

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
JULY 5, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Marcus Brown, Co-chair; Rosalina Roman-Christy, Co-chair;
Aikeem Boyd, Ernest Newton, Maria Valle

OTHERS: Council Member(s): J. Herron, M. McBride-Lee & M. Pereira;
Dae Muhammad McKnight; T. Gaudett, Mayoral Aide

CALL TO ORDER.

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

79-21 (Ref. #36-21) Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12.16 – Street and Sidewalk Use Regulations, amend Section 12.16.245 – Permit to Use City Streets and Sidewalks for the Shared Mobility Program.

Council Member Brown asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak about the use of sidewalks by Shared Mobility Devices.

Council Member Pereira said that she wished to express concern about the safety for scooters riding on the sidewalk. She said that there were two recent serious accidents where children were hurt. The first one took place on July 6th and involved two young people riding on the sidewalk on a stand-up scooter. They hit a metal pole on Housatonic Avenue. The second accident involved a teen and a young child on the sidewalk. All of the riders sustained serious injuries.

Council Member Pereira said that the City appeared to be selling the use of the sidewalks as a right of way. The City should not be monetizing the public safety. There were two accidents that caused serious injuries to minors. The City should not be monetizing public safety to the highest bidder. Several Council Members are very concerned about this. It is not a good idea.

Council Member Herron said that the Scooter company rules and regulations required the riders to be 18 years old to use the scooters. The program is on hold while the investigations are underway. Last year, the program ran well. The individuals who hold the credit cards are responsible and that is where the enforcement comes in. There were Council Members who did not like the program, but there were many people who enjoyed them. The issue is monitoring and enforcement, which is being discussed with the company. This is not the time to move backwards. The City needs to move forward.

Council Member Brown asked if there were any individuals who were present that wished to address the Committee regarding the item. No one came forward. He repeated the question. Hearing no response, Council Member Brown closed the public hearing on Agenda Item 79-21.

90-21 Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10.20 –Towing, amend Section 10.20.100 – Qualified Towers -- Personnel.

Council Member Newton said that he would like to speak in favor of this. He said that they had addressed a section of the ordinance that would not allow towing companies that employ returning citizens to be employed. He said that the Committee had removed this language.

Council Member Pereira said that she was concerned with the ordinance because someone who might have a conviction for stealing vehicles, running a chop shop, stealing catalytic converters or breaking into vehicles. She said that there had been a former sheriff that had been towing vehicles and auctioning them. She said that there was a tow company on Dover street where there had been personal items stolen out of the vehicles. She said that if the individuals had convictions related to cars, they should not be working with a tow company.

Mr. Dae Muhammad McKnight of 131 Tully Circle came forward and said that in Bridgeport an individual cannot call their own towing service. The police tell people that they have to use the next tow company on the list. Many people have towing services available through AARP or AAA or other groups. This is wrong.

Council Member Brown closed the public hearing at 6:14 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services