

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking session of the City Council to order at 6:30 p.m.

Council President Nieves then reviewed the rules for Public Speaking and cautioned the speakers against the use of personal attacks or profanity.

ROLL CALL

The Assistant City Clerk Frances Ortiz called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, *Matthew McCarthy*
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: Rolanda Smith
133rd District: Aikeem Boyd, Jeanette Herron
134th District: *Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia*
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy
136th District: *Fredrick Hodges, Alfredo Castillo*
137th District: Aidee Nieves, *Maria Valle*
138th District: Maria Pereira, *Samia Suliman*
139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. Names shown in italics did not respond when the roll was called. Council President Nieves announced that Council Members McCarthy and Lyons were absent due to illness and Council Member Valle was out of town.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604.

NAME

SUBJECT

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Open Accountable City Governance.

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

Please visualize a State map with towns and cities named and borders identified. What stands out to you? Bridgeport's small land area contrasted to many neighbors? What else? Water? Long Island Sound as a border with rivers and a lake. But the map does not show our dense population, the largest in the State. Nor does it show our deep-water port. Maps provide limited info to a viewer. However, with all of that water and the large and diverse population where does City governance show economic development of significance? Your role in governance needs to review other governance bodies, Boards and Commissions. Oversight by you would note disregard of Fairness in Housing and Fair Renter attention that you have tried to remedy. At this moment when is the next session for a reimagined Fair Rent Commission? Some good news!

Last Tuesday more than 30 residents of Stratfield Apartments, a HUD subsidized building on Main Street, unanimously approved by-laws authorizing them to speak on behalf of Tenants who meet monthly. Such a voice, not encouraged by Park City Communities or the former Housing Authority is emerging as a useful example of representative democracy. Jorge Cruz and Tyler Mack, your associates on the CC, have met monthly with their constituents. Democratic progress is being launched. 190 adults who vote are interested in being heard.

I have witnessed a valuable City gift from Cadenza Innovations that provides safe energy security, and money saved on energy solutions. You provided approval and City departments did due diligence. The actual first installation is set for Fire Department HQ. But the next CIF proposal for \$6Million for the school system that potentially can create millions in annual savings for the Board of Education was dropped when Governor Lamont decided to send the largest slice of a pie to deal with the PS& G site in the harbor. More than \$22 Million does not do that job.

Where are the agendas, minutes, and comments from the Port Authority? Not on their website. Do they return calls to taxpayers? Do we risk sovereignty over any harbor property when we accept State funds as has happened in another deep-water CT port? If the funds do not solve the eyesore and make it development ready on a reasonable timetable, are we dealing with visuals, not reality, once again? Photo ops and an article? Are we ignoring developing good jobs and a trained workforce, current and future? Time will tell.

Council President Nieves called for the next speaker to come forward and address the Council. Instead, Mr. Cecil Young came forward and interrupted the meeting. He said he was there to speak to the Council. Council President Nieves told him he was banned from Public Speaking. Mr. Young began to shout and was escorted out of the Chambers by the police.

Luis G. Planas
10 Lee Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Loud outdoor parties outside of El Rincon
Peruano that last well into the early
morning hours.

Mr. Planas came forward and said that his family had lived in Bridgeport since 1988. There is a restaurant near his residence that blasts music, often late into the night. Often, there are parties held outside in the parking lot. The groups use the same type of speakers that are used at Seaside Park. The police had to shut down the last few parties at 1:30 or 2:00 a.m. in the morning. Their children should not have to hear loud music all night or drunken people shouting in the parking lot. He was looking for the Council's support in this.

Council Members Vizzo-Paniccia and Hodges joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

John Esteves
Disability Resource Network
340 Capitol Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Slander.

Council President Nieves announced that Mr. Esteves was the next speaker. She was told that Mr. Esteves was not present.

Jermaine Rogers
Main Street
Bridgeport, CT

Mr. Rogers came forward to address the Council and read the following remarks into the record:

Who am I to come before the CC tonight as a speaker?

A resident of an apartment on Main Street, raised in Bridgeport, attended public schools, had some serious and unfortunate incidents that changed the course of my life. I happen to be a man proud of his skin color, an equal to other American citizens and a believer in supporting representative democracy. I am neither violent nor a hater but look forward to using opportunity as it may be discovered to advance personal goals and community success.

As such I am distressed and disappointed for a sister and brother, members of this CC, who were captured on video this past week standing in front of the Government Center with comments for the public at large. Comments emphasizing skin color were used as a way of advancing the civil rights of a certain employee, assigned a paid leave of absence, for activity or behavior that is seeking full explanation from investigating authorities. Is use of the race card a necessary or useful action to protect this woman's civil rights or her "innocence until proven guilty"?

I have come before the Council before, sharing my tribulations with no or slow City FOI response, suggesting that you look to constituents in

your District similarly awaiting FOI responses. Perhaps one or two of you may have acted on this. But how do you muster up the energy to defend this “current alleged violation” of election issues while failing to stand up for the people’s rights to municipal Freedom of Information service? Are the Council members who have raised this issue, suggesting that it is a “racial issue”? Or will you acknowledge that the security of “one person, one vote” and a trusted absentee ballot system needs to be the purpose and goal of your mind, body, and energy?

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned the public speaking portion of the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023**

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:09 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member Suliman to lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member Roman-Christy to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The Assistant City Clerk, Ms. Ortiz called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, *Matthew McCarthy*
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: Rolanda Smith
133rd District: Aikeem Boyd, Jeanette Herron
134th District: *Michelle Lyons*, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy
136th District: Frederick Hodges, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, *Maria Valle*
138th District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman
139th District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. Names shown in italics did not respond when the roll was called. Council Members McCarthy and Lyons were absent due to illness and Council Member Valle was out of town.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

• August 7, 2023

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 7, 2023 MEETING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 7, 2023 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

127-22 Communication from City Clerk re: Items Pending before City Council Committees Pursuant to City Council Rules Ch. XIII Subsection (11), ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

128-22 Communication from Mayor re: Reappointment of James O'Donnell (D) to the Library Board, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

129-22 Communication from Mayor re: Reappointment of Kenya Osborne Gant (D) to the Library Board, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

130-22 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Jerome Roberts (U) to the Fair Rent Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

131-22 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Agata Kotapka – Case #3:18-cv-1660-(RNC), referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

132-22 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Wayne Williams – Docket No. FBT-CV-20-6096034-S, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

133-22 Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Resolution and Small Cell Wireless Facilities Rights-of-Way and Access Agreement including Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement for the purpose of Facilitating Uniform Deployment of 5G Facilities within Connecticut Cities, referred to Contracts Committee.

134-22 Communication from Information Technology Services re: Proposed Professional Services Agreement with Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC to perform a Permitting Process Study for City Departments, referred to Contracts Committee.

135-22 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: National Park Service Save America's Treasures – Perry Memorial Arch (#24868), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

127-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY CLERK RE: ITEMS PENDING BEFORE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES PURSUANT TO CITY COUNCIL RULES CH. XIII SUBSECTION (11), ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

128-22 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF JAMES O'DONNELL (D) TO THE LIBRARY BOARD, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

129-22 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF KENYA OSBORNE GANT (D) TO THE LIBRARY BOARD, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

130-22 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF JEROME ROBERTS (U) TO THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

131-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF AGATA KOTAPKA – CASE #3:18-CV-1660-(RNC), REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

132-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF WAYNE WILLIAMS – DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-20-6096034-S, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

133-22 COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC FACILITIES RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AND SMALL CELL WIRELESS FACILITIES RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND ACCESS AGREEMENT INCLUDING CONFIDENTIALITY AND NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACILITATING UNIFORM DEPLOYMENT OF 5G FACILITIES WITHIN CONNECTICUT CITIES, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

134-22 COMMUNICATION FROM INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES RE: PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BERRY, DUNN, MCNEIL & PARKER, LLC TO PERFORM A PERMITTING PROCESS STUDY FOR CITY DEPARTMENTS, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

135-22 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES –

PERRY MEMORIAL ARCH (#24868), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

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

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***119-22 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health – Immunizations and Vaccines for Children – COVID-19 Supplemental Funding (#24471).**

***101-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Refund of Excess Payments – MTG Realty LLC, Savings Bank of Danbury.**

***114-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Jeygar Vargas – Docket No. 3:23-cv-00265-KAD.**

***123-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Approval for the establishing of a New Job Classification and Specifications of the Certified Police Officer Position pursuant to Municipal Charter Chapter 17 Section 206(d).**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Pereira requested Agenda Items 114-22 and 123-22 be removed from the Consent Calendar. The Assistant City Clerk read the remaining items into the record.

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

***119-22 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH – IMMUNIZATIONS AND VACCINES FOR CHILDREN – COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING (#24471).**

***101-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – MTG REALTY LLC, SAVINGS BANK OF DANBURY.**

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

114-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Jeygar Vargas – Docket No. 3:23-cv-00265-KAD.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED AGENDA ITEM 114-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION IN THE MATTER OF JEYGAR VARGAS – DOCKET NO. 3:23-CV-00265-KAD.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she had not received any detailed information on the settlement and therefore could not vote for it.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURN, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PERERIA).**

123-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Approval for the establishing of a New Job Classification and Specifications of the Certified Police Officer Position pursuant to Municipal Charter Chapter 17 Section 206(d).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED AGENDA ITEM 123-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL FOR THE ESTABLISHING OF A NEW JOB CLASSIFICATION AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICER POSITION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CHARTER CHAPTER 17 SECTION 206(d).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she had not received the documents. She added that she was concerned about the possibility of a Bridgeport applicant being bumped by a lateral transfer.

Council Member Newton noted that Mr. Amado was present to answer questions.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that the concerns about a Bridgeport applicant being bumped by a lateral transfer had been discussed by the Committee at the meeting. She added that she had sent the documentation out. Council Member Herron pointed out that there had been many discussions about the issue of lateral transfers over the years.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURN, CRUZ, MACK, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PERERIA).**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

93-22 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing the Acquisition of chronically Vacant and Blighted Properties in accordance with the Hollow Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Plan as amended.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 93-22 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CHRONICALLY VACANT AND BLIGHTED PROPERTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HOLLOW NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ZONE PLAN AS AMENDED.
** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

94-22 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Authorizing the Acquisition of a chronically Vacant and Blighted Property at 330 Myrtle Avenue in accordance with the South End Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Plan as amended.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 94-22 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF A CHRONICALLY VACANT AND BLIGHTED PROPERTY AT 330 MYRTLE AVENUE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SOUTH END NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ZONE PLAN AS AMENDED.
** COUNCIL MEMBER MACK SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

112-22 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Soledad Nunez (D) to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 112-22 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF SOLEDAD NUNEZ (D) TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

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

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM REGARDING A SECOND ROUND OF SIDEWALK REPLACEMENTS FOR REFERRAL TO PUBLIC SAFETY TO THE AGENDA.
** COUNCIL MEMBER SULIMAN SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED AN ITEM REGARDING A SECOND ROUND OF SIDEWALK REPLACEMENTS FROM PUBLIC SAFETY FOR REFERRAL TO PUBLIC SAFETY TO THE AGENDA.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SULIMAN SECONDED. (ITEM #137-22)**

Council Member Pereira said that this program needs to be reviewed because it has been in effect since 2016. She would like to have a report on how many homeowners defaulted on their loans.

Council President Nieves said that Council Member Lyons was the co-chair of Public Safety. She suggested that an email be sent to Council Member Lyons. The residents who have participated in the program have been happy with the work.

Council Member Newton said that when the program was set up, it was created to help the homeowners. He said that any homeowners that sold their property would have to pay the outstanding loan balance.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO BRING A RESOLUTION REGARDING MESA (MUNICIPAL ENERGY SECURITY AUTHORITY) REPORT TITLED “CLEAN ENERGY FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED BY GREEN BANKS” WHICH ESTABLISHES NON-PROFIT STRUCTURE THAT AUTHORIZES CLEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Castillo stated that the resolution would bring the Federal funding directly to the City rather than having it administered by the State. Copies of the resolution would be given to the City Clerk.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED A RESOLUTION REGARDING MESA (MUNICIPAL ENERGY SECURITY AUTHORITY) REPORT TITLED “CLEAN ENERGY FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED BY GREEN BANKS” WHICH ESTABLISHES NON-PROFIT STRUCTURE THAT AUTHORIZES CLEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED. (ITEM #136-22)**

Council Member Pereira said that she had not received the resolution in her email.

Council Member Burns said that he had received the documentation last night. He felt it should go to Committee for more thorough consideration.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had questions about this and felt it should go to Committee first. Council Member Herron suggested a joint committee meeting for this issue. Discussion followed.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS MOTION TO INCLUDE REFERING THE RESOLUTION REGARDING MESA (MUNICIPAL ENERGY SECURITY AUTHORITY) REPORT TITLED “CLEAN ENERGY FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED BY GREEN BANKS” WHICH ESTABLISHES NON-PROFIT STRUCTURE THAT AUTHORIZES CLEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE TO THE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services