

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 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 6:31 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, Samia Suliman
139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. Names shown in italics did not respond when the roll was called.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604.

NAME

SUBJECT

John Marshall Lee

COB – Finances & Governance.

30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

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

Tonight, may seem relatively calm in contrast to coming days. Tomorrow is Election Day for all registered US citizens to cast an informed vote. That vote in times of “fake news” and “Big Lies” is a vote that must support democratic process as well as solid and effective performance by candidates in making laws that protect and serve the people or administering services for public benefit. It may seem to be about

power, only, but it is our current adult version of spending happy days in a playground sandbox developing new friends along the way.

Locally we expect a mayoral decision to appoint a leader with a five-year contract to the Police Department. That chief will have very important things to deal with to gain respect from department members and the public. A long-term labor contract faces leadership, but that is not new to City labor relations and perhaps it can wait for a review of employee structure and duties that may recommend a different number of employees, trained, and assigned in different ways, fairer compensation of individuals, and healthy employment growth, to deal with community members fairly and equally while providing public safety.

Why ignore testing to grow in rank and greater responsibility? In order to gain a right to overtime “work” and compensation? If the “external overtime” opportunity consists of minimum four hours, often looking at a hole in the road while others physically work for private contractors, which duty requires no college or POST training sessions or weaponry carried, but is paid at a higher rate than any other work you do in a week? Is this efficient or effective long term? And private contractors were not taxed when Police Pension Plan B was moved to MERS and overtime earnings became eligible for pension benefits, so the taxpayer is responsible for pension funding without public explanation why this is best.

Several Mayors have left their Charter power to appoint Board and Commission members to languish with numerous vacancies through the years and even the death in plain sight of Fair Rent and Fair Housing groups in Bridgeport for more than ten years. Thankfully you have filled a genuine vacuum with recent Ordinances, but the citizens are not yet in place, educated to their mission, understanding their service to a wanting public, and supported as necessary.

May you continue your work on this subject. Why not “kick start” a process tonight with a motion to include a public invitation by each of you personally for those who would serve on a Board or Commission to take three minutes and address the public and the Council in a session during the next year with their desire to be active in service and why they should be considered. Then you can submit names to the Mayor, directly for action, and recognize them when you are asked to vote on a later nomination to a board or commission. Another form of accountability and transparency encouraging honest public service. Time will tell.

Dasha T. Spell

Education & Community.

284 Beechwood Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Ms. Spell came forward and greeted the Council Members. She said she had received an email about what might be happening this evening. As a mother, and sister, they should not be having this conversation. She said that the violence against young black males continues. She spoke about one of her relatives who was murdered in Father Panik Village thirty years ago. The family is still dealing with the effects of that tragedy. She said that the Council was supposed to be making this City safer and making the laws. Last year, there were 8 Districts that were challenged. The City is losing their young people and the Council needs to hold people accountable.

Maria Pereira
206 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Appointment of Charter Revision Commission

Council Member Pereira said that she would like to yield her spot so that someone else could speak.

Charles Nixon
340 Oakwood Street
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Nixon, the father of Charles Nyair Nixon, came forward to address the Council. He read the following statement into the record:

<p>Eneida Martinez should not get another opportunity to represent the people of Bridgeport CT in any official way especially as a Councilwoman. She showed a lack of respect for human life and did not take Responsibility in her involvement with operating a illegal strip club Known as Keystone located on Barnum Avenue. She operated with counterfeit permits that allowed her to open the keystone as a social club when it violated all of the Covid measures put in place. Instead it was really a strip club where she sold liquor to every one including minors. That night, my son Charles Nyair Nixon was shot in the club. She tried to make it look like the shooting took place out side the</p>	<p>shooting took place out side the club. She instructed her security to push my son out in to the street where he was struck by two vehicles that kept going. This caused my son to suffer greater injuries. She attempted to make it look like everything happened outside of Keystone when in fact it began inside. She was seen wiping up my son's blood to make it seem as if he was shot inside Keystone. People elected or appointed to serve on city council represent us the people. Do not let Eneida Martinez who does not follow rules and regulations and has no regard for human life serve on city council or in any capacity in the city of Bridgeport. She does not represent Bridgeport at all.</p>
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In conclusion, Mr. Nixon said that in the last 26 months, nothing had happened and the Council Members appeared to be playing a game.

Eneida Martinez
819 Connecticut Avenue, #2
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Ms. Martinez came forward and greeted the Council Members. She said that she was present to thank those who believe in her as well as those that did not. She spoke about the journey she was on and mentioned that social media and news reports focused on an incident that

none of them was there to witness. This is a case of political attack. The energy and effort that is present in the Council Chambers should not be focused on her, but on the killer, the motor vehicle drivers and the witnesses that contacted the family. She said that she had cooperated with the Police Department to the fullest.

Ms. Martinez said that she would not accept any belligerent behavior from the City Councilwoman who has done nothing for Bridgeport but is manipulating this action and drafted a flyer that spread through social media. The only thing this Councilwoman does is writes complaints to the FBI, FEC and social media.

Ms. Martinez thanked those who believe and support her. She also displayed a packet of legal documents that were applicable to Keystone and show it was open legitimately and according to the standards that State and the City required.

Niki Tate

325 Lafayette Street
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Tate came forward and thanked the Council for the chance to speak. She said that she had been a nursing student with an 11 month old child. That child is now three years old and she is now a LPN, but since Nyair was killed, she hasn't been able to work because of Ms. Martinez. This is what makes her angry and the situation so horrible. She said that her son, Nyair, is gone. Ms. Martinez knew her son since he was 12 years old. The Council Members know who Ms. Martinez is from the newspaper clippings and other reports. They know what they are dealing with here. This is totally unacceptable and Ms. Tate cannot allow this to go forward. It is disrespectful to Ms. Tate as a mother to have to come to the Council chambers and go through this. Although Ms. Martinez wasn't the shooter, she did have responsibility for what happened afterwards.

Council President Nieves then called for the next speaker, Jackie Scott. Ms. Scott was not present in the chambers.

Delores Ryan

121 Wake Street
Bridgeport, CT

Mrs. Ryan came forward and said that she was Nyair's great grandmother. She said it was a sad occasion that they are putting this woman on the Council.

Wayne Tate

574 Mayberry Circle
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Tate came forward and said that he wanted to apologize for his daughter's agitation. He asked how they could have a bar with patrons with guns. This was nonsense. Ms. Martinez was selling liquor to minors. As a former Bridgeport policeman, he said that he knows how crime happens. Who can one trust?

Ms. Niki Tate, Nyair's mother, returned to the podium and said that she saw Mayor Ganim was at the Council meeting and Ms. Tate was still waiting to hear from him.

Council President Nieves then called for the next speaker, Rayford Scott. Mr. Scott was not present in the chambers.

Jonell Carr

Logan Street
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Carr came forward and said that she was currently a Bridgeport resident and had been a resident for 46 years. She said that she worked with a number of people on the Council. She said the City needs a change and people have gotten to the point where they don't take Council Members seriously. It takes a village to raise a child but the village made some bad decisions. Because her cousin went to a birthday party, he lost his life. Life should be cherished. There needs to be unfamiliar, new faces in the City. The City is being neglected. She has grandchildren and she wants them to see the good things in the City and not have to remember where people were killed.

Mabel Daniels

875 East Main Street
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Daniels came forward and said that they should pause and think about the fact that there were people losing their lives, many of the children. People are losing their lives due to the neglect of a former Council Member. She said that she was as present when Nyair was shot and Ms. Martinez told the people there to get Nyair out of the bar and cleaned up the blood on the floor. There is blood on her hands. There's too much hurt to just move on.

Victoria Majewski

378 Willow Street
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Majewski said that she was present in support of Nyair's family and felt that Ms. Martinez should not be appointed to the Council. She said that Ms. Martinez was involved in the death of Nyair Nixon. She said that she had run for Council with Ms. Simmons against Ms. Martinez because of this. The NAACP is supporting her and if they do not nominate her, they need to consider someone else. She submitted copies of the letter from the NAACP endorsing her, and her resume for the Council Members.

[The letter from the NAACP is included on the next page.]



Greater Bridgeport NAACP

18h •

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5, 2022



MEDIA CONTACT: **Jai**
(203) 29

Bridgeport NAACP Say's NO to Bringing Back Martinez!

The Greater Bridgeport National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (GBNAACP) is gravely concerned about circumstances and community disruption created by declarations made by a former East End city council person and speculative announcements on returning the City of Bridgeport's legislative body.

Eneida Martinez was defeated in the Democratic primary, and the elected councilwoman, Wanda Simmons, a bona fide community champion, recently resigned from the role due to health reasons.

The GBNAACP and the Connecticut Working Families Party support Simmons' primary running mate Victoria Majewski as a more appropriate and deserving designee for the vacancy in the city's leadership. Martinez, now with the support of East End District Leader Ralph Ford and the 139th District's councilman Ernie Newton, could regain this council seat by a simple council vote if wiser heads and actions do not prevail.

The GBNAACP notes the serious allegations surrounding Martinez's business affiliations as proof that there is little to be accomplished with her return to a position of power and influence with the City of Bridgeport's legislative body. Her arrest, ownership of an illegal nightclub establishment, and a related fatal shooting, along with a widely questionable council write-in campaign, have clouded her ability to lead and represent us. A citizen of good standing and the highest possible standard is needed to represent this city.

Lord said the city should consider all alternatives before taking official action to reinstate Martinez. The GBNAACP asserts strongly that the City of Bridgeport deserves the best representation possible, not a questionable candidate, with many unanswered concerns surrounding her judgment and priorities.

JUSTICE FOR NYAIR CHARLES NIXON JR

CITY COUNCIL UNITED FOR JUSTICE FOR NYAIR CHARLES NIXON JR

Midnight on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, marked the 2nd anniversary of the unsolved murder of **Nyair Charles Nixon, Jr.** and the alleged cover-up by elected city officials and hired city personnel. We have in no way forgotten him and the cries of his family and friends, nor have we forgotten the illegal activities that went on at the Keystone Club during COVID-19 pandemic closures actively managed by former elected 139th District City Council member, Eneida Martinez.

Following the illegal activities at the Keystone Club which lead to the death of Nyair Charles Nixon, Jr; the 139th district electorate spoke at the polls -- they voted for change by voting in Wanda Simmons who won the primary as an endorsed Working Family Party candidate, clearly defeating the incumbent and Democratic Party endorsed Eneida Martinez.

Unfortunately, health factors that plague too many residents within and beyond the boundaries of the 139th District have prompted the resignation of Wanda Simmons, paving a direct route for her Working Family endorsed running mate --**Victoria Majewski** to carry the torch on behalf of the 139th District.

With her focus on public health, health equity and community mental health care, Victoria Majewski, pre- and post- election season 2021, has continued to serve the needs of the 139th district residents, too many of whom struggle with food, housing, and transportation insecurity along with many other challenges, including the need for cognitive and behavioral support to help rid themselves of addiction.

Since the 2021 primary election, Victoria initiated a herbal medicine mutual aid group, Herban Bridge Allies, a health justice initiative in the East End that is focused on building community through herbalism, teaching people to connect with the land and build body agency by making their own medicine. Victoria is the Garden Captain at the Green Village Initiative Community Garden at Johnson Oak Park on Hewitt Street next to Jettie S. Tisdale Elementary School. This past Spring, East End residents were able to grow medicinal plants/herbs and fresh vegetables. The people of the East End deserve a council person who is committed, honorable and has integrity to fulfill the work that Wanda Simmons started.

Victoria Majewski has locked arms with the family and friends of Nyair Charles Nixon, Jr. who demand justice and accountability for the murder of their son/relative/friend just over 2 years ago at the illegal club -- Keystone Club in Bridgeport, CT actively managed by defeated City Council member Eneida Martinez who was reportedly overseeing the illegal sale of alcohol in direct opposition to the CT COVID-19 mandates and restrictions.

We echo the outcry of the voters of the 139th District, family, and friends of the murdered Nyair Charles Nixon, Jr. by repeatedly yelling out -- NO WAY!!!

There is no way any reputable, justice-minded, God-fearing group of elected city officials would move and carry any motion to restore Eneida Martinez who is currently being sued by the family of Nyair Charles Nixon, Jr. to fill the vacancy created by the unfortunate resignation of Wanda Simmons.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the Public Speaking Session at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 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 8:08 p.m.

PRAYER

Council Member McBride-Lee led those present in prayer.

Council Member Newton requested a moment of silence for Ms. Sims whose mother passed away recently.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

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, Samia Suliman
139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. Names in italics did not respond when called.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

• September 19, 2022

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2022.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, PEREIRA, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (BURNS AND ROMAN-CHRISTY).**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

137-21 Communication from Health & Social Services re: Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 5.16 – Barber Shops and Beauty Salons, referred to Ordinance Committee.

138-21 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Gaetana A. Lavoie, et al – Docket No. FBT-CV-19-6091558-S, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

139-21 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Nessah J. Smith (D) to the Board of Police Commission, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

140-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Department of Justice – BJA FY22 Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center Integration Initiative (#23338), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

141-21 Communication from Board of Education re: Proposed Resolution for School Construction Project Application for State Grants and Initiation of Design for Curiale Elementary School Roof Replacement, referred to Education and Social Services Committee.

142-21 Communication from Board of Education re: Proposed Resolution for School Construction Project Application for State Grants and Initiation of Design for Nutrition Center Roof Replacement, referred to Education and Social Services Committee.

143-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Connecticut Department of Transportation – FY23 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Enforcement (#23317), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

144-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development – Youth Service Corps Grant Program (#23673), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEES:**

137-21 COMMUNICATION FROM HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 5.16 – BARBER SHOPS AND BEAUTY SALONS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

138-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF GAETANA A. LAVOIE, ET AL – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-19-6091558-S, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

139-21 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF NESSAH J. SMITH (D) TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

140-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – BJA FY22 LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE CENTER INTEGRATION INITIATIVE (#23338), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

141-21 COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPLICATION FOR STATE GRANTS AND INITIATION OF DESIGN FOR CURIALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT, REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

142-21 COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPLICATION FOR STATE GRANTS AND INITIATION OF DESIGN FOR NUTRITION CENTER ROOF REPLACEMENT, REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

143-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – FY23 DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI) ENFORCEMENT (#23317), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

144-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – YOUTH SERVICE CORPS GRANT PROGRAM (#23673), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

145-21 Resolution presented by Council Member(s): Mack, Nieves, Vizzo-Paniccia & Burns and Co-Sponsors: McCarthy, Boyd, Herron, Valle & Newton re: Appointment

of the 2022-2023 Members of the Charter Revision Commission, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 145-21 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S): MACK, NIEVES, VIZZO-PANICCIA & BURNS AND CO-SPONSORS: MCCARTHY, BOYD, HERRON, VALLE & NEWTON RE: APPOINTMENT OF THE 2022-2023 MEMBERS OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***131-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: United States Conference of Mayors – Childhood Obesity Prevention/Environmental Health and Sustainability Awards (#23305).**

Mayor Ganim asked if any member of the Council would like to remove the item from the Consent Calendar. Hearing none, City Clerk Martinez read the following item into the record.

***131-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: United States Conference of Mayors – Childhood Obesity Prevention/Environmental Health and Sustainability Awards (#23305).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED AGENDA ITEM 131-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS – CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVENTION/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS (#23305).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services