

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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 6:35 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
133rd District: Jeannette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy
136th District: Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Nessah Smith
139th District: Ernest Newton, Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present. Council President Nieves announced that Council Member Defilippo had an excused absence and Council Members Langan and Jackson were absent due to illness.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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

Fiscal Governance.

Fellow citizens of Bridgeport...

I am a Bridgeport resident and taxpayer for 32 years. I have been a financial sales professional since college some 55 years and still retain clients who care for my attention. I am white, a senior

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and a believer in public participation in governance. I am current Communications Director for the Greater Bridgeport Regional NAACP that has required me to relearn American History.

My life has been filled with many other activities in the region as well as abroad. In the past decade I have paid attention to City governance with special attention to financial oversight. In operating combination the City Charter, the City Council process and practices and recent City administrations have maintained a status quo that fails to encourage economic development. Serious development happens in other towns, while our development gets news coverage, photo ops, and excitement, and then fades. Why is that?

We may be a diverse community but we are not using all of our human resources particularly well. One possible explanation is racism, beliefs, systems and history that is not discussed, not learned, and not challenged, whether in:

- Housing issues (public housing with ‘reasonable accommodation’ not fairly handled locally and in court with Department of Justice or private housing where since 2008 the backwash of bad financing decisions has caused major losses to minority communities with foreclosures).
- Education where minority students of color are preyed upon by others seeking to exert supremacy through bullying; and yet, even when blood flows, those in authority with the responsibility to report and control “climate” infractions hesitate, question and ultimately underreport; students learn at an increased rate according to research when they relate to educators of similar color- but a poor City stays poor and unable to package attractive educational career opportunities.
- Public Safety? We have seen YouTube videos of inhuman behavior, defying any respect or professional training by officers. We have court actions against the City for such failures against citizenry as well as between officers and management. Nothing of significance to encourage public trust especially among the young has come to Bridgeport in terms of “community policing”. What good is “de-escalation training” when the people in blue, carrying weapons, have or hold beliefs similar to the now retired Captain who communicated multiple odious “racial comments” by text? What level of thorough investigation went into action to determine to what extent such attitudes and beliefs were present in other officer communications?

Were I to ask who in this room is a **racist** (defined on page 13 as ‘one who is supporting a racist policy through their actions or inaction or expressing a racist idea’) would anyone care to raise their hand? If I were to next ask who in the room is an **antiracist** (‘someone who expresses the idea that racial groups are equals and none needs developing, and is supporting policy that reduces racial inequity’ page 24), how many hands go up? Unfortunately there are folks in the room, when confronted with such choice think and act like they are really **non-racists**, meaning no skin in this game. And Ibram Kendi in his latest book, **How To Be An Antiracist**, provides plenty of information for our community to read learn about and see where “antiracism” can attack the underlying ills of our City. That is something that one or more of Council committees might discuss, even hold public sessions on??

Finally, you have heard me discuss “returning citizens” before. Where is your curiosity about where that subject is being dealt with capably in our City?? The Mayor’s Initiative for Reentry Affairs, a “second chance” program, where is it today?

Hundreds are returning to the City from incarceration. To what effect?

Is Myron Dukes the only “returning citizen” to be confronted on February 23 with a request to leave a free public Black History Month event held by the city at City Hall? Welcome? Why no word from Mayor Ganim? Chief Perez? Or the City Council member who wished him a public ban but with no explanation? Time will tell.

Cecil Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Request regarding termination.

Mr. Cecil Young came forward and said that he had previously asked the Director of Labor Relations to give him the documents regarding his termination. He said that he was an American citizen, born and bred.

Mr. Young said that he had previously displayed a photo of the person who was stalking and asked his Council Members to get the individual's name. He said that if the City had kept him working with the Community, many of the shootings and murders might not have happened because he is connected to the community. The police officers need to get out of their cars and do community policing. He said that he believes in helping people and saving lives. He recounted how both he and Council Member Newton helped some residents who were in trouble.

Michael J. Testani, BOE
Acting Superintendent of Schools
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Budget Transfer to Facilitate
increased Bridgeport Public Schools’
Student Transportation.

Mr. Testani came forward and said that he would like to offer his gratitude and thanks for the Council's recent in approving the transportation funding. He added that he hopes that the Board and the Council will work together for the students’ best interests.

John R. Weldon, Chairman
Board of Education
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Budget Transfer to Facilitate
increased Bridgeport Public
Schools’ Student Transportation.

Mr. Weldon came forward and said that he knew the Council had transferred funds for bus transportation. He said that he would like to thank the Council for that. In a perfect world, there would be enough money for the buses, but we live in an imperfect world.

Clyde Nicholson
396 Madison Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Racism.

Mr. Clyde Nicholson came forward to speak on racism that has been starting in Washington, D.C. and flowing all over the country. He said that people were saying all kinds of crazy things which hurt other people.

There is a real racism problem in Bridgeport and said that if certain people were shot in Bridgeport, something would be done about it. This is God's world and the racism is a crying shame. He said that there are no rights the constitution to bear arms. These people need to have a conversation with God. This is a God thing. Homeowners are being thrown out in the streets and the Mayor doesn't say a word. There is too much going on today like homelessness, and unemployment. He said that it is time to deal with the underlying issues.

Odis Hart
323 Fairfield Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Handicap Ramp at City Hall,
45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, CT.

Council President Nieves called for Mr. Hart. There was no response. She called for him again and there was still no response.

Maria Pereira
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Pereira said that Mr. Testani and Mr. Weldon just came forward to thank the Council for breaking the law. In-kind services are not allowed. These funds should be part of the MBR. She announced that she will be filing a complaint with the State Board of Education regarding this once she is done with her campaign. The law is meant to be followed and no one on the City side had the right to negotiate with the bus company for the District.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned the public speaking portion of the Council meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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 7:00 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member Nessah Smith to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested that Council Member Martinez lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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
133rd District: Jeannette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
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138th District: Nessah Smith
139th District: Ernest Newton, Eneida Martinez

A quorum was present. Council President Nieves announced that Council Member Defilippo had an excused absence and Council Members Langan and Jackson were absent due to illness.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: July 1, 2019 and August 5, 2019

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF JULY 1, 2019 AND AUGUST 5, 2019.**

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**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 1, 2019 AND AUGUST 5, 2019 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

137-18 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Justice FY 2019 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program (#20312), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

138-18 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Court Support Services Division – Youth Violence Prevention Initiative (#20399), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

139-18 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation – FY 2019 Grant Program (#20274), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

140-18 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution adopting the 2019 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

141-18 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Grants-In-Aid Program for Capping of Seaside Landfill (#9C206), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

142-18 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Grants-In-Aid for Demolition of Pleasure Beach Bridge (#9C133), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

143-18 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families – Youth Services Bureau Enhancement Grant (#20540), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

144-18 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families – Youth Services Bureau Grant (#20532), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

146-18 Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty Day Notice to Settle Pending Litigation Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130 with Antonio B. Goncalves, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

147-18 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Petition from New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (“AT&T”) Connecticut for Access Authorization to City-Owned Light Poles and Traffic Signals pursuant to a Non-Exclusive Agreement that will improve and Enhance 5G Wireless Networks, referred to Joint Committee on Contracts and Public Safety and Transportation.

148-18 Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Professional Services Agreement with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. for the Perry Memorial Arch Monument Study and Assessment located at Seaside Park, referred to Contracts Committee.

149-18 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Bridgeport Micro-Grid, LLC (“BMG”) Clarification and Estoppel Agreement concerning the City Hall Micro-Grid Project, referred to Contracts Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED THE COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

145-18 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Nieves & Valle re: Proposed resolution requesting that the Installation of “Speed Humps” be placed on Waterview Avenue adjacent to Barnum School, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Lyons said she would like to amend the item.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 145-18 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) NIEVES & VALLE RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE INSTALLATION OF “SPEED HUMPS” BE PLACED ON WATERVIEW AVENUE ADJACENT TO BARNUM SCHOOL, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING:**

IN ADDITION, THE CITY COUNCIL RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS ACTING IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE CITY’S TRAFFIC AUTHORITY EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF INSTALLING SPEED HUMPS ON ALL ROADWAYS WITHIN 500 FEET OF EACH SCHOOL WITHIN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 145-18 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) NIEVES & VALLE RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE INSTALLATION OF “SPEED HUMPS” BE PLACED ON WATERVIEW AVENUE ADJACENT TO BARNUM SCHOOL, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***101-18 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: United States Department of Justice – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention FY2019 Second Chance Act addressing the needs of Incarcerated Parents and their Minor Children (#19214).**

***102-18 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Port Security Grant Program (#20388, #20390, #20391, #20392 & 20393).**

***105-18 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: (Ref. #177-17) Resolution regarding a Modification of Curb-to-Curb Street Widths on North Washington Avenue and Crown Street relevant to the Pequonnock River Trail Extension Project.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. There were no requests from the Council Members to remove any item at this time.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***101-18 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION FY2019 SECOND CHANCE ACT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF INCARCERATED PARENTS AND THEIR MINOR CHILDREN (#19214).**

***102-18 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (#20388, #20390, #20391, #20392 & 20393).**

***105-18 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #177-17) RESOLUTION REGARDING A MODIFICATION OF CURB-TO-CURB STREET WIDTHS ON NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE**

**AND CROWN STREET RELEVANT TO THE PEQUONNOCK RIVER TRAIL
EXTENSION PROJECT.**

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

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

123-18 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, amend Chapter 12.16 – Street and Sidewalk Use Regulations.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED AGENDA ITEM 123-18 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 12.16 – STREET AND SIDEWALK USE REGULATIONS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Lyons said that she had submitted some suggestions regarding the scooters and bicycles. She said she would be voting no on the measures until the safety issues are fixed.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 123-18 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AMEND CHAPTER 12.16 – STREET AND SIDEWALK USE REGULATIONS PASSED WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, SPAIN, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, HERRON, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND TWO OPPOSED (LYONS AND VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

124-18 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10.32 – The Operation or Use of Dirt Bikes, All-Terrain Vehicles, Snowmobiles, Motor-Driven Cycles, or Mini-Cycles, amend Section 10.32.010 - Definitions.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED AGENDA ITEM 124-18 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10.32 – THE OPERATION OR USE OF DIRT BIKES, ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES, SNOWMOBILES, MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES, OR MINI-CYCLES, AMEND SECTION 10.32.010 – DEFINITIONS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 124-18 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10.32 – THE OPERATION OR USE OF DIRT BIKES, ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES, SNOWMOBILES, MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES, OR MINI-CYCLES, AMEND SECTION 10.32.010 - DEFINITIONS PASSED WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR (C. SMITH, SPAIN, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, HERRON, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, N. SMITH, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND TWO OPPOSED (LYONS AND VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR MOYE SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services