

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 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 6:33 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Marcus Brown, Rolanda Smith  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Aikeem Boyd, *Jeanette Herron*  
134<sup>th</sup> District: *Michelle Lyons*, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Frederick Hodges, Alfredo Castillo  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman  
139<sup>th</sup> 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, DECEMBER 19, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604.**

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

**Jacquelyn Cauthen**  
397 Charles Street  
Sage Garden D.I.V.A.S  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Introduction of Reading through Poetry  
Program at Kindred Thoughts Bookstore.

Ms. Cauthen requested that the following document be included in the minutes.

JOIN US

*KINDRED THOUGHTS  
BOOK STORE*

*1001 Main St. [The Arcade*

*\*\* EVERY MONTH on 2nd SATURDAY \*\**

*Come Meet*

*JACQUELYN CAUTHEN*

*POET & AUTHOR of*

*NANA JACKIE Presents Sage Garden Poetry*

*SATURDAY JANUARY 14th, 2023*

*\*\*\* 11 am to 12 pm \*\*\* School Ages 5 - 13 \*\*\**

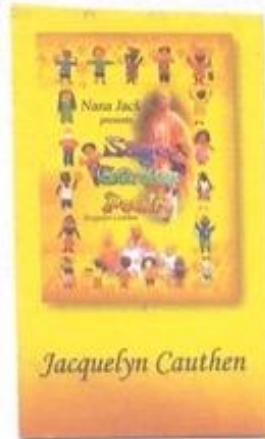
**Register for this event @ <https://forms.gle/LELQkeeyFmUd3YBHA>**

For more information call:

Derrick/Bookstore: 475 282 9050

Nana Jackie : 203 545 9315

**SAVE THE DATE**



*Council Members McBride-Lee and Suliman joined the meeting at 6:33 p.m.*

Ms. Cauthen came forward and greeted the Council Members. She asked the Council Members to support her program at the Kindred Thought Bookstore.

Ms. Cauthen asked whether everyone was okay and reminded everyone about the students who were out of school for two years. She said that there was a movement to take the books about people of color out of the schools. She encourage those who might know of book clubs to help and support the programs. There are about four black publishers out of about 5,000 in the nation and only few authors who write for children of color. She said that families should have poetry writing nights and also look and listen to the sunrises.

**John Marshall Lee**  
30 Beacon Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Governance & Finance.

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

Greetings to each Council Person at this holiday time for most folks in our City. Distinct cultures have been carried to BRIDGEPORT, CT, USA by immigrants on ships and planes for the most part, but a few may have come on foot as well. Facing overwhelming difficulties and opposition suffered in their former homeland they held dreams, aspirations and expectations that carried them through early adversity here and allowed them to build according to their plans, and the opportunities afforded them.

Is there anyone on the City Council tonight who claims a different origin story of their family? Does a proud narration form a base for sharing details around the table with food and drink as you celebrate a holiday with family and friends?

Enjoy the gatherings and greetings certainly. But listen well for the needs and wants that are within your power to address here in the City of Bridgeport. Food, sheltering and housing, education of young people so that they can successfully compete for higher education and employment in our future, safety for all citizens, including residents and visitors, formal and informal recreational and cultural activity for all ages with equal opportunities for all to participate in self-governance successfully on Boards, Commissions, or with not-for-profit organizations are all worthy of some oversight in your travels.

Oversight on your watch or overheard by your good listening can provide you strength and appreciation for accountability information. Data, that is publicly recorded, over time, but not necessarily shared currently to show where we are today and where we fall short or can do better, is critical. A factual essay question in school often starts with the words: "Compare and contrast..." Complete that sentence with the "wants and needs" you learn from your constituents and figure out how to improve our work in the City for taxpayers, for residents of all ages, and for those neighbors who can be attracted to visit us, enjoy themselves here, and spend their money, also.

A review of our governing document, the City Charter, is overdue in my opinion. I am happy to see you advancing the appointment of a study group to see whether there are one or more issues that might be put before the voters next fall as a question. I have an interest in getting more residents active in self-governance and am in favor of a different pattern of appointments, terms, training, and reporting than exists today, as an

example. I favor budgeting some funds from the annual budget for independent advice to the Council on governance issues, City finances, and long-term economic development, perhaps so that productive conversations between legislative and executive City branches may happen for the benefit of all residents. Time is getting short for a productive timetable. What reasons should lead to delay? Perhaps political power and maintaining control? Time will tell.

**Denise Ellis**  
253 Carroll Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Abandoned cars and illegal auto shop.

Ms. Ellis came forward and greeted the Council. She said that her mother has been living at her address for 43 years. She said that there was a person operating an illegal auto repair shop across the street from her house. The owner has left a motor on a hoist on the sidewalk for months. Abandoned cars are parked on the street.

Ms. Ellis said that she had contacted Channel 12 news and a story was covered but nothing was done. This is dangerous. She has spoken to the Police and Fire, Housing, the Health Department and Zoning with no results. There are customers who walk up and down the street screaming. She said she had photos of these issues.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council President Nieves closed the Public Speaking Session at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 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 7:00 p.m.

**PRAYER**

State Senator Marilyn Moore came forward and led those present in prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Castillo led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Marcus Brown, Rolanda Smith  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Aikeem Boyd, *Jeanette Herron*  
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138<sup>th</sup> District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Ernest Newton

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

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**• OCTOBER 17, 2022**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2022 MEETING.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2022 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, CASTILLO, NIEVE, VALLE, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (PEREIRA).**

**• November 7, 2022**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2022 MEETING.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2022 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, CASTILLO, NIEVE, VALLE, PEREIRA, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (BROWN).**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**06-22 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Raymond Collette (D) to the Water Pollution Control Authority, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**07-22 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development – Mount Growmore Hydroponic Farming Greenhouse and Wellness Campus (#23874), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**

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

**06-22 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF RAYMOND COLLETTE (D) TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**07-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – MOUNT GROWMORE HYDROPONIC FARMING GREENHOUSE AND WELLNESS CAMPUS (#23874), REFERRED**

**TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

**\*146-21 Ordinance Committee Report re: Resolution to Establish a Charter Revision Commission.**

**\*139-21 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Appointment of Nessah J. Smith (D) to the Board of Police Commission.**

**\*140-21 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Department of Justice – BJA FY22 Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center Integration Initiative (#23338).**

**\*143-21 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Connecticut Department of Transportation – FY23 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Enforcement (#23317).**

**\*128-21 Contracts Committee Report re: Master Terms Agreement with Getac, Inc. for Body and Dashboard Camera Services and Equipment from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove this item from the Consent Calendar.

Council Member Brown requested that Agenda Item 146-21 be removed. Council Member Pereira requested that Agenda Item 139-21 be removed. Council Member Newton requested that Agenda Item 128-21 be removed.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

**\*140-21 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – BJA FY22 LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE CENTER INTEGRATION INITIATIVE (#23338).**

**\*143-21 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – FY23 DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI) ENFORCEMENT (#23317).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**146-21 Ordinance Committee Report re: Resolution to Establish a Charter Revision Commission.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED THE ITEM.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira stated that Agenda Item 146-21 required a roll call vote.

Council President Nieves said that she would like to review the timeline of the process. She added that she had met with the City Attorneys about this. She said that this item had been voted out of Committee unanimously.

Council President Nieves noted that it was the duty of the legislative body to amend the Charter. She explained that they had requested a Charter Revision Committee in May but the Committee only had two months to assemble the changes. Since 2012, there has not been any attempt to reconvene a Charter Revision Committee. The first goal that the Council had been working towards was the restoration of the Fair Housing Commission, which has been done. The updating of the Charter was the second goal.

Council Member Mack said that no one has said that Charter Revision was not needed. The last time the Charter was revised was in the 1990's. It is time to revise the Charter. He said that New Haven had just presented 10 items for their Charter Revision. Politics should be taken out of the equation.

Council Member Newton said that he would be supporting this and would be speaking from experience. He said that he was Council President when the last revision was made. That was when the Council had power but over the years, that power has been eroded. It is time to bring the power back to the Council. He asked the Council Members if they wanted to be a legislative body or just act like it. It is the Council's job to leave the City in better shape than when they found it.

Council Member Cruz said the time has come for the Council to rise up and do what the people have been requesting. It is time for the Council to start making the decisions, but the Council does not have independent decision making power. He said that he was concerned that the minority population was not being represented. It is time to cut the umbilical cord for once and all. He said that the recent Commission was appointed on October 3, but no Commissioners have been appointed.

Council Member Pereira said that this item would require 2/3rd vote of the entire body. Because there is a vacancy, it will only require 13 votes to pass. She said that she would like clarification on this because it is State law. Mayor Ganim said it would be a 2/3rd vote and cited the appropriate statute.



Council Member Boyd said that he does not speak often at the Council meetings. The Charter is similar to the Constitution. He urged his colleagues to support the item.

**\*\* THE MOTION REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 146-21 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION FAILED TO PASS WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, HODGES, CASTILLO, NIEVE, VALLE, PEREIRA AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (BROWN, MCBRIDE-LEE AND SULIMAN).**

**139-21 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Appointment of Nessah J. Smith (D) to the Board of Police Commission.**

Council Member Pereira thanked Ms. Smith and said that they need to have Police Departments held accountable. She said that Ms. Smith had been on the Council and voted for items 99% of the time.

A voice vote was taken with a number of Council Members voting against the appointment. There was a request for a roll call vote.

Council Member Brown said that the Committee members had unanimously voted to appoint the candidate but now were voting against Ms. Smith and this was retribution for the Charter vote.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she was voting how she wanted to. She said that she had heard that this was about the City politics but she would vote how she wished to.

Council Member Newton said that they had never questioned the integrity of anyone before. He said that they should not be questioning the integrity of those who were voting no.

Council President Nieves said that Council Member Brown felt that this was retribution, but the Committee is voting how they wish to.

**\*\* THE MOTION REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 139-21 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF NESSAH J. SMITH (D) TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION FAILED TO PASS WITH SEVEN (7) IN FAVOR (BROWN, BOYD, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO AND SULIMAN); NINE (9) OPPOSED (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, NIEVE, VALLE, PEREIRA AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (HODGES).**

**128-21 Contracts Committee Report re: Master Terms Agreement with Getac, Inc. for Body and Dashboard Camera Services and Equipment from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE ITEM.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she was at the Contracts meeting and did not get a copy of the contract. She reached out to Police Chief Porter to discuss it and Police Chief Porter was supporting it.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 128-21 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: MASTER TERMS AGREEMENT WITH GETAC, INC. FOR BODY AND DASHBOARD CAMERA SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT FROM JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2028 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services