

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2020
6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Nieves called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jorge Cruz
132nd District:
133rd District: Jeanette Herron
134th District:
135th District:
136th District:
137th District: Maria Valle, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Maria Pereira
139th District: Eneida Martinez

Council President Nieves said that Council Member McCarthy was away and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia had family obligations.

Council Member Pereira said that this was a public meeting and as such, it required a quorum to proceed.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.

This meeting will be conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

The following named person may dial into this meeting to speak by calling the following conference line and then entering the conference code:

Dial-in Number#: (929) 436-2866
Meeting ID#: 381 083 245

NAME

SUBJECT

Rosemarie Young
189 Woodside Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Concerns in neighborhood, especially street noise, racing and loud music.

Ms. Young gave her name and address. She said that she was a long-time taxpayer in Bridgeport. She has raised her children here, as has her children. There have been many changes lately.

She requested that either a permanent or temporary speed bump at her corner. They are motor bikes, dirt bikes and ATVs going up and down the streets all the time. The neighbors have been holding large parties with music late into the night. Section 21 states that the residents should be able to have a quiet night without excessive noise.

She asked that the police to take against unregistered or out of state vehicles. There are many vehicles with New York license plates on them and they should be paying taxes to Bridgeport instead of New York.

Blighted areas need to be cleaned up at the owner's expense. This encourages rodents and impacts the values of homes.

Ms. Young said that they would like to know that these requests have not fallen on deaf ears. She asked the Council to take these requests to heart.

Council Member Pereira asked if the City Representatives had been notified. Ms. Young said that it was the 135th District and she had emailed her representatives.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the Public Speaking Session at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2020

This meeting was conducted by teleconference.
The public was able to listen to this meeting by calling a conference line.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:04 p.m.

PRAYER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk 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
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

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: June 15, 2020 and June 18, 2020 (Public Hearing)

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2020 AND THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 18, 2020 PUBLIC HEARING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that in the June 15th minutes, on page 5, the last sentence in the 4th paragraph should read "She said that the taxpayer should not have to pay for this."

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO AMEND THE JUNE 15, 2020 MINUTES AS NOTED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMEND THE JUNE 15, 2020 MINUTES AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Pereira said that the June 18, 2020 minutes lacked content and the attendance was wrong.

Council Member Lyons said that, she was at a family event the night of the JFK Stadium meeting.

Council President Nieves explained that there was no stenographer present and someone walked away with the attendance sheet. The audio recording was not clear.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO WITHDRAW THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 18TH MEETING DUE TO LACK OF INFORMATION.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO WITHDRAW THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 18TH MEETING DUE TO LACK OF INFORMATION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

150-19 Communication from OPED and Housing & Community Development re: Proposed Resolution for 2020-2024 Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan which includes the Program Year 46 Action Plan, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

Mayor Ganim said that he would like to move this to the end of the agenda. Council Member Pereira said that she did not understand. She asked why they were delaying this item to the end of the agenda. Mayor Ganim said it was because a number of Council Members had to recuse themselves.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

140-19 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Carmelo Mendez, PPA Minor #1, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

141-19 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Carmelo Mendez, PPA Minor #2, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

147-19 Communication from Labor Relations re: Updated ranges for Officers' and Unaffiliated Employee Salaries pursuant to and as required by Municipal Code Section

2.36.010, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

148-19 Communication from Fire Department re: Proposed Equipment Lease – Purchase Agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc., referred to Contracts Committee.

151-19 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Denis Habza (R) to the Harbor Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

153-19 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Nichola Hall (D) to the Food Policy Council, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

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

142-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Herron & Co-Sponsor DeFilippo re: Proposed resolution requesting that the Intersection of Wayne Street and Harlem Avenue be designated as an “All-Way” stop with appropriate signage and street markings, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

143-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Valle & Co-Sponsor Nieves re: Proposed resolution requesting that no parking signs and concrete barriers be installed for enhanced traffic control around the area of Marionville Apartments on Hallett Street between Hamilton and Goodwin Streets, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

144-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Valle, Nieves, Martinez, & Newton re: Proposed Resolution for Metro-North Railroad Vegetation Management, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

145-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Cruz, McBride-Lee, Silva, Pereira & Newton re: Proposed resolution to ensure Public Spaces Reflect Diversity and Values, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

146-19 Resolution presented by Council Member Newton re: Proposed resolution for the City Attorney to draft language to amend Municipal Code Ordinance, Chapter 2.36 – Officers’ Salaries, Section 2.36.010 – Officers’ and Unaffiliated Employee Salaries, referred to Ordinance Committee.

149-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Pereira & Co-Sponsors Cruz, DeFilippo & Castillo re: Proposed resolution for the Director of Health & Social Services to attend an Ordinance Committee Meeting, referred to Ordinance Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO CONSOLIDATED AND REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES:**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

140-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH CARMELO MENDEZ, PPA MINOR #1, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

141-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH CARMELO MENDEZ, PPA MINOR #2, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

147-19 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: UPDATED RANGES FOR OFFICERS' AND UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEE SALARIES PURSUANT TO AND AS REQUIRED BY MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.36.010, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

148-19 COMMUNICATION FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT RE: PROPOSED EQUIPMENT LEASE – PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC., REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

151-19 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF DENIS HABZA (R) TO THE HARBOR COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

153-19 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF NICHOLA HALL (D) TO THE FOOD POLICY COUNCIL, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

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

142-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) HERRON & CO-SPONSOR DEFILIPPO RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE INTERSECTION OF WAYNE STREET AND HARLEM AVENUE BE DESIGNATED AS AN “ALL-WAY” STOP WITH APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE AND STREET MARKINGS, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

143-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) VALLE & CO-SPONSOR NIEVES RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT NO PARKING SIGNS AND CONCRETE BARRIERS BE INSTALLED FOR ENHANCED TRAFFIC CONTROL AROUND THE AREA OF MARIONVILLE APARTMENTS ON HALLETT STREET BETWEEN HAMILTON AND GOODWIN STREETS, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

144-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) VALLE, NIEVES, MARTINEZ, & NEWTON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR METRO-NORTH RAILROAD VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

145-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) CRUZ, MCBRIDE-LEE, SILVA, PEREIRA & NEWTON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ENSURE PUBLIC SPACES REFLECT DIVERSITY AND

VALUES, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

146-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY TO DRAFT LANGUAGE TO AMEND MUNICIPAL CODE ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 2.36 – OFFICERS’ SALARIES, SECTION 2.36.010 – OFFICERS’ AND UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEE SALARIES, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

149-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA & CO-SPONSORS CRUZ, DEFILIPPO & CASTILLO RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES TO ATTEND AN ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

Council President Nieves said that she wanted to remove Agenda Item 149-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Pereira & Co-Sponsors Cruz, DeFilippo & Castillo re: Proposed resolution for the Director of Health & Social Services to attend an Ordinance Committee Meeting, referred to Ordinance Committee from the motion for referral.

Council Member Pereira said that she would like to remove Agenda Item 147-19 Updated ranges for Officers’ and Unaffiliated Employee Salaries pursuant to and as required by Municipal Code Section 2.36.010, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO CONSOLIDATE AND REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES:**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

140-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH CARMELO MENDEZ, PPA MINOR #1, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

141-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH CARMELO MENDEZ, PPA MINOR #2, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

148-19 COMMUNICATION FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT RE: PROPOSED EQUIPMENT LEASE – PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC., REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

151-19 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF DENIS HABZA (R) TO THE HARBOR COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

153-19 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF NICHOLA HALL (D) TO THE FOOD POLICY COUNCIL, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

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

142-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) HERRON & CO-SPONSOR DEFILIPPO RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE INTERSECTION OF WAYNE STREET AND HARLEM AVENUE BE DESIGNATED AS AN “ALL-WAY” STOP WITH APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE AND STREET MARKINGS, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

143-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) VALLE & CO-SPONSOR NIEVES RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT NO PARKING SIGNS AND CONCRETE BARRIERS BE INSTALLED FOR ENHANCED TRAFFIC CONTROL AROUND THE AREA OF MARIONVILLE APARTMENTS ON HALLETT STREET BETWEEN HAMILTON AND GOODWIN STREETS, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

144-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) VALLE, NIEVES, MARTINEZ, & NEWTON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR METRO-NORTH RAILROAD VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

145-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) CRUZ, MCBRIDE-LEE, SILVA, PEREIRA & NEWTON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ENSURE PUBLIC SPACES REFLECT DIVERSITY AND VALUES, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

146-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY TO DRAFT LANGUAGE TO AMEND MUNICIPAL CODE ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 2.36 – OFFICERS’ SALARIES, SECTION 2.36.010 – OFFICERS’ AND UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEE SALARIES, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE TO CONSOLIDATE AND REFER THE ITEMS AS LISTED TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

147-19 Communication from Labor Relations re: Updated ranges for Officers’ and Unaffiliated Employee Salaries pursuant to and as required by Municipal Code Section 2.36.010, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

Council Member Pereira said that she did not understand why this was being presented as accepted and made part of the record. She said that the ordinance requires it to go to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Council Member Newton said that he had submitted Agenda Item 147-19 and requested that it to go to Contracts because it deals with contractual issues.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO SEND AGENDA ITEM 147-19 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: UPDATED RANGES FOR OFFICERS' AND UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEE SALARIES PURSUANT TO AND AS REQUIRED BY MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.36.010, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD TO THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Herron said that she would like to include her name on the resolution.

Council Member Pereira repeated her statement that the Ordinance indicates that the Agenda Item should be referred to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

**** THE MOTION TO SEND AGENDA ITEM 147-19 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE: UPDATED RANGES FOR OFFICERS' AND UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEE SALARIES PURSUANT TO AND AS REQUIRED BY MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.36.010, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD TO THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, TAYLOR-MOYE, CRUZ, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

149-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Pereira & Co-Sponsors Cruz, DeFilippo & Castillo re: Proposed resolution for the Director of Health & Social Services to attend an Ordinance Committee Meeting, referred to Ordinance Committee.

Council Member Newton said this was a Labor issue and should be handled by Labor Relations. There is a separation between the legislative branch and the administrative branch. There is a process that should be followed. The Council should not be in the business of handling the employee disputes.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 149-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA & CO-SPONSORS CRUZ, DEFILIPPO & CASTILLO RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES TO ATTEND AN ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Martinez said that employees have CHRO and other means to file complaints.

Council Member Pereira objected.

Mayor Ganim said that there was no debate on a motion to table.

****THE MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 149-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA & CO-SPONSORS CRUZ, DEFILIPPO & CASTILLO RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES TO ATTEND AN ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE PASSED WITH ELEVEN (11) IN FAVOR, (BURNS, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON); FOUR (4) OPPOSED (PEREIRA, CRUZ, DEFILIPPO & CASTILLO), AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (LYONS).**

Council Member Lyons stated that a family member works for the Health and Social Services Department.

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***112-19 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Municipal Suspense Tax Book.**

***119-19 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Port Security Grant Program (#21388, #21389, #21390, #21392 & #21393).**

***120-19 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FY 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) Operations and Safety (#20210).**

***121-19 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Connecticut Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (CTDEMHS) MOA for the State Homeland Security Grant Program (FY17-FY22).**

***122-19 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Long Island Sound Futures Fund – Johnson Creek (#21614).**

***123-19 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA) – Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program – Bridgeport Senior Center Recreational Activities Program (#21533).**

***124-19 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA) – Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program – Elderly Hispanic Program (#21270).**

***125-19 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: CT Department of Agriculture – FY2020 Farm Viability Grant.**

***129-19 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis in Bridgeport.**

***128-19 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Frances Nunez.**

Mayor Ganim asked if any Council Member wished to have an item removed from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Pereira requested Agenda Item 112-19 and Agenda 129-19 be removed.

City Clerk Martinez read the remaining Consent Calendar items into the record.

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

***119-19 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (#21388, #21389, #21390, #21392 & #21393).**

***120-19 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FY 2019 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM (AFG) OPERATIONS AND SAFETY (#20210).**

***121-19 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY (CTDEMHS) MOA FOR THE STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (FY17-FY22).**

***122-19 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION – LONG ISLAND SOUND FUTURES FUND – JOHNSON CREEK (#21614).**

***123-19 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) – TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM – BRIDGEPORT SENIOR CENTER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (#21533).**

***124-19 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION:**

SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) – TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM – ELDERLY HISPANIC PROGRAM (#21270).

***125-19 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – FY2020 FARM VIABILITY GRANT.**

***128-19 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH FRANCES NUNEZ.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

112-19 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Municipal Suspense Tax Book.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 112-19 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that this was taking \$93,000 off the rolls and some of the delinquent tax items were as recently as 2017. She said that the Tax Assessor had to approve it, but the Tax Assessor left his position with the City over a year ago.

Council Member Herron said that she supported the item. There has been a major discussion in the Budget and Appropriations Committee regarding this item.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, TAYLOR-MOYE, CRUZ, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (PEREIRA AND SULIMAN).**

129-19 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis in Bridgeport.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 129-19 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN BRIDGEPORT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Cruz said that racism is in many forms and found on many levels.

Council Member Silva said that he was in agreement with Council Member Cruz.

Council Member Pereira said that in Committee, there was an important aspect involving collecting the data, but the resolution does not indicate what data will be collected or how often the information would be presented to the Council. The resolution does not include that information now.

Council Member Newton thanked Council Member Cruz for bringing this to the City Council. He said that City Councils around the country were passing this type of resolution. There are a list of things including health that would fall into the category.

Council Member Brantley said that she wanted to echo Council Member Newton's comments. She said that they did not need to go back to include items like health services, housing and racial profiling. This was putting these items back to the forefront. There was State legislation passed recently on Police reform. It is time to put racism to rest and everyone should be involved in this social justice movement.

Council Member Martinez said that it should not be applicable to just one area and should apply to seniors, youth and everyone else. She thanked Council Member Cruz for bringing this forward.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she supported this resolution.

Council President Nieves said that she had mentioned in the Committee Agenda Item 139-19, which would piggyback on Agenda Item 129-19. Agenda Item 139-19 would address the various issues.

Council Member Brantley asked for a roll call vote.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

115-19 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution regarding Bridgeport Police Department Training, Reforms and Accountability.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVE TO POSTPONE IT TO THE NEXT REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING.**

Council Member Pereira said that when the item has passed out of Committee, the Police Accountability Reform Resolution from the State had not yet been presented.

****COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that there was no discussion on a motion to a postpone. Council Member Newton said that he wanted to understand. He said that whatever the State passed, Bridgeport would have to comply.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that Council Member Lyons was her Co-chair for the Public Safety and Transportation Committee. Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she agreed with Council Member Newton and did not see any reason why they could not go ahead and vote.

**** THE MOTION TO POSTPONE FAILED TO PASS WITH EIGHT (8) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, SILVA, CASTILLO, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND DEFILIPPO) AND NINE (9) AGAINST (TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, MCBRIDE-LEE, NIEVES, VALLE, NEWTON, CRUZ, HERRON AND MAYOR GANIM) AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (ROMAN-CHRISTY AND LYONS).**

Both Council Member Lyons and Roman-Christy stated that they had immediate family members involved with the Bridgeport Police Department.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 115-19 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING, REFORMS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.**

Council Member Valle said that Council Member Pereira had mentioned that someone had taken one of the copies she had requested copies of the bill. Council Member Valle requested that the copy be returned to Council Member Pereira.

Council Member Newton said that when laws pertaining to the Police Departments are passed by the State, it takes effect regardless of what the Council does. It affects every municipality. Council Member Newton said that he did not see any reason to delay the vote.

Council Member Pereira said that Roberts Rules indicates that the person who introduces the legislation should be the one who moves it.

Council Member Pereira then spoke about how her resolution focused on Customer Service training. She said that she worked in Customer Service for 25 years, and the officers should have yearly training. Council Member Pereira said that when they pay large settlements for police brutality, it should be paid from the Overtime Budget. She said that moving something forward before it was studied. The Council might want to have stricter regulations in the City ordinance than what the State approves. She does not approve of passing something before it has been read.

Council Member Brantley said that she felt that the ordinance would allow the City to work in conjunction with the State. It will take some work. The Council will also be working together with the Federal authorities. Until people start being held accountable, the problems won't stop. Everyone is going to have to work together, including the Council Members and the State Legislators and the unions. What Council Member Pereira calls Customer Service, Council Member Brantley calls Community Relations.

Council Member Herron said that she appreciates what Council Member Brantley said. She asked if the Police Commission would be involved in the informational sessions. Council Member Pereira said that it was a resolution that would provide constituent training at the Academy. She said that she was asking that the matter to be postponed to investigate what would be covered.

Council Member Herron said that she would like to have the Police Commission to be involved. The Council needs to have the Police Commission be accountable as well.

Council Member Newton said that the Hartford bill included a Citizen Review Board. He added that he would make sure that the Council Members would get a summary of the bill.

Council Member Burns reminded everyone that this was a resolution and not an ordinance. They can reconcile it with the State legislation. It will be important to be united behind this resolution.

Council President Nieves said that there was an item in the Budget and Appropriations Committee about the concerns Council Member Pereira expressed. Ms. Vickers sent a summary to the Council Members. Council President Nieves spoke about body cams and other items covered in the legislation. Holding officers accountable is something that would have to come from the unions. These issues will take time to implement.

Council Member Lyons said she would be abstaining due to having an immediate family member involved with the Police Commission.

Council President Nieves said that she agreed with Council Member Herron that the Police Commission should be at the table.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN IN FAVOR (18) (BURNS, MCCARTHY, TAYLOR-MOYE, CRUZ, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, PEREIRA MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (LYONS).**

134-19 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Resolution regarding an Agreement with Fairfield Fire Department to perform Training Activities with the City of Bridgeport Fire Department.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED AGENDA ITEM 134-19 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING AN AGREEMENT WITH FAIRFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PERFORM TRAINING ACTIVITIES WITH THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she did not vote on this while it was in Committee because it was not listed on the agenda and she did not have the items to review the document.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEM FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

152-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Nieves & Newton re: Proposed resolution requesting Legal Assistance from the City Attorney's Office, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE AGENDA ITEM 152-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) NIEVES & NEWTON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING LEGAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION AS FOLLOWS:**

WHEREAS, RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN A MATERIAL DECREASE IN DECORUM AND CIVILITY, AND A COMMENSURATE INCREASE IN UNBECOMING, ABUSIVE AND UNPARLIAMENTARY CONDUCT, AT CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS, AS WELL AS BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ACTING OUTSIDE OF SUCH OFFICIAL MEETINGS CONCERNING MATTERS REGARDING CITY COUNCIL, BUSINESS, OPERATIONS AND FELLOW MEMBERS;

WHEREAS, THE DECREASE IN CIVILITY AND DECORUM AND THE INCREASE IN ABUSIVE CONDUCT IMPAIRS THE ABILITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT;

WHEREAS, CITY COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER, RULE XXVI: CONDUCT IN CITY COUNCIL PROVIDES STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO ADHERE TO, AS WELL AS CERTAIN SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATION OF SUCH STANDARDS;

WHEREAS, THE CITY COUNCIL REQUIRES LEGAL GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE BRIDGEPORT CITY ATTORNEY IN ORDER TO ENSURE IT PROCEEDS ACCORDING TO THE LAW AND PROVIDES MEMBERS WITH ALL THE NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE DUE PROCESS IN ACTION IT MAY DETERMINE TO UNDERTAKE TO ENFORCE DECORUM AND OTHERWISE CENSURE OR SANCTION MEMBERS FOR CONDUCT THAT VIOLATES THE CITY CHARTER CODE OF ORDINANCE, CITY COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER (INCLUDING BUT LIKE NOT LIMITED TO RULE XXIV), CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTES OR REGULATIONS OR ANY OTHER APPLICABLE STANDARD OF BEHAVIOR OCCURRING DURING OFFICIAL CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL, COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS, PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUMS AND PUBLIC HEARING HEARINGS;

WHEREAS, THE CITY COUNCIL SEEKS LEGAL GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE BRIDGEPORT CITY ATTORNEY WITH REGARDS TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT, GOVERN, REGULATE AND ENFORCE CONDUCT BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS CONCERNING CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS, THAT OCCUR OUTSIDE OF AN OFFICIAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OR ONE OF ITS COMMITTEES;

WHEREAS, THIS IS A MATTER THAT REQUIRES IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION IN ORDER TO PRESERVE GOOD ORDER AND DISCIPLINE IN OFFICIAL CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS AND TO FOSTER COURTEOUS AND NON-ABUSIVE BEHAVIOR THAT REFLECTS POSITIVELY UPON THE CITY COUNCIL AND INSTILLS PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE BODY, PARTICULARLY DURING THESE TIMES OF THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY AND THE NATIONAL PROTEST AND DEMONSTRATIONS CONCERNING THE NEED FOR SUBSTANTIVE POLICE REFORM.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THIS CITY COUNCIL HEREBY REQUEST THE CITY ATTORNEY, AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE(S), TO PROVIDE IT WITH LEGAL ADVICE, COUNSEL, GUIDANCE, OPINION AND DRAFTSMANSHIP CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

A LIST OF LEGAL AUTHORITIES GOVERNING BEHAVIOR AND DECORUM OF THE BRIDGEPORT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS DURING OFFICIAL CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL, COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS, PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS, AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF SUCH STANDARDS OF CONDUCT;

A LEGAL AND PROPER PROCEDURE PROCESS FOR ENFORCING THE PROVISIONS OF SUCH LEGAL AUTHORITIES GOVERNING CITY COUNCIL MEMBER BEHAVIOR AND DECORUM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE CITY COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER, RULE XXIV: CONDUCT IN CITY COUNCIL;

THE SCOPE AND LIMITS OF THE CITY COUNCIL'S AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT, GOVERN, REGULATE AND ENFORCE CONDUCT BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS CONCERNING CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS AND CITY OPERATIONS, OCCURRING OUTSIDE OF ANY OFFICIAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OR ONE OF ITS COMMITTEES;

REVISION TO THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCE AND/OR THE CITY COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER THAT WOULD BE RECOMMENDED TO

**ASSIST THE CITY COUNCIL WITH REGARDS TO THE SUBJECT MATTER;
AND**

**ANY OTHER GUIDANCE AND ADVICE THE CITY ATTORNEY DEEMS MAY
BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE CITY COUNCIL IN THIS MATTER.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira read the following statement into the record:

City Charter- Chapter 4- City and Town Clerks, Section 1- Duties of City Clerk

Paragraph 1- "...The City Clerk shall prepare the agenda for meetings of the city council in the manner provided in the rules of the city council..."

City Council Rule XIII: References to Committees, Section 12 states "Any communication, petition, report or resolution for presentation at a meeting of the City Council shall be filed at the Office of the City Clerk no later than 4:30 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding the Council meeting."

The resolution "Requesting Legal Assistance from the City Attorney's Office" was submitted by Council President Aidee Nieves and Councilman Ernest Newton on Friday which was stamped by the City Clerk's office on Friday, July 31, 2020 at 10:15 a.m., therefore the City Clerk and/or Deputy Clerk authorized an unlawful Addendum to the agenda issued on Friday in violation of both the City Charter & City Council Rules. This also included the two appointments of two board commissioners.

If an item is not submitted by 4:30 PM the previous Wednesday the only way an item may be added to the agenda is to make a motion on the floor to add the item which then must pass by two-thirds of those voting and present as per the Freedom of Information Act.

Neither the City Attorney, Mayor, City Council President nor the City Clerk can violate the City Charter or the City Council Rules, therefore the agenda item being discussed is before this body illegally.

Therefore, I would like to make a motion to remove Item 152-19, resolution requesting Legal Assistance from the City Attorney's Office, from the agenda.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO REMOVE AGENDA ITEM 152-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) NIEVES & NEWTON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING LEGAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION FROM THE AGENDA BECAUSE THE ITEM WAS PLACED ON THE AGENDA ILLEGALLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEFILIPPO SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton said that it has been the past practice of the Council where the Council has allowed items to be presented past the Wednesday deadline. Council Member Newton requested this to be voted this down.

**** THE MOTION TO REMOVE AGENDA ITEM 152-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) NIEVES & NEWTON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING LEGAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION FROM THE AGENDA BECAUSE THE ITEM WAS PLACED ON THE AGENDA ILLEGALLY FAILED TO PASS WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR (DEFILIPPO, CASTILLO, AND PEREIRA) AND ELEVEN (11) OPPOSED (BURNS, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, NIEVES, VALLE, MARTINEZ, NEWTON, CRUZ, AND LYONS)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVE FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 152-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) NIEVES & NEWTON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING LEGAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.**

Council Member Newton said that this legislation needed to be approved because of the actions that others have done.

Council Member Newton said that he had heard the comments were made that were hurtful and unnecessary when the Columbus statue was being removed. It is the job of the Council Members to be civil to one another. Council Member Newton noted that he was an ex-felon and someone wrote a statement that others could be in danger from him. It is wrong to degrade people of other races. The Council Members should be colleagues. There are individuals who are questioning Council Members' votes.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

Council Member Brantley said that this item was unfortunate, but necessary. The Council needs to speak up when it is time to speak up. With all that is going on, the Council members do not need to be pointing fingers at one another. Pitting one against one another is wrong and if this is what is necessary, then so be it. She said that when people talk about ghetto, it is wrong. It is time to move forward in a civil manner. It's about the City and the residents.

Council Member Cruz said he was initially against this, but he had also violated civility when he allowed his passion to overtake his reasoning. He apologized to the Council Members. He said that he was supporting this resolution because he needs to learn to be civil. He is listening and learning to work with everyone.

Council Member Pereira said that she would read a prepared statement on the advice of counsel.

Amendment on Item -52-19- Resolution requesting Legal Assistance from the City Attorney's Office.

Our City Council President and colleague have proposed a resolution for “immediate consideration” regarding the infringement of councilmembers First Amendment Right to Free Speech, specifically Political Speech, which is considered to be the most protected speech, enshrined in the U.S. Constitution within the Bill of Rights, and is somehow being considered an “emergency” matter.

Since December 2019, no member of the City Council has been the subject of a lack of civility, decorum and abusive conduct during City Council Meetings and Committee Meetings more than I have. I have repeatedly raised these violations during Points of Order as per Robert’s Rules of Order and the City Council Rules, addressed this with the City Council President verbally while documenting those conversations as well as documenting this inappropriate conduct in a number of emails in which the City Council President has NEVER responded to a single one.

In fact, the Mayor chaired a meeting where he allowed colleagues to disparage me during the meeting knowing full well that I was no longer on the call which is a flagrant violation of Robert’s Rules of Order and City Council Rule XXVI Conduct in City Council. The City Council President certainly didn’t introduce a resolution for “immediate consideration” declaring an “emergency” in addressing the numerous violations I have raised on the record during City Council Meetings, verbally, in text messages and in numerous emails.

Although I don’t necessarily agree with everything my colleagues do and say outside of City Council Meetings, and they may not necessarily agree with what I do or say; I am going to defend all of our rights to say what we need to say within the confines of the law. I will absolutely defend our rights by waging a social media, press, community effort and legal effort to block any attempt to infringe on our First Amendment Right to Free Speech.

Although my name is nowhere on this resolution I think we all know who this resolution is targeting as four of my colleagues, with three being in leadership roles, felt it appropriate to hold a press conference with Channel 12 News admonishing me, comparing me to President Trump, stating the Council has to get involved “before someone gets hurt” which I found ominous and once again threatening as I was the only city council member referenced, and our City Council President stated that our “Freedom of Speech becomes “limited” when we use “disparaging language, derogatory language and bigoted language” which was chilling, frightening and not supported by any Supreme Court Ruling. We are not a fascist or communist country where those who criticize their government and those that govern them can be punished. In fact, Political Speech is the most protected of all free speech. The City Council President may want to consider enrolling in a course on the U.S. Constitution.

There is quite a bit of consistent and equal opportunity for censure of my city council colleagues, therefore I would like to make a motion to amend the resolution to specifically

direct the City Attorney to propose resolutions of censure for the following violations of Robert's Rules of Order, City Council Rule XXVI: Conduct in City Council, Criminal conduct, the use or sanction of vulgar language, and racist, and/or homophobic slurs during and outside of City Council Meetings as follows:

- 1) City Council President Nieves for allowing Cecil Young to repeatedly use the most egregious racial slur possible , the N word, during Public Comment without reprimand and condemnation by failing to immediately call the speaker out of order in violation of City Council Rule XXV: Public Speaking Forum
- 2) Councilwoman Mary McBride Lee for stating to a CT Post reporter that maybe she would have considered voting for sitting black Senator Marilyn Moore for mayor “if she was really black and/or black enough.”
- 3) Councilman Ernest Newton for pleading guilty to three felonies while serving as a councilman in 2019, for stating Bridgeport should implement a “Stop & Frisk” policy like NY which has its roots in slavery and racism and was proven to be a form of racial profiling disproportionately impacting Black & Brown people which was overturned by a U.S. District Judge in 2013, for repeatedly sending me threatening and highly inappropriate emails, and for utilizing the City Sidewalk Repair Program while serving as a City Councilman, signing an agreement related to the cost, his share and a re-payment plan, having city taxpayers pay 100% of the cost and failing to pay one dollar of his 50% share forcing the city to place a lien on his home in April 2019 for \$2,000.
- 4) Councilman Jorge Cruz for referring to Christopher Columbus and others as a “maricon” which translates to “f__t” in English which is the most offensive homophobic slur possible, and his postings on Only in Bridgeport on March 20, 2020 that used a homophobic slur, foul and vulgar language and more, as well as referring to me as a “punk” in a statement published on Only in Bridgeport.
- 5) Councilwoman Eneida Martinez who stood up from her chair during a City Council meeting in February 2020 to berate a public speaker and call him a foul name and reference his psychiatric state in violation of Robert's Rules of Order and the City Council Rule XXVI :Conduct in the City Council as well as making an inappropriate statement regarding “Jews”
- 6) Councilman Alfredo Castillo for calling me an “a__hole” from his seat during a City Council meeting and repeatedly making inappropriate comments while I was the recognized speaker at city council meetings in violation of Robert's Rules of Order and the City Council Rule XXVI: Conduct in the City Council
- 7) Councilwoman Denese Taylor-Moye for making derogatory statements about me under

the guise of a “Personal Point of Privilege” which may not be used to disparage a colleague under any circumstances during a Regular City Council meeting and in violation of Robert’s Rules of Order and the City Council Rule XXVI: Conduct in the City Council and for issuing a formal statement attacking me to Only in Bridgeport

8) Councilwoman Evette Brantley for stating “no one cares what you think” while I was the recognized speaker during a Regular City Council Meeting in violation of Robert’s Rules of Order and the City Council Rule XXVI: Conduct in the City Council

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO HAVE THE CITY ATTORNEY DRAFT CENSURE AS NOTED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

Council Member Lyons said that her question was about legal advice. Council Member Pereira said that it was for censure of certain Council Members. Council Member Lyons said that she was suggesting that copies of Roberts Rules showing the code of conduct be given out. She said that she was concerned with bullet point 3 on page 2 of resolution. She pointed out that asking the City Attorney would limit their rights to speak outside of the City Council. Pinpointing one another is simply attacking one another. Professionally, this is not the way to handle this.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she had not insulted or humiliated anyone during her time, but there are individuals who have written mean and nasty things. Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she would not tolerate being insulted or humiliated.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that when people make statements, they should know what they are talking about. She added that her attorney would be contacting the individual about what was said. Just reading something in the paper doesn’t mean that it happened. Her attorney will be asking for proof that Council Member McBride-Lee said what was claimed because there is no proof.

Council Member Herron said that on Saturday, she agreed to the resolution without names on it. If others were going to be named, she had no issue about this. But punishing someone again for past mistakes is wrong.

Council Member Martinez said that were bigger issues to focus on in Bridgeport. She was disappointed in the individual’s action tonight. It is not leadership to chastise black and brown people about things that happened in the past. She said that when she is quoted, it should be quoted correctly. There are killings, shootings and crimes every day in the City. Those would be the things to focus on.

Council Member Newton said that this individual had said that if Mr. Testa had a cotton field in his driveway, another Council Member would be picking cotton. It is wrong to have things like this to happen. Council Members do not have the right to character assassination. Many of the

things happened in the past before this individual was on the Council. Calling a staff member “trailer trash” is wrong. He then asked his constituents to vote no on this slanderous motion.

Council Member Burns said that people should not need to resort to disparaging comments.

Council President Nieves noted that no one was specifically named in the resolution. She noted that she was contacted by a news reporter about responding to an interview. Now, the Council has become toxic and Members are pitting one against another. Calling other members constituents to tattle tale on the Council Members’ actions. There are many problems and it is time to start fixing the issues. The Council Members are responsible to the City, just as the Mayor is. Elected officials do not have the same freedoms as others because they are leaders for the community.

Council Member Newton asked for a roll call vote.

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO HAVE THE CITY ATTORNEY DRAFT CENSURE AS NOTED FAILED TO PASS WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR (DEFILIPPO AND PEREIRA) AND FIFTEEN (15) AGAINST (BURNS, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, SILVA, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON).**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 152-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) NIEVES & NEWTON RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING LEGAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, SILVA, NIEVES, VALLE, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

Mayor Ganim stated that there were a number of Council Members who had to recuse themselves from the next three items. He then turned the Chairmanship of the meeting over to Council Member Herron before leaving. The following Council Members also recused themselves at this time: Burns, Taylor-Moye, Brantley, Lyons, Roman-Christy, Castillo, Nieves, Valle, Martinez and Newton.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED TO IMMEDIATELY CONSIDER AGENDA ITEM 150-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED AND HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR 2020-2024 CONSOLIDATED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHICH INCLUDES THE PROGRAM YEAR 46 ACTION PLAN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira asked for clarification on who was present. Council Member Herron then stated that the following Council Members were present: Castillo, Cruz, DeFilippo, Herron, McBride-Lee, Pereira, Suliman and Silva.

Council Member Pereira then read a statement into the record.

On the advice of counsel I am reading the following into the record:

- 1.) The first time the Special CDBG Committee saw the 199 page 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan was on May 12, 2020, the very day we were asked to vote on it. When I asked the available staff what the Five Year 2020-2025 Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan was as it was in the resolution we were provided and being asked to approve, staff stated they had emailed it earlier that day. Both Matthew McCarthy and I stated we had not received it. Staff emailed this 199 page document to Co-chairs Jeanette Herron & Mary McBride Lee at 3:53 PM that day and we were scheduled to vote on it at 7:00 PM. Staff then forwarded the document to Matthew McCarthy & I at 7:24 PM, 24 minutes after the meeting started. Both Matthew McCarthy and I objected to voting on a 5 year federal HUD Consolidated Plan that was 199 pages in length that we did not have an opportunity to read. We both voted no on the resolution while Jeanette Herron, Mary McBride Lee, Alfredo Castillo and Jorge Cruz voted in favor of the resolution. Samia Suliman was absent. This was so troubling to me that I reached out to the CT Director of HUD located in Hartford. We exchanged numerous emails, several phone calls which included two conference calls totaling over 4 hours. I submitted 23 questions to her in writing and we reviewed those questions and others. On Thursday, July 23, 2020 I was contacted by a HUD Criminal Investigator and asked if I could participate on a conference call with an additional investigator on Friday, July 24, 2020. The following morning I participated in a three way conference call with two HUD criminal investigators for approximately 2 hours. I have already filed one HUD complaint with the federal Inspector General in Washington and am will be filing a much more comprehensive complaint regarding the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and PY 46 Action Plan after tonight's votes. I am also seeking federal "whistleblower" status should there be any attempt to retaliate against me as the administration, Thomas Gil, his staff and City Council leadership are well aware of my interactions with HUD.**
- 2.) The vast majority of the 2020-2024 Action Plan process was conducted in violation of the Citizens Participation Plan required by HUD. On Page 2 of the Consolidated Plan- Development of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans- third paragraph – "The draft plan will be submitted to the Bridgeport City Council and referred to its Economic and Community Development and Environment subcommittee with a thirty (30) day review period for comment." This is on tonight's agenda to be approved without referral to the ECD & Environment Committee in violation of the CPP.**
- 3.) Under Access to Information in the CPP on Page 5 it states" the City of Bridgeport will ensure ... At each stage of the planning process Housing and Community**

Development will implement a thirty (30) day comment period/review process: Consolidated Plan Initial Draft; Consolidated Plan Final Draft; CAPER; and, substantial amendments (when applicable) ...” Public notification will be provided by the Department of Housing and Community Development. Public notification WILL include, but not limited to, the following: Community newspapers (English and Spanish), Public Libraries; and the City/department website. Much of this was not adhered to in violation of the CPP. In reviewing the City of Bridgeport HOME & CDBG Bridgeport , Housing and Community Development Page and HUD Entitlement Programs webpages all three identify the following:

* 2013-2018 Consolidated Plan

* PY 39 Annual Action Plan

* PY 40 Annual Action Plan

* PY 39 CAPER

* PY 46 Special Committee & Citizen Union. (This was put up recently, however the link does not work)

* 2020-2025 (should be 2024) Consolidated Plan Draft (This was put up recently, however the link does not work)

- 4.) The 2020-2024 Consolidated Draft Plan was just recently posted, however the link does not work, therefore the public had no 30 day notice of the plan at any point and certainly not before tonight. It appears the last time the Annual Action Plan and CAPER was made available to the public was in PY 39/40 when Bill Finch was mayor.
- 5) The resolution before us today is NOT the resolution voted on by the Citizen’s Union on May 11, 2020 & by the Special CDBG Committee on May 12, 2020. How can a resolution approved in committee be repeatedly altered by Thomas Gil or his staff and moved to the full City Council, especially as it relates to federal funds with very strict covenants? Any changes regarding the resolution voted in committee would have to be formally amended tonight? The changes are not noted or highlighted in any way.
- 6) On May 13, 1996, the Bridgeport City Council passed Ordinance 2.108.010 creating the Bridgeport Citizens Union. Under the FOIA, the Citizens Union is defined as a subcommittee of the City Council which makes it a Public Agency. This requires all Citizens Union meetings to be noticed with at least 24 hours’ notice, all meetings must be open to the public and minutes must be available to the public within 7 business days. That definitely did not occur this year, and it appears it did not occur last year as well. The only meeting I could even find notice of was the Joint Citizens

Union & Special CDBG Committee meetings held on May 6 & 7, 2020.

- 7) The Citizen’s Participation Plan (CPP) under “Role” on Page 2 states” The Citizens Union will be consulted during the development of the City’s Five-Year Consolidated Plan and will participate in the allocation ... The Citizen’s Union will be notified by the Department of Housing and Community Development when both the consolidated plan and annual action plan processes are beginning. There was no notice provided regarding the development of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.**
- 8) CPP Development of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans in paragraph 2 states “the City, through its Department of Housing and Community Development, will hold a series of meetings and public forums with representatives from, but not limited to, City Departments, non-profit agencies, City administration , the city Council, the Bridgeport Citizen’s Union, NRZ representatives, the Bridgeport Housing Authority and members of the public in order to guide the initial draft of its consolidated plan...” Neither the Citizen’s Union of Special CDBG Committee was involved in the drafting of the Consolidated Plan. I cannot speak to the other entities.**
- 9) Page 6- Bullet 4 further states – “A public hearing was held at City Council on June 1, 2020 to approve the Consolidated Plan and first year of the Annual Action Plan.” That is completely false.**
- 10) Page 8 – Paragraph 1 states: “In developing its Consolidated Plan, the City sought input for its overall and annual priorities & goals through a series of community meetings, public notices, a non-profit organization forum, a public comment review period, public hearings, a community survey made available on the City’s website, and consultation with non-profits, City staff, elected officials and housing providers ... and many citizens.” That statement is significantly embellished at best with complete falsehoods noted.**
- 11) Page 22-25, Citizen Participation Outreach Table has a number of false and inaccurate statements including that on Page 23 a “Public Hearing” was held on both May 6th & May 7, 2020 as only CDBG applicants were allowed to speak. No other members of the public were allowed to address the Joint Citizen’s Union & Special CDBG Special Committee**
- 12) On Page 23 it identifies the Citizen Union Deliberations held on May 11, 2020 as a Public Meeting. That is completely false. The meeting was not noticed as required under the FOIA and no members of the public were allowed to join the meeting and there are no minutes available. It is my understanding from my designee that the draft consolidated plan was neither presented or discussed but was simply referenced in the resolution**

13) On Page 24 it identifies the “Special Committee Deliberations” held on May 12, 2020 as a Public Meeting. That is completely false. The meeting was properly noticed as required under the FOIA, however unbeknownst to me, both staff and at least one Co-chair was aware that members of the public were trying to join the ZOOM meeting and were prohibited from doing so in absolute violation of the FOIA.

14) Page 24 further states that a “Public Comment Review Period” was held from May 14, 2020 to May 20, 2020. I was unable to find any reference to this neither on the Burroughs Library webpage nor on the HOME & CDBG in Bridgeport, Housing & Community Development & HUD Entitlement Programs Page (CDBG, ESG, HOME & HOPWA) City webpages.

Based on these violations I just read into the record, and an additional two pages of violations of both HUD requirements & Bridgeport’s Citizen Participation Plan; and because I have already filed a complaint with the Federal Inspector General for HUD and because I will be filing a much more extensive complaint after tonight’s meeting; I have no choice but to abstain from voting on this matter.

Council Member Herron asked Mr. Gill when the deadline was for the applications. Mr. Gill said that it was August 16th. Council Member Herron said that she would call an Emergency meeting.

Mr. Gill said that the plan was prepared by a consultant group that works with HUD all over the country. He said that there were a number of meetings held at the Margaret Morton Center and at Lyon Terrace in accordance with HUD guidelines. He cited pages 11 through 24, which lists all the participants. If the Council does not vote on this, the City stands to lose \$2 million dollars in aid. There have been various audits since 2013-2014.

Mr. Gill said that being accused and chastised was wrong. Council Member Herron said that Council Member Pereira was the only one who was making a statement.

Council Member Castillo said that he was following up on Mr. Gill’s statement. The funds help the constituents and those who are in need. Postponing this again is wrong. It is time to move on. It is time to take care of business.

Council Member Cruz said that it was unfair that these types of insults were being directed at Mr. Gill. He has been transparent and professional with Council Member Cruz. He said that he did not see any reason to postpone the vote. This has been a long, dragged out process and is causing the organizations stress.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she had been on the Committee for a while and did not remember the public ever having an opportunity to speak at the presentation. The Committee is supposed to work together. The City has spoken to HUD about this. Council Member McBride-Lee said that Council Member Pereira was filing a complaint against herself. Take the vote.

Council Member Pereira said that she had not referenced Mr. Gill other than stating that he had been aware of her contact with HUD. Council Member Pereira said that the resolution was not the resolution that had been previously presented. She said that the document said that it was labeled “Amended” and the changes should be reflected in the update.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX (6) IN FAVOR (CASTILLO, CRUZ, DEFILIPPO, MCBRIDE-LEE, SILVA AND SULIMAN) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (PEREIRA).**

48-19 Special Committee on CDBG Report re: Five-Year (2020-2025) Consolidated Plan: Program Year 46 Annual Action Plan: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Homeless Emergency Solutions Grant (HESG), HOME Investment Partnership and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA).

Council Member Herron said that the group had hesitated about allocating the funds to certain organizations that would be running programs because of COVID. The groups are running their programs.

Council Member Castillo said that it was time to move forward. He said that they had already allocated funding.

Council Member Cruz agreed.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that there were groups that did not receive any funding. She said that the black and brown people barely got any money at all. She said that she felt bad about that. If some of the programs

Council Member Cruz said that he was uncomfortable with reallocating funds from groups that has already been approved for funding. This would be unfair, unprofessional and wrong.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked if the organizations had been told they were getting money. Mr. Gill said that no one was notified by staff as to how much money they would get.

Council Member Pereira said that there were three things in the Plan. 99% of the plan was about affordable housing, seniors and homelessness. She said that the group was supposed to make their decisions based on those issues. The Citizen Participation Plan was not provided to the Committee members. She said that this was a violation and involved the ESG, HOPWA and others. Council Member Pereira said that she had spoken with HUD and co-ops did qualify for funding.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 48-19 SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CDBG REPORT RE: FIVE-YEAR (2020-2025) CONSOLIDATED PLAN: PROGRAM YEAR 46 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG), HOMELESS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (HESG), HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS PROGRAM (HOPWA).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (CASTILLO, CRUZ, DEFILIPPO, SILVA AND SULIMAN); ONE (1) OPPOSED (MCBRIDE-LEE) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (PEREIRA).**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER DEFILIPPO SECONDED.**

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she had a question about the Public Facilities getting \$100,000 and wished to know if the sidewalks for Roberto Clemente block were included in the plan. Ms. Miller confirmed that the sidewalks for Roberto Clemente block were included in the plan.

**** THE MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services