

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Mary McBride-Lee, Co-Chair; Jeanette Herron,
Kathryn Bukovsky, Richard Salter, Sr.

STAFF: Autumn Hurst, Central Grants Office
Captain Straubel, Police Department
Terron Jones, Department of Emergency Management and
Homeland Security, representing Scott Applebee
Lieutenant N. O'Donnell, Police Department
Angel dePara, CAO's Office
Gina Malheiro, CAO's Office

OTHERS: Stuart Rosenberg, nominee for Fire Commission
Family members of Officer DiJoseph

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair McBride-Lee called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. She reviewed the procedures of the meeting to all those present.

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES - JUNE 7, 2016 (PUBLIC HEARING)
APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES - JULY 6, 2016 (SPECIAL MEETING)

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MINUTES – JUNE 7, 2016 AND COMMITTEE MINUTES – JULY 6, 2016.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER, SR. SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Herron asked whether a motion should be made to add the appointment of Stuart Rosenberg to the agenda.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER, SR. MOVED TO ADD ITEM 89-15 TO THE AGENDA, APPOINTMENT OF STUART ROSENBERG TO THE FIRE COMMISSION.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BUKOVSKY SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEM 161-15

GRANT SUBMISSION RE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS (OJP) BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA) EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM (#17321)

Ms. Hurst came forward and passed out copies of the grant summary. She said this is a grant the Police Department gets every year from the State which allocates money among the cities. This year, the City of Bridgeport has been allocated \$195,781. She said the Police Department has decided to use that funding to purchase three years of predictive policing software which takes lots of daily statistics and put it into a program which, in turn, can predict where crimes might occur. She stated it is a better way to allocate police resources. She said the grant would also provide for 33 portable radios to be used by incoming officers. Ms. Hurst referred any questions about this to Captain Straubel.

Council Member Salter asked if there is any match funding to which Ms. Hurst answered in the negative. Co-Chair McBride-Lee wanted confirmation from Ms. Hurst that this was a continuation grant, received every year from the State to which Ms. Hurst answered that this is funding that the City of Bridgeport is allocated every year and which is based on a formula from the State.

Council Member Herron asked Captain Straubel about the accuracy of the software. Captain Straubel answered that it is a temporal and spatial analysis of crime patterns, e.g. time and area. He stated that, at the moment, the number of officers on staff is diminished and the software would allow the Police Department to better allocate those officers to the areas where crimes are going to occur. He stated that accuracy rate is up to 85% in predicting where crimes will occur and said they call it a “force multiplier” because it allows for an extension of resources.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 161-15, GRANT SUBMISSION RE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS (OJP) BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA) EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM (#17321).**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER, SR. SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEM 167-15

GRANT SUBMISSION RE: OMNIBUS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOA) WITH THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY FOR THE STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. Jones came forward to speak about the grant, stating that the purpose of the grant is to allow Bridgeport to create a MOU with the rest of the region. He said the rest of the region is going to spend money on resources and equipment, and the MOU would give Bridgeport access to that equipment. He provided the example of light towers which were purchased from the State grant money, but were able to be used by Bridgeport police officers. Co-Chair McBride-Lee wanted to know if this is a new grant to which Mr. Jones answered in the negative. Council Member Salter wanted to know how much the grant is to which Mr. Jones answered that he did not know since

the grant is done in Stamford which is the fiduciary. Mr. Jones said that this meeting is to approve the MOU which allows permission to use the equipment, and is not to approve any money. Council Member Salter wanted to know if there is any matching amount to which the answer was in the negative. Council Member Herron commented that, although she understood about the MOU, she said she would still like to see numbers. Mr. Jones said he would provide the amount to the Committee members.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 167-15, GRANT SUBMISSION RE: OMNIBUS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY FOR THE STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BUKOVSKY SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEM 169-15
REQUEST THAT THE HONORARY DESIGNATION OF “OFFICER GERALD T. DI JOSEPH WAY” BE CREATED WITH PROPER STREET SIGNAGE ON THE CORNERS OF JAMES STREET BETWEEN HARRAL AND WASHINGTON AVENUES

Lieutenant O'Donnell came forward to say that she had submitted this item. She said this has been a long time coming, as it has been 36 years since they lost Officer DiJoseph, and that it would a nice way to honor him and all of the Bridgeport police officers who work so hard. She asked the Committee, if the item were approved, if it would honor her request to have a dedication in conjunction with the memorial.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 169-15, REQUEST THAT THE HONORARY DESIGNATION OF “OFFICER GERALD T. DIJOSEPH WAY” BE CREATED WITH PROPER STREET SIGNAGE ON THE CORNERS OF JAMES STREET BETWEEN HARRAL AND WASHINGTON AVENUES.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BUKOVSKY SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEM 89-15
APPOINTMENT OF STUART ROSENBERG TO THE FIRE COMMISSION

Co-Chair McBride-Lee introduced Mr. Rosenberg, saying that she, herself, had served on the Fire Commission and that, when Mr. Rosenberg left, she left. She stated that she thought he was a fantastic Chair Person for the Fire Commission in that he was very stern, but he was fair. She said she learned that often police and firemen are mistreated and deserve consideration. Co-Chair McBride-Lee said that Mr. Rosenberg never cut corners, and was there to be reinstated as a Fire Commissioner. She turned the discussion over to the Committee for questions.

Council Member Herron asked if this appointment had gone to Miscellaneous Matters yet to which Mr. dePara answered that appointments to the Police and Fire Commissions do not have to go to Miscellaneous Matters first, going directly to Public Safety. Mr. dePara also showed the Committee the packet of paperwork for this appointment which he said is complete, and that Mr.

Rosenberg had gone through the property vetting process.

Co-Chair McBride-Lee noted that Mr. Rosenberg was not kicked off the Commission, he quit. She said that there was some stuff going on that Mr. Rosenberg just did not want to be a part of, and when he went out the door, she said she went out the door, remarking that she was not going to go to jail for anybody. Council Member Salter asked how long Mr. Rosenberg had previously served on the Fire Commission to which Mr. Rosenberg answered that he had served for 28 years, noting that he had never missed a meeting during those years. Council Member Salter asked Mr. Rosenberg if he could talk about the reason for his resignation from the Fire Commission. Mr. Rosenberg explained that there was originally an A and B pension fund. He said the B pension fund was started when he was there and was self-funded and was about 95% funded. He said, at the time, Mayor Finch wanted to move the pension to the MIRS Program in the State of Connecticut which he said he no problem with at the time, adding that there was about \$60 or \$70 million in that fund. The only problem Mr. Rosenberg said he had was that, if they were going to move the pension fund to MIRS, he would gladly write a check for whatever was in the fund, but he wanted them to take both the retirees and the active firefighters. He said the State said they would only take the active firefighters, part of the reason for that being that they are active and make contributions, and obviously the retirees are receiving benefits. Mr. Rosenberg said that, under the advice of counsel, an actuarial study was done to determine how much money would go to the State and how much money would remain behind to take care of those retired firefighters which numbered about 100. He said that the powers that be saw it differently and wanted more money to go to the State. Mr. Rosenberg stated that, to do that, the Fire Commission would have been violating its fiduciary duty. i.e. the duty to take care of someone else's money better than you would your own. He said that, under the advice of counsel, he could not go along with that and did not feel he had any choice but to resign.

Council Member Salter asked Mr. Rosenberg how Mr. Rosenberg thinks the Commission has done since he left. Mr. Rosenberg said that anything he is aware of is second- or third-hand knowledge, but he has heard that they have not had quorums and, therefore, have not had meetings. He stated that in all the years he was on the Commission, and during the time Co-Chair McBride-Lee served, he said he could count on one hand the times a quorum was not present.

Council Member Herron commented that it would be nice to have Mr. Rosenberg's experience back.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 89-15,
APPOINTMENT OF STUART ROSENBERG TO THE FIRE COMMISSION.
** COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Bukovsky wanted to thank the family members of Officer DiJoseph for coming to the meeting and to thank them also for his service. She noted that it was so many years ago, but said she thinks it is wonderful that Lieutenant O'Donnell brought this forth. Addressing the family members, she remarked that she is looking forward to seeing the children's father, and Mrs. DiJoseph's husband honored by the City as he deserves to be.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BUKOVSKY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Co-Chair McBride-Lee adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nerina Kagan
Telesco Secretarial Services