

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE:** Michelle Lyons, Co-chair (6:03); Jorge Cruz, Sr., Jazmarie Melendez, Eneida Martinez, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Maria Valle

**OTHERS:** Council Member(s): Aidee Nieves, Council President (6:09); & Richard Ortiz; Scott Appleby, Director of OEMHS; Joseph Katz, Central Grants; Capt. Paul Grech, Police; Angelica Ojeda, Central Grants.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOTIONED FOR MARIA VALLE TO FACILITATE CHAIR POSITION.**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

Co-chair Valle called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. There was a quorum present at the time of the roll call.

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

● **August 6, 2024 (Regular Meeting)**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 6, 2024 (REGULAR MEETING)**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\*THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (CRUZ, MELENDEZ, MARTINEZ, AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MARTINEZ).**

**127-23** Grant Submission: re Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - Port Security Grant Program.

Mr. Katz shared this is a yearly grant and this would be looking to fund a drone detection for the Bridgeport Harbor and camera upgrades near the port Jefferson ferry boat terminal and new high speed boat platform.

Both grants require a 25% match, the first total project cost is \$277,000 dollars and the second cost \$50,000 dollars.

Council member Martinez asked where the match was coming from.

Mr. Appleby replied this is a 3 year grant so it would come out of the technology budget from the department.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia said in order to use drones you would need the right training and credentials.

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER MICHELLE LYONS JOINED THE MEETING AT 6:03PM\*\***

Mr. Appleby replied they are not getting drones, they will be purchasing sensor technology to detect where the drone is coming from and where it will land. As it is illegal to fly drones 3 miles within the airport area and the maritime area. He added the new cameras will provide thermal reading from the water to detect any presence in the water.

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOTIONED TO TURN THE MEETING OVER TO CHAIRMAN MICHELLE LYONS.**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

Council member Cruz said he is all for safety and believes it is a great idea.

**\*\*COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES JOINED THE MEETING AT 6:09PM\*\***

Council member Melendez asked what would be the communications between the state police.

Mr. Appleby replied the state police already have the software so they can collaborate with them to use their data and use their task force for investigations.

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 127-23.**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\*THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (CRUZ, MARTINEZ, VALLE, AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MELENDEZ).**

**128-23** Grant Submission: re The Justice Education Center -  
Project Safe Neighborhoods (#25485).

Ms. Ojeda shared the grant funds would provide the police department an avenue to address gang and group violence by using surveillance cameras in correlation to the shot spotters.

Council member Melendez asked what is the criteria to identify someone as gang related and how do they store the information.

Captain Grech replied they use crime maps that detail where high crime is and compare the cameras already set up within the community to determine new areas of placement. They use a generic narrative to gang or group activity when writing the application. He added there is no city match for the grant and last year they used the funds for midnight basketball. The new cameras are needed with the new technology updates that the world has brought.

Council member Valle asked if the camera would be close to the shot spotters.

Captain Grech replied possibly. He explained the shot spotters can only detect audio.

Council member Valle asked how many cameras can they purchase with the funds.

Captain Grech replied only five 360 view cameras and they will be monitored at the fusion center.

Council member Melendez asked if this is an extension of the fusion center.

Captain Grech replied yes, this will be free money to avoid going into the budget.

Council President Nieves said she understands the needs of modern technology. Then asked if this is the same grant as midnight basketball, why don't they continue to use it for the youth or to cover police overtime.

Captain Grech they just received grant funds recently, the non-profit is giving additional funds. They have to do something with technology.

Council President Nieves suggested they put cameras in the area of the Park Avenue corridor due to the many shootings. The second component would be to use the residual fund to engage with youth. If they are observing residents then they should also make their community better with programs.

Captain Paul Grech they still have midnight basketball and after school programs to engage with the youth.

Ms. Ojeda added there were six topics that could be used to apply for and they decided to focus on gun and gang violence.

Council member Valle said the recommendation from Council President Nieves was great. She asked if that is something that can be done or is the grant strict.

Ms. Ojeda replied it is equipment based but they can put something in the second round for the youth engagement.

Council member Lyons said she understands it is a competitive grant and cannot stray away from the objective.

Captain Grech added the non-profit does not have much money for the grant which is distributed throughout the entire state.

Council member Melendez said it was a choice to use the money for gun and gang violence. She does not believe the camera would address the issues of gun and gang violence.

Council member Cruz added it is an attempt to address public safety and the youth. He asked if the cameras capture images.

Captain Grech replied it depends on the location, they do not have a cloud storage because of the cost but the data will go back to their longtime server.

Council member Cruz recommended the Green apartments in regard to shootings.

Captain Grech replied he would make them pay for it. He has given them suggestions on camera make and models and location of set up.

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOTIONED TO APPROVE ITEM 128-23.  
\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\*THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (CRUZ, MARTINEZ, VALLE,  
AND VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (MELENDEZ).**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:31 PM.**

**\*\*COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Vianca Rivera

Telesco Secretarial Services