

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021

6:30 P.M.

This meeting will be conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking portion of the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

- 130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
- 131st District: Jorge Cruz, Denese Taylor-Moye
- 132nd District: Marcus Brown, M. Evette Brantley
- 133rd District: Jeanette Herron, *Michael DeFilippo*
- 134th District: Michelle Lyons, *AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia*
- 135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy
- 136th District: Avelino Silva, *Alfredo Castillo*
- 137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
- 138th District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman
- 139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

Any name in italics failed to respond during the roll call. City Clerk Martinez said that Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia was not able to attend. Council Member Lyons said that Council Member DeFilippo was at a family event.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M. THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY ZOOM/TELECONFERENCE.

NAME

SUBJECT

Maria Pereira
206 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Fifth State Distillery Lease and conduct of
City Council President, etc.

Council Member Pereira read the following statement into the record:

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
June 7, 2021

Good evening,

I wanted to address the egregious behavior specifically demonstrated by City Council President Nieves, Marcus Brown & Matt McCarthy related to the regular meeting of May 17th.

Although Nieves recognized Councilman McCarthy under the pretense of a “personal point of privilege”; it was all an orchestrated plot to allow Councilman McCarthy the floor to ultimately table the public hearing on the Fifth State Distillery which SOLELY impacts the 138th district and my constituents and does not impact the 130th district nor any other district.

There were 23 of my constituents, including two of my constituents with cancer undergoing radiation and chemotherapy, on that call to testify at a Public Hearing that was duly noticed in both the CT Post under “legal notices” and on the City Council homepage.

The next morning I contacted the City Clerk’s office and was told both Nieves & Brown had jointly contacted the office the previous afternoon to state that the item should not have been placed on the agenda because the property had been acquired via foreclosure. When I specifically asked the Deputy City Clerk how long the City Council had been holding these public hearings on properties acquired thru foreclosure; she replied, “the entire 18 years I have been here.’

One must ask, why those elected to SERVE the residents of Bridgeport would do everything in their power to block those very same people from being heard. Why are they so frightened to hear from Bridgeport residents & taxpayers? Democracy and democratic principles are under attack in this country by republicans, except of course here in Bridgeport where democrats can equally be counted on to decimate democracy. I and eleven of my constituents were being interviewed by Frank Recchia from News 12 while standing on a public sidewalk when owner Robert Schulten came up from behind accelerating his large pick-up truck at us while leaning on his horn as if he was possessed by the devil. He then slammed on his brakes within inches of three of my constituents. We literally feared he was going to hit us with his vehicle. We agreed a police report should be filed as it was clear Mr. Schulten was attempting to threaten, harass and intimidate us.

We have spent hours speaking with the residents and homeowners on the streets bordering Fifth State Distillery, and all but two residents are opposed to this lease that would create a 3000 square foot outdoor patio with live entertainment four days a week for a paltry \$4,500 in rent ANNUALLY.

If your constituents wanted to testify at a legally noticed Public Hearing would you vote to prohibit them from doing so?

If an out-of-town business owner accelerated his pick-up truck from behind at your constituents would you find it acceptable?

Do you think Mr. Schulten would have EVER done the same to his predominantly white neighbors in Southport where he resides?

I think we all know the answer to those questions.

Southport resident Mr. Schulten, who has not created a single Bridgeport job and received massive real estate & personal property tax breaks over the last 5 years will not be allowed to have his 3000 square foot outdoor patio while disrupting the quality of life of the residents and homeowners in a neighborhood I represent. Period.

Michele Smalls
10 Mencil Circle
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Fifth State Distillery lease, etc.

Ms. Smalls said that she was a homeowner that resides in the 138th District. She said that she has lived on Mencil Circle for 19 years and would love to get a break on her taxes. She said that taxpayers would be paying for the 3,000 square foot patio, new fences, and new sidewalks. It sounds fishy to hear the only thing that the residents will get is \$4,500 in rent from April until November and headaches for the neighborhood.

Helen Olga Losak
306 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

80 Hastings Street outdoor patio lease and conduct of Fifth State Distillery owner.

Ms. Losak said that she was a homeowner on Bradley Street in the 136th District and has lived there for over 50 years. Her annual taxes are \$8,000. She is opposed to the Fifth State Distillery 3,000-foot patio for the following reasons: there is not sufficient parking and patrons and employees would be parking on the nearby streets. She listed the various nearby streets.

Ms. Losak said that the distillery wanted live DJs, bands and performers four days a week. The neighbors will have to listen to all the loud music rather than enjoying the peace and quiet of their home. There is no benefit to the taxpayers, it will only hurt the quality of their life. The distillery has been in business since 2016 and had not created any jobs for Bridgeport residents. They have gotten numerous personal property and real estate tax breaks. [Inaudible]

She stated that it was likely the patrons will become highly intoxicated and drive around. They would present a danger to the children and the senior residents.

She spoke about a recent incident on May 8th where the owner gunned his truck at a group of residents standing on the sidewalk in a very threatening manner. He came within inches of hitting three homeowners who were apart of the peaceful protest. Mr. Schulten blew his horn and asked the residents to get off the sidewalk. The protestors were not blocking the sidewalk. They all agreed that they needed to file a police report, which Council Member Pereira filed.

This is going to upset the quality of life in the neighborhood and there are shootings when people are highly intoxicated. It is unacceptable in the neighborhood. She encouraged everyone to oppose the lease because it is not good for the neighborhood.

Adriana Aristy
73 Pennsylvania Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Conduct of Fifth State Distillery owner, etc.

Ms. Aristy of Pennsylvania Avenue in the 138th District said that she had lived in Bridgeport for 16 years and pays over \$6,300 in taxes. She lives within 200 feet of the distillery. The patio will be too much for the area because people will be drinking and making noise. This will disturb the peace and quiet they have in the neighborhood. It has no benefit for the neighbors, just for the owner, who does not live in Bridgeport and it does not create any jobs for Bridgeport people. She said that she was sure that the neighbors where he lives would not want a patio for people to be drinking and being loud and making noise. She and her neighbors don't want that in their neighborhood. She said she was asking the Planning and Zoning Commission to oppose this to protect their neighborhoods. She thanked the Council Members for listening.

Jessica Ortiz-Michaca
98 Emerald Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Conduct of City Council in purposefully denying residents of the 138th district to be heard at a duly noticed public hearing, etc.

Ms. Michaca said that she lives at Emerald Street, and as a former treasurer, secretary and volunteer for Park City Little League, this was very concerning. When baseball season started, they encountered many problems with the parking. They had to park on the sidewalks. It was dangerous. The parking on Asylum Street was very bad and there have been a number of near misses along that street. They had to have police officers drive by to ensure the safety of their families. Bringing a distillery with an outdoor venue is putting a strain on the situation. She said that they were concerned about drunk drivers hitting the children riding bikes. She asked how their quality of life would change.

After hearing about so many changes coming to Bridgeport, all she sees is how it is impacting the children. There is less progress and more problems. Knowing that the owners of the distillery are from another town, Bridgeport will have to pick up the bill once again. This puts an additional strain on the taxpayers. She asked if the owners would be responsible for [inaudible]

When is enough, enough? When do people who do not reside in Bridgeport stop riding on the backs of the taxpayers? When will the City Council Members take responsibility for these decisions? During her previous calls into these meetings, she was flabbergasted and disgusted with the conversations that took place after these hearings. [Inaudible] Also, the lack of respect for each other as City Council Members is unheard of in other towns and is an embarrassment. You should all take accountability of how you handle the decisions that impact the City, the taxpayers and the kids. She thanked the Council for their time.

Carmen Ramos
50 Goddard Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Fifth State Distillery and threatening
behavior of owner, etc.

Ms. Ramos said that she was a homeowner and lived in the house for over 23 years. She said she was the Energy Director for ABCD for over 23 years. She said that when they were meeting with Frank Recchia from Channel 12 News on the sidewalk, Mr. Robert drove around the corner quickly towards the group on the sidewalk in a very threatening manner while blowing his horn. She is very concerned about the children riding bikes in her neighborhood and how their lives will change if this patio is allowed. She lives next to someone who blasts the music already and can't imagine living close to this patio. There is no control over those who drive drunk. She wondered what would happen if Mr. Robert treated the people in his area the way he treated their group. There was no respect for the group and their safety was at risk. Normally she would not speak out, but in this case, she is totally opposed to the project. Thank you.

Andre Whaley
181 Wessels Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Fifth State Distillery lease, etc.

Mr. Whaley of Wessels Avenue said that he was opposed to the outdoor patio. It is the wrong fit. He said that he was there when the owner accelerated his vehicle at the group on the sidewalk. He said that he feared for his life. The owner confronted Mr. Recchia about the issue and was acting irately. He asked why the City would allow people from out of town to act like this and do things like this in Bridgeport's community. The owner is from Southport and they would never allow a patio where there would be outdoor music and no parking. Take the community's voices into consideration. There are no jobs for Bridgeport residents. None of the dollars are seen back in Bridgeport. They hire people from Southport and come here for the tax breaks to do what they want to do. They come from out of town and try to intimidate the local residents. He is totally against this item. Thank you.

Robin Avant
111 Hastings Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Fifth State Distillery (Hastings Street).

There was no response.

Latoya Johnson
Left Hearts Inc.
3 Edwin Street
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Dirt Bike Ordinance and task force that
was set up and space needed for children
to ride instead of streets.

Ms. Johnson spoke about the dirt bike ordinance that was put into place. Having children riding dirt bikes, which keeps them off the street. She thought there was a "no chase" policy in Bridgeport but has since discovered that there is. She said that the Task Force was taking these bikes away from the children and there needs to be a place where the kids can ride their dirt bikes. That will keep them off the roads and in one area, which will be safer. She said that the

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City had created a skateboard park at Seaside Park and no one uses it. Maybe they could hire people to monitor the kids riding at Seaside Park. They harass the riders now and the City should give these children a place to ride. The riders want to ride because they love it. Thank you for your time.

Daniel Vadi
38 Cogswell Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Fifth State Distillery and conduct of City
Council.

Mr. Vadi of Cogswell Street, who has lived on Cogswell for 26 years. He said that he had seen his share of accidents on Cogswell and one of them was a fatal accident. Mr. Vadi is opposed to this patio because instead of 100 people, he's going to have 200 intoxicated people. His neighborhood is a quiet neighborhood and out of towners come and dump their issues on Bridgeport. He said that there was a ball field up the street and the dump just up the street. Mr. Vadi said that he was opposed to the project.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the Public Speaking Session at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021

7:00 P.M.

This meeting was conducted by teleconference.

The public was able to listen to this meeting by calling a conference line.

Council President Nieves called the meeting of the Bridgeport City Council to order at 7:06 p.m.

PRAYER

Council Member Newton led those present on the call in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member McCarthy then led those present on the call in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Marcus Brown, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Jeanette Herron, *Michael DeFilippo*
134th District: Michelle Lyons, *AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia*
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy
136th District: Avelino Silva, *Alfredo Castillo*
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman
139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

Any name in italics failed to respond during the roll call. Council Member Lyons reported that Council Member DeFilippo was not able to join the meeting due to family obligations.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Approval of City Council Minutes: April 19, 2021

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 19, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 19, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC HEARING(S) TO BE ORDERED BY THE FULL COUNCIL:

Request to Order a Public Hearing for June 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. re: Resolution concerning the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Grant for the City of Bridgeport (Ref. #76-20).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 15, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M. RE: RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE 2021 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARP) GRANT FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT (REF. #76-20).
COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.

Council Member Martinez announced that she was present.

Mayor Ganim announced that he was present. He assumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

Council Member Pereira said that the City Charter and the City Council Rule 13, Section 12 requires all agenda items to be submitted by 4:30 p.m. the previous Wednesday. The B&A meeting did not meet until Thursday night. She wished to know how the item was included when it was well past the 4:30 Wednesday deadline. This is a violation of the City Charter and the City Council Rules. There is a mechanism to add it to the agenda with a 2/3rds vote.

Mayor Ganim said that her comments were noted and made part of the record.

**** THE MOTION TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 15, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M. RE: RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE 2021 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARP) GRANT FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT (REF. #76-20 PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

Council Member Pereira stated she was opposed for the reasons stated on the record.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

77-20 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Accepting Gift of Grant-Funded Bicycle Racks from Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG), referred to Economic Community Development and Environment Committee.

78-20 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Louis Cafora, Administrator of the Estate of Frederick Cafora, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

80-20 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division Project Longevity Grant (#22351), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:

79-20 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Newton & Martinez and Co-sponsor Herron re: Proposed resolution holding Police Financially Accountable in Brutality Settlements, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO COMBINE AND REFER TO ALL ITEMS FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE APPROPRIATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

77-20 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GIFT OF GRANT-FUNDED BICYCLE RACKS FROM METROPOLITAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (METROCOG), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

78-20 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH LOUIS CAFORA, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF FREDERICK CAFORA, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

80-20 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION PROJECT LONGEVITY GRANT (#22351), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:

79-20 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) NEWTON & MARTINEZ AND CO-SPONSOR HERRON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION HOLDING POLICE FINANCIALLY ACCOUNTABLE IN BRUTALITY SETTLEMENTS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***59-20 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing the Disposition of Three (3) City-Owned Properties.**

***66-20 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Approving Programs for the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program.**

***76-20 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Grant for the City of Bridgeport.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was anyone who wished to remove an item from the Consent Calendar.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO TABLE UNTIL JULY AGENDA ITEM 59-20 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF THREE (3) CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES UNTIL IT HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE ZONING COMMISSION ON JUNE 26TH FOR AN 8-24 REFERRAL.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Pereira requested removal of Agenda 66-20.

The Assistant City Clerk read the remaining item into the record. Council Member Brantley requested a roll call vote.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED AGENDA ITEM 76-20 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE 2021 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARP) GRANT FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

58-20 Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts Report re: Resolution Authorizing a Lease Agreement for a portion of 80 Hastings Street to allow for an Outdoor Tasting and Picnic Area for Fifth State Distillery.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON TABLE 58-20 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR A PORTION OF 80 HASTINGS STREET TO ALLOW FOR AN OUTDOOR TASTING AND PICNIC AREA FOR FIFTH STATE DISTILLERY.**

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**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

34-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution for an Honorary Naming of the Paper Street traversing the parking lot of the House of God Community Church on Stratford Avenue be designated as “Bishop Ronnie Brayboy Way”.

Council Member Valle said that she and Council Member Taylor-Moye were the co-chairs and that Council Member Newton and Council Member Martinez had requested to name the paper street in honor of Bishop Brayboy. It is a paper street located on private property.

Council Member Silva asked if they had voted on Agenda Item 66-20. Mayor Ganim said that they had not voted on it.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that the Committee had discussed this in detail and there was nothing more to be said.

Council Member Pereira said that when this was originally introduced, the Council Members thought it was a City road, and later thought it was a paper road. It is a street on private property and there is such a thing as separation of church and State. Having City employees paid by the taxpayers and having them on private property owned by the church is a violation of the law. Council Member Pereira said that she would be opposing this item because municipal workers should not be on church property.

Mayor Ganim commented that Council Member Pereira was free to speak her mind, but he hoped her facts were accurate because she was accusing the City employees of doing something wrong unless she knew what she was talking about.

Council Member Newton said he totally disagreed with Council Member Pereira’s statement. He had just heard from the church leadership that they want a sign. They may be coming back to apply for a sign by Baker’s Funeral Home. The same kind of honorarium on a street was done for the pastor of Messiah Baptist. He thanked his colleagues for supporting this.

Council Member McBride-Lee pointed out that the congregants were also taxpayers. She said that when they voted on the sign, she disagreed then and disagrees now. The Council decided they didn’t want to have the signs up then.

Council Member Martinez said that it was disgusting that a Council Member from another District would be talking about who was or wasn’t paying taxes.

Council Member Brantley requested for a roll call vote.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 34-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION FOR AN**

HONORARY NAMING OF THE PAPER STREET TRAVERSING THE PARKING LOT OF THE HOUSE OF GOD COMMUNITY CHURCH ON STRATFORD AVENUE BE DESIGNATED AS “BISHOP RONNIE BRAYBOY WAY” PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE OPPOSED (PEREIRA).

42-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program (#21210 & #21483).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 42-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) PROGRAM (#21210 & #21483).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira stated that she had wanted to make it clear for the record that she was opposing the application not because of the substance of the application but because there is language in every one of these resolutions, it allows the Mayor and/or any of his designees to sign any contract or agreement without coming to the Contracts Committee.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 42-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) PROGRAM (#21210 & #21483) PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

45-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution to conduct an Informational Meeting with the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director regarding use of Fire Police Volunteers.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 45-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION TO CONDUCT AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING WITH THE POLICE CHIEF, FIRE CHIEF AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR REGARDING USE OF FIRE POLICE VOLUNTEERS.**

****COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Burns asked if one of the chairs could explain about the role of the Firefighters and Police. Council Member Taylor-Moye said that this came up at an informational meeting. She said that they were looking for information on how things are done in their department.

Council Member Brown explained that Zoom has issued an update. He said that raising their hands were under “reactions.”

Council Member Herron said that with the Chief leaving, the Deputy Chief would be able to provide the information.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 45-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION TO CONDUCT AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING WITH THE POLICE CHIEF, FIRE CHIEF AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR REGARDING USE OF FIRE POLICE VOLUNTEERS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

71-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Installation of a Streetlight on Utility Pole #6365 located at 1259 Kossuth Street.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED AGENDA ITEM 71-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: INSTALLATION OF A STREETLIGHT ON UTILITY POLE #6365 LOCATED AT 1259 KOSSUTH STREET.
** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that the City Engineer had issued a report that stated that they did not need another light there because there had not been any accidents there. She said that they consistently opposed the opinions of the highly trained staff. She said that she is opposing this because the City Traffic Engineer opposes.

Council President Nieves said that the Traffic Engineer opposes this because he analyzes traffic, not lighting. A business owner used to provide lighting but doesn't any longer. There are five light poles on that street, but no lighting fixtures. It is a public safety issue.

Council Member Newton said that just because the City staff issues an opinion, the Council is the legislative body.

Council Member Valle agreed that the City Traffic Engineer focuses on traffic, not lighting. Most streets have one light, but not this street. She offered to take any Council Member for a ride to see how dark it is.

Council Member Herron said that it was concerning when the Council is debating this as long as they have particularly since it is a safety issue. They are here for their constituents. She said that this has been discussed over and over again.

Council Member Silva said he had a similar issue and had contacted Mr. Nadrziny and he installed a light because it was a safety issue.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 71-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: INSTALLATION OF A STREETLIGHT ON UTILITY POLE #6365 LOCATED AT 1259 KOSSUTH STREET PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

68-20 Education and Social Services Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Connecticut Department of Education AccelerateCT Summer Program Innovation Grant Program (#21681), DENIED.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED TO ACCEPT THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE'S DENIAL OF AGENDA ITEM 68-20 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ACCELERATECT SUMMER PROGRAM INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM (#21681),
** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that the Central Grants staff had told the Council Members that they did not have time to apply for this grant. It is pure hypocrisy and the Central Grants staff has been understaffed for a year. She said she would be voting against this item.

Council President Nieves said that this item was not the actual application. She explained that this was an approval for the application and the turn around time was too tight. This was not an actual application. They did not have time to find enough partnerships for the grant.

Council Member Lyons said that she had spoken with Ms. DeJesus who explained the situation as Council President Nieves said. She said that she wanted to make the right decision on this.

Council Member Newton said that this was why it was important that everyone reads the documentation. It was not because they did not have enough staff members, but they couldn't get another fiduciary in time for this grant.

Council Member Cruz said he agreed with Council Member Newton and Council President Nieves' statements. It was unfortunate what happened, but that does not mean they chose to neglect the youth. This was basically poor timing, not staff shortages.

Council Member Brantley said that there were funds available for the youth and many non-profits had programs available.

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE'S DENIAL OF AGENDA ITEM 68-20 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ACCELERATECT SUMMER PROGRAM INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM (#21681), PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN**

FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE OPPOSED (PEREIRA).

66-20 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Approving Programs for the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 66-20 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION APPROVING PROGRAMS FOR THE CONNECTICUT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that when the resolution was received, there was no documentation. This is major violation of the law and the Governor's Executive 7b and she will not be voting for this.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 66-20 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION APPROVING PROGRAMS FOR THE CONNECTICUT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Telesco Secretarial Services