CITY COUNCIL MEETING PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM MONDAY, APRIL 17, 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 6:31 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: 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 Member McBride-Lee and Council Member Valle were absent due to illness.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604.

Donald Wilson

Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse 56 Fairview Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06606 Peace Week "2023" June 3rd -11th 2023, Community Sports and Music Festival.

Mr. Wilson came forward and greeted the Council. He said that he was present to speak about Peace Week, which is a program to help the youth learn ways to settle issues without violence He said that they have large banners for each of the Council Members to display in their district along with flyers and there will also be a walk on June 10th. There will be a middle school championship going at Seaside Park, which will be free of charge. He asked for their support.





Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse, Inc. 56 Fairview Ave Bridgeport, CT 06606 203 273 6084 bridgeportyouthlacrosse@gmail.com Non-Profit Tax ID # 26-2798868

On June 10th, 2023, Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse Sports Academy (BYLSA) in association with CT Against Gun Violence (CAGV) and Peace In The Streets (PITS) to present Peace Day, a community music and sports festival! The festival included a 2k community "peace walk", free food, ice cream, live entertainment, unity circle with a universal prayer tribute, youth performances, arts and crafts and many other field activities for all ages. The culmination of our middle school league championships featuring flag football, "tug-of-peace", lacrosse, and soccer. This year for the first time featuring a wheelie contest, doubledutch and more kid friendly activities including bouncy houses and face painting! The festival gave over 1,200 families the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful Seaside Park, good family fun, exhibits, and demonstrations provided for youth to try new sports and have a fun experience. Our goals to connect passionate community leaders and mentors with young students and their families to facilitate athletic and personal development in a positive and safe environment. This festival promoted peace, love, wellness and exercise which encouraged developing healthier habits and lifestyles. Exercise is vital for the growth, development and health of every child and the community.

"Peace Week" is our vision for tackling youth violence in our city. One of the many challenges impacting children in Bridgeport is youth violence. Youth violence is a complex social problem that requires a multifaceted approach of prevention, intervention, enforcement and social-emotional development. For these reasons, BYLSA has partnered with other longstanding nonprofits that work with children in Bridgeport to develop events focuses on reducing youth violence.

The festival is designed with the specific goal of giving underserved youth the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful waterfront, host at Seaside Park specifically for families to take advantage of one of our cities most beautiful landmark. Youth who participated in quality enrichment and structured programs will develop skills towards team building, cooperation, working together to strengthen our community. One of the other important qualities of this festival is to promote opportunities that support youth in gaining valuable life-skills, self- confidence, and the

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tool for perseverance. All donations are used to cover the event and any proceeds thereafter will be used to support summer sports and enrichment camp implemented throughout the summer.

Thanks

PEACE WEEK 2023 -OUTLINE

JUNE 3RD- JUNE 11TH

1.VISION

to utilize our partnerships and resources to focus on solutions to combat youth violence through sports, arts and other enrichment programs by using sports as a vehicle for conflict resolution. Our partners help BYLSA holistically deliver programs tailored to meet the specific needs of The Greater Bridgeport Metro Area.

2.MISSION

To provide youth the tools to combat violence over the summer and register 300 underserved youth for our free Sports and Enrichment Summer Camp hosted at CHS, PT Barnum Apartments, Veterans Park, and many other off-site location: Discovery Museum, Beardsley Zoo, Trumbull Cinema, Nutmeg Bowl.

3. PARTNERS, SPONSORS, DONORS

Peace in the Streets (P.I.T.S) CTAgainst Gun Violence (RIP)

Adam J Lewis Academy Black Wall Street

City of Bridgeport Town Fair Tire

WorkPlace V.I.P

Bridgeport Police Department Community Service Division

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School Resource Officer and Board of Education, Security Guards,

McGrath Foundation

Iyaba Arts

The Covenant School

PT Partners

Greater Bridgeport STEM Ecosystem

Brothers United

USA Lacrosse

DSSD

4. SCHEDULE

 $\underline{Sat.\, June\ 3^{rd}}\sim\sim\sim$ BYL Kick-Off Event BYL Teen Summit Hosted at McLevy Green

Sun. June 4^{th} ~~~ Youth Community Outreach & Gospel Concert Hosted at McLevy Green

Mon. June 5th ~~~ Paint For Peace (Between Bank St and State St) at McLevy Green hosted by Iyaba Arts.

Tues. June 6th ~~~ Arts and Community Walk – Explore downtown Bridgeport arts and murals with DSSD

<u>Wed. June 7th</u> $\sim \sim \sim$ V.I.P host College Recruiting Event & BYL Sports and Education Benefit Awards Ceremony.

Thurs, June 8th ~~ Poetry Slam by Iyaba Arts

Fri. June 9th ~~~Youth Anti-Violence Rally -- Reni Love from 106.5 Radio, CAGV, P.I.T.S, BYL, V.I.P

Sat. June 10th ~~~ Peace Day hosted at Seaside Park -- Peace Walk, Rally, Sports, Exhibits, Peace Concert, and Community Festival

 $\frac{Sun.\,June\,\,11^{th}}{Seaside\,\,Park}\,\,\,\sim\sim\,\,Juneteenth\,\,Lacrosse\,\,Innovational\,\,hosted\,\,at$

Building a bridge to new horizons



Section II

WHEREAS, Representative from the Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse (BYL) submitted the attached written proposal requesting the City Council designate the first week in June as "Peace Week" and the first Saturday as "Peace Day;" and

WHEREAS, the city of Bridgeport is facing a youth violence crisis as evidenced by the number of traumatic violent incidents impacting our families, youth, students, young adults, and their surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, "Peace Week" is part of our vision for tackling youth violence in Bridgeport using sports as a vehicle for conflict resolution based on a multifaceted approach of prevention, intervention, enforcement and social-emotional tools for Empowering youth with selfconfidence, discipline and skills necessary to succeed in sports and life; and

WHEREAS, the "Peace Week" festival is designed with the specific goal of giving families the opportunity to take advantage of one of the city's most beautiful and under used landmarks Seaside Park. And to promote peace, love, unity, wellness and exercise which encourages developing healthier habits and lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, the schedule of events currently includes a variety of opportunities throughout the city of Bridgeport to bring thousands of our youth community together in a safe, positive and productive manner with a "Peace Day Festival" culmination at Seaside Park to include a Sports Peace Walk, Rally, Sports, Music, Food, Live Entertainment and Community Peace Festival; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, Board of Education, Bridgeport Police Department, Bridgeport Fire Department, Public Facilities Department and any and all other public agencies are strongly urged to work in collaboration with the organizers of "Peace Week" to ensure the events are supported, successful and safe for all those in attendance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bridgeport City Council that the first week in June is recognized as "Peace Week" and the first Saturday in be recognized as "Peace Day" in the City of Bridgeport.

John Marshall Lee 30 Beacon Street Bridgeport, CT 06605 Bridgeport Governance & Finances.

Mr. Lee came forward, greeted the Council and read the following document into the record:

CITY Fiscal Decisions: Finished Where? John Marshall Lee

CC: It is time again to look at the needs of the community of Bridgeport, to assess how all of our citizens are helped in meeting their needs by public programs, and to direct tax money for operations and for capital projects by authorization of our elected Mayor and City Council. It is called 'Budget Review'. How many folks have access to the facts basic to this annual assessment, understand whether recent dollars have been well spent, and provided with time or opportunity to learn, question, and genuinely participate? Bridgeport taxpayers are not part of a rational customer-centered system, but rather are disciplined to accept the decisions of a few, having to trust that some 'common good' is served.

During the past year the annual process for the spending of \$600 Million Federal, State, and local dollars increased in one respect: the allocation of \$110 Million Federal ARP funds over a three-year period was organized into several areas of grant focus, with members of the community forming evaluation panels to assess and vote on distribution, and then leave the City to administer. So far, so good, though current reporting of the what and the how of grant delivery by multiple organizations is incomplete.

But it is interesting to note that there remains a balance of funds to be spent. Why are the people of the City not participating directly in this final or ultimate distribution? When there are three challengers to the incumbent, it is obvious there are many issues floating in the community (besides the reduction of taxes, short and long term) that need to be heard. How can the community at large participate in such decision making and be met by respectful listening by those who are elected and have the decision-making power at this time?

The operating budget shows the current employment plan for the City. But in recent months there has been talk of a "new plan" but details have been scarce, or non-existent. When it comes to appointments with scant notice to the public, at considerable compensation for a potential employee currently requiring certification, it appears to be rushed. Is there an overall plan on paper? Can it be studied as part of the larger budget picture? Does it make sense? (4-17-23)

And 800 City owned properties? How much value is shown by the Assessor? And occupying how much City acreage? Public answers? Time will tell.

Mr. Germaine Rogers

1188 Main Street Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Rogers said he had previously spoken about the City Attorney's Office to the Council. He explained that Council Member Cruz, who represents his District, went to speak to the City Attorney about the FOI list and had received the information he was requesting. He said that everyone else that was waiting for information should be able to get what they were asking for.

Ms. Eneida Martinez

1819 Connecticut Avenue Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Martinez said that she heard that last Monday there was a disaster at the Council meeting. She wasn't there because she was out of town and pointed out that none of the Council Members knows her personally other than Council Member Newton. She then said that she may know some things about various Council Members but she doesn't know them. Ms. Martinez then listed a number of facts about some of the Council Members present, such as where they work and groups that they volunteer for. The Council Members should stop talking about things that they don't understand.

Denise Ellis

Abandoned cars and illegal auto shop.

253 Carroll Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06607

Ms. Ellis said that she had been before the Council to speak about an illegal car repair business across the street from here. This has been happening for over a decade. She has been to the Zoning Department, to the Police and other groups, but nothing has been done. The City is going to wait until someone gets hurt. The vehicles are jacked up and other vehicles have their hoods left up. She said that one police officer had contacted her, but nothing has been done. Her next move will be to contact the State. She will be coming back every month to remind the Council Members about this.

Dawn Spearman

Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Spearman said that she has a group for families who have lost family members through violence. She said that she was asking for support for mothers who have been through this tragedy.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER.

Council President Nieves called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:02 p.m.

PRAYER

Council President Nieves asked Council Member R. Smith to lead those present in prayer. There was a request for a moment of silence for former Council Member Jack Banta who is seriously ill and in memory of a former City Attorney who recently passed away.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Nieves asked Council Member Burns to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy

131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack

132nd District: 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 Member McBride-Lee and Council Member Valle were absent due to illness.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

• March 20, 2023

** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2023 MINUTES.

** COUNCIL MEMBER R. SMITH SECONDED.

The following correction was noted:

Page 1, under **ATTENDANCE**: please change the following from:

The City Clerk called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, *Matthew McCarthy*

131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack

132nd District: Rolanda Smith

133rd District: Aikeem G. Boyd, Jeanette Herron

134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy

136th District: Fred 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. Council Member McCarthy was absent due to medical leave and Council Member Valle was absent due to illness.

TO:

The City Clerk called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, *Matthew McCarthy*

131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack

132nd District: Rolanda Smith (Rev. Sara Smith was sworn in at 7:15 p.m.)

133rd District: Aikeem G. Boyd, Jeanette Herron

134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy

136th District: Fred 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. Council Member McCarthy was absent due to medical leave and Council Member Valle was absent due to illness.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO CORRECT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2023 MEETING.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION TO CORRECT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2023 MEETING PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2023 MEETING AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC HEARING(S) TO BE ORDERED BY THE FULL COUNCIL:

- 54-22 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for May 1, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Mt. Growmore Land Development Agreement and Ground Lease Agreement with East End NRZ Market & Café, Inc. for the properties located at 329 Central Avenue, 118 and 124 Suggetts Lane and 128 Trowel Street.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 54-22 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MAY 1, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MT. GROWMORE LAND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AND GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH EAST END NRZ MARKET & CAFÉ, INC. FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 329 CENTRAL AVENUE, 118 AND 124 SUGGETTS LANE AND 128 TROWEL STREET.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

- 48-22 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments The Knowlton, LLC regarding 305 Knowlton Street, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 49-22 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments LERETA regarding 858 Noble Avenue, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 50-22 Communication from Tax Collector re: Refund of Excess Payments Passenger Transport Services, LLC regarding 44 River Street, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 51-22 Communication from Finance re: Proposed Professional Services Agreement with Clifton Larson Allen, LLC (CLA) for Auditing Services, referred to Contracts Committee.

- 52-22 Communication from Housing & Community Development re: Proposed Amendment to the City's Program Year 49 Annual Action Plan: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); Homeless Emergency Solutions Grant (HESG); HOME Investment Partnership (HOME); and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 53-22 Communication from Housing & Community Development re: Proposed Resolution regarding a Substantial Amendment to the City's Program Year 46 Annual Action Plan as it relates to the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 54-22 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Mt. Growmore Land Development Agreement and Ground Lease Agreement with East End NRZ Market & Café, Inc. for the properties located at 329 Central Avenue, 118 and 124 Suggetts Lane and 128 Trowel Street, referred to Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:
 - 48-22 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS The KNOWLTON, LLC REGARDING 305 KNOWLTON STREET, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.
 - 49-22 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS LERETA REGARDING 858 NOBLE AVENUE, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.
 - 50-22 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS PASSENGER TRANSPORT SERVICES, LLC REGARDING 44 RIVER STREET, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.
 - 51-22 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CLIFTON LARSON ALLEN, LLC (CLA) FOR AUDITING SERVICES, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.
 - 52-22 COMMUNICATION FROM HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S PROGRAM YEAR 49 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG); HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (HESG); HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME); AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA), REFERRED TO

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

- 53-22 COMMUNICATION FROM HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING A SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S PROGRAM YEAR 46 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AS IT RELATES TO THE EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.
- 54-22 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MT. GROWMORE LAND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AND GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH EAST END NRZ MARKET & CAFÉ, INC. FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 329 CENTRAL AVENUE, 118 AND 124 SUGGETTS LANE AND 128 TROWEL STREET, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

- *41-22 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: (Ref. #76-20) Amendment to the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Grant for the City of Bridgeport.
- *31-22 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FY 2022 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (#23212 & #23483).
- *36-22 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Justice Congressional Directed Spending FY23 COPS Technology Grant Program Rapid DNA Kiosk (#23207).

Council President Nieves asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove this item from the Consent Calendar. There were no requests to remove an item from the Consent Calendar.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:
 - *41-22 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #76-20) AMENDMENT TO THE 2021 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT GRANT FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT.

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

*36-22 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTED SPENDING FY23 COPS TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM – RAPID DNA KIOSK (#23207).

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council Member Burns requested a point of personal privilege. He spoke about the recent shooting at Seaside Park. He said he had been at a Budget & Appropriations meeting when it happened and suggested that they start manning the park check points earlier in the year since it was a group from New Jersey that were holding an unauthorized gathering. Discussion followed.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ADJOURN.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services