

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604**

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Newton called the Public Speaking session of the City Council to order at 6:32 p.m. He explained that Council President Nieves had been delayed and would be arriving shortly.

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. A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604.

NAME

SUBJECT

Jilian Genao
651 Westfield Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

1775 Madison Avenue, previous Testo site.

Ms. Genao came forward and stated that she had a document regarding the Bridgeport Planning and Zoning that she would like to submit for the record. Mr. Gaudett came forward and collected the document.

Council President Nieves joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and assumed the Chairmanship.

PEOPLE OVER POLITICS COMMITTEE
BRIDGEPORT NEIGHBORS FIGHTING TO BE HEARD!

PEOPLEOVERPOLITICS23@GMAIL.COM

May 26, 2023

Joseph P. Ganim, Mayor
City of Bridgeport
999 Broad Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Planning and Zoning Commission
c/o Mel Riley, Acting Chair
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Mark Anastasi, City Attorney
Russell Liskov, Associate City Attorney
999 Broad Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Dear Bridgeport Officials,

The People over Politics Committee is an organization composed of Bridgeport homeowners and taxpayers. We have been forced to organize and come together to save our residential neighborhood from the politics of preferential treatment.

A multi-story 177-unit apartment complex has been proposed at the site of Testo's Restaurant on Madison Avenue, adjacent to Russo Terrace and Westfield Avenue.

We are outraged that a high-rise development has been planned for this site, which until 2013, was zoned residential. Even more outrageous is the fact that this eyesore can be erected in a single-family residential neighborhood, without an opportunity for those most directly affected to voice their opposition in a meaningful way.

The process that led us to this fiasco is a testament to the political corruption of the zoning process and the zoning regulations. It is outrageous that this Planning and Zoning Commission will have no input in the process and that a Special Permit is not required prior to construction.

Our neighborhood has been betrayed, by those in appointed and elected office. This betrayal took the form of an unorthodox change in Bridgeport's Master Plan of Development designed to benefit one individual and his family, Democratic Party Chairman, Mario Testo.

This change in the Master Plan, which was used as a Trojan Horse, led to a downgrading of zoning along Madison Avenue from Residential to Office Retail General. This was accomplished and was accompanied by deceptive representations that the property would continue its existing use in the foreseeable future.

It is a mockery of the Democratic Process that we are unable to express our opinion and this commission is unable to employ the Special Permit Process as a means of protecting Bridgeport residents and taxpayers. Mayor Ganim claims that he supports our neighborhood cause, but other than grandstanding, he has proposed no remedy for the destruction of our neighborhood brought about by his political Godfather.

Therefore, we call upon Mayor Ganim to direct the City Attorney to conduct a full and comprehensive investigation of this entire situation and to determine whether the favored developer will be able to proceed without input from this commission and the public. A public hearing must be held to demonstrate accountability to the people and reverse this travesty.

You will all recall that a development on Jewett Ave was ticketed for an over-the-counter approval, until a City Attorney opinion stated that the procedure was improper. This commission will recall that this City Attorney opinion occurred only after neighborhood opposition, and legal action initiated before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

We call upon the Mayor and his City Attorney to perform the same thorough analysis on behalf of our neighborhood and the People Over Politics Committee.

To do anything less, will send a clear signal that in Bridgeport, the Special Interests pollute the process, and the People have no voice. Our City Attorney's Office has been the source of creative legal opinions in the past. The time is now to stand up for the homeowners and the taxpayers, against the political bosses.

Awaiting your immediate response, we remain,

PEOPLE OVER POLITICS COMMITTEE, BY



Omar Genao, Co-Chair
PeopleOverPolitics23@gmail.com
Bridgeport, CT 06606



Bianca Davis-Brooks, Co-Chair
PeopleOverPolitics23@gmail.com
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Ms. Genao made the following statement to the Council:

Good evening.

I stand here today to educate on the values of the North End of Bridgeport. Take a moment to note the messages standing behind me today. We stand united in opposition to this invasion of our neighborhood. The previous Testo site has been sold and we will not be silenced regarding the development plan of a 177 unit building in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

My husband and I came from New York and immediately fell in love with the neighborhood. We did not anticipate a monstrosity of the building to be developed in front of our property. My husband and I feel like we are going back in time. That's what New York is for, not the single-family home neighborhood that we chose to create new memories. Since moving in, we have created friendships among the neighbors. It is an ideal, friendly and warm neighborhood. The last few years residing in Bridgeport have been the best part of our lives. Needless to say, we are simulated well into the community as it became our home. We intend to carry on this chapter for years to come.

We shall not remain quiet; we will not allow our elderly residence to live in fear of what is happening to their neighborhood. They have work for decades to grow and enrich the community to its current standard. They raise families in this neighborhood. When we bought our home, it was from a family that resided there for over 30 years. The love and value for family, community and peace are the essential factors that identify the North End.

As I walk through Madison Avenue, my heart breaks to see the changes that we are ready face. The development appears to be abandoned and has garbage surrounding the perimeter. There are pictures to prove such. Our lawns in the neighborhood remain immaculate and that's standard shall remain hell.

As I walk through Madison Avenue, my heart breaks to see the changes that we are ready face. The development appears to be abandoned and has garbage surrounding the perimeter. There are pictures to prove such. Our lawns in the neighborhood remain immaculate, and that standard shall remain held.

It is evident that our leaders do not have our same values. It is exemplified in your actions. What are you doing to our people? It appears you have not driven through the north end lately, because it is with a simple drive through the beautiful streets of the north end that you will observe family, unity, happiness, a family, playing, catch outdoors, neighbors, greeting each other, families, walking their dogs, children, learning how to ride a bike and families gathering for events in their backyard.

We are seeking to remain the integrity of the neighborhood. We are outraged by the deception and the invasion. We are standing unity on this matter. We look at you all to

support us in the cessation of this development. Whether you grew up in the north end, transitioned into the north end, or simply with the North End at heart we welcome you, but demand you not destroy our neighborhood. We require a hearing. We are the People Over Politics.

Chris Caruso
208 Beechmont Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

North End Zoning Issues.

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

Council President, Nieves, and members of the Bridgeport City Council:

My name is Chris Caruso, and I am a resident of the city of Bridgeport. Since last month, I have appeared twice before the City Council during its public speaking segment to address a number of zoning issues currently affecting the North End of the city, but undoubtably, within time, will affect all parts of our city.

Therefore, as our local, elected officials, I am seeking your immediate resource, support and action in the following ways:

1. That the Council draft, and approve a resolution, calling on the Bridgeport Planning and Zoning Commission to immediately draft a tailored moratorium on the City's Master Plan and corresponding regulations, and further; support the complete rewrite of a new Master Plan and corresponding regulations, especially to protect the integrity of residential neighborhoods throughout the City. In recent years, the Zoning Commission of Shelton, and Milford have issued moratoriums to allow for the review and consideration of their respective zoning regulations.
2. That the City Council convene as a committee "Committee of the Whole" to entertain a presentation on how "**preferential political treatment**" allowed for the development of 177 commercial apartment units with underground parking in the neighborhood of single-family homes at 1775 Madison Avenue without a required public hearing, or at the very least, conditions required under a special permit.
3. That the Council in concert with neighbors, property owners, and taxpayers under the banner of "People over Politics" call on Mayor Ganim to instruct the City Attorney to launch an immediate investigation into the "**preferential political treatment**" of 1775 Madison Avenue, issue a legal opinion as part of the investigation and call on the Bridgeport Planning And Zoning commission to conduct an immediate public hearing concerning 1775 Madison Avenue.

The Master Plan is a 10 year vision on how development will shape the future of the City's landscape; its residential neighborhood, its commercial and industrial zones, its downtown and yes, its parklands, too. The current Master Plan was drafted, adopted and

promulgated during the COVID pandemic, which severely limited public scrutiny, and the City Council's review as well. The Plan was posted online, but to the average resident a degree in land use planning, was required to make heads or tails of it. As the State was closing down operations and limiting government functions to protect public health, the Planning Department was moving full-steam ahead with developing the Master Plan.

Further, private meetings behind closed doors, and out of public view were held between developers, leading land-use attorneys and personnel from the City's land-use departments to discuss ways to include propose projects within the perimeters of the Master Plan. In short, the process was unfair, questionable and lack, professional, objectivity, and oversight.

In closing, I await your immediate response, and I will make myself available to assist the Council in acting on these three requests that I have made this evening.

Thank you and good evening!

Yvette Diaz
182 Kennedy Drive
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Zoning issues at 2600 Madison Ave.,
Testo's Property and old Stop & Shop
Property.

Ms. Yvette Diaz was the next person called. There was no response.

Nicole Bernard
45 Russo Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Testo's/Avon Commons and the
destruction of a North End Neighborhood.

Ms. Bernard came forward and greeted the Council. She said that she lived in the area and did not hear about the planned project for 177 units until recently. She lives only a few yards from Testo's and this is unacceptable. Ms. Bernard has many concerns about this development. No one ever came to speak to the community about what is needed in the area. The community is concerned about the demolition of Testo's, and she said they often open their windows and wondered what they would be breathing in. She said that there was an underground garage and asked how it would affect her property. There is already heavy traffic on the road. This is not the place for this development. Ms. Bernard concluded her comments by urging everyone to take notice of this issue and do something about it.

Susyun Purefoy
387 Queen Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

2600 Madison Avenue issue along with
other planning zone issues.

Ms. Susan Purefoy came forward and greeted the Council. She said that she was present with her mother, who had been a resident for over 30 years. She spoke about the storage facility on Madison Avenue. There are many locations suitable for a storage unit, but not this one. This property should be used for affordable housing rather than a storage facility. She mentioned the

housing for the Sacred Heart students and its effect on the surrounding neighborhood. It sets a tone that the City does not care about the North End. She said that there were a number of properties owners who no longer live in Bridgeport. The Council should listen, and care. They should work on bringing jobs and affordable housing to Bridgeport. They should also correct the issues with the Testo's property. She noted that God neither sleeps nor slumbers.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Council President Nieves called the first name on the sign-up sheet, which was Mr. Lee.

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

Each of us has read the US Constitution in part or fully on one or more occasions but can we pass a test on the principles and meaning of each section today? You spend a good portion of your days 'practicing democracy' when living by those principles, whether you think about it or not. The establishment of rights for your constituents is vitally dependent on your knowledge and practice of principles.

Word from Hartford in 2023 indicates that as a State our gun control rules are among the best in the US. Yet more work was required to deal with issues of technology, weapons re-sale, etc. but the effort will be successful when Governor Lamont signs his approval. What will it mean to residents of Bridgeport? Have you considered? The First Amendment to the Constitution provides certain rights around religious practice, free speech, a free press, and the right of the people to peaceably assemble in concert with others.

But does peaceable assembly address any or every time we leave our residence to go to a place of worship, or an office of government including a library, or to a school for education, or a business of commerce to purchase merchandise or a service, or merely to address the City Council for redress of grievances?

All of us know that the second amendment to the Bill of Rights provides a right to bear arms. More than two centuries later the right to have guns of many types, almost for any reason, and then not use them regularly or routinely exists to protect our lives and property. But the availability of more than four hundred million weapons and ammunition has proven violent and dangerous to most people. Have we lost sight of the purpose and basic rights in our insistence that the Second Amendment coverage is deemed more important by a minority of citizens than the rights of a majority to pursue peaceable gatherings or assembly?

Think on that. Does that lead to a path of difficult conversations with neighbors, legislators, and others with concerns, or less? Can listening save more lives? What can

lessen fear of gun violence that is common? Where are the protected gun-free safe zones in our environment? Courthouses, some schools, and motor vehicle offices are current. Are there more? Where do you wish legislative attention next year? Time will tell.

Jermaine Rodgers

Status of FOI request

Main Street
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Rogers came forward and greeted the Council and said that he was present to speak about FOI issues. He said that Council Member Cruz had gotten the information he had requested for him.

Mr. Rogers challenged the Council members as to whether anyone had looked at their constituents FOI requests and ranked them in terms of severity. The constituents voted the Council members in and they can be voted out.

Robert Halstead

55 Sterling Place
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Halstead said that there was apparently a computer glitch this year and said that he did not see any CDBG funding going into the 137th. Mr. Halstead said that this was Federal funding. He then spoke about the various schools that have been using the community gardens. He spoke about Bassick High School, the 132nd district and the East Side. The community gardens feed people.

Angela Krupcalper

32 Lee Avenue
Bridgeport, CT

Council President Nieves called Ms. Krucalper to address the Council. There was no response.

Carmen Lopez

Balmforth Street
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Lopez came forward and greeted the Council members. She said that they had heard the anguished plea from the community about the 177 units of housing that has been planned for the former Testo's site. She said that she would not repeat the earlier statements, but wanted to point out the manipulation of Bridgeport's politics designed to support the Democratic Town Chairman, Mario Testo. An examination of the past will reveal how the politics and preferential treatment has spawned a culture of corruption in this city. She went on to speak about a court case that was settled in 2008 regarding the zoning law. A few years later, in an unprecedented fashion, an application was made for a change in the Master Plan. And this change was approved.

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
June 5, 2023

There is a State statute that gives a role to the City Council whenever there is a change in the Master Plan. Ms. Lopez said that Mr. Buckley who was the Zoning Official, contacted the City Council and informed them about this change. The Council forwarded the item to a Committee and the Committee stated that they were not involved in zoning. The Council President at the time, Atty. Tom McCarthy, decided that the City Council should not play a role in this issue. Atty. McCarthy is still involved as a District Leader. And in 2021, Mr. Testo applied for a building permit for this monstrosity and it was reported in January 2022. There wasn't so much as a peep from the City leaders then but today, everyone is outraged. Ms. Lopez suggested that the Council conduct an investigation involved in this issue.

April Billings

44 Glendale Avenue
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Billings came forward and greeted the Council members. said that the elected officials should be working for their constituents.

Ms. Billings came forward and said that she had lived here for 36 years. She said that the Council should show some respect for the neighborhood and the neighborhoods should have a chance to speak about this. People in the community are unhappy.

She also mentioned that one of the property owners live in Southport and wants to clear out a space for another house.

Ms. Billings then spoke about the proposed storage unit project and suggested a cap on development because they need affordable housing rather than storage units.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the public session at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 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 7:23 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member McBride-Lee to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim asked City Clerk Martinez to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk 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.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

• May 1, 2023

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2023 MINUTES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 1, 2023 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

70-22 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Ashley Quiles, ET AL – Docket No. FBT-CV-20-6096325-S, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

71-22 Communication from Board of Education re: Proposed Resolution for School Construction Project Application for State Grants and Initiation of Design for John Winthrop Elementary School Renovate to New Project, referred to Education and Social Services Committee.

72-22 Communication from Tax Collector re: Municipal Suspense Tax Book, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

73-22 Communication from Finance re: Proposed Approval of General Obligation Bonds and the Reallocation of the City Bond Proceeds for certain Board of Education Capital Projects – To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

74-22 Communication from Information Technology Services re: Proposed Professional Services Agreement with Livewire Sound and Image LLC, for Audio/Visual Upgrades to the Council Chambers and Wheeler Rooms located at City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, referred to Contracts Committee.

75-22 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA) – Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program – Elderly Hispanic Outreach Program (#24270), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

76-22 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA) – Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program – Bridgeport Senior Center Recreation Activities (#24533), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

77-22 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA) – Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program – Project LifeSaver Program (#24420), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

78-22 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Port Security Grant Program, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

79-22 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Plan of Districting adopted by the Redistricting Commission on May 30, 2023 for Amendment of Code of Ordinances, Section 2.06.010, to comply with the Commission’s Plan and for providing Suitable Polling Places in such Districts and Defining the Boundaries of the area to be served by each Polling Place, referred to Ordinance Committee.

80-22 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing an Affordable Housing Tax Incentive Development Agreement for the Crescent Crossings 1C Affordable Housing Redevelopment Project, referred to Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts.

81-22 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing an Affordable Housing Tax Incentive Development Agreement for the Areyto Apartments located at 665-679 Arctic Street, referred to Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

70-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF ASHLEY QUILES, ET AL – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-20-6096325-S, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

71-22 COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPLICATION FOR STATE GRANTS AND INITIATION OF DESIGN FOR JOHN WINTHROP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RENOVATE TO NEW PROJECT, REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

72-22 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

73-22 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: PROPOSED APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND THE REALLOCATION OF THE

CITY BOND PROCEEDS FOR CERTAIN BOARD OF EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

74-22 COMMUNICATION FROM INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES RE: PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH LIVEWIRE SOUND AND IMAGE LLC, FOR AUDIO/VISUAL UPGRADES TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND WHEELER ROOMS LOCATED AT CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

75-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) – TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM – ELDERLY HISPANIC OUTREACH PROGRAM (#24270), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

76-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) – TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM – BRIDGEPORT SENIOR CENTER RECREATION ACTIVITIES (#24533), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

77-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) – TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM – PROJECT LIFESAVER PROGRAM (#24420), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

78-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

79-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED PLAN OF DISTRICTING ADOPTED BY THE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION ON MAY 30, 2023 FOR AMENDMENT OF CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 2.06.010, TO COMPLY WITH THE COMMISSION’S PLAN AND FOR PROVIDING SUITABLE POLLING PLACES IN SUCH DISTRICTS AND DEFINING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE AREA TO BE SERVED BY EACH POLLING PLACE, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

80-22 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE CRESCENT CROSSINGS 1C AFFORDABLE HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS.

81-22 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE AREYTO APARTMENTS LOCATED AT 665-679 ARCTIC STREET, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***65-22 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 8.81 – Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance.**

***66-22 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10.16 – Parking, amend Section(s): 10.16.010 – Definitions; 10.16.020 – Designation of Traffic Authority and 10.16.040 – Designation of Parking Division.**

***67-22 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.94 – Fair Rent Commission.**

***52-22 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution 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).**

***53-22 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution regarding a Substantial Amendment to the City’s Program Year 46 Annual Action Plan as it relates to the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).**

***58-22 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Approving Programs for the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program.**

***54-22 Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts Report re: 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.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was anyone who wished to remove an item from the Consent Calendar.

Council Member Mack requested Agenda Items 66-22 and 67-22 be removed.

Council Member Burns requested Agenda Items 52-22, 53-22 and 54-22 be removed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

***65-22 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 8.81 – SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESS ORDINANCE.**

***58-22 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION APPROVING PROGRAMS FOR THE CONNECTICUT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

66-22 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10.16 – Parking, amend Section(s): 10.16.010 – Definitions; 10.16.020 – Designation of Traffic Authority and 10.16.040 – Designation of Parking Division.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED AGENDA ITEM 66-22 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10.16 – PARKING, AMEND SECTION(S): 10.16.010 – DEFINITIONS; 10.16.020 – DESIGNATION OF TRAFFIC AUTHORITY AND 10.16.040 – DESIGNATION OF PARKING DIVISION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she would not support this item because the Traffic Authority only has the authority to ticket vehicles in municipal lots.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA,**

MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).

67-22 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 2.94 – Fair Rent Commission.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED AGENDA ITEM 67-22 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 2.94 – FAIR RENT COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Mack said that they had discussed this in Committee and had reviewed the contract but there had been a number of amendments in terms.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED AMEND AGENDA ITEM 67-22 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 2.94 – FAIR RENT COMMISSION AS DISCUSSED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED AGENDA ITEM 67-22 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 2.94 – FAIR RENT COMMISSION AS AMENDED.**

Council Member Mack said that this initiative had been a long time coming. He thanked everyone for all their hard work. Discussion followed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Mayor Ganim noted that he and Council Member Newton had been with the Governor regarding additional funding for rental assistance for those who go for job training.

Council Member Cruz said that he was pleased to have been part of the work on this ordinance.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

54-22 Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts Report re: 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 BURNS MOVED AGENDA ITEM 54-22 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND**

**CONTRACTS REPORT RE: 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 SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton said that they had approved the work for Mount Growmore. He thanked the East End for their support. He said that the East End will have access to jobs there and noted that Ms. Debbie Simms had worked so hard to bring this to fruition. Discussion followed.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ROLL CALL VOTE ITEM:

***57-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Mark Stevens Harp (D) to the Harbor Commission.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED AGENDA ITEM 57-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF MARK STEVENS HARP (D) TO THE HARBOR COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

56-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of John Mariani, Jr. (D) to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED AGENDA ITEM 56-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF JOHN MARIANI, JR. (D) TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that the ordinance requires 12 votes (60%) of the entire body for this appointment. She said that there 117,000 adults and 80% are black and Hispanic. P&Z does not reflect the race, ethnicity and culture of the City. She also mentioned that Mr. Mariano was also still working as an appraiser. This is a serious conflict of interest. She listed several Department heads that were not individuals of color. She said that it was wrong that they could not find qualified candidates that reflect the community. Discussion followed.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 56-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF JOHN MARIANI, JR. (D) TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SULIMAN SECONDED.**

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

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA REGARDING A REFERRAL TO THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REGARDING THE SUBLEASE AGREEMENT FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO 100 FAIRFIELD AVENUE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED. (ITEM #83-22)**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO REFER AN ITEM REGARDING THE SUBLEASE AGREEMENT FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO 100 FAIRFIELD AVENUE TO THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM REGARDING A GRANT SUBMISSION: RE CT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2030 GRANT PROGRAM FOR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM 82-22)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED REFER AN ITEM REGARDING A GRANT SUBMISSION: RE CT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2030 GRANT PROGRAM FOR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA.**

A brief discussion ensued.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK WITHDREW HIS MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA.**

Council Member McBride-Lee thanked everyone for their support during her recent book signing.

53-22 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution regarding a Substantial Amendment to the City's Program Year 46 Annual Action Plan as it relates to the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

Mayor Ganim announced that several Council Members had conflicts of interest on the next item to be considered. Council Members Burns, Lyons, McCarthy and Valle left the chambers at this time.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK MOVED AGENDA ITEM 53-22 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING A SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S PROGRAM YEAR 46 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AS IT RELATES TO THE EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services