

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, *Matthew McCarthy*
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Rolanda Smith
133rd District: Aikeem Boyd, Jeanette Herron,
134th District: *Michelle Lyons*, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy
136th District: Frederick Hodges, *Alfredo Castillo*
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Maria Pereira
139th District: Wanda Simmons, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. The names in italics did not appear to respond during the roll call. Council Member McCarthy had an excused absence.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604.

NAME

SUBJECT

Helen Olga Losak
304 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Illegal basement apartments are very dangerous. The homeowner is responsible.

Ms. Losak greeted the Council Members and said that illegal basement apartments are very dangerous. The Fire Marshals have recently discovered a number of illegal apartments. These illegal apartments only have one way in and out. There are also radon issues. She said that the landlords can be held responsible and sued if someone dies in an illegal apartment. Often the

windows have bars and prevent individuals from getting out. She asked everyone to adhere to the regulations for everyone's safety.

Eneida Martinez
819 Connecticut Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Council Members behavior &
disrespectful conduct.

Ms. Martinez came forward and greeted the Council Members. She said that she was present to address the Council's behavior. She said that the level of disrespect that has been shown toward Council Member Newton by Council Member Pereira has been unbelievable.

Council Member Pereira then shouted that Ms. Martinez was out of order. Ms. Martinez replied that she had the floor. Council Member Pereira then asked Council President Nieves if she was going to allow this type of behavior. Several minutes of inaudible shouting ensued.

Council President Nieves called those who were out of order to task. She then called the next speaker forward.

Jacquelyn Cauthen
397 Charles Street
Becoming D.I.V.A.S
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Support for book club/purchase
books from Summer & Fall 2022
Publishers.

Ms. Cauthen greeted the Council and went on to explain that she was extremely talented and generous. Ms. Cauthen then gave a brief overview of her program Becoming D.I.V.A.S for young girls aged 9 to 17. This is a mentoring program that includes a book club and addresses financial literacy.

Ms. Cauthen then spoke about the recent Supreme Court decision and stated that she no longer had control over her body due to the deplorables. She asked the Council Members help her reach out to girls 9 to 17 so they can learn about resources available and community members who are present to support them. The program will be held downtown.

She stated that this was personal for her and recounted that when she was 15, she was dismissed, disrespected, devalued and homeless because she was pregnant and unmarried. She ended up in a home for unwed mothers. This is why she wants to help young girls. She does not want to see another girl devalued or dismissed by the deplorables.

Atty. Dorcia Carillo
Huntington Turnpike
Bridgeport, CT

Atty. Carillo came forward and greeted the Council Members. She stated that she was present to replace former Council Member Michele Small who had recently resigned. She said she had specific skills that would be helpful to the Council. Atty. Carillo noted that she had reached out to all the Council Members over the weekend and thanked those who had returned her call.

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Atty. Carillo said that she wished to speak about the District she lives in and repeated her name for the Council Members. She and her husband moved to Bridgeport a few years ago but has been a Connecticut resident since law school. Atty. Carillo then listed a number of groups that she is associated with and her local law practice. Atty. Carillo also spoke about a vacant lot that has become a trash heap. Her neighborhood is beautiful but often cluttered with trash. She requested the Council's support in her effort to replace former Council Member Small.

Maria Pereira

206 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Council Member Pereira came forward to address the Council. She then announced that the City Council Rule XXVI states: "In speaking, City Council members shall refrain from mentioning any other member by name, shall confine themselves to the question, shall be courteous and not use unbecoming, abusive, or unparliamentary language, and shall avoid personalities."

Council Member Pereira stated that a former City Council Member who ignored this rule which she should have known. A verbal confrontation then followed between Council Member Pereira and Ms. Eneida Martinez. Council President Nieves attempted to call the two arguing parties to order. Ms. Losak then shouted out several times that Council Member Pereira was an embarrassment to the District. Council Member Pereira replied that Ms. Losak had been to dinner at her home several times.

After order was restored, Council Member Pereira stated that two weeks earlier, she had been supporting City Clerk Lydia Martinez and was shut down for attacking Council Members. She stated that she had not been attacking anyone. However, Council President Nieves was allowing this behavior to continue. Ms. Losak started a chant in the audience.

Council President Nieves requested Ms. Losak stop chanting and said the type of behavior that had been displayed during the meeting would not be allowed in the chambers.

Mr. Dae Muhammad McKnight

131 Tully Circle
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. McKnight came forward and greeted the Council Members. He spoke about the kind of language that was being thrown around in the City Council Chambers about people being felons. He noted that for the past fifteen years, he's been helping people. He said he did not appreciate the constant references to Council Members' past when they don't deserve this. As a taxpayer, this is not acceptable.

Mr. Lyle Hasson
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Hasson came forward and greeted the Council. He stated that he was an ex-con. It has been 40 years since he was in prison and retired from the Bridgeport Public School system and is now a chaplain for the Department of Corrections. He said that they should never hold people accountable for actions when the individuals have proven they have moved past them. His major concern was not about ex-felons, but for those who sit in high places and make decisions. Give people an opportunity to improve themselves. He said that he pays his taxes and works hard. It is time to let people move on with their lives.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Mr. Lee came forward and read the following statement into the record:

My friends, my neighbors and I have appointed you to cast your votes so that fairness presides rather than inequality or injustice in the ten districts of the City. I have addressed the subject of fairness with you previously. Remember I asked why the G2 has been as negligent as his predecessors in appointing well intentioned and capable citizens without conflict of interest to listen to grievances from Bridgeport on Fair Rent or Fair Housing.

Why do I keep raising the same issue? Do you think it might be because it is genuinely unfair? Why didn't the Mayor's office deal with those areas and tolerate vacancies enough to cripple process or slow it down? Why did they die as to no functions showing meetings, agendas, and minutes? Why did no one observe and complain, as I have? Do you think it will do no good to complain?

Doesn't inattention to matters of importance lead to change? Does a squeaky wheel get oiled? It does unless someone in power at times is conflicted. Are friends and supporters of the Mayor owners of both commercial and residential properties? Is this where inaction lies? Where else should we look if authoring a journalistic essay on the **Death of Two Unnecessary Boards in Bridgeport!**

I want to share some good news learned in recent weeks. I served on both the St. Patrick's Scholarship Committee and on the Fairfield Rotary Club Committee. I can assure you that Bridgeport residents graduating from high schools were candidates for significant awards from each group.

I was especially impressed with the stories of two young women of color from Central Magnet who wish to pursue Nursing careers, starting at University of Bridgeport this fall with a curriculum leading to a Bachelor of Science. Each of them will live at home, because it makes financial sense for them and because they have responsibility for care of younger siblings in their families.

The range of enthusiastic service work for which they volunteered shows how young people can play it forward and will be prepared to accept full roles as informed voters, candidates for Boards, and overseers of City functions in the future. Can you find more ways to provide them with info on registering to vote, where to vote at each

election, and become better informed on “best practices” for municipalities to pursue, a chance for time to tell for their children?

Henry Webb

Clinton Avenue
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Webb came forward and greeted the Council Members. He said that he was present in support of ex-felons. It is important to allow people to be who they are. He is a lifelong resident of Bridgeport and has lived at his current address for 47 years. On behalf of the ex-felons, he is displeased at how they are being disrespected. Mr. Webb said that it was important for people to realize that people do change their lives. He thanked the Council Members for this opportunity to speak.

Fred Hodges

Fairview Avenue
Bridgeport, CT

Council Member Hodges came forward and greeted the Council Members. He said he would speak about the individuals who want their own justice rather than what the court has decreed. The Council Members are not there for individual name calling, personal vendettas, or anything like that. As a Council Member, he feels this is wrong. He spoke about the number of times he has heard derogatory and stigmatizing remarks used to address his colleagues and other individuals who are called names. This is wrong regardless of the culture, sexual orientation, or race. People do not deserve the name calling and negative remarks in this building.

He noted that there were 70 million formerly incarcerated people who are mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers. They also include business owners, homeowners and taxpayers. These formerly incarcerated people do not deserve to come into City Hall and have a Council Member or constituents talk like that in this building. He said that he had been out for 16 years and mentioned an organization that he belongs to. He added that he will not tolerate this type of disrespect. It is damaging to people’s character and reputation. He’s been home for 16 years, is a Director of a program and runs a halfway house along with being an advocate for formerly incarcerated people.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the public session at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:11 p.m.

PRAYER

Mr. Lyle Hasson came forward and led those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member Brown to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Ganim announced that there was a flyer about a Mental Health Awareness event scheduled for July 9th on their desks.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, *Matthew McCarthy*
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Rolanda Smith
133rd District: Aikeem Boyd, Jeanette Herron
134th District: *Michelle Lyons*, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy
136th District: Frederick Hodges, *Alfredo Castillo*
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Maria Pereira
139th District: Wanda Simmons, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. The names in italics did not appear to respond during the roll call.

ITEMS REQUIRING ROLL CALL VOTE:

• Filling of Vacant City Council Seat in the 138th District.

Mayor Ganim said that he would be following the appropriate procedure and accepting nominations for the Council vacancy. Following the nomination, there should be a second and a vote. This will require 11 votes for a majority from the same political party of the former Council Member.

Mayor Ganim opened the floor for the vacant Council seat in the 138th District.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO NOMINATE SAMI SULIMAN FOR THE VACANT COUNCIL SEAT IN THE 138TH DISTRICT BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE DTC.**

Council President Nieves noted that Ms. Suliman had previously served on the Council.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there were any additional nominations.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA NOMINATED ATTORNEY DORCIA CARRILLO FOR THE VACANT COUNCIL SEAT IN THE 138TH DISTRICT.**

Council Member Pereira said that nominations did not require a second. Atty. Anastasi agreed that the nomination did not need a second.

Council Member Pereira read the following statement:

We are required to take a roll call vote.

I will be placing Attorney Dorcia Carrillo into nomination.

First, let me start with the fallacy that the Democratic Town Committee has anything to do with filling any City Council vacancy. There is no such reference in the City Charter, nor can there be as the DTC is a partisan political organization.

Not a single democratic voter in the 138th district cast a ballot for the current members of the 138th district as they are in their seats by acclamation not by an election. The only elected official who directly represents the residents of the 138th district is me.

Michele Small and I were the only elected City Council candidates in 2021 that won solely based on the endorsement of our voters. We did not seek, nor did we want the endorsement of any political organization. There is no one else on this Council that can claim the same.

The voters of the 138th district have repeatedly, and overwhelmingly defeated DTC endorsed candidates.

- 1) 2013 - 138th DTC endorsed school board candidates were defeated by three petitioning school board candidates, Andre Baker, Dave Hennessey and Howard Gardner

- 2) 2015 - Anthony Paoletto and Nessah Smith were elected as petitioning City Council candidates defeating 138th DTC endorsed candidates Melanie Jackson & James Morton
- 3) 2015 – Mayor Finch was the DTC endorsed candidate with petitioning candidate Joe Ganim defeating him with Thomas Hooker School giving him the 3rd largest plurality in the city
- 4) 2016 – DTC Endorsed Dennis Bradley was defeated by Senator Ed Gomes with Thomas Hooker School giving Senator Gomes his largest plurality in the 23rd Senate District
- 5) 2016 – WFP Candidate Ed Gomes defeated DTC endorsed candidate Richard DeJesus in a 23rd Senate Special Election with massive pluralities in the 138th district
- 6) 2017 – Anthony Paoletto was the 138th district endorsed City Council candidate and was defeated by petitioning candidate Karen Jackson
- 7) 2018 – DTC Endorsed Dennis Bradley defeated Aaron Turner for the 23rd Senate seat, but Dennis Bradley lost the 138th district.
- 8) 2019 – Nessah Smith & Karen Jackson were the 138th district endorsed candidates and were defeated by petitioning candidates Samia Suliman & I with my receiving the most votes city wide of every primary council candidate
- 9) 2021 – Kevin Monks & Samia Suliman were the 138th district endorsed candidates and were soundly defeated by me and Michele Small as the petitioning candidates with myself receiving the most votes of every citywide primary council candidate yet again. How bad an incumbent must you be to receive only 37% of the vote with your running mate receiving even less at 36% of the vote? Samia Suliman was an incumbent thoroughly rejected and ousted by the voters of the 138th district in a landslide defeat just last year.
- 10) 2021 -Erika Castillo- a DTC endorsed BOE member who was not involved in a Primary but was soundly rejected by the voters of the 138th district in the General Election with all three WFP BOE candidates receiving more votes than her including Republican Joseph Sokolovic

The last time a 138th DTC endorsed City Council candidate won an election was in 2013. We have defeated every DTC endorsed candidate in 2015, 2017, 2019 & 2021.

Six of the Nine DTC members were rejected by 138th district voters to include Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith, Samia Suliman, Kevin Monks, Erika Castillo & Sarah Lewis who ran as a petitioning BOE candidate in 2017, and you think the voters of the 138th district would support their nominee, especially someone that was an incumbent ousted in the largest landslide defeat in my ten years residing in the 138th district. The voters have overwhelmingly rejected DTC endorsed candidates in my district and somehow you think the DTC should fill Michele's vacancy when she soundly defeated Samia Suliman & Kevin Monks just last year.

In fact, the last time a 138th DTC endorsed City Council candidate won an election was in 2013. We have defeated every DTC endorsed candidate in 2015, 2017, 2019 & 2021 and will do so again in 2023.

Attorney Dorcia Carrillo is an incredibly qualified and accomplished member of the 138th district who is a homeowner and new mother with her own law practice. She resides in the Thomas Hooker Precinct where Michele Small resides. The replacement should come from the Thomas Hooker Precinct as the residents residing there pay exorbitant taxes and deserve

representation from within their own neighborhood. As a bonus, Attorney Carrillo is a black woman who speaks fluent Spanish and can certainly connect with the significant influx of Bronx residents that have moved in to the 138th district as she was raised in the Bronx.

Her resume and biography are arguably the most impressive I have seen when compared to any existing member of the City Council, and her education & accomplishments far outweigh any member of the 138th DTC and /or any candidate they nominate.

Placing Samia Suliman back on the Council representing the 138th district would be an absolute slap in the face to my constituents who will simply oust her in 2023 especially because she will be on the same line as our current mayor.

However, should that occur, I will be going door-to-door with Attorney Carrillo's biography and resume showing my constituents that they could have had the best-of-the-best representing them and instead they were saddled with the worst-of-the-worst.

In closing, no matter what happens here tonight, Attorney Dorcia Carrillo will be elected to the City Council in 2023. And although I have made it absolutely clear that I have nothing but disdain for the DTC, I will be taking all 9 DTC seats in 2024 simply because I can.

Council Member Newton noted that Council Member Pereira had served on the DTC and stated that if someone had tried to do what she was attempting to do, she would be the first one to object. He added that the process of having the DTC recommend individuals for vacant Council seats had been the practice since he was first on the Council in 1981. The DTC are elected by the residents in the various Districts. He then apologized to Atty. Carillo because this has nothing to do her personally, but is all about the process. He said that Council Member Pereira can change the process when she wants to but objects when other Council Members do things outside the rules. You can't have it both ways.

Council Member Newton requested that the question be moved.

**** A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN FOR THE VACANT SEAT IN THE 138TH DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:**

130TH DISTRICT: SCOTT BURNS - SULIMAN
131ST DISTRICT: JORGE CRUZ - SULIMAN
131ST DISTRICT: TYLER MACK - SULIMAN
132ND DISTRICT: MARCUS BROWN - SULIMAN
132ND DISTRICT: ROLANDA SMITH - SULIMAN
133RD DISTRICT: AIKEEM BOYD - SULIMAN
133RD DISTRICT: JEANETTE HERRON- SULIMAN
134TH DISTRICT: AMYMARIE VIZZO-PANICCIA - SULIMAN
135TH DISTRICT: MARY MCBRIDE-LEE - SULIMAN
135TH DISTRICT: ROSALINA ROMAN-CHRISTY- SULIMAN
136TH DISTRICT: FREDERICK HODGES - SULIMAN
137TH DISTRICT: AIDEE NIEVES - SULIMAN
137TH DISTRICT: MARIA VALLE - SULIMAN
138TH DISTRICT: MARIA PEREIRA - CARRILLO
139TH DISTRICT: WANDA SIMMONS - SULIMAN
139TH DISTRICT: ERNEST NEWTON - SULIMAN

MS. SULIMAN WAS ELECTED TO FILL THE VACANT SEAT IN THE 138TH DISTRICT.

Mayor Ganim administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Suliman.

**CHANGES TO CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS
TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Council President Nieves announced the following changes to the Council Boards and Committees:

Committee on Miscellaneous Matters:

Council Member Suliman to replace Council Member Simmons

Committee on Education and Social Services:

Council Member Suliman to fill vacancy

Council Member Castillo to replace Council Member Simmons

Special Committee on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Council Member Suliman to fill vacancy

Library Board Liaison: please remove Council Member Simmons

Parks Commission Liaison: please add Council Member McCarthy

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE VARIOUS COUNCIL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS PRESENTED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, SIMMONS AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

• June 6, 2022

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 6, 2022 MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

The following correction was noted:

Page 12, under the motion to suspend the rules for the purpose of adding an item to the agenda for the purposes of scheduling a public hearing regarding the proposed amendments to the Municipal Code Of Ordinances, please change the following result of the vote from:

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**** THE MOTION FAILED TO PASS WITH SEVEN (7) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, BOYD, HODGES AND NEWTON) AND FIVE (5) AGAINST (MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, PEREIRA AND SMITH).**

TO:

**** THE MOTION FAILED TO PASS WITH SEVEN (7) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, BOYD, HODGES AND NEWTON) AND FIVE (5) AGAINST (MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, PEREIRA AND SMALL).**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 6, 2022 MEETING AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

102-21 Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed License Agreement with Creative Outdoor Advertising of America, Inc. for Trash Receptable Advertising and Maintenance Services, referred to Contracts Committee.

103-21 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of LaJeune Pollard v. City of Bridgeport, et al – Docket No. FBT-CV-18-6071490-S, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

104-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Port Security Grant Program, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

105-21 Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Agreement with BusPatrol America, LLC regarding a School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program, referred to Joint Committee on Public Safety and Transportation and Contracts.

106-21 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed State Lobbyist Services Agreement with the Reynolds Strategy Group, LLC, referred to Contracts Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

102-21 COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC FACILITIES RE: PROPOSED LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH CREATIVE OUTDOOR ADVERTISING OF AMERICA, INC. FOR TRASH RECEPTABLE ADVERTISING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

103-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF LAJEUNE

POLLARD V. CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, ET AL – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-18-6071490-S, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

104-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) – PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

105-21 COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC FACILITIES RE: PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH BUSPATROL AMERICA, LLC REGARDING A SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION AND CONTRACTS.

106-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED STATE LOBBYIST SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE REYNOLDS STRATEGY GROUP, LLC, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***90-21 Ordinance Committee Report re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10.20 - Towing, amend Section 10.20.100 - Qualified Towers – Personnel.**

***69-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FY 2021 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants – Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) (#22476).**

***81-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing the Establishment of the Upper East Side Neighborhood Revitalization Zone and its Boundaries.**

89-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Cristina Costa v. Jansy Rodriguez, et al – Docket No. FBT-CV-18-6077549-S.

101-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of John Gale v. City of Bridgeport.

Mayor Ganim asked if any member of the Council would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council President Nieves requested Agenda Item 81-21 be removed. Council Member Pereira requested that Agenda Item 90-21 be removed.

City Clerk Martinez read the remaining Consent Calendar items into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

69-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE:GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FY 2021 HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANTS – FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE (FMA) AND BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES (BRIC) (#22476).

89-21 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF CRISTINA COSTA V. JANSY RODRIGUEZ, ET AL – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-18-6077549-S.

101-21 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF JOHN GALE V. CITY OF BRIDGEPORT.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, SIMMONS AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira stated that she had requested a copy of the legal opinion which is mandated under the City Charter. She said that she had not received and was concerned that there might be a conflict with a State statute.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, SIMMONS AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

81-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing the Establishment of the Upper East Side Neighborhood Revitalization Zone and its Boundaries.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council President Nieves requested that this item be sent back to the Committee in order to clarify some of the details with the community.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 81-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UPPER EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ZONE AND ITS BOUNDARIES.**

Council Member Newton said that he had co-sponsored the item and gave an overview of why this should be sent back to Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that this was a joint NRZ which was a combination of the 136th District and the area served by the upper Main Street Corridor. There are many run-down buildings in the upper East Side. She said that the census data indicated the level of poverty and income. She said she was sure there was some machination going on that were political in origin that started in 2015. \$20,000 has already been invested in this revitalization.

A roll call vote was done.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, SIMMONS AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

79-21 Ordinance Committee Report re: (Ref. #36-21) 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 MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 79-21 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #36-21) 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 HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council President Nieves then addressed the Council Members about the previous City Council Meeting and cited that City Council Rule XXVI, which states the following:

“In speaking, City Council members shall refrain from mentioning any other member by name, shall confine themselves to the question, shall be courteous and not use unbecoming, abusive, or unparliamentary language, and shall avoid personalities.

“Any member who, in debate or otherwise, indulges in personalities or makes charges reflecting upon the character of another member, shall make an apology in open session at the meeting at which offense is committed, or at the next succeeding regular meeting, and, failing to do so, shall be named by the President or held in contempt, and suspended from further participation in debate until said apology is made.”

Council President Nieves then requested that Council Member Pereira apologize to Council Member Newton for shouting out during the meeting that Council Member Newton was a felon.

Council Member Pereira stated that she would not apologize.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES THEN MOVED THE CITY COUNCIL RULE XXVI, WHICH STATES THE FOLLOWING: “ANY MEMBER WHO, IN DEBATE OR OTHERWISE, INDULGES IN PERSONALITIES OR MAKES CHARGES REFLECTING UPON THE CHARACTER OF ANOTHER MEMBER, SHALL MAKE AN APOLOGY IN OPEN SESSION AT THE MEETING AT WHICH OFFENSE IS COMMITTED, OR AT THE NEXT SUCCEEDING REGULAR MEETING, AND, FAILING TO DO SO, SHALL BE NAMED BY THE PRESIDENT OR HELD IN CONTEMPT, AND SUSPENDED FROM FURTHER PARTICIPATION IN DEBATE UNTIL SAID APOLOGY IS MADE.”**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton said at the last meeting, Mr. Chris Taylor was speaking about 18 wheeler trucks. He explained that Council Member Pereira had called out that Mr. Taylor was an ex-felon on her right and Council Member Newton was seated on her left. He said that this has to stop. Council Member Pereira had quoted Rule XXVI earlier in the meeting regarding the 139th District. He asked why he had to listen to this and was sick and tired of all of it. He said he knew she would refuse to apologize. He said there were many ex-felons. He asked the vote to be taken by roll call and repeated it was time to stop the nonsense.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked for clarification on Rule XXVI, which the Mayor reviewed with her. Council Member McBride-Lee then apologized for a past offense.

Council Member Herron said that it was disgusting behavior and apologized to the community. Everyone makes mistakes. She was glad that this meeting was not being televised because it was

a disgrace. No one will want to run for City Council. She said to all those who had made mistakes that she was proud to have them in the Council. They are successful now.

Council Member Pereira asked about the section of the rule that required her to lose legislative power. She asked the Acting City Attorney if that was the intent and noted that she had received the most votes in her District. Council Member Pereira quoted the first line of Rule XXVI, “In speaking, City Council members shall refrain from mentioning any other member by name” and claimed that the other Council Members had repeatedly used her name during earlier in this meeting, yet nothing was done. She said she would see everyone in court.

Council Member Cruz thanked all the various Council Members and constituents that had spoken up in defense of the ex-felons. There were many who had made mistakes. He stated that he was an ex-con and had been imprisoned twice. Council Member Cruz then named a number of individuals who were ex-cons. He added that they had turned their lives around and he was proud. They should not be calling one another names. That does not make sense to him. He said he had a lot of respect for Council Member Newton.

Council Member Cruz said that the Supreme Court recently had taken away the rights of so many people in America. He said that it was time to stop this and deal with the responsibility to welcome back the returning residents.

Council Member Hodges said the City had a Mayor that believes in second chances and that there were people who felt that others deserved a second chance, too. The Council Members were elected by the people. The ex-felons are 70 million strong and will be holding people accountable for what is said about them. Ex-felons are people who pay taxes and can change the laws. Get ready to start listening to these returning individuals in Bridgeport and the country. There are 95% of the population know someone who has changed their lives.

Council President Nieves said for the record that when the Council Members are in the middle of a debate, Council Members should not be referring to others’ characters. Those Council Members who address the Council during Public Speaking are doing so as residents. Once they are sitting behind the rail with the other Council Members, they are Council Members. Often Council Members will refer to others by name with no disrespect, but comments need to remain germane to the issue.

Council Member Pereira said that the rule states “In speaking, City Council members shall refrain from mentioning any other member by name” You can’t do it in Hartford or Congress. Regardless of what Acting City Attorney Anastasi said, the rule says something different. This has been broken over and over and over again. It is disrespectful. Council Member Pereira said that she was the one who knows when she is being disrespected. It is a violation of the rules. Now they are censuring her about a problem they chose not to correct.

Mayor Ganim clarified that this was not about referring to Council Members by their name. This is about the language that is unbecoming or abusive. This is why this matter is moving forward.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, SIMMONS AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Telesco Secretarial Services