

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 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 6:49 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. It was stated that Council Members Brown and Roman-Christy had excused absences.

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

NAME

SUBJECT

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

COB – Finances & Governance.

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

Good evening, City Council members. Thank you for formally listening to those of us who attend the two monthly gatherings ten months of the year. Genuine public problems, issues, and

concerns are brought here in hope that understanding and care on your part can lead to better results for all citizens.

Tonight, I wish to inform you that a Bridgeport neighbor, a man of faith, and one who has listened for years intently to many in the City has passed away. Reverend D. Stanley Lord, a member of Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, President of the regional Greater Bridgeport NAACP, and resident of the West End, was called home by his Maker after a struggle with cancer. I had the opportunity to work with Stanley, in a volunteer position as Communications Committee Chair for several years. We met regional leaders in police, public education, fire safety and other fields on a formal as well as “presence required” basis. He sought opportunities for creating youth opportunities that will become his legacy as time goes on. He sought equality, respect, and civil rights for all.

He met with responsible members of the media. At times you may not have agreed with him perhaps, but hopefully you listened to his fact gathering and reasoning initially, so that a respectful conversation was possible, and you departed with genuine learning. He increased the numbers of NAACP members and protected their identity because there are still white supremacists who wish to prey on other Americans trying to live their lives equally. His most recent major project was to acknowledge the unsung ‘sheroes’ and heroes who live with us as neighbors, quietly practicing their responsibilities caring for others, but who remain unrecognized for the most part. A gathering to honor the 50 folks thus recognized has been postponed until a date in February 2023.

His life of faith and duty to all ended Saturday suddenly, a cause for sorrow and disbelief. But the disease, which had been his enemy, gave him time to put many things in order as a community legacy. I call this to your attention as the year 2022 has fewer than four weeks remaining, a time for many to sit down, reflect upon their personal plans, and resolve full purpose in 2023.

At a time when the former President is facing multiple legal consequences for his actions and many careless and misleading statements, including his Anti-Constitution statements this week, consider how Reverend Lord’s behavior and accomplishments in our regional community should be recognized, celebrated, and serve as role models for all of us who wish the arc of history to continue an upswing. Your own personal role as Council persons is up for renewal in less than one year from now. Take time to reflect, consider and resolve on our opportunities for change for all. Time will tell.

Jorge Cruz, Sr.
251 Black Rock Avenue, Apt. 2-R
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Receiving physical threats by Tony Barr.

Council Member Cruz came forward and addressed the Council regarding recent statements made by Mr. Barr.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the Public Speaking Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
December 5, 2022

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 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.

PRAYER

Council Member McBride-Lee led those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Gaudett led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
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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. It was stated that Council Members Brown and Roman-Christy had excused absences.

ADOPTION OF CITY COUNCIL RULES

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION REGARDING A FULL COUNCIL VOTE TO APPROVE THE RESTORATION OF COUNCIL MEMBER MARIA PEREIRA TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ADD THE ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION TO RESTORE COUNCIL MEMBER MARIA PEREIRA TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION TO RESTORE COUNCIL MEMBER MARIA PEREIRA TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO RESTORE COUNCIL MEMBER MARIA PEREIRA TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Members Castillo and Newton addressed the issue. Discussion followed.

**** THE MOTION TO RESTORE COUNCIL MEMBER MARIA PEREIRA TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Appointment of:

- **City Council Standing Committees**
- **City Council Officers (e.g., President Pro Tempore, Majority Leader, Deputy Majority Leaders (3) and Sergeant at Arms)**
- **City Council Liaisons to various City agencies, boards, and commissions**
- **City Council Representatives on the School Building Committee**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES:**

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS: (CO-CHAIRS ARE UNDERLINED)

**BURNS, NEWTON, MCBRIDE-LEE, HERRON MCCARTHY, MACK,
VIZZO-PANICCIA.**

COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCE:

**BROWN, ROMAN-CHRISTY, NEWTON, LYONS, BOYD, VALLE,
CRUZ.**

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION:

**VALLE, LYONS, CRUZ, BOYD, CASTILLO, SULIMAN, VIZZO-
PANICCIA.**

**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENT:**

**VALLE, BURNS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, LYONS, MACK, MCBRIDE-LEE,
SMITH**

COMMITTEE ON MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

**VIZZO-PANICCIA, MACK, SMITH, CASTILLO, BOYD, MCCARTHY,
SULIMAN**

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS:

**MCCARTHY, HERRON, CRUZ, ROMAN-CHRISTY, PEREIRA,
HODGES, NEWTON**

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

CRUZ, BOYD, SULIMAN, CASTILLO, HODGES, PEREIRA, LYONS.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANTS (CDBG):**

**HERRON, MACK, MCBRIDE-LEE, VALLE, SMITH SULIMAN,
CASTILLO**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED THE APPOINTMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OFFICERS (E.G. PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE, MAJORITY LEADER, DEPUTY MAJORITY
LEADERS (3) AND SERGEANT AT ARMS) AS FOLLOWS:**

**CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT: AIDEE NIEVES
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE: ERNEST NEWTON**

**MAJORITY LEADER: JEANETTE HERRON
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER: AMYMARIE VIZZO-PANICCIA
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER: ROSALINA ROMAN-CHRISTY
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER: MICHELLE LYONS
SGT. AT ARMS: JORGE CRUZ**

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

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED THE APPOINTMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL
LIAISONS TO VARIOUS CITY AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS AS FOLLOWS:**

**LIAISON TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: SCOTT BURNS.
LIAISON TO THE FIRE COMMISSION: JEANETTE HERRON
LIAISON TO THE FOOD POLICY COUNCIL: MARIA VALLE
LIAISON TO THE HARBOR COMMISSION: MATTHEW MCCARTHY
LIAISON TO THE HISTORIC COMMISSION: MARCUS BROWN
LIAISON TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY: JORGE CRUZ, TYLER MACK
LIAISON TO THE LIBRARY: ROSALINA ROMAN-CHRISTY
LIAISON TO THE PARKS COMMISSION: AMYMARIE VIZZO-PANICCIA &
MATTHEW MCCARTHY
LIAISON TO THE POLICE COMMISSION: MARIA VALLE & MARY
MCBRIDE-LEE
LIAISON TO THE PORT AUTHORITY: AIKEEM BOYD
LIAISON TO THE WPCA: ERNEST NEWTON
LIAISON TO THE ZOO: AMYMARIE VIZZO-PANICCIA**

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

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED THE APPOINTMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL
SCHOOL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:**

MARCUS BROWN, ERNEST NEWTON, MATTHEW MCCARTHY

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

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

• October 13, 2022 (Special Meeting)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2022 SPECIAL MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, PEREIRA, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (HERRON).**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

01-22 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments – BLD Waterfront Upland Owner LLC, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

02-22 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Brittany Lawrence – Docket No. FBT-CV-21-6102576-S, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

04-22 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: US Department of Transportation – Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program (#23469), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

05-22 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: CT Department of Economic and Community Development – Community Investment Fund 2030 Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

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

03-22 Resolution presented by Council President Nieves re: Proposed Honorary Designation of Waterview Avenue as “Hattie Mae Stevenson Way”, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO COMBINE BOTH THE COMMUNICATION TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES AND THE RESOLUTION TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC. FOR APPROVAL.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMUNICATION TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES AND THE RESOLUTION TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***122-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health – Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant Year 4 (#23605), WITHDRAWAL.**

***134-21 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health FY23 Per Capita Funding Allocation (#23220).**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove this item from the Consent Calendar. No one indicated that they would like to do so. The City Clerk then read the agenda item into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***122-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH – PREVENTATIVE HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT YEAR 4 (#23605), WITHDRAWAL.**

***134-21 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FY23 PER CAPITA FUNDING ALLOCATION (#23220).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

138-21 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Gaetana A. Lavoie, et al – Docket No. FBT-CV-19-6091558-S.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 138-21 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF GAETANA A. LAVOIE, ET AL – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-19-6091558-S.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE AND NEWTON) AND THREE OPPOSED (3) OPPOSED (MCBRIDE-LEE, PEREIRA AND SULIMAN).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Service