

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019
6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Aidee Nieves called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack O. Banta
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan
133rd District: Jeannette Herron, Michael Defilippo
134th District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith
139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Governance – City
Fiscal.

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

**Bridgeport Buries Another Young Gun Violence Victim....
(Clinton Howell, Age 12, died in December, 2018). His death prompted one member of the City Council to propose an era of “stop and frisk” in Bridgeport and caused**

another Council member, a teacher of the youth, to seriously seek an answer regarding youth mortality in the City.

James Walker, an OP Ed senior writer for the New Haven Register had a CT Post front page column today: Headlined “The bullets just keep flying.”

Clyde Nicholson can often be observed and sometimes even heard at Bridgeport City Council meetings. When he rises to share his passion for keeping youths alive and away from the mortal dangers of gun violence, he speaks forcefully without notes. Currently he is frustrated by the lack of public concern that can lead to practical action on the part of leadership and different outcomes for the community.

Born in Alabama, Nicholson came to Bridgeport about 40 years ago at age 18. He operates a business dealing in commercial restaurant equipment throughout the region. His children are grown today with ages between 21 and 40, so his continuing campaign and advocacy goes well beyond personal.

He is drawn to this community disgrace where about one-third of homicides share the same facts:

1. An underage victim (and likely assailant)
2. Possession of a stolen/unregistered gun
3. Gun concealed while carried on street within City limits
4. Weapon is discharged
5. Bullet(s) once airborne do not discriminate-they can kill or wound anyone.

Nicholson suggests that Bridgeport vote itself a “City gun free zone” and instruct after serious discussion with the entire community as well as the Public Safety officers on the implications of such a designation. Guns would still be available within homes and businesses. However, they will not be available for drive by shootings because of new necessary community policing measures and severe penalties for persons found to be breaking the law. We already have Court Houses and Police HQ that are “gun free” sites. “Expand those sites to the City borders,” Clyde suggests. “Isn’t that the way NO SMOKING moved from hospitals, to public buildings, to restaurants and offices? Separate the killing instruments from the people to decrease the risk?”

Make gun punishments severe and certain!! Would an automatic ten year sentence when caught carrying a gun serve as adequate deterrent. Plus another 10 year added on automatically for each bullet fired? And with a guaranteed 25 year term for murder? Do such sentence deterrents, whatever the color of one’s skin, make the community safer from gun violence?

The police already have dash cameras and vest cameras along with protective bullet proof vests, tazers and gunfire detection equipment for targeting the location where guns are fired. The only additional equipment necessary would be a wand, like those used at the airport, when a police officer identifies himself and with respect asks for citizen cooperation with a wand. We are told that the police “protect and serve” but when the

most frequently used instrument is seen as a gun, can we understand why there is fear in place of cooperation today? Will the act of “wandering” bring more officers into close contact with folks who live on the street and change the feelings from interactions that promote safer living for all, rather than place the police as alternate combatants in a war never expected to end? Time will tell.

Mr. Lee closed his remarks with words from the James Walker column Monday AM:

"....but it is the black community that must lead the way out. Because if we don't, parents beware, we can only expect more bullets, more deaths, more funerals, more press conferences, more arrests and more sound bites.....and many more Clinton's and Tyrick's. Targets? The bullets just keep on flying."

Hopefully there are enough "adults who care" to launch discussions within the affected community and move towards actions that can decrease the lead flying in the City. Ultimately it is "leadership" and not "lead" that should dominate.

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
06607

Cover-up of unjust
termination. Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Young came forward to speak about his unjust termination. He said that it was time to show the City real Community Policing. He said that the police only train people to arrest rather than working with the community. Mr. Young then displayed photos of his former job in housing. It is not easy to get folks involved with the police. He spoke about PT Barnum complex and how he was about civil rights. He said that his civil rights had been violated. When he approached some Council Members, they asked him what they could do. He said that he has just asked them to prove that the City was justified in firing him. He said that he was hurt regarding the way he was treated.

Mr. Young then addressed Council Member Newton and said he wasn't respected. Now that Council Member Newton has indicated that a stop and frisk policy might improve things, people are upset. He said that this was one of the reasons that black folks don't work with the police. This isn't about black and white but right and wrong.

Robert Halstead
55 Sterling Place
Bridgeport, CT 06604

State of bicycle in
Bridgeport

Mr. Halstead came forward and said that he had worked for the City. At the last meeting there was an extended meeting by the OPED staff and they referred to misinformation.

He said that the original bike path went up from the train station along Boston Avenue. The issue is that the bike path is in the wrong location. The 1.8 million-dollar grant requires \$400,000 from the City and the \$1.4 million will be spent on painting lines and putting up signs that won't work. Trumbull built bridges and tunnels with their money and Bridgeport is painting lines.

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Mr. Halstead said that Council Member Langan had said that it would cost more money for Mr. Halstead's plan, but Mr. Halstead said that he wasn't trying to hide the extra costs. He added that no one would be hurt on the bike path because no one would be using it. He said that the public hearing process was very perfunctory. He said that he hoped that sometime the public could speak about bikes because they are being cut off a lot.

Jacquelyn Cauthen
397 Charles Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Becoming Divas Conference,
March 2019 Wholistic
Network.

Ms. Cauthen said that last month she had been working with Representative about a location for the program. Housatonic has stepped forward with a room that seats 300 people. She thanked Council Members Herron and Jackson for their assistance. Now her biggest concern is feeding the girls because they will be at the event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

She then shared a number of subjects that the girls wished to have covered in the conference. Those topics included: fashion, make up, how to handle being mistreated, how to treat others so the city is clean and safe; and the wage disparity between men and women.

Clyde Nicholson
396 Madison Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Stop and Frisk Policy.

Mr. Clyde Nicholson came forward and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He said that he hoped that everyone would learn something from last year.

Mr. Nicholson said that he wanted to tell Council Member Newton that his suggestion that stop and frisk policy was a good idea. He reminded everyone that when you enter a Federal building, they frisk you.

Mr. Nicholson said that there was an incident when a 12-year-old was murdered for a cell phone. How many deaths are enough, bullets don't discriminate. When are people going to wake up and say enough is enough. He encouraged Council Member Newton to stand his ground. In Stamford, Norwalk, Fairfield, and Greenwich, how many died? Not 11. It is time to take back our city. No one will move into the City if they think their child will be shot. It is time to do what is right.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned the public speaking portion of the Council meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

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CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut

Mayor Ganim called the meeting of the City Council to order at 7:12 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member McBride Lee lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested that Council President Nieves lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing local small business Madison Cleaners & Tailors on their 65th Anniversary of continuously supporting the City of Bridgeport and the Madison Avenue Community.

The owners of Madison Cleaners & Tailors were called forward and presented with both Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing their contributions to the City. They were then presented with Mayoral and City Council Citations.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll.

130th District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack O. Banta
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan
133rd District: Jeannette Herron, Michael Defilippo
134th District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith
139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

City of Bridgeport
City Council
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MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Approval of City Council Minutes: December 3, 2018.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2018.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2018 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEM FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

15-18 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Robert Sapiro. FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION/POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had spoken to Council President Nieves regarding this matter because there were two other legal matters that also had been approved by the Miscellaneous Matters Committee. She said that her Co-chair, Council Member N. Smith would be requesting to add those item to the agenda before the Council entered into Executive Session so that they could be included in the Executive Session.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that if the Council could move this item to the end of the agenda, it would be helpful.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED TO ADD THE FOLLOWING TWO ITEMS TO THE AGENDA THAT WERE JUST APPROVED BY THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE:**

01-18 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH NM PPA MAXINE GORDON, ET AL.

04-18 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH LONNIE BLACKWELL.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Spain asked for clarification on the agenda items and if the motion abided by the Charter Chapter, 5, Section 5d - A matter may be considered without referring to a committee if the city council determines this by two thirds vote of the members present and voting that the emergency requires immediate action.

Council Member N. Smith read the full title of the agenda items for Council Member Spain.

Mayor Ganim explained that the two additional items were not for Immediate Consideration because they had already been approved by the Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATION TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:

14-18 Communication from Airport re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for an Urban Act Grant to Provide Capital Improvements at Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

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

16-18 Resolution presented by Council Member Jackson re: Proposed resolution regarding a one year moratorium concerning wireless communication facilities and devices, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO COMBINE AND APPROVE THE COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES WITH THE RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTER TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***07-18 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 8.20 – Food and Food Establishments.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SPAIN MOVED THE AGENDA ITEM ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM FOR REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO REFER A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE CLEAN SLATE HIRING POLICY FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED. (ITEM #17-18)**

Council Member Langan requested that his name be added as a co-sponsor of the bill. Council Members Herron, Jackson, Brown, Banta and Spain requested the same. Mayor Ganim suggested that any Council Member who did not wish to be a co-sponsor of the bill inform the City Clerk. No one came forward.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEM FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION (CONTINUED):

**15-18 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Robert Sapiro,
FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION/POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PENDING LITIGATION:**

15-18 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH ROBERT SAPIRO.

01-18 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH NM PPA MAXINE GORDON, ET AL.

04-18 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH LONNIE BLACKWELL.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Ganim left the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Council President Nieves assumed the Chair.

The Council Members and Deputy City Attorney Bohannon entered into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation at 7:32 p.m. They returned to Public Session at 8:32 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

15-18 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH ROBERT SAPIRO.

01-18 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH NM PPA MAXINE GORDON, ET AL.

04-18 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH LONNIE BLACKWELL.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia pointed out that each item should be voted on separately. Deputy City Attorney Bohannon agreed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH WITHDREW HER MOTION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN WITHDREW HIS SECOND.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 01-18 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH NM PPA MAXINE GORDON, ET AL.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH ELEVEN (11) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, SPAIN, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, LANGAN, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, JACKSON, N. SMITH, AND NEWTON) AND SEVEN (7) AGAINST (BANTA, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN CHRISTY AND VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 04-18 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH LONNIE BLACKWELL.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, SPAIN, TAYLOR-MOYE, BANTA, BROWN, LANGAN, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, JACKSON, N. SMITH, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER N. SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 15-18 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH ROBERT SAPIRO.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service