

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 21, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Jack Banta, Co-Chair; Lydia Martinez, Co-Chair; Michelle Lyons, Jose Casco, Michael Marella, Eneida Martinez, Reverend Mary McBride-Lee

OTHER: Council President Thomas McCarthy; Isolina Dejesus; Max Perez OPED; Iris Molina, Director of Social Services Department; Lee Nastu; Lillian Wade, East End NRZ; Renu Gupta, Central Grants Office; Council Member Alfredo Castillo, Bill Coleman, OPED

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 P.M. by Co-chair Banta. There was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2015

**** COUNCIL MEMBER L. MARTINEZ MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2015 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

70-14

GRANT SUBMISSION: RE STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR A HEALTHY START GRANT PROGRAM (#15267)

A staff member came forward to present Item 70-14 to the Committee. They provided a quick overview of the grant submission. It was stated that this grant would aid in the service of about 3,000 individuals.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER E. MARTINEZ MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 70-14 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

69-14

GRANT SUBMISSION: RE STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR DIAL-A-RIDE GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED. (#16408)

Ms. Gupta came forward to discuss item 69-14. She provided an overview of the program and how it functioned to aid the elderly for the Committee. It was stated that the service has proven helpful to the elderly.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 69-14 AS SUBMITTED.**

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- ** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

62-14

**PROPOSED BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING SELECTION OF WAKEMAN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB RFI
RESPONSE PROPOSAL TO OPERATE THE FORMER BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
LOCATED AT 595 MADISON AVENUE**

No one was present for Item 62-14.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOTIONED TO TABLE ITEM 62-14.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER L. MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

49-14

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION
OF REDEVELOPMENT PROPERTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOWER EAST
END MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND ORDERING A PUBLIC HEARING
RELATIVE TO THE SAME**

Mr. Coleman came forwards to present item 49-14. This item had been tabled in a prior session. A map of the area was provided for the Committee. It was stated that people had an issue with the potential use of eminent domain in Item 49-14 and that it needed to be removed.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CASCO MOTIONED TO AMEND ITEM 49-14 TO REMOVE ALL REFERENCES TO EMINENT DOMAIN AND A REFERENCE TO THE BRIDGEPORT REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BY SUBSTITUTION.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER E. MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 49-14 AS AMENDED BY SUBSTITUTION FOR A PUBLIC HEARING.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER E. MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

23-14

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT FOR
CRESCENT CROSSINGS II PROJECT, A 84-UNIT MIXED-INCOME, AFFORDABLE
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, LOCATED AT 252 HALLETT STREET AND
ORDERING A PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE SAME.**

Mr. Perez came forwards to discuss Item 23-14. This item had been tabled in a prior meeting. Before it was tabled it was amended. Mr. Perez quickly reviewed what had been amended for the committee. A recap of the prior meeting was requested and provided. The suggestion of tabling Item 23-14 until later was made. Council Member Banta said that he felt that the item had been on the agenda for long enough and a decision needed to be reached in the current meeting. A

review of the proposed tax incentives was mad for the committee as well as the reasoning behind the incentives explained.

Councilman L. Martinez stated that she had both objections and problems with Item 23-14 including the following:

- 1) The duration of the incentive.
- 2) The potential reaction by the people in the surrounding area.
- 3) The usage of the land.
- 4) The desire for a management study.

A heated discussion followed about the specific details of the proposed item. Concerned about the prior approvals of the item were raised by council members. The subject of the blight on the property was raised for discussion.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOTIONED TO AMEND ITEM 23-14 TO MAKE IT 20 YEARS FOR ABATEMENT FOR ALL ITEMS IN 23-14.
** THE MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.**

Further discussion on the details and implications of Item 23-14 followed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOTIONED TO AMEND ITEM 23-14 AS DISCUSSED EARLIER IN THE MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX IN FAVOR (BANTA, L. MARTINEZ, CASCO, MARELLA, MCBRIDE-LEE, AND LYONS) AND ONE OPPOSED (E. MARTINEZ).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 23-14 AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASCO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (BANTA, CASCO, MARELLA, AND MCBRIDE-LEE) AND THREE OPPOSED (LYONS, L. MARTINEZ, AND E. MARTINEZ).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER L. MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ian A. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services.

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