

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 4, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Marcus Brown, Co-chair; Rosalina Roman-Christy, Co-chair;
M. Evette Brantley, Michelle Lyons, Ernest Newton, Avelino Silva,
Maria Valle

OTHERS: Council Member(s): S. Burns, J. Herron, J. Cruz, M. McBride-Lee,
A. Vizzo-Paniccia (6:02 p.m.) & M. McCarthy (6:04 p.m.); T. Gaudett,
Mayoral Aide; C. Vickers, Legislative Office; 929-439-2866

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Brown called the public hearing to order at 6:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend to add New Chapter 12.17 – Establishing an Honorary Street Naming Program in the City of Bridgeport.
[196-19]

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Council Member Brown asked if there were any members who wished to speak to the Council regarding this matter. He then gave the instructions on how to unmute their devices. He repeated his request two times along with the instructions for unmuting.

Council Member McCarthy joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Council Member McBride-Lee requested the opportunity to speak. Council Member Brown said she could address the Committee. She said she had been told that there was a charge for adding the honorary street sign. Council Member Brown said that this had been added to the resolution in Committee. Council Member McBride-Lee asked how much the fee was. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that it was \$175.00. Several other Council Members agreed.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she did not think it was right to charge the families who wanted to honor the various individuals because the individuals had already contributed. She asked where the money would go. Those who live and work in Bridgeport are the ones who are contributing.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that it always happens all the time in Bridgeport that the people who work and contribute to Bridgeport are the ones who are short changed. These people are taxpayers.

Council Member Newton said that he wished to make a point, previously the City honored very specific people, but now they are honoring everyone. He suggested that the Council Member

who felt that an individual should be honored should pay for this out of their stipends. Council Member Cruz agreed.

Council Member Brantley asked if Council Member Brown would be calling for public speaking again. Council Member Brown replied he would be closing the public hearing after Council Member Valle spoke.

Council Member Valle said that the honorary signage had gotten a bit out of hand. She noted Council Member Brantley had objected to the original suggested fee of \$500.00 and the Committee had compromised at \$175.00. People who want to have their star on the sidewalk in Hollywood have to pay for it.

Council Member Valle said that it costs the City money and if someone wants to honor another individual, they should pay for it. It is important to hear everyone's point of view.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Brown adjourned the Public Hearing on the Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend to add New Chapter 12.17 – Establishing an Honorary Street Naming Program in the City of Bridgeport at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services