

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06604**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Aidee Nieves called the Public Speaking session of the City Council to order at 6:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: Dasha Spell, Rolanda Smith
133rd District: *Aikeem Boyd (6:52)*, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Ortiz
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Frederick Hodges
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Maria Pereira, Jazmarie Melendez
139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. Names shown in italics did not respond when the roll was called.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604.

There were in total Eleven speakers, nine speakers were registered and two from the floor.

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NAME

SUBJECT

John Marshall Lee -
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Municipal Governance.

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

Good Evening Councilpersons, welcome to a new term of public service for all the citizens of Bridgeport. Management consultants tell us that leaders of organizations must “plan the work” and then “work the plan” to expect success. As legislators your task is not to do the actual work that moves the City forward. Rather you listen to your constituents in the 10 City districts and direct them with their problems, issues, or concerns, to the existing place in City government where they can best seek a solution today. If such a location is not operating as you think it should, perhaps there is a need for you to prod those in power as a group, as part of oversight, checks, and balance, or make a new law.

Obviously, it is a suitable time to reflect upon and prioritize the serious issues that will occupy you in the coming two years. I suggest three areas to focus on:

- Civil Rights/Suffrage- between the long-running “absentee ballot” scandal and only 19.8% of nearly 70,000 registered voters casting a ballot on November 7, 2023. Who is proud of these results? Where is your response, that of the Ethics Commission, or any City effort to inform the public on civics?
- Boards and Commissions-A series of Mayors have left too many citizens serving expired terms as well as leaving positions unfilled, which challenges the purpose of these bodies. Where is any evaluation of those folks who were appointed, how they operate together, and assurance that the Charter is regularly followed? Where is any focus on housing at all?
- A Charter Review-Why not focus on low voting trends, requests for more face-to-face conversations in public sessions and perhaps a “carrot or stick” facing registered voters who fail to cast a ballot, with or without candidates selected? A small fine can be used to fund Civics education for all.

A majority of the folks signed up tonight to address you in their three minutes of public speaking have the passion to address you on a critical issue and ask you for a response that likely falls outside your territory. I salute them for their interest in governance issues. There is a critical contribution they can make. But...we need some of that passion and focus to drive the work of the City and its citizens. Too few folks take their civil rights seriously. How can you seek a place where responsibilities and rights balance, to have justice for all? Time will tell.

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Jazmarie Melendez -
55 N Bishop Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Cease-Fire Resolution.

Ms. Melendez began her statement in regard to the resolution within the city council agenda for December 4, 2023. She believes the council should not be conducting business as usual as they are bearing witness to the death total of 15,600 Palestinians in Gaza including at least 6,600 of them being children. Ms. Melendez stated as an elected body that is said to represent our community chooses to stay silent, it makes them complacent. Ms. Melendez mentioned a ceasefire resolution has been passed in the following: Oakland, Detroit, Atlanta, Georgia, Ohio, Delaware, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania. On December 4th, 2023 the city of New Haven board of alders is currently putting forward a ceasefire resolution. She goes on to say this is the bare minimum the council can do to use their municipal powers to stand for justice. Ms. Melendez reminded everyone that when they stand for the pledge of allegiance later on, they say "justice for all". On the city website it states they believe in an inclusive government, this is something they should model. It is not enough just to attend solidarity events and say they care, they must take action as a collective body. Ms. Melendez stated she left a copy of the proposal on every chairmen's seat and asked they are all united and a front for this resolution to be put forward. Ms. Melendez shared appreciation and support for the Bridgeport Islamic Community Center for allowing her into their community and those signing on to the online petition for the Bridgeport ceasefire resolution with the intention of the neighboring cities to join in on the call.

Linda (Lou) Biafore -
325 Lafayette Street, #4208
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Cease-Fire Resolution.

Ms. Biafore urged the council to support the upcoming ceasefire resolution being put forth by Councilwoman Melendez and urged everyone in attendance to push for an immediate ceasefire, unoccupy Palestine, and an end to all U.S support and funding of the violent, dehumanizing Israeli occupation of Palestine. Ms. Biafore shared she has paid \$4,781 in federal income tax with roughly 20% going to the U.S defense budget, of which President Biden has requested for billions of dollars for additional aid to be put forth to the Israel war crimes. So far this year she has paid \$956 in that fund. She suggested that money could have paid an unhoused person's rent and utilities for a month, to student loan forgiveness, health care, or the education budget. Ms. Biafore provoked everyone to look at their pay stubs and see how much they have paid to genocide this year. She went on to share her thoughts on a video she saw of a 2 year old Palestinian boy being arrested by 3 IDF soldiers, knowing her wages are paying and arming those soldiers and the government that represents us is supporting and ensuring this. Ms. Biafore reminded everyone to think of when they were in school and they were asked what they would have done during the holocaust, native American genocides, or American civil wars; this moment is their answer. She hates how she needs to talk about money to get people to listen and consider how it impacts everyone. As the largest city in Connecticut, they can join their voices with the other cities who have passed a ceasefire resolution. By staying silent, we are endorsing and actively funding genocide aboard and letting those in power know we are letting them know we will let it happen, anywhere and anytime,

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including here at home. Ms. Biafore thanked those who have been standing up for the cause and reminded those who haven't that there is still time to stand up and actively do something.

Hanan Abdulwahid -
Bridgeport Islamic Center
703 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Resolution calling for an immediate
De-escalation and Ceasefire in Israel
community and Gaza.

Ms. Abdulwahid introduced herself and mentioned she will be sharing her time with a 14 year old male student named Sadeel Yusuf. The male student is a proud Palestinian who grew up in Palestine. Sadeel stated Israel is using innocent people as human shields and the war machines are destroying everything. Half of Gaza homes specifically, 278,000 residential units have been destroyed or damaged, 26 out of 35 hospitals in Gaza are no longer functioning, an estimated 265 places of worship have been destroyed, and 266 schools have been destroyed as well. He continued with saying innocent children and families are being harmed every day. Every hour in Gaza 15 people are being killed, 6 are children; 35 people are being injured, 42 bombs are dropped, and 12 buildings are being destroyed. The U.S government has been siding with Israel since their establishment in 1948, there has been many massacres to Palestinians during their settlement. The male student asked how many more killings do we have to see before taking real action. He mentioned FOX and CNN are siding with Israel and broadcasting their propaganda to the rest of the world. Sadeel closed off saying it is time for us to end this genocide and remember the tragic deaths of Palestinians before and after October 7th, 2023. This is an immediate and permanent call to cease fire that can open the possibility of long-term peace.

Victoria Majewski -
378 Willow Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Supporting the resolution by
Councilwoman Melendez for
immediate ceasefire in Palestine from
Israel, etc. The City Council meeting
events, 04/03/2023.

Ms. Majewski introduced herself and stated she will be sharing her time with Musaf Ali. He introduced himself as a 9 year old student of the Bridgeport Islamic Community Center. The male student shared when he first heard of the events going on in Palestine, he felt scared. He questioned how no one could see that what was occurring was wrong, was it because most Palestinians are Muslim? Musaf mentioned the 6 years old Palestinian boy who was stabbed 26 times by his landlord in Illinois. This made him even more scared. He recently visited his favorite Falafel restaurant in Trumbull, Connecticut and was told by the business owner that more than 15 of his family members have died in Gaza. The Business owner identifies as a Christian Palestinian who has been in Connecticut for over 40 years. The male student shared he has been to two protests for Palestine, one in Bridgeport and the other in Washington D.C; he observed people of all religions at the protest. Musaf said you just have to be human to realize what is wrong, you can feel it in your heart. Killing over 600 children is not okay, it may be numbers for some but this is family for others, a nation is being erased. The male student closed off by saying he is calling

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for a permanent ceasefire, allowing military aid into Gaza and the West Bank, and refusing any additional weapons or funding to the Israeli military. He shared a statistic to show how much money Bridgeport residents have funded through federal tax dollars that would equate to paying the salary for 21 elementary school teachers, 673 free or low cost health insurance for children, or 51 student loans canceled.

Mohannad Abuzneid
BICC
703 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Ceasefire.

Mr. Abuzneid introduced himself and stated he would be sharing his time with the President of the Bridgeport Islamic Community Center, Dr. Khaled Elleithy. The president shared his message about peace. BICC is the largest Islamic community in Fairfield county serving no less than 10,000 Muslim families, at least 3,000 Muslim families live in Bridgeport. Dr. Elleithy wanted to express the deep concerns and sympathy with the families of civilians killed or wounded in the recent escalation of events within the Middle East. With two million people being imprisoned and compared to Fairfield county, less than 17% would be without clean water or healthcare. Previous attacks on Gaza have brought massive civilian deficits, destruction of property, making Muslims relocate. The Biden association is permitting Israel to attack Gaza by sending war weapons to them. On behalf of the BICC, Dr. Elleithy holds the city council to support the resolution and convey it to Connecticut representatives to ceasefire, allow humanitarian workers into Gaza, and issue a balance and public message.

Jamjum Majeed -
BICC
1247 Kossuth Street
Bridgeport, CT 06608

Resolution calling for an immediate
de-escalation and ceasefire in Israel,
Gaza war.

Mr. Majeed greeted everyone and thanked councilwoman Melendez for sponsoring the resolution and giving the community an opportunity to speak. He shared he is a Palestinian-American, living 40 years in the country and the last 25 years in Bridgeport. Mr. Majeed shared in sympathy for the pain that has been going on for the last two months, but he is also disgusted in the double standards between Israelis and Palestinians. He is happy how the internet has shared the truth regarding the war. Mr. Majeed would like for the council to vote unbiased and Fair. He ended with saying the Bridgeport City Council won't be the first to support the resolution but they can continue to push the agenda.

Michael Merli -
703 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Cease-Fire Resolution.

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Alongside: Gloria Mitzal
40 Beverly Place
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Mr. Merli stated he would be sharing his speaking time with Gloria Mitzal. Ms. Mitzal shared she was born and raised in Bridgeport, currently in her last year of college studying political science, human rights and social justice. Ms. Mitzal has been studying the Israeli occupation of Palestine since 4 years ago, she wanted to let the council know the youth is waking up, and seeing what the council is doing. The displacement due to the war isn't decreasing, and wants to put pressure on the government to end the war. Ms. Mitzal stated we shouldn't put self-interest first but stand in solidarity with Palestinians. She mentioned this is an opportunity for the council to show the constituents their commitment to listen to the constituents and human rights.

Amina Seyal -
Bridgeport Islamic Community Center
703 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Resolution calling for an immediate
de-escalation and ceasefire Israel and
Gaza

Ms. Seyal shared the podium with a young male named Shawn Aliahem. The male student greeted the council, stated he is an 11 year old boy and wanted to address occupation and genocide going on in Palestine. The oppression by Israelis has been going on for the last 75 years. The land has been peacefully shared between Muslims, Christians, and Jewish people; which changed once Zionist began to divide and create illegal settlements. Israel is in control of the water, electricity, and medical resources within the area. As of last month the people of Gaza were receiving 2 to 3 liters of water a day, now there is no clean water. Israel is targeting civilian areas using chemical weapons and basic needs. The male student read a quote from Holocaust survivor, "there is no way you could have ever created a Jewish state without oppressing and expelling the local population". He followed up by mentioning in 1948 Israel forced 750,000 Palestinians to leave their homes, which is recognized as the nakba, translated to catastrophe in English. There is a law in Israel that doesn't allow any mention of the first nakba events. The male student asked the council to do the right thing, as the government is funding the genocide, he needs the council to pass the cease fire resolution as an important step towards ending the genocide of the second nakba.

Francisco Ramos
349 Willows Street
Waterbury, CT 06710

Ceasefire.

Mr. Ramos began by stating he came out from Waterbury to support the resolution.

Council President interrupted his speech to let him know that due to him not being a Bridgeport resident, he could not speak at the public speaking session and must yield his time for a Bridgeport resident as it is a city council rule.

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Orlanda Strong -
418 Park Street
Bridgeport, CT 06608

Classical Magnet Academy Building

Ms. Strong stated she is a PAC president and has been attending these public speaking meetings for 3 years raising the same concerns regarding the Classical Magnet Academy building. They have been fighting for a new building for over 3 years now. There hasn't been any heat within the building and they cannot install a water fountain system due to the building being so old. It was brought to the school's attention that they would relocate to the old Bassick high school building and they don't agree with the idea. Due to the temperatures in the building it causes the students and staff to dress out of uniform to keep them warm. She has had 5 kids who attend the school and 3 more to attend, which means will have to continue to fight for 3 more years for a new building. Ms. Strong shared that no one else has been supporting this matter, only the PAC Presidents have been fighting for the new building.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Aidee Nieves closed the public session at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vianca Rivera

Telesco Secretarial Services

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CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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 7:14 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim asked those in the audience if they would like to lead them in a prayer.
Two people from the public lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: Dasha Spell, Rolanda Smith
133rd District: Aikeem Boyd, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia

135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Ortiz
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Frederick Hodges
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Maria Pereira, Jazmarie Melendez
139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. The names listed were present when the roll was called.

ADOPTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL RULES

****MOTIONED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON to ADOPT THE CITY COUNCIL RULES.**

****SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO.**

Council member Burns mentioned he is in support of moving the item but there are a few matters in the rules that must be reviewed.

****THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE CITY COUNCIL RULES PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, SPELL, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ORTIZ, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, MELENDEZ, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA)**

ELECTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mayor Joe Ganim opened the floor for nominations for the City Council President.

Council member McBride-Lee shared before making a nomination that Ms. Nieves has been in the position for 4 years now and sees something in her that she has never seen before.

****COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE NOMINATED AIDEE NIEVES FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT.**

**** SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON.**

Council member Newton added, as the former president of the council; He thanked Ms. Nieves for fighting to bring the power to the City Council to serve their constituents. Council member Newton hopes she will find it on her agenda to strengthen the council and appoint people to protect the integrity of that branch of government.

There were no other nominations from the floor.

****THE MOTION TO APPROVE COUNCIL MEMBER AIDEE NIEVES FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (CRUZ, SPELL, SMITH, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ORTIZ, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, PEREIRA, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTOWN) AND FIVE (5) OPPOSED (BURNS, MCCARTHY, MACK, BOYD, MELENDEZ).**

Council President Nieves asked to lead the committee assignment as they will be appointing the city council officers and council committee representatives.

****COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOTIONED FOR A FIVE (5) MINUTES RECESS.**

****MAYOR GANIM DEFERRED RECESS FOR PUBLIC HEARING.**

Mayor Ganim said due to asking the public to stay for the public to hear the actions taken on the de-escalation and ceasefire resolution proposal.

FROM THE FLOOR - ADDED INTO THE AGENDA

****COUNCIL MEMBER MELENDEZ MOTIONED TO SUSPEND THE COUNSEL RULES TO ADD ITEM INTO AGENDA FOR REFERRAL TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REGARDING THE**

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE DE-ESCALATION AND PERMANENT CEASEFIRE FIRE IN ISRAEL, GAZA, AND UNOCCUPY THE WEST BANK.

****SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON.**

****THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE COUNSEL RULES TO ADD ITEM INTO AGENDA FOR REFERRAL TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #20-23)**

****COUNCIL MEMBER MELENDEZ MOTIONED TO REFER AGENDA ITEM TO THE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

****SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA.**

****THE MOTION TO REFER AGENDA ITEM TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #20-23)**

Mayor Ganim thanked the public for attending the meeting and engaging the council to be a part of the resolution. He showed gratitude to the speakers that shared their passions and concerns. Mayor Ganim wants the council to stand for humanity, what's right and peace in the Middle East.

****MAYOR GANIM CALLED A RECESS AT 7:32 P.M.**

****MAYOR GANIM RESUMED THE MEETING AT 7:42 P.M.**

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Council Committees:

Budget & Appropriations – Burns, Newton, Herron, Vizzo-Paniccia, Ortiz, McBride-Lee, Hodges.

Ordinance – Mack, Martinez, Boyd, Valle, Newton, Herron, Lyons.

Public Safety & Transportation – Smith, Lyons, Cruz, Boyd, Vizzo-Paniccia, Martinez, Valle.

Economic & Community Development & Environment – Valle, McBride-Lee, Burns, Cruz, Lyons, Melendez, Martinez.

Miscellaneous Matters – Vizzo-Paniccia, Boyd, McCarthy, Mack, Smith, Castillo, Pereira.

Contracts – Herron, Pereira, McCarthy, Cruz, Ortiz, Spell, Burns.
Education and Social Service –Hodges, Spell, Lyons, McBride-Lee, Castillo, Melendez,
McCarthy

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Council Officers:

City Council President: Aidee Nieves  
President Pro Tempe: Ernest E. Newton, II  
Majority Leader: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia  
Deputy Majority Leader: Jeanette Herron  
Deputy Majority Leader: Rolanda Smith  
Deputy Majority Leader: Jorge Cruz, Sr  
Sgt at Arms: Richard Ortiz

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Liaison to the Chamber of Commerce: Scott Burns & Alfredo Castillo
Liaison to Fire Commission: Jeanette Herron
Liaison to Food Policy Council: Rolanda Smith
Liaison to Harbor Commission: Frederick Hodges
Liaison to Historic Commission: Dasha Spell
Liaison to Housing Authority: Tyler Mack, Eneida Martinez & Jorge Cruz
Liaison to the Library Board: Maria Valle & Jazmarie Melendez
Liaison to Parks Commission: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
Liaison to Police Commission: Maria Valle, Eneida Martinez & Mary McBride-Lee
Liaison to Port Authority: Aikeem Boyd
Liaison to WPCA: Eneida Martinez & Ernest Newton
Liaison to Zoo: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
School Buildings Committee Members: Ernest Newton (Chair), Richard Ortiz (Vice
Chair), Dasha Spell

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**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO CONSOLIDATE THE  
MOTION TO ONE VOTE FOR ALL PARTITIONS IDENTIFIED BY THE  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT .**

**\*\*SECONDED BY CASTILLO.**

**\*\*THE MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE THE VOTES AND THE COMMITTEES, OFFICERS, LIAISONS, AND REPRESENTATIVES WERE ESTABLISHED. PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, MACK, SPELL, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ORTIZ, CASTILLO, HODGES, NIEVES, VALLE, PEREIRA, MELENDEZ, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MCCARTHY).**

### **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

- **October 2, 2023**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2023 MEETING.**

**\*\*SECONDED BY MS. SMITH**

Council member Pereira shared that those who were absent to the meeting were McCarthy, Lyons, and Valle.

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2023 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH NINE (9) IN FAVOR AND SEVEN (7) ABSTAINED FROM VOTINGS (MCCARTHY, SPELL, LYONS, ORTIZ, VALLE, MELENDEZ, AND MARTINEZ).**

### **COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

- 01-23** Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Lease Agreement with Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut regarding Vacant Land at the Fairchild-Wheeler Golf Course for the purpose of Installing a Water Pump Station along with any related Infrastructure or Appurtenances to the Facility, referred to Contracts Committee.

- 02-23** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Court Support Services Division – Youth Violence Prevention Initiative (#24399), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.
- 03-23** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods – Congress Street Bridge Capital Construction (#24663), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 04-23** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development –Municipal Grant Program (#24409), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 05-23** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program (#24574), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 06-23** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: United States Conference of Mayors –2024 Childhood Obesity Prevention/Environmental Health and Sustainability Awards (#24305), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 07-23** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods – Route 8 Decking Community Planning (#24893), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 08-23** Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Jerome Roberts (U) to the Fair Rent Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

- 09-23** Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Lonnie Blackwell – Docket No. 3:21-cv-778-(KAD), referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 10-23** Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Jonathan Johnson – Docket No. FBT-CV-21-6111245-S, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 12-23** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health – Sexually Transmitted Diseases Control Program & Tuberculosis Control Program (#24232 & #24233), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 13-23** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development – Community Investment Fund 2030 Grant Program Round 4(#24435, #24439 & #24441), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 14-23** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families – Youth Services Bureau (#24532), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 15-23** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families – Youth Services Bureau Enhancement Grant (#24540), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**16-23** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submissions: State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (FY24-FY28); Speed and Aggressive Driving Enforcement (#24323-#28323); Click it or Ticket Enforcement (#24326-#28326) and Distracted Driving – High Visibility Enforcement (#24327-28327), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**17-23** Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management – FY24 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program(#24604), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**18-23** Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Kiana Gallimore – Docket No. FBT-CV-21-6111992-S, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER MOTIONED TO CONSOLIDATE COMMUNICATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES.**

**\*\*SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD.**

Pereira spoke on behalf of item 16-23 noting the graph is blank showing incomplete.

**\*\*THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:**

**11-23** Communication from Central Grants re: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health –Public Health Workforce Development (#24486), **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**19-23** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Proposed Vision Benefit Plan Agreement between the City of Bridgeport/Bridgeport Board of Education and EyeMed Vision Care, LLC and First American Administrators,



Inc. (FAA) to be effective on January 1, 2024, **FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOTIONED TO SUSPEND RULES OF COMMITTEE AND WAIVE REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR ITEM 11-23.**

**\*\*SECONDED BY PEREIRA.**

**\*\*THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 11-23**

**\*\*SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH.**

**\*\*THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOTIONED TO SUSPEND RULES OF COMMITTEE AND WAIVE REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR ITEM 19-23.**

**\*\*SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA.**

Council member Pereira spoke on the item 19-23. According to the package the PFP went out August 17, 2022, Board of Ed approved on 06/12, and the Board of Public purchase approved 07/12. She noted that was odd as they should have been approved in reverse. The City and company agreed on a contract on 10/10. She asked who was hired as the consulting company as it is important to the follow up question.

A representative shared the consulting was done by single consulting for the year, they also created the rates for insurance. They were paid \$24,900.

Council member Pereira added, originally, they were supposed to have 3 years of savings but lost the year of 2023. Dividing the 3 years of saving, while deducting the year lost of savings, they spent \$25,000 to save between the BOE and city \$58,000.

The representative, Monti Miles said the contract with single was over \$24,000 and the cost of RFP vision was \$5,000 of the \$24,000 stated. When the contract was initiated, the RFP never reached the BOE committee so it was rejected and failed to commence July 1st, 2023. They had to update the contract date to January 1st, 2024.

Council Member Pereira responded since they spent \$24,000 on consulting and lost one year of the projected saving. With the loss, the potential saving is \$49,000. In essence the BOE and city combined would be saving \$25,000 each. She wouldn't support any additional efforts.

Ms. Miles shared that she spoke with the consultant to change the statement and was told no, as the percentage of savings was small per year to year, since there was a 3-year contract in place they could just extend the contract.

Council Member Pereira said she doesn't understand how the city can save more money on vision when the BOE has more employees than the city.

Ms. Miles stated it is based on enrollment. The city enrollment was 1159 and BOE had 801 which doesn't include teachers and administrators.

Council member Burns asked the representative to explain the benefit to the employees.

Ms. Miles said the employees will gain [inaudible]

Council member Burns shared he didn't hear what was said but if there are any average savings or numbers available.

Ms. Miles responded it depended on the plan selected. For progressive lenses, there would be a higher saving compared to others.

**\*\*THE MOTION WAS CARRIED TO THE OBJECTION (PEREIRA).**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER BOYD MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED.**

**\*\*THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vianca Rivera,

Telesco Secretarial Services