

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 6, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE:** Michelle Lyons, Co-Chair; Jack Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye, Co-Chair;  
Richard Salter

**OTHERS:** Erin McDonough, Mayor's Office; Council Member Jose Casco,  
Edwin Farrow; Tom Lyons, Police Commissioner

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES: AUGUST 4, 2015.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA MOVED THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2015.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2015 AS  
SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**165-14 Discontinue Portion of Summit Place Abutting 245-247 Alba Avenue.**

Council Member Lyons stated that this item had been withdrawn earlier in the day.

**150-13 Proposed Resolution requesting that further designation of honorary streets be  
delayed until guidelines are adopted.**

Council Member Lyons stated that she believed that this item was still being worked on and that  
Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia was not present due to other obligations.

**165-14 Discontinue Portion of Summit Place Abutting 245-247 Alba Avenue.  
CONT'D.**

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that Ms. Lasky had stated that this was something that they  
would be resubmitting this again in the future.

**155-14 Reappointment of Edwin P. Farrow (D) to the Police Commission.**

Mr. Farrow came forward and greeted the Commissioners. He said that he enjoyed being on the  
Police Commission. Council Member Taylor-Moye asked Mr. Farrow to give the Commission  
an overview of his qualifications. He said that he did have a legal background.

Council Member Banta asked Mr. Farrow if he was a lawyer. Mr. Farrow said that he was and  
he primarily practiced in the real estate area. He added that he had a criminal justice  
background.

Council Member Banta asked how many other African-American members were on the Commission. Mr. Farrow said that he was the only one, but understood that another African-American Commissioner was expected to join the Commission soon. Council Member Banta asked how many Commissioners were on the Board. Mr. Farrow said that there were seven. A brief discussion followed about the names of the current Police Commissioners.

Council Member Banta asked Mr. Farrow if he was able to attend the meetings. Mr. Farrow said that he had been able to attend the meetings in the past.

Council Member Lyons noted for the record that on July 8, 2015 the Ethics Commission met to approve Mr. Farrow. There were a few concerns raised. On May 8, 2015 a tax check was done and on July 29, 2015, the Board of Commissions reviewed Mr. Farrow's background and there were no concerns expressed. The term will expire on December 31, 2017.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that Mr. Farrow's attendance at the meeting was excellent and commended Mr. Farrow for that.

Council Member Lyons said that she had known Mr. Farrow for a long time. She said that he has shown exemplary character and has done an excellent job on the Police Commission.

Council Member Casco asked about Mr. Farrow's criminal justice background and what he would bring to the Police Commission if he did not practice criminal law. Mr. Farrow said that he has represented minor criminal offenders and had worked in criminal law for ten years after law school. He said that he did not think that the Police Commission should be solely focused on the police aspect because the Commissioners are not just there to serve the police officers but also the residents. He repeated that he was a general practice attorney that mainly focused on real estate. It is important to have impartial Commissioners on the Board.

Council Member Casco asked if the Commissioners received complaints from the community. Mr. Farrow said that general complaints usually go to the Internal Affairs, but if it escalates, the Commission may hear the complaint. He said that he believed that the Board was set up to give the public some oversight of the Police Department.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 155-14 REAPPOINTMENT OF EDWIN P. FARROW (D) TO THE POLICE COMMISSION.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.**

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

#### **166-14 Ensuring Children's Safety and Reducing Liability on Playgrounds.**

Council Member Banta said that in the last few years, the City has been installing splash pads, which were very successful. He said that constituents had pointed out that there were no safety signs for the splash pads. Sometimes an adult does not accompany the children. All the City parks should have signs so people know that there are younger children in the immediate area.

Council Member Lyons said that she would like to include her names as a co-sponsor on this bill. Council Member Salter said that he would also like to be a co-sponsor. Council Member Lyons added that she had been able to secure some bond funding for a low mobility park by Skane School. Council Member Casco said that he would also like to be a co-sponsor. He added that an area near a particular park would need another stop sign because of the increased number of children in the area and the difficulty of crossing.

Council Member Lyons said that when this item goes to the full council, she thought other Council Members would want to join as co-sponsors. Council Member Taylor-Moye said that perhaps the Council Members needed to tour the various parks all over the city to look at the signage.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 166-14 ENSURING CHILDREN'S SAFETY AND REDUCING LIABILITY ON PLAYGROUNDS.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services