

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM  
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023  
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 6:30 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: 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. Council Member McCarthy and Council Member Valle were absent due to illness.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023 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

City Structure & Finance.

Mr. Lee came forward and greeted the Council Members. He then read the following statement into the record:

City Council Members, what do you have to tell your constituents about Bridgeport and Housing?? Who is authorized/responsible/and compensated to work with City residents or potential residents including homeless folks to answer questions, provide services, and do oversight to provide independent validation that the foundation, operations, and structure are sound and working??

1. What is a correct name for the entity? Housing Authority of the City of Bridgeport? Bridgeport Housing Authority? Park City Communities? Baldwin Holdings? Are there any other entities? What role does the Housing and Community Development Department of the COB play?
2. If there are 51,000 estimated residential units in the COB, how many of these are rental units without an owner/resident living there Ex. 3 family home? Can we simply ask Assessor for resident units and subtract?
3. Is there a map for a citizen taxpayer to consult that would indicate the most appropriate Department, Board, Commission, or person in the City to approach with a “housing problem, issue, or concern”? Why not place it on the City web site?
4. If we are re-creating a Fair Rent and Fair Housing Board or Commission anew, because several Bridgeport Mayors have allowed appointments to fail, do we need to know today what the mission, responsibilities, and duties of such groups are including the size of the population they serve?
5. “Affordable Housing” or affordable rents are mentioned almost unanimously by housing firms providing services to the public. Current attention should be directed at over \$4 Million of HOME-ARP federal funding. Why is COB Office of Planning and Economic Development missing a State deadline, and the completion of a document due in fall 2022 requiring City Council understanding and approval?
6. Where are Annual Reports for all of these organizations? Are there sites where tables of organization, identity of responsible people and contact information is located, and data on meetings is presented and archived?
7. What are housing issues that are a City priority? How do housing dollars from HUD or State of CT intersect with COB actions? What information is provided to and reviewed by the City Council as representatives of their constituents? With your oversight and attention, time will tell.

**Clyde Nicholson**  
396 Madison Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Tax.

Mr. Nicholson came forward and greeted the Council Members. He said that he was present to complain about a problem at the Transfer Station on Thursday of last week. He is remodeling at his house and when he went to the Transfer Station, they gave him a hard time about bringing a door and some 2x4s and a pallet. The employee swore at him, so Mr. Nicholson called the police. The police made him go out of town to get rid of his debris.

*Mr. Cecil Young came forward and began to speak out of turn. Council President Nieves told him he was not on the list to address the Council. Mr. Young ignored her and continued to speak.*

City of Bridgeport  
City Council  
Regular Meeting  
March 6, 2023

**Denese Taylor-Moye**  
131st District Leader  
273 West Avenue #211  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

131st District Town Committee (DTC) –  
Leadership.

Ms. Denese Taylor-Moye came forward and greeted the Council Members. She said that she was present to update the Council about the 131st District. She said that she had the Town District and that they were working to make sure her constituents were registered to vote and would welcome any one from the City who wished to hold events or address the Town Committee in her District.

The District has been the lowest number of voters and they are working on this. Being Democratic Town Committee members is important.

**Council Member Maria Pereira**  
206 Bradley Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Council Member Pereira said that when the Executive Summary for Agenda Item 32-22 was issued, it stated that she was required by the City Attorney not to attend. Council Member Pereira said that Attorney Anastasi has no authority to do this and proceeded to list her reasons.

She noted that the City had been filing requests for extensions and wondered why the City would do this if they were so confident that they would win the case.

**Eneida Martinez**  
1819 Connecticut Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Martinez said that she was a former Council Member and just received the agenda for the Council Meeting on Thursday. She said that it was sad to say that a Council Member and the City Clerk are suing the City for Redistricting. She said that years ago, the 139th District had the area before the most recent redistricting.

*Council President Nieves said that the next speaker signed up was Mr. Devon Brown. Mr. Brown was not present in the Chambers.*

**Germaine Rogers**

1188 Main Street

Bridgeport, CT

FOI Requests

Mr. Rogers said F.O.I. and that there were 2, 000 requests for FOI. He said that he had been shot on the streets of Bridgeport and still has the bullet in his chest. When he went to the Police Department, the report was not there. He said that Atty. Anastasi and the other City Attorneys were not doing their jobs. Bridgeport has been fined over and over on this issue, but the fine is only \$700 and the City doesn't pay. He asked what the Council would do about it. The ambulance service has a report, and other groups have reports, but the City does not have the report he needs.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023**

**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 7:18 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Council Member McBride-Lee was asked to lead those present in prayer. Council Member McBride-Lee asked that everyone remember her family as her niece just passed away along with Council Member McCarthy who was in the hospital. Council Member Newton requested that everyone remember Council President Nieves' aunt who recently passed away and the individuals who were involved in a fatal car accident earlier in the day.

Council Member McBride-Lee then lead those present in prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Roman-Christy 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: 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. Council Member McCarthy was absent due to medical leave.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

• **February 6, 2023**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2023 MEETING.**

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

The following corrections were noted:

**UNDER PUBLIC COMMENTS** -- page 2, Maria Pereira, please delete the following:

“She said that she had problems with people who act inappropriately and said that there was an individual who had made a number of threatening phone calls to Council Member Pereira and the other Council Members.”

Page 9, please delete the following:

“Atty. Anastasi said that the practice has been to allow each Council Member to submit two names for the Citizens' Union.”

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2023 MINUTES WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**24-22 Communication from Mayor re: Reappointment of Elliott Calderon (D) to the Commission for People with Disabilities, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**25-22 Communication from Mayor re: Reappointment of Jerome Roberts (U) to the Commission for People with Disabilities, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**26-22 Communication from Mayor re: Reappointment of Brenda Dye (D) to the Commission for People with Disabilities, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**27-22 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Lurdes Peguisto – Docket No. FBT-CV-20-6097400-S, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**28-22 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Angelina Keene – Docket No. FBT-CV-20-61021216-S, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**29-22 Communication from OPM re: Proposed Five-Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2024-2028, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.**

**30-22 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge (#23868), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**

**31-22 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FY 2022 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (#23212 & #23483), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO COMMITTEE:**

**24-22 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF ELLIOTT CALDERON (D) TO THE COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**25-22 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF JEROME ROBERTS (U) TO THE COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**26-22 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF BRENDA DYE (D) TO THE COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**27-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF LURDES PEGUISTO – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-20-6097400-S, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**28-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF ANGELINA KEENE – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-20-61021216-S, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**29-22 COMMUNICATION FROM OPM RE: PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024-2028, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**30-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES PUBLIC ART CHALLENGE (#23868), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**31-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FY 2022 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM (#23212 & #23483), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**34-22 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF TAX LIENS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

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

**ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:**

**32-22 Communication from City Attorney re: The Matter of Lydia N. Martinez and Maria H. Pereira v. City of Bridgeport, et. al. Superior Court for the Judicial District of Fairfield at Bridgeport – Docket No. FBT-CV-22-6116446-S, Executive Session Discussion of Strategy & Negotiations with respect to Pending Litigation and possible Public Session Action concerning the Pending Litigation, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**33-22 Communication from Housing & Community Development re: Proposed Resolution regarding a Substantial Amendment to the City’s Program Year 47 Annual Action Plan for Housing & Community Development, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

Mayor Ganim requested that these be considered after the Consent Calendar. This was agreeable to all.

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

**\*13-22 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.108 – Bylaws Citizens’ Union.**

**\*15-22 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3.04 – Financial Provisions Generally, amend to add NEW Section 3.04.040 – Capital Budget Reporting.**

**\*20-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Approval of Request to File Offer of Judgement in Pending Litigation in the Matter of Ronald Mercado – Case No. 3:20-cv-01783 (JAM).**

**\*22-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Andre C. Forde – Docket No. FBT-CV-22-6118716-S.**

Mayor Ganim asked if any item should be removed from the Consent Calendar. The following items were requested to be removed: 13-22; 20-22, 22-22.



**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**\*15-22 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 3.04 – FINANCIAL PROVISIONS GENERALLY, AMEND TO ADD NEW SECTION 3.04.040 – CAPITAL BUDGET REPORTING.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

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

**13-22 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.108 – Bylaws Citizens’ Union.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 13-22 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 2.108 – BYLAWS CITIZENS’ UNION.**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 13-22 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 2.108 – BYLAWS CITIZENS’ UNION AS FOLLOWS:**

**A. GENERAL. THE CITIZENS’ UNION SHALL BE COMPOSED OF TWENTY (20) MEMBERS, TWO FROM EACH CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT, TO BE APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL BY NO LATER THAN THE END OF FEBRUARY OF EACH YEAR. NO PERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED TO THE CITIZENS’ UNION WHO IS NOT AN ELECTOR AND RESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT THEY ARE APPOINTED TO REPRESENT.**

**\*\* THERE WAS A SECOND.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 13-22 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 13-22 AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**20-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Approval of Request to File Offer of Judgement in Pending Litigation in the Matter of Ronald Mercado – Case No. 3:20-cv-01783 (JAM).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED AGENDA ITEM 20-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO FILE OFFER OF JUDGEMENT IN PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF RONALD MERCADO – CASE NO. 3:20-CV-01783 (JAM).**

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

Council Member Pereira objected to the settlement. Atty. Anastasi stated for the record, it was an offer for settlement, not a settlement.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 20-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO FILE OFFER OF JUDGEMENT IN PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF RONALD MERCADO – CASE NO. 3:20-CV-01783 (JAM) PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

**22-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Andre C. Forde – Docket No. FBT-CV-22-6118716-S.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED AGENDA ITEM 22-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF ANDRE C. FORDE – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-22-6118716-S.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SULIMAN SECONDED.**

Council Member Burns spoke about the fact that there were some issues with the Civil Service language.

Council Member Pereira objected and said that the letter of the law should be followed.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 22-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF ANDRE C. FORDE – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-22-6118716-S PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:**

**14-22 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3.08 – City Contract and Purchasing Procedures, amend Section 3.08.070 – Purchasing Procedure.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED AGENDA ITEM 14-22 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 3.08 – CITY CONTRACT AND PURCHASING PROCEDURES, AMEND SECTION 3.08.070 – PURCHASING PROCEDURE.**

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

Council Member Newton spoke about some of the purchasing issues Career Resources had encountered. He noted that he had no direct involvements with the contracts.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 14-22 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 3.08 – CITY CONTRACT AND PURCHASING PROCEDURES, AMEND SECTION 3.08.070 – PURCHASING PROCEDURE PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN, AND PEREIRA) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (NEWTON).**

**ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION CONT'D:**

**32-22 Communication from City Attorney re: The Matter of Lydia N. Martinez and Maria H. Pereira v. City of Bridgeport, et. al. Superior Court for the Judicial District of Fairfield at Bridgeport – Docket No. FBT-CV-22-6116446-S, Executive Session Discussion of Strategy & Negotiations with respect to Pending Litigation and possible Public Session Action concerning the Pending Litigation, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO WAIVE REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE AND FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 32-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: THE MATTER OF LYDIA N. MARTINEZ AND MARIA H. PEREIRA V. CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, ET. AL. SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF FAIRFIELD AT BRIDGEPORT – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-22-6116446-S, EXECUTIVE SESSION DISCUSSION OF STRATEGY & NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO PENDING LITIGATION AND POSSIBLE PUBLIC SESSION ACTION CONCERNING THE PENDING LITIGATION DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE TRIAL FOR THE CASE HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 14TH.**

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

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

Council Member Nieves said that there had been a discussion regarding the original intent regarding holding an Executive Session. She then summarized the proposed resolution in the following statement:

Tonight, the plan was to go into Executive Session to address the pending litigation brought by City Clerk Martinez, and Councilwoman Pereira, regarding the Councils adoption of a plan of redistricting several months ago.

Having said that, there is no need for Executive Session. I have asked the City Attorney's Office to prepare the resolution which you see in front of you. By voting on this resolution, you are essentially agreeing to the following:

- Because of the huge delay in the census in 2020, which was due to an anticipated global pandemic, the City Council stepped up and attempted to fulfill its charter duties to act on a plan of redistricting in the year, immediately following the completion of the census.

- That process involved, a public hearing, individual meetings with an expert, who does redistricting maps across the country, and meetings in public session at the Committee, and full Council level.
- And the result was a good redistricting map. The district lines barely change from what they were. To the extent that they changed, the lines are more straight, and even than before, and brought more balance to the district population.
- Councilwoman Pereira and City Clerk Martinez since sued the City, alleging, that, instead of the council acting on the redistricting, the Redistricting Commission should have been formed and acted instead. Again, this entire procedural question exists because of an unprecedented global pandemic.
- We are not interested in fighting or litigation. We need a final and complete redistricting map for the upcoming municipal elections.

Thus, we are agreeing in this resolution to:

1. urge, Democratic Majority Leader Jeanette Herron and Republican Registrar of Voters Linda Grace to make their appointments to the six member Redistricting Commission and to conduct their own analysis on a fair plan of redistricting for the City.
2. The Council urges the Commission to act thoroughly, but with all deliberate speed, as we prepare for the upcoming municipal election.
3. Once at least four members of the commission agree on a plan of Redistricting, the Council then will immediately take up any changes to the redistricting ordinance that may be necessary based on the Commission's report.
4. In approval, we believe that this is a fair resolution of this difficult procedural question, which has been raised, and which will avoid further litigation of this matter.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION BEFORE THE COUNCIL REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 32-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: THE MATTER OF LYDIA N. MARTINEZ AND MARIA H. PEREIRA V. CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, ET. AL. SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF FAIRFIELD AT BRIDGEPORT – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-22-6116446-S, EXECUTIVE SESSION DISCUSSION OF STRATEGY & NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO PENDING LITIGATION AND POSSIBLE PUBLIC SESSION ACTION CONCERNING THE PENDING LITIGATION.**

## RESOLUTION

**Re: pending litigation in the matter of  
Lydia N. Martinez and Maria H. Pereira v. City of Bridgeport, et. al.  
Superior Court for the Judicial District of Fairfield at Bridgeport  
Docket No. FBT-CV-22-6116446-S**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council adopted a plan of districting, by ordinance, following the most recent decennial census of the United States.

**WHEREAS**, Plaintiffs City Clerk Lydia Martinez and City Council Member Maria Pereira have brought the above-referenced lawsuit against the City of Bridgeport, Bridgeport City Council Majority Leader Jeanette Herron, Bridgeport Republican Registrar of Voters Linda A. Grace, Bridgeport Democratic Registrar of Voters Patricia A. Howard, and Bridgeport Town Clerk Charles D. Clemons Jr.

**WHEREAS**, Plaintiffs Martinez and Pereira allege in their lawsuit that the City Council, through no fault of its own and due to delays occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, failed to timely adopt, pursuant to Bridgeport Charter, Chapter 5, Section 2, a plan of districting by ordinance following the most recent decennial census; and thereby acted without jurisdiction in redistricting the 10 City Council districts.

**WHEREAS**, Plaintiffs Martinez and Pereira allege in their lawsuit that the City Council, through no fault of its own and due to delays occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, failed to timely adopt, pursuant to Bridgeport Charter, Chapter 5, Section 2, a plan of districting by ordinance following the most recent decennial census; and thereby acted without jurisdiction in redistricting the 10 City Council districts.

**WHEREAS**, the defendants deny plaintiff's allegations that it acted untimely and that it thus lacked jurisdiction to adopt its most recent plan of districting.

**WHEREAS**, court pretrial briefs are due within the next week and a Superior Court trial date of March 14, 2023, has been scheduled for this lawsuit.

**WHEREAS**, the relief sought by the plaintiffs in this lawsuit is that the six (6) person commission on redistricting ("commission") provided for by Bridgeport City Charter, Chapter 5, Section 2 be appointed to prepare and adopt a plan of districting by the affirmative votes of at least four (4) of its members.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

The Bridgeport City Council does not concede that it acted untimely and thus lacked jurisdiction to adopt by ordinance its most recent districting plan, in fulfillment of its Charter mandated duties and responsibilities; nor does it concede that the adoption of a plan of districting by a six (6) person commission on redistricting (“commission”) provided for by Bridgeport City Charter, Chapter 5, Section 2 is legally required, under existing facts and circumstances including, but not limited to, the census delays occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

In order to avoid and/or moot the above-referenced litigation, and in consideration of the need to bring finality to the local redistricting process for purposes of the upcoming municipal election calendar, the Bridgeport City Council hereby authorizes, empowers, and/or directs the Office of the City Attorney to:

- Advise and/or direct Bridgeport City Council Majority Leader Jeanette Herron and Bridgeport Republican Registrar of Voters Linda A. Grace to appoint a six (6) member commission on redistricting (“commission”) to prepare and adopt a plan of districting by the affirmative votes of at least four (4) of its members pursuant to Bridgeport City Charter, Chapter 5, Section 2.
- Notify the Superior Court as to the appointment of the commission.
- Provide the commission with legal and redistricting expert support services to be funded from the general fund budget of the Office of the City Attorney.
- Promptly provide the City Council with a copy of the plan of districting adopted by the commission, in order for the City Council to amend its most recently adopted redistricting ordinance, as necessary to conform to the commission’s plan of districting.

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEM AS PRESENTED PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

*Following the conclusion of the vote on Agenda Item 32-22, the following Council Members left the meeting: Council Member S. Burns, Council Member M. Lyons, and Council Member E. Newton at 8:05 p.m.*

**33-22 Communication from Housing & Community Development re: Proposed Resolution regarding a Substantial Amendment to the City’s Program Year 47 Annual Action Plan for Housing & Community Development, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

Council President Nieves stated that this amendment was being made to the PY47 Action Plan, which was last year's funding.

Council Member Herron then spoke about the issues and said that she had been told that she would be meeting with Ms. Miller. There were a number of meetings held and Council Member Herron and Council Member Cruz were not notified. Both Council Member Herron and Council Member Cruz are stakeholders. She felt that this was disrespectful.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 33-22 COMMUNICATION FROM HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING A SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S PROGRAM YEAR 47 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BACK TO COMMITTEE.**

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

**\*\* THE MOTION TO REFER THE ITEM BACK TO COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Service