

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING
APRIL 20, 2020**

This meeting was conducted by teleconference.

***Due to the public health emergency, public speaking will be
by written testimony only***

***Please submit written testimony to
PublicTestimony@bridgeportct.gov
by 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020

The following testimony was received by the City for inclusion in the City's Public Speaking portion of the April 20, 2020 Council Meeting. The items are included in no particular order.

Public Testimony

Bridgeport City Council Public Hearing

April 20, 2020

Re: Harbor Yard Amphitheatre and Request for \$4.5 Million dollars

I would like to first and foremost thank the city council and all our elected officials who work tirelessly for a better Bridgeport. My name is Kelvin Ayala. I am a downtown Bridgeport resident of 333 State Street, Apt. 702. I am also a business owner downtown and have been involved with many strategic planning initiatives to help our city prosper including chair of the Downtown Merchants Association. My professional capacity is that of an economic development advisor for PC Flex Consultants and I have worked on urban planning and development projects all over the North East with a concentration in real estate development and urban policy.

I am speaking today against approving any new terms to the December 2017 amended contract between the City of Bridgeport and Harbor Yard Amphitheatre LLC. The original operating agreement was a very generous deal and the city acted in good faith on accepting the \$15 Million Dollar projected costs to convert the ballpark to its newly proposed use. The city agreed to provide a \$7.5 Million-dollar tenant improvement contribution through our capital fund and the operator agreed to the contract knowing that 100% of costs above \$15,000,000 was the responsibility of Harbor Yard Amphitheatre LLC.

Let me make the following points.

- This project was approved in 2017 and is moving forward. Asking for municipal help for an additional \$4,500,000 because of potential cost overruns is just that, an ask, and our answer should be NO. Going over budget is not a municipal problem.
- The typical Amphitheatre in the Northeast costs between \$30M and \$35M to build from scratch. Whatever the final construction costs, Harbor Yard Amphitheatre LLC. Will be the beneficiary of a significantly discounted facility "AS IS".

- The Amphitheatre Project is NOT in danger. We should not feel obligated to make any additional capital contributions. The operator must due his due diligence and like all project developers can adjust the project, make concessions, and make the necessary decisions to lead this project to positive cash flow. Maybe the that means an increase in tickets prices by \$3.00. Maybe a bottle of water will cost \$1.00 more. Maybe chicken fingers/fries will cost an additional \$1.00. The point, they will figure it out and they are contractually obligated to do so.
- Should Harbor Yard Amphitheatre LLC. want to abandon the project, there will be a line of developer / operators waiting to take over the project and take over the sweetheart deal "AS IS"
- HYA would be in breach of contract if they did decide to walk away. They have a fiduciary responsibility to the tax payors of Bridgeport once they accepted the initial \$7,500,000.
- The construction Budget Issued to OPED during this request shows a Total Development Cost of \$17, 125,000. This is approximately \$7 Million dollars LESS than they claimed to be over budget.
- The thought that this operator would have entered into an agreement with the City of Bridgeport without performing due diligence is absurd. If his architectural and engineering team missed something, shame on them. He can restructure fees on services to absorb some loss.
- The largest expense is the tensile roof listed at \$6,000,000. Howard Saffan has publicly stated that he has spent \$15, 000,000 of his own money on top of the \$7, 500,000 city tax payers allocated. As of April 18th, 2020 I believe that he has completely overstated his commitment since the tinsiled structured roof has NOT been installed yet. I can not believe that \$6,000,000 has been paid in advance for a roof yet to be completed.
- Based on the facts, Bishop Development, owned and operated by Howard Saffan has not sought best pricing. One example is seeking lighting and importing it from France. I also would like to highlight that he has not been in contact with the city's MBE office and has not done his due diligence to higher local companies to work on the project which was one of the reasons to champion this project. To date, there is no evidence of any local job creation.
- This project is 2 years behind schedule and that was before the knowledge of Covid-19 and the current economic and social conditions.
- It sets a horrible PRECEDENCE. There are Investor/Developers in the city who have taken on \$10 Million dollar plus projects in this city, contribute to the growth of our tax base, and they are watching us debate weather or not to give a NON-Taxpayer a total of \$13 Million dollars to fund his dream. The benefits of the 40 – 50 events have been overstated. The claim that it will bring an extra \$50 Million dollars annually to the city does not add up. That kind of funding can pay for mix used development projects with sorely needed affordable housing in distressed communities in this city. It will not be a wise decision to bond any additional tax dollars.

In summary, I ask this body to Vote NO. I encourage Harbor Yard Amphitheatre LLC. to simply revisit its pro-forma and apply some due diligence and make decisions that work for them. I am looking forward to the completion of the project and will ensure being in attendance to support the many wonderful events we expect to see at the venue. This project has been approved already and has jumped through many hurdles to get this state. Risks are part of business and development and I understand the thought of trying to come back and amend the agreement. That strategy is just not in the best interest of the city. This new deal provides zero external benefits and does nothing to grow our grand list. Please **Vote No** on the amended agreement before you.

Thank you for reading and listening,

Protection for Bridgeport Immigrants and Families Bridgeport City Ordinance

This Ordinance is a step forward in creating a Bridgeport where all residents feel welcomed and valued

- With this Ordinance, Bridgeport will be closer to becoming the City we all want it to be, a City where all residents are safe to live in dignity and with respect, where all residents have the resources they need to thrive, a city where all its residents are valued and welcomed.
- Passing this ordinance sends a powerful message, now more than ever. On the Federal level, we've seen more policing and enforcement of the immigrant community, while simultaneously, anti-immigrant sentiment has been rising. But with this Ordinance, the City of Bridgeport is standing up against hate and sending a message that all are welcomed in Bridgeport.
- As Bridgeport City Council member Marcus Brown stated when he introduced this Ordinance, "As our country continues to see higherend extremism and anti-immigrant at the national level, we have the opportunity - and really, the duty - to protect and support our immigrant neighbors here in Bridgeport. I'm putting forward this ordinance here today because we must ensure that everyone, regardless of citizenship, has equal due process before the law. I also want to ensure that victims of crimes who are immigrants feel empowered to cooperate with law enforcement."

This Ordinance meets the needs of the immigrant community and was developed hand in hand with the immigrant community

- For years, Make The Road members have been talking with community members to understand their fears and needs,, meeting with City Council members and city officials, and mobilizing the community in order to make this Ordinance as a reality.
- Below we are sharing the story of 4 Make The Road members and why they need this ordinance to become a reality.

This Ordinance builds upon current state law and previous city efforts, but it's still a step forward that needs to happen

- In May 2017, Bridgeport passed a non binding "Welcoming City Resolution", stating that Bridgeport welcomed all residents.
- In Oct 2019, Mayor Gamin signed an Executive Order, which ordered all employees to comply with the TRUST Act, stated that no city office or employee can require or request information about immigration status unless required by law, and required that the Bridgeport Police Department provide training to its officers on the new TRUST Act.
- However, neither the 2017 Resolution or the 2019 Executive Order are not laws. They were nonbinding agreements that could have been undone by the next mayor or the current mayor at any time. They also did not meet all the needs of the immigrant community.
- This Ordinance, if passed, will be law and cannot be undone with the stroke of a pen. It is permanent - **and that is why we need it to pass.**

- This ordinance turns our previous demands into City Law, and it goes further by meeting our demands of language access in city services and by ensuring that the Bridgeport Police Dept is committed to helping victims of crime seek help.

This Ordinance does not violate federal law

- This ordinance reinforces the state TRUST Act (version 1.0 was passed in 2013 and version 2.0 passed in 2018). Both have already been checked for compliance with federal law and regulation prior to passing the CT State Legislature.
- Further, federal courts have ruled that agencies that honor ICE detainer requests without a valid judicial warrant are violating peoples' constitutional rights. So this ordinance, by ensuring that ICE requests are not honored without a valid warrant, will protect local resident's constitutional rights.

My name is Nidia Marín.

I am from Honduras. I have lived in the United States for 18 years, with my husband and my three wonderful children. I joined Make the Road CT because I want to learn more about my rights and how I can protect my family. I like many undocumented families, I chose Bridgeport as my home because I was looking for a better place where I and my family felt safe, protected and loved. I am writing to you because I want you to pass the "Protection for Bridgeport Families and Immigrants" ordinance. This ordinance, by affirming that Bridgeport Police would comply with the TRUST Act and train its members on the TRUST Act, would allow my family and so many others to feel safe and to live without being afraid. This ordinance, which would also ask the city take reasonable steps to provide city services in Bridgeport's most common languages, would also have the effect to create a city where I feel I can speak my language without discrimination, where I have access to an interpreter and where I don't have to feel afraid that city employees will stop me and question my status.

This ordinance enforces the TRUST ACT law, which is a state law passed in 2013 and made stronger in 2018 that limits communication between local police and federal ICE agents. This ask is nothing new, the Mayor signed an Executive Order requiring this in Oct 2019. We are not only demanding that for the future safety of our community members, this becomes law. An executive order can be overturned by the next mayor, city law cannot.

And that's why I support The Ordinance called Protection for Families and Immigrants in Bridgeport. I ask you to support it too.

Nidia Marin



[This is part of a photograph that was included with Ms. Marin's comments.]

Nely Mendoza



My name is Nely Mendoza, I am part of the fight back committee at Make The Road CT. I am from Honduras and I have lived in Bridgeport for 13 years. I am a mother of 4 children. I am asking you to support the "protection for bridgeport families & immigrants" ordinance.

I am a survivor of domestic violence, and like many I did not report or leave my aggressor the first time, nor the second time, nor the third time. It was only then that I got the courage

to act and report my aggressor. I did not come forward for the same reasons that many others in my situation don't come forward or report crimes. I was afraid of what my lack of status would mean if I reported a crime - could I be deported by going to the police? I was afraid of the language barriers that I could encounter if I chose to report. I was afraid of the discrimination I would face by the police due to my native language, my appearance, and my immigration status.

Since the new Trump administration, my concerns and the Trauma I face everyday have only increased. As a undocumented mother, I have been so afraid of what may happen to our family, that I have had to talk to my children to make a security plan about what to do if their parent doesn't come to pick them up at school after the day is over because we were arrested by ICE. There are no sufficient words that I can use to explain to my kids and ask them to remain strong if I do not come to pick them up at school, and that a family friend will watch them. These concerns have been very stressful for my children. So much so, that my daughter began having anxiety and panic attacks and we had to take her to the hospital. They have been very traumatized by what they see in the community - with our immigrant community being arrested in the street and taken to ICE, and families destroyed and separated by ICE.

We do not feel safe. That is why passing this ordinance would be so meaningful to me and my family. It would allow us to finally feel safe in the city that we call home.

This ordinance is important to me because it asks the police to support survivors of any crime like me, including domestic violence and to help them apply for U visas. It's important to me because it says that the city needs to have access to language support for its community. This would allow our community to not be afraid to ask for help and report crimes, like I was. It will make our community safer.

I ask you to support this ordinance so that our bridgeport community feel safe regardless of their migratory status

Rocio Peña



My Name is Rocio Peña I am from Dominican Republic and I live in Bridgeport with my family and friends. I arrived in this country 3 years ago, Since then I have been humiliated, discriminated against, and trampled on my rights. ICE agents have made me wear an ankle bracelet on my foot for 2 years and I am still fighting my case, this is inhuman. They want to destroy us morally and physically for being latinx. But the only thing we seek is to have a better quality of life for our family.

I write to you because I know what it feels like to live with discrimination, and fear that at some point ICE can separate me from my Family and deport me.

I know what it is to be discriminated against or that your rights are not respected as a woman, more since this new administration of President Trump began.

I believe that we all deserve to be treated with respect and dignity like any human beings. We call this city our home, but now we don't feel safe. There is so much Fear and intimidation of ICE officers.

I, like all immigrant families, deserve to be treated with respect and equality in our Bridgeport community. Which is why I am asking you to vote in support of the "Protection for Bridgeport Families and Immigrants" Ordinance. So that all immigrant families and people feel safe where we live.

Veronica Ubaldo



My name is Veronica Ubaldo and I am from Mexico. I am part of the fight committee of Make The Road CT. We are a group of people who fight to create power in immigrant, black and vulnerable families, and to protect our families and our rights.

I have been living here for 30 years with my 4 daughters and granddaughter. Like many families, we are survivors of the cruelty of ICE. This cruelty happens in cities around Bridgeport every day. I know firsthand how a family can be destroyed when local law enforcement believes it is their job to turn people over to Immigration. After dutifully serving 2 years of probation for leaving the scene of

an accident, on his last meeting with his probation officer, my husband walked in to find that ICE was waiting for him. The local justice system had invited ICE to come take away my husband. He walked into his appointment and we never saw him again. He was whisked away from us and within 2 weeks he was transferred to 5 different immigration centers and deported to Mexico. Sadly after his deportation, he was killed in Mexico.

And I was left to pick up the pieces when my perfect family suddenly come crumbling down. I am now a single mother to my 4 daughters, trying to balance being a full time mom with a full time employee.

This is why the TRUST Act needs to be implemented correctly and all local law enforcement need to be trained on it. My husband's parole officer allowed ICE into their meeting, resulting in his arrest and deportation. But it didn't have to be this way. If federal law enforcement was separate from local law enforcement, this would not have happened.

My husband did everything the system asked of him, he complied with his probation, and it was still not enough. Permanent family separation should not be a punishment for making a mistake.

When the TRUST act is not complied with, the police, probation officers and marshals deliver to our members of the community directly to ICE.

Although the Mayor has signed an executive order that lays out the same requirements of the ordinance, the executive order is not a law. The executive order can be overturned by this mayor or the next mayor. That is why we need this ordinance to pass. So we can feel safe, so city employees will not be able to ask about our status, so the police will not be able to retain a person for ICE without an order signed by the judge. Further, this ordinance does not violate federal law, it in fact reinforces state law.

This ordinance would be a relief for all our bridgeport community where. We would feel loved and respected and most of all heard by our representatives of the council and mayor. I support this ordinance and ask you to also support this ordinance protection for the Bridgeport family and migrants, so that they do not continue discriminating and destroying more families.



Public Hearing 4/20/2020
Public Testimony submitted by Gemeem Davis, Bridgeport Generation Now

We are asking our City Council Representatives to VOTE, NO on approving additional funds to Harbor Yard Amphitheater developer, Mr. Saffron.

Bridgeport's economic future is uncertain. We are in the middle of a global pandemic that has affected over 1,000 families in Bridgeport. Everyone - from Governors to Mayors, to City Councilors - are being forced to re-evaluate budgets, revenue projections, borrowing, and spending.

Budget deliberations have just begun and the Mayor has only allocated 2 million additional dollars to fund our schools. All of our children still don't have computers, part time city employees have been laid off or furloughed, we've poured additional resources into our police department as officers move to one man cars. Doctors, nurses, police, fire and grocery store employees and all other essential workers are on the front lines risking their lives to take care of us.

It is appalling that at such an unprecedented time that anyone, especially an "experienced" developer would ask us, Bridgeport taxpayers to give him an additional 4.5 million dollars on top of the 7.5 we already gave him. And for what, because he has unforeseen costs. Well guess what, our people have unforeseen costs.

So let's call this what it is, a money grab by Mr. Saffan. A man who sees no problem taking advantage of this health crisis and Bridgeport's limited resources for his own personal gain. This is not an economic development project, or about jobs for Black and Brown people. This is greed.

The City Council must vote no on this additional funding.

True public service leadership looks like making tough, hard decisions that are in the *best interest of Bridgeport residents*. Mr. Saffan is a private business owner and has access to federal dollars to help him during this crisis. He should take that help. **VOTE NO! IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.**

Thank you,
Gemeem Davis, Bridgeport Generation Now
1115 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020

7:00 P.M.

The meeting was conducted by teleconference.

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:05 p. m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member Suliman to give an opening prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Roman-Christy led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jorge Cruz
132nd District: Marcus Brown, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Michael DeFilippo, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Avelino Silva
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman
139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

70-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Making Certain Findings required to Reauthorize the Connecticut City and Town Development Act.

Mayor Ganim stated that this item had been properly noticed. He opened the public hearing on Agenda Item 70-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Making Certain Findings required to Reauthorize the Connecticut City and Town Development Act at 7:10 p.m.

Council Member Pereira said that she would like to make a motion. Mayor Ganim reminded her that this was a public hearing.

Council Member Pereira said that she wished to speak about all of the items at one time so that she did not have to keep raising her hand. Mayor Ganim said that she could make her remarks regarding Agenda Item 70-19.

Council Member Pereira said that currently the Connecticut City and Town Development Act has expired. She said that when they adopt the Act, it was important to understand once it is adopted, that Section B addresses the following

(b) Each resolution adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be submitted to the electors of the municipality for their approval. Within fourteen days after the adoption of such resolution a copy of such resolution shall be published in a newspaper having a general circulation within the municipality in which such resolution was adopted together with a notice of the time that a referendum shall be held on the question of approval of such resolution.

[Chapter 114 - Connecticut City and Town Development Act Section 7-485 - Required municipal findings and determination. Mandatory referendum. CT Gen Stat § 7-485 (2015)]

She stated that there were residents that were struggling to keep their homes and said that if this is adopted, this should be allowed to go to referendum.

Mayor Ganim asked if anyone else wished to speak on the item. Mayor Ganim said that he was not able to see any additional raised hands.

Council Member Pereira said that there was someone who wished to speak. Mr. Gaudett said that Ms. Helen Losak was trying to speak.

Council Member Pereira said that she would be making a motion to suspend the rules to speak on the Amphitheater.

Mayor Ganim said that he did not see her hand up and would allow people to submit written testimony. Council Member Pereira objected. Mr. Gaudett said that he had just received a text informing him that Ms. Losak's phone had died. Council Member Pereira objected.

Mayor Ganim asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Council on this matter.

Hearing none, Mayor Ganim closed the public hearing on Agenda Item 70-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Making Certain Findings required to Reauthorize the Connecticut City and Town Development Act at 7:15 p.m.

71-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Connecticut City and Town Development Act.

Mayor Ganim opened the hearing at 7:15 p.m. Council Member Pereira said that Ms. Losak was texting her that her hand was up. Council Member Pereira said that she did not understand why she was not being recognized.

Mayor Ganim closed the public hearing on Agenda Item 71-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Connecticut City and Town Development Act at 7:16 p.m.

74-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement – 306 Canfield Avenue).

Mayor Ganim opened the hearing at 7:16 p.m. He said that he could see Ms. Losak's raised hand and invited her to speak on the issues. There was no response.

Mayor Ganim asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Council on this matter.

Hearing none, Mayor Ganim closed the public hearing on Agenda Item 74-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement – 306 Canfield Avenue) at 7:19 p.m.

75-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement – 306 Canfield Avenue & Adjacent Properties.

Mayor Ganim opened the hearing at 7:19 p.m. Mr. Gaudett suggested that one of the problems might be that Ms. Losak did not have audio capabilities on her computer.

Mr. Ganim said that Ms. Losak could submit written testimony if she wished to do so.

Mayor Ganim asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Council on this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Ganim closed the public hearing on Agenda Item 75-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement – 306 Canfield Avenue & Adjacent Properties at 7:20 p.m.

77-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement) – Congress Plaza.

Mayor Ganim opened the public hearing at 7:20 p.m. He asked if there was anyone who wished to address the Council on this matter.

Hearing none, Mayor Ganim closed the public hearing on Agenda Item 77-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement) – Congress Plaza at 7:21 p.m.

78-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for the Congress Plaza Commons Redevelopment Project.

Mayor Ganim opened the public hearing at 7:21 p.m. He asked if there was anyone who wished to address the Council on this matter.

Hearing none, Mayor Ganim closed the public hearing on Agenda Item 78-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for the Congress Plaza Commons Redevelopment Project at 7:22 p.m.

79-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement – Civic Block).

Mayor Ganim opened the public hearing at 7:22 p.m. Council Member Pereira said that she was with Ms. Losak of Bradley Street and that she was using Council Member Pereira's phone.

Ms. Losak stated that she was a long time Bridgeport resident, a property owner and a taxpayer. She said that she was opposed to any abatements for developers because the residents could not afford this. The City needs to be wise with the money because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Ganim said that Ms. Losak's comments should be applied to any item involving developer abatements.

Mayor Ganim asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Council on the item.

Mayor Ganim closed the public hearing on Agenda Item 79-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement – Civic Block) at 7:24 p.m.

80-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement –Civic Block Redevelopment Project.

Mayor Ganim opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m. He asked if there was anyone who wished to address the Council on this matter.

Hearing none, Mayor Ganim closed the public hearing on Agenda Item 80-19 Public Hearing re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement –Civic Block Redevelopment Project at 7:25 p.m.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: April 6, 2020

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2020.**

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

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES: APRIL 6, 2020 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO CONSOLIDATE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

82-19 COMMUNICATION FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT RE: PROPOSED REQUEST BY THE FIRE CHIEF PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH C.G.S. §7-430 AND THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAIN AGREEMENT, FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 834 THAT ROBERT WHITBREAD HAVING OR SOON TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO REMAIN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

83-19 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF ANDREA GARCIA TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

86-19 COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE RE: PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BLUM SHAPIRO & COMPANY FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020-2022 RE: AUDITING SERVICES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT PREPARATION, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

87-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: NOMINATION OF LISA MORRISSEY FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY'S HEALTH DIRECTOR POSITION, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

89-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES 2020 COPS HIRING PROGRAM (#21200), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

84-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION THAT AN ORDINANCE BE DRAFTED REQUIRING THE ZONING DEPARTMENT TO FORWARD ALL ZONING & ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPLICATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

85-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION THAT AN ORDINANCE BE DRAFTED REGARDING BONDING AND LONG-TERM DEBT, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***53-19 Contracts Committee Report re: Assignment of Tax Liens for Fiscal Year 2020.**

***54-19 Contracts Committee Report re: Request by the Fire Chief Pursuant to and in accordance with C.G.S. §7-430 and their Collective Bargain Agreement, Fire Fighters Local 834 that Kevin Higgins having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year.**

***55-19 Contracts Committee Report re: Request by the Fire Chief Pursuant to and in accordance with C.G.S. §7-430 and their Collective Bargain Agreement, Fire Fighters Local 834 that Terence O'Connell having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year.**

***58-19 Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Services Agreement with NV5-Connecticut, LLC for the creation of a Complete Streets Guide.**

***81-19 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Resolution regarding Council Action on Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7S relating to Collection of Property Taxes.**

***79 -19 Joint Committee on Contracts and Economic and Community Development and Environment Report re: Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement – Civic Block).**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested Agenda Items 55-19, 54-19, and 77-19 be removed from the Consent Calendar. Another Council Member requested that 79-19 also be removed.

The City Clerk then read the remaining items into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***53-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: ASSIGNMENT OF TAX LIENS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.**

***58-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH NV5-CONNECTICUT, LLC FOR THE CREATION OF A COMPLETE STREETS GUIDE.**

***81-19 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING COUNCIL ACTION ON GOVERNOR LAMONT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 7S RELATING TO COLLECTION OF PROPERTY TAXES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

54-19 Contracts Committee Report re: Request by the Fire Chief Pursuant to and in accordance with C.G.S. §7-430 and their Collective Bargain Agreement, Fire Fighters Local 834 that Kevin Higgins having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 54-19.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that as with similar previous items, she was opposing this without prejudice due to the age involved.

Council Member Valle said that she would be voting no on this item.

Council Member Lyons said that she would be voting no on this item.

Council Member Roman-Christy said that she would be voting no on this item.

Council Member Pereira said that under the Connecticut General Statutes, the City has the right to turn this down, but Chief Thode had said that there was a memo in the contract that did not the Council to turn this down.

Council Member Newton said that this had been in the Firefighter's Union contract and he was informed that the Council was told they should approve it, so they did not appear to be discriminating against the older firefighters. He said that the place to discuss this would be in the Contracts Committee.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 54-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REQUEST BY THE FIRE CHIEF PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH C.G.S. §7-430 AND THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAIN AGREEMENT, FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 834 THAT KEVIN HIGGINS HAVING OR SOON TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO REMAIN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, NIEVES, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, VALLE AND VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

55-19 Contracts Committee Report re: Request by the Fire Chief Pursuant to and in accordance with C.G.S. §7-430 and their Collective Bargain Agreement, Fire Fighters Local 834 that Terence O'Connell having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 55-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REQUEST BY THE FIRE CHIEF PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH C.G.S. §7-430 AND THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAIN AGREEMENT, FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 834 THAT TERENCE O'CONNELL HAVING OR SOON TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO REMAIN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that in previous items, she was opposing this without prejudice due to the age involved.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 55-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REQUEST BY THE FIRE CHIEF PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH C.G.S. §7-430 AND THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAIN AGREEMENT, FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 834 THAT TERENCE O'CONNELL HAVING OR SOON TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO REMAIN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, NIEVES, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, VALLE AND VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

79 -19 Joint Committee on Contracts and Economic and Community Development and Environment Report re: Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement – Civic Block).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 79-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT RE: RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – CIVIC BLOCK).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that if anyone deserved to have housing, it was the East End, However, she was opposed to the act because it talks about “all housing” She said that originally there had been dozens of housing units in the plan, but now there were none. Bridgeport needs safe, clean, affordable housing for low income residents and residents with disabilities.

Council Member Newton clarified the plans for the City Block. He said that there was a housing component. They wanted to have housing on top of the commercial businesses. OPED said that it would take too long and instead some old abandoned housing on the East End would be replaced for seniors [inaudible] affordable housing, senior housing and co-ops along Stratford Avenue.

Council Member Brantley said that she would like to echo what Council Member Newton said and they have been patiently waiting for this project. They would be remiss if housing was not included in this item. There were some hold ups on Newfield and she requested her fellow Council Members to support this.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM AGENDA ITEM 79 -19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT RE: RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – CIVIC BLOCK) PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, VALLE, CASTILLO, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, NIEVES, SULIMAN, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (PEREIRA AND VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

12-19 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.06 – Common Council, amend to add New Section 2.06.070 – Office of Legislative Services, DENIED.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO REJECT THE COMMITTEE REPORT AND APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 12-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES,**

CHAPTER 2.06 – COMMON COUNCIL, AMEND TO ADD NEW SECTION 2.06.070 – OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she had concerns about this. Council Member Pereira asked if Council President Nieves read the item correctly.

Council President Nieves said that she had mis-read the item.

Council Member Pereira said that the item had failed in the Ordinance Committee on February 24th and placed back on the Agenda on March 30th. Council Member Pereira reported that Council Member Brown announced this was an error. It appears on the April 6th agenda and a public hearing was scheduled. Council Member Brown stated that the City Council President has the right to place any item that she wants on the agenda.

Council Member Pereira stressed that when the three items were approved in Committee on February 24th, they were presented to full City Council on April 6th, but the one item that failed was not included. There was a motion made to hold a Public Hearing despite the fact that the Ordinance Committee made no such decision.

Council Member Pereira said that she totally opposes this for several reasons. The City was adding positions while the Board of Education has had to reduce almost 300 positions and made 40 million dollars in cuts during the last five years. She stated that this administration and the City Council had only increased the BOE budget by 0.49%. This is not even 1%. Council Member Pereira said that she did not understand why they would be able to increase the City Staff by creating an entire Legislative Office when the Council has the City Clerk's Office. There is a part-time City Clerk, a full time Deputy City Clerk, along with two full time staff members and Mr. Boyer, who does nothing but serves the needs of the City Council. She stated she did not believe that the Council needed to create another entity.

Council Member Brown stated that she had asked Council Member Brown what the cost of the new position will be with the salary and the fringe benefits but had not received an answer. She said that the taxpayers did not want to see another layer of City bureaucracy in the City government. She stated that she would be opposing this.

Council Member Valle noted that it was in the preliminary stages and will be discussed in detail later on. When these conversations begin, if and when this happens, the leadership will identify five or seven individuals to interview the candidates.

Council Member Newton said that Bridgeport had always been behind. In a legislative group, Hartford and New Haven have a staff that deals directly with the Council Members. Bridgeport does not have that. It is time to organize and get the kind of staff that they need. It is time to move to the 21st Century.

**** THE MOTION MOVED TO REJECT THE COMMITTEE REPORT AND APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 12-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2.06 – COMMON COUNCIL, AMEND TO ADD NEW SECTION 2.06.070 – OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, DEFILIPPO, LYONS,**

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

70-19 Ordinance Committee Report re: Resolution Making Certain Findings required to Reauthorize the Connecticut City and Town Development Act, DENIED.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO REJECT THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION AND APPROVE AGENDA 70-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS REQUIRED TO REAUTHORIZE THE CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that the Connecticut City and Town Development had expired and must be adopted every five years. She said that the City does not need more housing but needs affordable housing and housing for those with physical disabilities along with veterans. None of that is addressed in this item. She stated that Section B states that the Council can take this to a referendum of voters so the voters can decide if they want all this development in the community. She said that the voters had decided that the Council Members were brilliant when they cast their votes for them in November and hope that the voters would continue to think their representatives were brilliant in a referendum when the property owners are paying 100% of their tax bills while the developers are getting a tax break while making a profits.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

71-19 Ordinance Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Connecticut City and Town Development Act.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE 71-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

74 -19 Joint Committee on Contracts and Economic and Community Development and Environment Report re: Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement – 306 Canfield Avenue).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED AGENDA ITEM 74 -19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT RE: RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT**

(PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – 306 CANFIELD AVENUE).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Burns said he had spoken on this matter before and felt it was an excellent project for Black Rock. This will replace the Showcase Theaters and fill up a vacant shell. He said that the Black Rock NRZ was supporting this and it would provide 300 residential units. He reviewed the tax revenue generated and said that it would increase the Grand list. This is a \$70 million dollar project.

Council Member Pereira said that the Connecticut City and Town Development Act speaks about the private development as referenced in Sec. 7-485. Required municipal findings and determination. Mandatory referendum where conditions of “conditions of blight and deterioration exist in the municipality; (3) private enterprise is not meeting such need for housing, employment, and the reduction of blight and deterioration.” and mentioned that this was prime real estate. She said that the developer will pay \$8 million in taxes over the period of 12 years, but the City will lose \$6 million in tax revenue over the same period. She went on to give the details and pointed out that the tenants would be able to use the public services such as police, fire, public parks and schools. Regardless of the mill rate or the real estate value, the developer will be protected from any increase for the length of the agreement.

Council Member Brantley asked Council Member Burns if Mr. Coleman had addressed the concern regarding if the residential building was not fully occupied, he would still be responsible for the full tax burden.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

75-19 Joint Committee on Contracts and Economic and Community Development and Environment Report re: Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement – 306 Canfield Avenue & Adjacent Properties.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 75-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – 306 CANFIELD AVENUE & ADJACENT PROPERTIES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

76-19 Joint Committee on Contracts and Economic and Community Development and Environment Report re: First Amendment to the Facility Development and Operating Agreement dated as of December 2017 with Harbor Yard Amphitheater, LLC.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 76-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT RE: FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATING AGREEMENT DATED AS OF DECEMBER 2017 WITH HARBOR YARD AMPHITHEATER, LLC.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Cruz said that during the past week, this has been a hectic and hot topic. He said that he supports this project 100% because the South End and Downtown needs an infusion of business. He said that his NRZ was supporting this project to move it forward.

Council Member Pereira said that she wished to make a motion to have the public speak about this item.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO BE HEAR ON AGENDA ITEM 76-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT RE: FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATING AGREEMENT DATED AS OF DECEMBER 2017 WITH HARBOR YARD AMPHITHEATER, LLC.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO BE HEAR ON AGENDA ITEM 76-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT RE: FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATING AGREEMENT DATED AS OF DECEMBER 2017 WITH HARBOR YARD AMPHITHEATER, LLC FAILED TO PASS WITH EIGHT (8) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, PEREIRA, MARTINEZ AND SULIMAN) AND TWELVE (12) OPPOSED (TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE AND NEWTON)**

Council Member Pereira said that she wanted a roll call vote.

Council Member Pereira said that she had received a confidential memorandum from Terry O'Connor regarding the sale of suits that would not be part of the ticket sales.

Council Member Brantley said that was what takes place in arena and that they should compare what other boxes go for and these should not be discussed in a public forum.

Council Member Herron said that she was disappointed in what was being discussed in the last 38 to 48 hours. She said that when she gets information, she shares it with her members. The Co-chairs need to set an example and go back to the table to think about their behavior and how it reflects on the Council Members. The recent behavior has been appalling. She said that she was disappointed and disheartened. Yes, there is a pandemic and a crisis, but they still have to move the City forward. This is Bridgeport's future. Nationally they make money and provide revenue.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that in the last few weeks regarding the Amphitheaters the discussion was quite heated. She said that people were not concerned with what was happening

with COVID-19 for the city residents. They need the jobs and need to keep the development going. People need to work. The Council can't keep saying no they don't want this or that developer, because the City will end up with nothing. She asked what the game plan was and what those who were opposed had to replace the Amphitheater. If the Council does not approve some of these projects, Bridgeport will always be on the losing end.

Council Member Newton said that he had seen something happen in the City that he had not seen in a long time. Character assassination was wrong. People have been looking to see where Mr. Saffan's cars were registered or where he lives. Council Member Newton said that word travels and developers will not want to develop anything in Bridgeport. Each Council Member has the right to vote against the project if they don't like it, but they don't have the right to attack people.

Council Member Lyons said that she did not have a problem with the project but did have a problem with the finances. She said that she had gotten a number of phone calls about this. Based on those calls, she's going to have to vote no because of her constituents. They are concerned about their taxes.

Council Member McCarthy said that they were representing the people and he was ashamed that they were not letting the people speak. He said that he was for the project but against allocating more money to this project. The developer has already invested \$15 million in the project and he would not be walking away from the project.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that when the contract was originally presented, she was against this because of the terms set. She said that the partners in original agreement had said that they would not need more money. Because of the financial issues, she would be voting no.

Council President Nieves said that she had been spending a lot of time fielding questions and correcting misinformation. Four years ago, the City had bonded for downtown projects. She said that she did not believe that the City had done their part on maintaining this facility and the lessee had not maintained the building. There were other poor decisions made. She pointed out that Mr. Saffan and Live Nation could not pack up the stadium and move it up Route 8. She said that the tribes were not going to bring a casino to Bridgeport. The building still belongs to the City. The \$4.5 million is just a reallocation of money that was already bonded four years ago. They have to invest in themselves to be better. Yes, it will cost, but this is needed.

Council Member Brown said that there were great points raised on both sides. After weighting both sides, he said that he felt he would be voting for it. He said that the City was already paying debt service on the money. The amphitheater will give a return on investment for the City. Ultimately this is a public/private partnership. One could re-allocate the money to sidewalks and streetscapes, but that won't generate revenue. At the end of the day, Mr. Saffan can't take the seats, the elevators and the stadium home with him. Those items will remain with the City.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 76-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT RE: FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATING AGREEMENT DATED AS OF DECEMBER 2017 WITH HARBOR YARD AMPHITHEATER, LLC FAILED TO PASS WITH THIRTEEN (13) IN FAVOR (CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES,**

VALLE, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) and SEVEN (7) OPPOSED (BURNS, MCCARTHY, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, PEREIRA, AND MARTINEZ) .

77-19 Joint Committee on Contracts and Economic and Community Development and Environment Report re: Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of Tax Incentive Development Agreement) – Congress Plaza.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED AGENDA ITEM 77-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT RE: RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT) – CONGRESS PLAZA.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she had reviewed the agreement, it would be built downtown and it will have a total of 92 units that include single bedrooms, two bedrooms and three bedroom unites with 10 ADA accessible units. OPED estimates that the developer will pay only \$1 million in taxes over the 10-year duration of the PILOT. She said that city will lose \$1, 894,000 in tax revenue during that time. Again, her constituents will be footing the bill and her district includes the second largest taxpayer in all of Bridgeport. They don't get tax breaks but are still required to pay all of their bills. She said that she will be voting no on this issue.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that when it originally was presented, there was a discussion that there would be no additional funding from the City. Because the developer is now asking for additional funding, she would be voting no.

Council Member Lyons said that she agreed with Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia and noted that there were a number of empty stores downtown except for a few loyal developers. This is all based on tax abatements. When the tax abatements expire, the developers come back and ask for more.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 77-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT RE: RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT) – CONGRESS PLAZA PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, TAYLOR-MOYE, CRUZ, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA, PEREIRA AND LYONS).**

78-19 Joint Committee on Contracts and Economic and Community Development and Environment Report re: Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for the Congress Plaza Commons Redevelopment Project.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED AGENDA ITEM 78-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND**

ENVIRONMENT REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE CONGRESS PLAZA COMMONS REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 78-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE CONGRESS PLAZA COMMONS REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, TAYLOR-MOYE, CRUZ, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA, PEREIRA AND LYONS).**

80-19 Joint Committee on Contracts and Economic and Community Development and Environment Report re: Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement –Civic Block Redevelopment Project.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 80-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT –CIVIC BLOCK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that they had moved the agreement extensively. This will be on Stratford Avenue, the East End and there would not be any housing. The project will have 34,000 square feet and will include 16,000 square feet for a desperately needed grocery store, the potential of a pharmacy, a health facility and other items. This area of the City needs development. She then reviewed the details of the PILOT agreement which will run for 15 years with the first three years without any tax payments. She said that the 15-year term was too long and asked how many Bridgeport residents had lost their homes to the WPCA over that period. This is why she cannot support it.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 80-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT –CIVIC BLOCK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (PEREIRA AND VIZZO-PANICCIA).**

Council Member Newton said that he had tried to articulate [inaudible] For people to say that the developer was trying to change the culture of the community, they need to come to the district to see the affordable housing, the senior community and the co-operative housing. People who don't live there don't know what is happening there.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

59-19 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Title 2 – Administration and Personnel, amend to add New Chapter 2.125 – Trust Act Enforcement.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED AGENDA ITEM 59-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 2 – ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL, AMEND TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 2.125 – TRUST ACT ENFORCEMENT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

Council Member Lyons said that she had received a letter from the City Attorney which recommended that the Council should confer with the Police Chief Perez about this legislation. He cautioned them about the scope of federal grants that might be placed at risk with the Department of Justice JAG funding.

Council Member Lyons said that there had been a discussion in Washington, D.C. about issues in New Haven. She asked the Council to consider the impact of this on another Agenda Item that was being referred to Public Safety. It will also be important to consider what the City Attorney is recommending.

Council Member Lyons recommended that the Council table this item so they can be sure no one will be impacted on either side of this issue.

Council Member Pereira said that she was at the Committee meeting and Atty. Anastasi had given his view. She said that President Trump and his administration had threatened any municipality that did not cooperate with ICE by withholding federal funding. This has gone through several different courts and the Second Circuit Court, which is the area that Connecticut is located in, ruled that the Trump Administration could withhold Bridgeport Police funding if there is a lack of cooperation with ICE.

Council Member Pereira said that she supports the immigrant community but had asked Atty. Anastasi for clarification about whether there had been a request for a stay of the rule pending appeal. They are still waiting for an answer.

She also asked Atty. Anastasi if anyone had consulted with Chief Perez and his administration because this directly impacts the Bridgeport Police Department. It is important to know exactly how much funding could be at risk if the Trust Act is adopted.

Council Member Pereira said that this also requires documentation to be provided in the five top spoken languages in the City. The Board of Education is required to do this because it is a Federal requirement and the cost is enormous. The BOE has to hire an outside company and they charge per word.

Council Member Pereira said that she had asked all these questions in Committee and had been promised that they would have answers. But they don't have a single answer to a single question that was asked in Committee.

Council Member Cruz said that he wanted to say that he was sick and tired of the scare tactics for the immigrant population. They are here to have a decent life and aren't bothering anyone. From a sense of compassion, the Council needs to stand up and protect these people. These are

all minorities. Regardless of what the President says, the City needs to protect the people from the ICE bullies. It makes him sick to his stomach to hear this discussion about ICE coming in to harass these people.

Council Member Lyons said that she was the co-chair of Public Safety. She said that she was not talking about ICE, but the financial aspect. She made a motion and mentioned having it tabled. She reiterated that any application to the DOJ could be at risk. This could hurt the Police Department. Council Member Cruz said that it was discrimination.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 59-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 2 – ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL, AMEND TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 2.125 – TRUST ACT ENFORCEMENT.**

Council Member Pereira said that the motion should be to postpone this matter to the next Council meeting.

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

**** THE MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 59-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 2 – ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL, AMEND TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 2.125 – TRUST ACT ENFORCEMENT FAILED TO PASS WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (DEFILIPPO, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA AND PEREIRA) AND SIXTEEN (16) OPPOSED (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SILVA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON).**

Council Member Brantley said that the President had been making this threat since he was elected. She said that the State was moving forward with giving these individuals their drivers licenses and many of them are waiting for their citizenship to be processed.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that they have to respect the law. Her sister is in Africa and she has to return to the US to renew her citizenship. If something is not broken, it should not be fixed. If the individuals are legitimate, they can stay, but if not, they have to find a way to become legitimate.

Council Member Newton said that New Haven was a Sanctuary City and he had not heard that they lost any funding for their police. He said that they should vote on this to let people know they appreciate the immigrants being here.

Council Member Burns said that this was an enforcement of the State Trust Act and anything that they can do to mitigate ICE to keep families together is the right thing to do.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 59-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 2 – ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL, AMEND TO ADD NEW CHAPTER 2.125 – TRUST ACT ENFORCEMENT PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SILVA, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ,**

AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE AND DEFILIPPO).

Mayor Ganim said that there were two items that were requested to be introduced from the floor.

****COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES IN ORDER TO ADD THE FOLLOWING TWO ITEMS TO THE AGENDA:**

57-19 PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021-2025 (CAPITAL PLAN DISCUSSION RE: PUBLIC FACILITIES) AS AMENDED

61-19 PROPOSED APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (REF. #43-19).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES IN ORDER TO ADD THE TWO ITEMS TO THE AGENDA PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SILVA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (MCCARTHY, DEFILIPPO, PEREIRA, AND MARTINEZ**).**

(** Due to technical difficulties, Council Member Martinez wasn't online when the vote was taken and later stated to the Mayor and all others in attendance that she was opposed.)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED AGENDA ITEM 57-19 PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021-2025 (CAPITAL PLAN DISCUSSION RE: PUBLIC FACILITIES).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira repeated that the Bond Counsel had a significant conflict and she was concerned about her constituents.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 57-19 PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021-2025 (CAPITAL PLAN DISCUSSION RE: PUBLIC FACILITIES) PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SILVA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON) AND SIX (6) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCCARTHY, DEFILIPPO, BURNS, PEREIRA AND LYONS).**

61-19 Proposed Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects (Ref. #43-19).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED AGENDA ITEM 61-19 PROPOSED APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (REF. #43-19).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Burns said that the item had captured a lot of energy and attention. There were obstacles that arose over the past few years. The problems were only brought to the Council in the last month. If the Council had been apprised of the issues earlier, he believes that much of the rancor would have been mitigated.

Council Member Pereira said that the City of Bridgeport currently has \$600 million in bonded debt. This will affect the seniors and the debt services costs the City \$4 million dollars a year. This is not good for taxpayers.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 61-19 PROPOSED APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (REF. #43-19) PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, SILVA, SULIMAN, AND NEWTON) AND SIX (6) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA, LYONS, PEREIRA, MCCARTHY, DEFILIPPO, AND MARTINEZ).**

Council Member Castillo said that he would like to refer an item from the floor to Committee. Council Member Pereira objected because it was not on the Agenda. Council Member Castillo said that he wanted to refer to Committee from the floor.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM FOR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE REGARDING THE FUNDING FOR COVID-19 TESTING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED TO REFER THE ITEM REGARDING FUNDING FOR COVID-19 TESTING TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #90-19)**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

88-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution regarding Substantial Amendment to the 2019-2020 Program Year 45 Annual Action Plan: Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Housing Opportunities for People Living with Aids (HOPWA), FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

Council Member Herron said that everyone who had a conflict with this would have to leave the meeting. She said that this would be \$300,000 allotment from the Federal Government.

The following Council Members remained:

Council Member Herron, Council Member Pereira,
Council Member McCarthy, Council Member Suliman,
Council Member Castillo, Council Member Silva,
Council Member McBride-Lee

Council Member Pereira questioned the process and stated that this was a public meeting. Council Member Herron said that this was the protocol and the other Council Members had

identified areas of potential conflicts of interest. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she did not have a conflict of interest.

Council Member Herron asked Ms. Milta Feliciano and Mr. Coleman to speak on this item. Ms. Feliciano said that this was funding specific to the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Housing Opportunities for People Living with Aids (HOPWA). This also includes rapid re-housing and emergency housing. She reviewed the amounts with the Committee members and those present.

Council Member Pereira said that they would have to vote for 2/3rd to add it to the agenda. Council Member McBride-Lee pointed out that this was for Immediate Consideration. Council Member Herron said that this was the process and they need to follow the protocol.

Atty. Anastasi gave a brief overview. Mayor Ganim announced that they need to have a simple majority.

Council Member Pereira said that she had a question about the second whereas it speaks about reprogramming funding from previously approved activities that did not advance. She wished to know what activities were being unfunded. Ms. Feliciano explained that there were different agencies that did not use all their funding. The excess funds are put into a line item and now the Committee was being asked for permission to re-purpose all that money to other groups. Right now, the top priorities are the Emergency Shelter and Emergency Assistance.

Ms. Feliciano said that this was funding from different agencies that did not use all of its allocation. She said this was a request for permission to use the excessive funding to use for the Emergency Solution and the Housing Opportunities. Council Member Herron said that the funding would also be used by the various agencies to help those who had become homeless.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 88-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE 2019-2020 PROGRAM YEAR 45 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS (HOPWA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services