani Anand

Southwest Health Area Education Center

Ms. Lane stated that times were tough. She talked about the smile program that has been implemented for children in Bridgeport and the Stratford communities. She was there to make the city council aware of the free dental care offered particularly for needy kids in Bridgeport. She explained the reason she was there was to publicize the service they will offer on February 5, 2010. She further explained that they conduct the program under a grant they received, in conjunction with other organizations that promote health care for children. So they were looking to build awareness. She noted that they will seek private funding from other sources. She urged support for the future of the program and she noted that they have had over one-hundred appointments for varied dental work. She asked that they review the information distributed.

The public speaking session ended at 7:00 p.m.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

7:00 pm.

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace  
Bridgeport, Connecticut

ATTENDANCE: Council members: M. McCarthy, A. Ayala, Taylor-Moye, Brantley, Walsh, T. McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, dePara, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Curwen

ABSENT: Council members: Brannelly, Bonney, Blunt, \*Baker, \*Holloway  
\* = left early

Council President McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Council President McCarthy announced that Mayor Finch wasn't in attendance because he was in Washington, D.C.

Prayer - the prayer was offered by Charles Tisdale.

Pledge of Allegiance - the pledge was led by Helen Wu.

Council President McCarthy requested a personal privilege. He approached the front of council chambers with Council member Paoletto. He called Helen Wu to the front of council chambers to honor her with a citation. He read the citation that outlined what a great example she was of a city employee who has dedicated herself to the TB Hero program. She was recognized as the recipient of the 2009 Northeast TB Hero award!

Roll Call - The city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

The following announcements were made:

Council member Brannelly wasn't in attendance tonight because she was out of town.

Council member Blunt was ill.

Council member Baker had to leave the meeting to address an emergency.

Council member Curwen requested a personal privilege to asked for a moment of silence for the following persons:

Father Smalls who recently passed away. He was active in the community and was the chaplain for the Hibernians and for his involvement in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

His daughter-in-law's father who recently passed away.

The Haitian people and their families in light of the earthquake tragedy.

Council member Martinez asked for a moment of silence for two friends that passed away this weekend.

Council member Brantley asked for a moment of silence for a friend Tommy Davis that passed away.

Council President McCarthy offered a moment of silence for all others who have suffered a loss.

Presentation - Census 2010 by a representative from the United States Census Bureau.

Rosalyn Ortiz and three other representatives addressed the city council. Sherry updated that they were there to speak about the 2010 census. She stated that the census was about power and money. She explained that the congress and local power entities are responsible for the numbers that are counted and the disbursement of the monies to each city for varied services, in the school system etc. She clarified that they weren't concerned about citizenship status and she stressed that they were looking to get the word out to residents. It's crucial that every child and parent is counted. She further stated that there will be ten questions on the census form that should take approximately ten minutes to fill out. She said the filling out of the form results in the "*power of 10*". She emphasized that the forms should be mailed back and she encouraged the importance of the filling out the form. She noted that a huge van would be coming to the University of Bridgeport on January 28, 2010 to promote the census and she urged everyone to come out and participate.

#### **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Approval of City Council Minutes: December 21, 2009

\*\* **COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**  
\*\* **COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED**  
\*\* **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:**

**27-09** Resolution presented by Council Members Martinez and M. Ayala re Request that a stop sign be installed at the corner of Hallett Street and Barnum Avenue due to safety concerns for area schools, referred to the Board of Police Commissioners.

\*\* **COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER**  
\*\* **COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**  
\*\* **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

There weren't any requests to remove items from the consent calendar. The city clerk read the items into the record:

**\*16-09** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re Appointment of Edwin P. Farrow (U) to the Police Commission.

**\*23-09** Committee of the Whole Report re Statements of Councilperson Robert S. Walsh, 132<sup>nd</sup> District to Councilperson Mary Evette Brantley.

\*\* **COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**  
\*\* **COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**  
\*\* **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:**

**22-09** Contracts Committee Report re Agreement with The Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company for Group Short Term and Long Term Disability Benefits for City Employees.

Council member Paoletto stated that the item passed in committee with one abstention (Council member T. McCarthy).

\*\* **COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**  
\*\* **COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED**

Council member T. McCarthy stated that he was the person that abstained during the committee meeting. And because of that he wouldn't vote on the item tonight.

Other Business:

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING THREE (3) ITEMS THAT CAME OUT OF THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE TO THE AGENDA**

Council member Curwen asked which items were being added.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia stated the following items were being added:

1. **06-09** Refund of excess tax Re: 360 Stratford Heights in the amount of \$11,639.11 overpayment.

Refund of excess tax Re: Colony Diner in the amount of \$30,617.03 overpayment.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM THAT CAME OUT OF THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE TO THE AGENDA**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. **09-09** Re: amendment to move and appoint Mr. Shabaz from the Board of Assessment to the Energy District Commission

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO AMEND  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

Council member dePara questioned the reason for the change. Council member Vizzo-Paniccia explained that the committee determined that Mr. Shabaz had more expertise to serve on the Energy District Commission in view of the going green effort.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **20-09** Re: conveyance of properties at 354-368 Main Street; Little Liberia

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO COMMITTEE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER A. AYALA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO REFER RE: CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION CHANGES TO THE CIVIL SERVICE RULES TO INCREASE THE FEES TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE (ITEM # 28-09)  
\*\* COUNCIL M. McCARTHY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO COMMITTEE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Lyons read a statement regarding the Haiti earthquake tragedy. The statement outlined that the Office of the Mayor was in conjunction with the Bridgeport City Council to submit a resolution to offer assistance, to adopt a city from within Haiti. The matter will go before the governor's office to adopt-a-city. A Connecticut Haitian Alliance meeting will be scheduled on a date to be determined to address the matter further. The resolution will be forwarded to committee to discuss which city they will adopt. She had a copy of the resolution for review. She noted that the Fairfield branch will also take on the responsibility.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO REFER THE ITEM TO THE PROPER COMMITTEE (ITEM # 29-09)  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Curwen stated that he was struck by the press conference regarding Haiti. He noted how the city struggles with budgets and then he listens to stories of infrastructure collapse and people living on the street and how we question if we have it that bad. He urged his colleagues to help raise money for Haiti. He thought that by raising \$500.00 each would be great as a collaborative effort to send to the Red Cross on behalf of the city council. He expressed that he planned to raise money and he urged everyone to do the same. He suggested that the monies could be sent as a whole from the city council.

Council member Brantley stated that she spoke to Tom White to find out what agency would be viable to use the fund. She thought that Save the Children would be a good option. She noted that more information would be forthcoming.

Council member Lyons noted that a list of items would be collected to send through the designated agency for sending to Haiti. She further noted the council members who have been working as a team with varied agencies for this effort.

Anderson Ayala mentioned that Council member Lyons has worked very hard for the Haiti relief initiative. He noted that \$32,000 has already been raised through a fund raiser that was held over the weekend.

Council President McCarthy expressed that the tragedy has affected everyone in one way or another. He urged everyone to get involved in any way they can.

Council member Curwen stated the following reminders:

- ◆ Council members should pick up a copy of the year-end capital budget booklet
- ◆ Citizens Union reprogramming funds recommendations need to be submitted ASAP

## ADJOURNMENT

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services