

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
JOINT MEETING OF THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
AND THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JULY 11, 2012**

**ATTENDANCE:** Public Safety: Michelle Lyons, Co-chair; Leticia Colon, Co-Chair; Angel dePara, Denise Taylor Moye, Andre Baker

Ordinance: Richard Paoletto, Co-Chair; Warren Blunt, Co-chair; Lydia Martinez, Richard Bonney

**OTHERS:** Police Chief Gaudett; Atty. Mark Anastasi

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. She introduced all the council members present. Council Member Lyons then announced the names of the Committee co-chairs.

**APPROVAL OF JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES APRIL 9, 2012 (PUBLIC HEARING)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2012 (PUBLIC HEARING).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2012 (PUBLIC HEARING) AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**APPROVAL OF JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES APRIL 10, 2012**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2012.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 10, 2012 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**39-11 PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ENFORCE A CURFEW FOR YOUTH, AGE SIXTEEN YEARS AND YOUNGER.**

Atty. Anastasi said that Atty. Lasky had some recent discussions with Mr. Blunt and forwarded copies of a revised draft to the Committee members. This revision reflects the changes from the

previous version. There are a number of curfew documents adopted in Connecticut, and some of them have been challenged successfully in court. Atty. Lasky has worked on drafting an ordinance that will be solid and clear. Police Chief Gaudett has made it clear that this is just one of the many tools that the department will use to deal with crime prevention.

Atty. Anastasi said that there was a substantial legislative record for this along with additional supplement documentation. He then said that if the Committee votes on the matter out tonight, it would go before the Council. There is some supplemental history and documentation that could be submitted to the Council if needed.

Council Member Blunt asked about the ages in the actual resolution. Discussion followed about the definition of "minor" and "custodian" and the ages associated with this.

Council Member dePara asked if the age issue was mentioned at one of the previous sessions.

Atty. Anastasi said that the current ordinance was for 16 and that if the Council wished to change the age to 17, but this would have to be an amendment. AB asked about the process that the officers use on a daily basis how to react to a situation. The Chief has to balance this ordinance with all the ordinances with the other policing duties. At previous meetings, the Chief said that his department would welcome this as an additional tool. The department will use it judiciously and wisely.

Chief Gaudett agreed and said it would be another tool in the tool box and that in cases when there are issues, he would be encouraging the officers to use this when appropriate. There are other services in place. The point is changing the child's behavior. Atty. Anastasi said that his department focused on drafting a document that would withstand any legal challenges and would support the Police Department.

Council Member dePara asked about a previous presentation when record keeping and data compilation would be used. Chief Gaudett said that they would use their regular database and dedicate a clone as a Juvenile Curfew database.

Council Member Colon asked about the details of the age. Atty. Anastasi said that he was marking the copy. Council Member Blunt asked if the age of a juvenile changed. Chief Gaudett said that as of July 1st, the age of a juvenile was 17 and under.

Atty. Anastasi said that he did not know whether the statistics were based on previous definition of juveniles. Chief Gaudett said that the statistics that are kept are for the Federal Government and the data could be separated out by age. He said that he believed that 17 year old data could be provided. He believed that the previous data was for 16 and under. Atty. Anastasi said that it would be good to stay with under 17.

Council Member Martinez asked how the parents would be notified. Atty. Anastasi said that every ordinance was effective 30 days after publication. He then outlined the details and said that he was fairly confident that there would be press coverage on this. ML said that the Superintendent would be working with the parents. Atty. Anastasi reminded everyone that ignorance of the law is not an excuse. Council Member Martinez said that the Latino community doesn't read the English newspaper. Council Member Paoletto said that the Council could not pick and choose where the notifications would be targeted. He then said that it would be important to be accountable to the committee. The document is not the place to put the details of the notifications. Council Member Martinez said that it needed to be announced via the schools and the Latino radio stations. ML said that Council Member Blunt would be working with the Committee to see that appropriate notification is done.

Council Member Bonney asked about some the details of the age. Discussion followed.

Council Member dePara said that he had concerns about this and would like the City Attorney and the Police Chief to research this in order to perform due diligence.

Council Member Blunt said that even though he presented this, it was about the necessary steps to prevent the violence that is happening in Bridgeport. He reminded everyone that there was a young lady who volunteered to get the word out to the community. Chief Gaudett said that there had been quite a bit of discussion about how to proceed once the ordinance is in place.

Council Member Martinez said that this would require a budget and asked who would be responsible for that. Chief Gaudett said that Superintendent Vallas was strongly supporting this and that the Police Department's printing budget would be made available for this.

Council Member Blunt said that previously it was important to utilize the resources. Atty. Anastasi said that it would be critical for the record to reflect what Council Member Blunt. This is not about arresting people, but do something positive. It is being done to benefit the people who will be impacted by it. ML said that the bottom line was to save the lives of Bridgeport's children and empower the parents when they are having difficulty with their children.

Council Member Colon thanked Council Member Blunt for being part of this. It is about not destroying families but helping them. If needed, she will sac

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOTION TO AMEND THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION DOCUMENT WHERE EVER APPROPRIATE TO CHANGE THE PHRASE "UNDER THE AGE OF 16" TO "UNDER THE AGE OF 17" AND UNDER THE DEFINITION SECTION 9.12.020 UNDER THE MINOR AND JUVENILE DEFINITION THE AGE OF 16 BE CHANGED TO 17 AND THE AGE OF 15 IN THE**

**SECOND PORTION OF THE SENTENCE BE CHANGED TO 16 AND IN ANY OTHER PORTION.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO EXPRESSLY REQUEST POLICE CHIEF GAUDETT AND THE COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MEET TO REVIEW THE AMENDED CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 39-11 PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ENFORCE A CURFEW FOR YOUTH, AGE SIXTEEN YEARS AND YOUNGER AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER COLON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services