

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
OCTOBER 3, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Marcus Brown, Co-chair; Ernest Newton, Akeem Boyd, Maria Valle,
Jorge Cruz

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chair Brown called the public hearing to order at 6:10 p.m. A quorum was present.

Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.92 – Fair Housing Commission. [126-21]

Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.94 – Fair Rent Commission. [127-21]

Ms. Callie Heilmann, of Grovers Avenue, came forward and said that she was present to speak on behalf of Generation Now. She said the group had discussed important items and they had decided that Fair Housing was very important. She then gave a brief outline of key points such as red lining, zoning laws, and low income housing. Bridgeport has a large number of low income housing and renters.

She said that one potential reform would be re-establishing the Fair Housing and the Fair Rent Commission. She said Fair Housing could conduct hearings and implement a Fair Housing Plan. The Fair Rent Commission can also hold hearing and call witnesses in cases where the rent has been increased too much.

Ms. Heilmann said that Bridgeport Now would support the Commissions.

Mr. John Marshall Lee said that he would be speaking on both Agenda Items 126-22 and 127-22. He said he was pleased that someone in Bridgeport had listened. He asked when they could have a question and answer session. Council Member Brown said that Mr. Lee would have to speak with the resolution sponsors if he needed more information.

Mr. Lee said that Bridgeport has the largest amount of affordable housing. He said that the two Commissions became inactive about 15 years ago. He stated he would reserve his comments on Both Commissions until later. He said there was no fairness in other committees and hoped this would bring some fairness, equality and lack of discrimination.

Council Member Brown asked if there was anyone else present who wished to speak about Agenda Item 126-22 Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.92 – Fair Housing Commission. No one came forward. He repeated his request two

more times. Hearing none, Council Member Brown closed the Public Hearing on Agenda Item 126-22 at 6:11 p.m.

Council Member Brown asked if there was anyone else present who wished to speak about Agenda Item 127-22 Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.94 – Fair Rent Commission. No one came forward. He repeated his request two more times. Hearing none, Council Member Brown closed the Public Hearing on Agenda Item 127-22 at 6:12 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Brown adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services