



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT
MARGARET E. MORTON GOVERNMENT CENTER
999 BROAD STREET
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT 06604
TELEPHONE (203) 576-7201
FAX (203) 576-3913

BILL FINCH
Mayor

March 12, 2015

TO THE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

There will be a Special Organizational Meeting of the City of Bridgeport's **CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, to be held on **Monday, March 16, 2015, at 3:00 PM**, at the Margaret E. Morton Government Center, 999 Broad Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut on the **First Floor in Conference Room C**.

AGENDA

1. Discussion of the Community Benefits Agreements with Dr. Mark Mitchell and Veronica Eady from CLF Conservation Law Fund in Boston and others
2. Discussion of schedule, the public hearing and further fact-finding Sessions
3. New Business
4. Adjourn

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth Torres
Secretary
Citizen Advisory Committee

cc: A. Nunn, CAO
A. Wood, Chief of Staff
R. Felipe, Deputy Chief of Staff
L. Daniels, Director of Neighborhood Initiatives
M. Anastasi, City Attorney
Members of the Citizen Advisory Committee

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 P.M. by Adrienne Houel, Committee Chair. A quorum was not present and the meeting operated as an information session:

Present (6)

George Estrada
Adrienne Houel

Onte Johnson
Sharon Lewis

Rev. Carl McCluster
Hon. Denese Taylor-Moye, 131st District

Absent (7)

Hon. Jack Banta, 131st District
Rep. Jack Hennessey

Bill Malone
Chris Phelps

Eduardo Rivera
Kathleen Simpson
Elizabeth Torres

Also Present:

Adam Wood, Chief of Staff Steven G. Mednick, Counsel

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the meeting of March 4th 2015 were not approved due to the lack of a quorum.

DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS WITH DR. MARK A. MITCHELL OF THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL ON MEDICAL LEGISLATION AND CO-CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE AND VERONICA EADY, VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF THE CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION (Agenda Item #1)**▪ Dr. Mitchell**

- Discussed early successes in Bridgeport pertaining to the mix of oil and coal boilers and a conversation to nature gas. The result was, in his estimate, 5x the electricity with significantly less pollution. The resistance from state officials raised concerns amongst environmental activists about the process and the difficulty of even persuading the State of the validity of the claims. A hearing was actually held during the Christmas week. This efforts preceded the adoption of the Environmental Justice Act and was probably the foundations of a call to action.
- Environmental Justice Act changes the framework. With the adoption of the law owners of plants are required to engage the community in a series of public hearings designed to inform and to result in a negotiated.
- The Act requires the negotiation of environmental benefits only. The agreement must be proposed by the Mayor in consultation with the community. The owners are required to negotiate as a condition of their receiving regulatory clearance.
- In Bridgeport, it may come to down an insistence on a timetable for the cessation of the coal plant operations; however, the community may also want to focus on a series of tangible community benefits: (a) New Haven negotiated a \$10 million "green fund" administered by the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven with annual community grants; (b) Hartford negotiated an "anti-diesel" program for school buses; (c) another community required major "manufacturers of wellness" to utilize natural gas as opposed to other energy sources; (d) Fleet retrofit.

- **Attorney Eady**
 - You may consider on-going monitoring of the plants including subsequent meetings with PSEG;
 - In addition, attempt to broaden the group of signatories in order to create a broader group of agreement “enforcers”;
 - The agreement should include both conditions precedent and antecedent;
 - She discussed the “Waterbury Plan” which included incentives to eliminate deleterious impacts of the power plant, including community education regarding asthma; and,
 - She reinforced the concept of clear “timelines” on all elements of the agreement.

- **George Estrada**
 - Presented ideas regarding (a) direct health impact; (b) storm water runoff; (c) partnerships regarding Liter pick-up and clean-up to minimize environmental impact on Long Island Sound; (d) job skills similarly to those acquired in family re-entry programs; and, (e) language skills as a foundational tool addressing both job skills and understanding of health impacts of environmental degradation.

- **Adrienne Houel**
 - Expressed support for the notion that job training skills and job readiness training should be an important component of an environmental community benefits agreement. These elements are essential to prepare low-income job seekers with the wherewithal to overcome barriers to the workplace

- **Rev. Carl McCluster**
 - Agreed with Mr. Estrada’s assertion about the centrality of language skills. He also presented ideas regarding (a) indoor air quality in an impacted area like Bridgeport; (b) a community survey of health issues involving necessary community organizations that provide services; (c) the need to identify a baseline of the necessary parties to formulate the survey; (d) the necessity of ascertaining the job impact of the PSEG project, including post-construction jobs as well as construction jobs and ancillary employment opportunities; (e) the importance of related community infrastructure, such as pocket parks. Finally, he also emphasized the importance of determining and ordering the priorities of the community

- **Attorney Eady**
 - Emphasized the importance of ascertaining the plans for the plant, including a timeline for retirement of the plant moving the projected closing from 2024 to an earlier date
 - What steps can be taken in the interim to reduce pollution and other environmental threats
 - She also suggested taking a look at the work of the “American Association of Blacks in Energy”.

- **Onte Johnson**
 - Engaged with Dr. Mitchell regarding the number of public hearings in New Haven and the New Haven initiative to improve the condition of the plant and move from an oil fired system
 - Discussed with Attorney Eady whether it was possible to include a retirement schedule for the coal plant in the environmental benefits agreement

- **Council Member Taylor-Moye**
 - Raised the issue of taking a percentage of the capital costs as a threshold for the fund that would be created to benefit Bridgeport

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.