

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 3, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE:** Michelle Lyons, Co-chair; Rolanda Smith, Co-chair; Aikeem Boyd, Jorge Cruz, Eneida Martinez

**OTHERS:** Council President A. Nieves, Council Member(s): Jeanette Herron & Tyler Mack; Thomas Gaudett, Deputy Chief of Staff; Angelica Ojeda, Central Grants; Barbara, Richard

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

- **October 3, 2023 (Regular Meeting).**

It was decided to hold these minutes over to the next meeting. No vote was taken at this time.

**02-23 Grant Submission: re State of Connecticut Court Support Services Division – Youth Violence Prevention Initiative (#24399).**

Ms. Ojeda said that Police Captain Grech was not able to attend the meeting due to family obligations. Ms. Ojeda then reviewed the general details of the two-year grant with the Committee members and explained that the Police Department would partner with three different organizations: Caribe, My Brother’s Keeper and RYASAP.

Council President Nieves asked who was representing My Brother’s Keeper. Ms. Ojeda said that it was someone named Kingsley. Council President Nieves respectfully requested that a Committee member remove My Brother’s Keeper from the list of recipients.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED TO REMOVED MY BROTHER’S KEEPER FROM THE GRANT PROGRAM.**

Council Member Lyons pointed out that there were others who wished to speak on the item.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ WITHDREW HIS MOTION.**

Council Member Martinez said that Kingsley now lives in Maryland and that the program had not done much in the past years. She said that she would like to see some of the smaller organizations receive some funding rather than RYASAP (**R**egional **Y**outh **A**dult **S**ocial **A**ction **P**artnership). RYASAP receive funding from other sources every year. She said that as a Council Member this was not acceptable. There were other organizations such as the YMCA that should receive funding.

Council Member Cruz said that he agreed with Council Member Martinez and named some other organizations including Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse. He said that he could not support My Brother's Keeper. Caribe was very well established. Council Member Lyons said that she agreed with everyone.

Council President Nieves asked if there was anyone present from the Police Department to answer questions. Ms. Ojeda said that there was no Police official available. Council President Nieves said that someone from the Police Department should have been present.

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 02-23 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE STATE OF CONNECTICUT COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION – YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE (#24399).**

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

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

**16-23 Grant Submission: re State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (FY24-FY28) Speed and Aggressive Driving Enforcement (#24323-#28323).**

**Click it or Ticket Enforcement (#24326-#28326).**

**Distracted Driving – High Visibility Enforcement (#24327 - #28327).**

Ms. Ojeda said that she was present to speak on the grant. She explained that this grant funding was used to reimburse the Police Department for check points staffing during the holiday seasons.

Council Member Martinez said that there was no Police official on the call and pointed out they have funding to do Click it or Ticket program. She said that in the past, when grants were presented and the officer responsible was not able to attend, either the Chief or Assistant Chief would attend the meeting.

Council President Nieves said that she did not see any check point coverage during some of the holidays. This was a three-year grant and the Department did not facilitate coverage. Ms. Ojeda said that it was a reimbursement grant, so the Department would submit a request for the check points overtime that they were able to staff. Council President Nieves said that she felt that the placements of the check points were targeted at certain areas.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 16-23 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FY24-FY28) SPEED AND AGGRESSIVE DRIVING ENFORCEMENT (#24323-#28323).**

**CLICK IT OR TICKET ENFORCEMENT (#24326-#28326).**

**DISTRACTED DRIVING – HIGH VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT  
(#24327 - #28327).**

**UNTIL THERE WAS A MEMBER OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.**

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

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

**17-23 Grant Submission: re State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management – FY24 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program (#24604).**

Council Member Lyons said that she was familiar with this grant. Ms. Ojeda said that she would present and the grant funding would be used for overtime for officers who are working with other municipalities involving stolen vehicles through the FUSION center. The funding would cover 1 Lt., 1sgt, 3 detectives and one officer.

Council Member Martinez said that she had been told that the auto task force had been dismantled. She asked why Lt. Blackwell was not present to answer the Committee members. She also noted that they were looking at high ranking officers who are paid more rather than patrol officers.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 17-23 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT – FY24 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM (#24604).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED**

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

Council Member Lyons said that when someone is responsible for a grant presentation but cannot make it, someone else from the Department should be present to answer the Committee's questions.

Council Member Cruz thanked Ms. Ojeda for the work she did. He said that they need to send a message to all the Departments and have some staff present to answer questions. He added that he had an issue with the higher ranking officers getting the overtime funding. Finally, he asked that the individuals reconsider the recipients for the partnership grant funding.

Council Member Lyons said that she appreciated Ms. Ojeda's ability to present not only the written information but also to add some of the details of the grant program.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services