

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2013  
6:30 PM**

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:40 pm.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2013 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

**Conrad DeJesus**

Public Safety

277 Cottage Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Mr. DeJesus spoke about public safety and public opinion. He mentioned an alliance and responsibility on matters of government. He emphasized that certain aspects of the hierarchy in the community should be addressed, particularly what he called the "ghetto community" being treated in unsatisfactory ways; such as racial profiling and unlawful arrest. He said that police presence tends to be oppressive and he questioned why our communities are being targeted. He mentioned several streets located on the east end that he said were specifically picked out as high target areas and he questioned the responsibility of Council members Baker and Holloway for their district. He further questioned Council member Martinez and why there is an issue with the streets on the east side. He questioned Council members Banta and Taylor-Moye and why their district on the south end is being targeted as a high drug traffic area. He further stressed the point that the areas he mentioned are high target areas due to the population of these communities being primarily black and Latino. He ended in questioning when the last time was when Council President McCarthy visited these other districts.

*The following persons signed up prior to the public speaking session:*

**Cecil C. Young**

99 Carroll Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Cecil Young mentioned Council members Holloway and Baker to emphasize that the needs of the residents on the east end aren't being met. He said it was a shame that people have the authority to make a difference in the community, but they don't step up and address the issues.

He went on to speak about the injustice of his past termination that he has spoken about in front of the council for the last seven years. He strongly voiced his dissatisfaction with not having his allegations looked into. He further expressed that there are many issues concerning the public that are being ignored, commenting that it's a matter of right and wrong. He ended in expressing "shame on everyone"!

### **Clyde Nicholson**

Clyde Nicholson questioned how \$400k walked out of the city, who signed off on the check and who gave the authorization. He said he didn't understand how the matter can be ignored when there are many sidewalks in the city that need repairing.

He went on to speak about the illegal hiring of the Superintendent of Schools and he further talked about the removal of Kenneth Moales Jr. from the Board of Education board.

He mentioned that he felt the city owed Cecil Young a lot, because he gave a lot to the city and he felt his civil rights have been violated. He emphasized that the fact that nothing has been done about it is wrong and he criticized the Mayor for not addressing these crucial issues that the public bring forward.

### **Ethan Book**

*The following are the Public Comments of Ethan Book before the City Council of the City of Bridgeport- August 5, 2013:*

Mr. Council President, Members of the City Council and public:

I am Ethan Book, a resident of Fairfield County since 1983 and a resident of the City of Bridgeport since 2006. I have been known to appear before this Council to speak on matters of local, state and national interests since 1987, matters including some long term unaddressed issues of state and local public works. My professional background is in banking but for such matters of state public works not being reasonably addressed, since 1989 I have operated a limousine service business, New England Limousine Service of Fairfield. In addition to these mentioned and related roles by which I have appeared before this Council, I now also appear as a registered candidate for the City Council to represent the 131<sup>st</sup> District.

In February of last year, I wrote an article entitled "The Secularization of Government". I provided a copy of that with a letter presented to Mayor Finch on February 24, 2012. I also provided a copy along with public comments which I made in April of 2012 to the city commission charged to review problems and suggestions for improvement in the municipal education system. I additionally provided the article to this Council along with my public comments on March 18<sup>th</sup> of this year and I have referred to the article on various occasions since then.

Following the discovery of America in 1492, there were various programs of transferring groups of settlers to the new world. Several distinct colonies became defined with one of those being the Colony of Connecticut. As I explained in the article, while the population of the Colony of Connecticut increased, there emerged a desire for some type of governmental instrument to deal with a social compact. In 1639, there were established the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. The original document of the Fundamental Orders is on display at the State Library in Hartford. I have seen it. It is impressive. The Orders are generally regarded to be the antecedent for both our U.S. Constitution and the Connecticut Constitution.

Those Orders explained why the document had been created:

[W]ell knowing when a people are gathered together, the word of God requires that to maintain the peace and union of such a people, there should be an orderly and decent government established according to God.

That constitution next declared the colonists' desire to:

[E]nter into combination and confederation together to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus which we now profess which, according to the truth of the said Gospel, is now practiced amongst us.

It is in this historical context that my colleague David Goodman and I at this time come before the 131<sup>st</sup> District and this City to use this forum to introduce our candidacies.

May God bless the City of Bridgeport, the State of Connecticut and our great nation.

Ethan Book

The public speaking session ended at 7:06 pm.

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2013**

**7:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace**

**Bridgeport, Connecticut**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, Stafstrom, Banta, Taylor-Moye, Olson, Brantley, T. McCarthy, Austin, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, dePara, Silva, Ayala, Martinez, Marella, Paoletto, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council member: Lyons

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

Prayer - Council member Stafstrom offered the prayer *and* Pastor Gaskins offered a prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - Council member Holloway led the pledge of allegiance.

Moment of Silence - for a former State Representative who recently passed away.

Roll Call - the assistant city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

Council President Announcement - it was stated that Council member Lyons was on vacation.

**Mayoral Citation:** In Recognition of Jesus Saves Ministries for their dedicated work in helping poor and disadvantaged citizens in the East End overcome their hardships and recover from the damage of the storm following Hurricane Sandy.

Council President McCarthy stated that the city council always likes to recognize positives in the community and focus on the good one in Bridgeport, noting that the Jesus Saves Ministries does a good job.

Council member Holloway expressed that the ministry has come out in the community and gets involved. He recalled the blizzard of 2013 and the way the church and parishioners came out on the east end to try to assist the citizens. He emphasized that it's important when you have citizens go out and help as a good thing. He stated that the ministry strives to make the neighborhood better than what it is and he said he was very grateful to Pastor Gaskins and his ministry.

Council member Baker expressed that the ministry is not only looking to serve, but they also are looking to be an asset to the residents on the east end. He thanked the ministry and the asked them to continue their good work.

Mayor Finch expressed that he has been aware of the ministry's work for years. He said he was honored to be a part of the work that Pastor Gaskins and the congregation do in the community. He thanked the ministry for all the hard work and improvements that they have contributed to the community.

**City Council Citation:** In Recognition of Jesus Saves Ministries for their dedicated work in helping poor and disadvantaged citizens in the East End overcome their hardships and recover from the damage of the storm following Hurricane Sandy.

Council President McCarthy presented the citation to Pastor Gaskins – *a group picture was taken.*

Pastor Gaskins expressed that Bridgeport is a great city and he thanked all the council members for all the work that they do in the city as a great resource. He further thanked Mayor Finch for his support.

Point of personal privilege – Council President McCarthy came forward with Council members dePara and Bonney.

Council President McCarthy stated that there were two new council members that have been appointed to serve on the city council. He presented the official city council badge to Council member Stafstrom and Council member Marella and congratulated them!

**85-12** Public Hearing re: Disposition of City-Owned Properties to the Housing Authority.

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the item

Max Perez, OPED stated that there was a request for the item to be returned to committee, because they are in the process of removing some properties from the list.

Council President McCarthy clarified that there would be a change on the properties, noting that six (6) of them will be different. He said the matter will be added to the agenda later in the meeting to return the item to the ECDE Committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The public hearing closed at 7:35 pm.

*Comments:*

Joy Van Hammert spoke about the community garden located in the south end, she expressed that she would like it to remain there.

Karen Moore stated that it was her first year working on the community gardens, noting that she sees it as a transformative healing place. She said she learned a lot through working on the gardens with different people and she would hate to see the plot of land become cold stone.

Robert Halsted stated that the city owned the lot where the garden is located. He said they were looking to have it stay secure where it is and the neighborhood would like to see it stay in the area.

Barbara Kelly, Urban Roots of Bridgeport thanked the city for the support they received on the properties and the work that has been done through the Land Trust. She relayed all the work that has been accomplished on the community gardens throughout the city.

Mayor Finch encouraged her to keep up the good work.

Council member Brantley asked who was responsible for opening the gardens and the day to day maintenance for the Yale Street and State Street gardens. Ms. Kelly said the gardeners are voted in for their skills and they organize the gardens in exchange for a plot. She explained the process and noted that they are required to dedicate a certain number of hours to cultivating the plot.

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone to speak against the item. Hearing none, the public comments closed at 7:45 pm.

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES  
FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING ITEM 85-12 TO THE AGENDA  
Re: Disposition of City-Owned Properties to the Housing Authority  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MOVED TO TABLE ITEM 85-12 BACK TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Council President McCarthy made a request to move the following item to the end of the agenda: Council Discussion with Administration on Sikorsky Airport Safety Zone Installation and Easement Issue.*

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Approval of City Council Minutes: June 17, 2013

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

- 117-12** Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Edward Hendricks (R) to the Fire Commission, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.
- 118-12** Communication from Health & Social Services re: Proposed Student Education Affiliation Agreement with Southern Connecticut State University, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 119-12** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Concerning the Disposition of City-Owned Property to the Housing Authority (HACB) and Ordering a Public Hearing Relative to the same, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 120-12** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Concerning the Disposition and Redevelopment of City-Owned Property Located at 18-20 Island Brook Avenue and Ordering a Public Hearing Relative to the same, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 121-12** Communication from Chief Administrative Office re: (Ref. #35-10 & 53-11) Proposed Resolution regarding HOME Program Subrecipient Administrator for Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program for PY37 and PY38, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

- 122-12** Communication from Public Facilities re: Proposed Professional Design Services Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for an All Inclusive Playground Located at Beardsley Park, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 123-12** Communication from Public Facilities re: (Ref. #83-11) Proposed Professional Design Services Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for a Neighborhood Park Located at 115 Virginia Avenue, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 124-12** Communication from OPED re: (Ref. #82-12) Proposed Resolution Concerning the Transfer of Real Property Located at 112 Madison Avenue and 118 Madison Avenue, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 125-12** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on the Aging (SWCAA) Title III Funds Program for the East Side Senior Center, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 126-12** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on the Aging (SWCAA) Title III Funds Program for the Evidence Based Tai Chi Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 127-12** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on the Aging (SWCAA) Title III Funds Program for the Senior Chore Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 128-12** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on the Aging (SWCAA) Title III Funds Program for the Elderly Hispanic Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 129-12** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, State Historic Preservation Office for Arts Catalyzing Placemaking (ACP) Grant Program, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 130-12** Communication from Library re: Grant Submission: Connecticut State Library for an Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO REFER  
COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

Mayor Finch asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar.

Council member Martinez requested to remove item **\*81-12** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Adopting the South Avenue Project Development Plan and Authorizing the Bridgeport Port Authority to Acquire, including by Eminent Domain, Certain Real Properties within the Plan area.

The assistant city clerk read the remaining items into the record.

- \*81-12** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Adopting the South Avenue Project Development Plan and Authorizing the Bridgeport Port Authority to Acquire, including by Eminent Domain, Certain Real Properties within the Plan area. - *removed*
- \*82-12** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Accepting the Donation of Property Known as 316 Central Avenue.
- \*109-12** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution releasing the City's Rights of Reversion over certain Properties and Authorizing the City to Accept a Donation of Property to further Redevelopment of the East End.
- \*111-12(PHO)** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Public Hearing Ordered for September 3, 2013: re Adoption and Authorization to Implement the Black Rock School Municipal Development Plan ("BRSM DP").
- \*86-12** Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Charles McNeill (D) to the Harbor Commission.

- \*103-12      Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Margot Reynolds (U) to the Food Policy Council.
  
- \*104-12      Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Esperina Baptiste (U) to the Food Policy Council.
  
- \*105-12      Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Christine Stafstrom (D) to the Food Policy Council.
  
- \*106-12      Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Fred Kaskowitz (D) to the Food Policy Council.
  
- \*107-12      Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Audrey M. Barr (D) to the Food Policy Council.
  
- \*113-12      Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of James C. Carl (D) to the Ethics Commission.

\*\*                    **COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO APPROVE**

\*\*                    **COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY SECONDED**

Council member Stafstrom stated that he would abstain from voting on item \*105-12 due to his wife’s appointment to the Food Policy Council.

\*\*                    **MOTION PASSED WITH NINETEEN VOTES IN FAVOR *and* ONE ABSTENTION FOR ITEM \*105-12(COUNCIL MEMBER STAFSTROM)**

Mayor Finch returned to the item that was removed \*81-12      Economic and      Community      Development      and      Environment Committee Report re: Resolution Adopting the South Avenue Project Development Plan and Authorizing the Bridgeport Port Authority to Acquire, including by Eminent Domain, Certain Real Properties within the Plan area.

\*\*                    **COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO TABLE AND REFER BACK TO COMMITTEE**

\*\*                    **COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: dePARA and STAFSTROM)**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:**

**114-12** Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution regarding Acquisition of the New Senior Center in 2013 and the Temporary Relocation of the Downtown Cabaret Theatre in 2014.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE**

**\*\* COUNCIL dePARA SECONDED**

Council member Stafstrom stated that there was some question about the funding in relation to transferring the property to Mr. Kuchma, noting that the property will be used as a senior center. He stated that they are desperately in need of the center and they are looking to move forward. However, the city council is being asked to put up \$741k as collateral until they are ready to transfer the property to Mr. Kuchma. The committee asked Attorney Pacacha about details for the source of funding and it was found that the amount was previously approved.

Council member Brantley commended Mr. Kuchma for all his development efforts. She relayed that the seniors are looking forward to enjoying the new center.

Mayor Finch thanked everyone for helping to get the project right. He said the seniors are excited and looking forward to getting it going. He further thanked Mr. Kuchma for his involvement in the project.

Council member Holloway said he received a call today that the pool is cold as Alaska. Mayor Finch commented that there is a solar panel being constructed on the roof for heating.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH SIXTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND THREE VOTES IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBERS: BAKER, dePARA and SILVA)**

Other business:

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY MOVED TO ADD and APPROVE 112-12 APPOINTMENT OF DENNIS A. BRADLEY II. ESQ. (D) TO THE FIRE COMMISSION**

He stated that the Public Safety & Transportation Committee voted unanimously. He noted that approving the appointment was urgent to fill a vacancy and to meet the Fire Commission quorum.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PUPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO ADD and APPROVE 102-12 CONTRACT FOR THE REAPPRAISAL AND REVALUATION OF TAXABLE REAL AND EXEMPT PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT**

Council member Silva stated that the item passed unanimously in committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council Discussion with Administration on Sikorsky Airport Safety Zone Installation and Easement Issue.

Council President McCarthy updated that there was a previous discussion on July 1 and the council requested that City Attorney Anastasi provide a status update tonight.

City Attorney Anastasi stated that he provided a written update. He said he could walk the city council through the report or answer questions. Council President McCarthy asked him to highlight key points of the status report.

Attorney Anastasi referred to paragraph-A. He stated that he was confident that the decision will remain intact and there will be follow up negotiations as necessary.

He highlighted paragraph-B and commented that John Ricci has been terminated from the position as Airport Manager due to improper conduct related to the issue. However, he clarified the he wasn't at liberty to discuss any other details regarding the termination.

He further highlighted the following sections as they were outlined in the status report: Section III. Administration Procurement Initiatives- paragraphs A and B; Section IV. Access Way Construction Pricing Analyses and Section V. Airport Safety Zone Project Progress Report.

Council President McCarthy reiterated that the Ordinance Committee meeting scheduled on Wednesday will begin review of the Purchasing process to try to determine what went wrong and to tighten up any loop holes in the process.

*There was a brief question and answer session regarding the item – City Attorney Anastasi responded accordingly:*

Council member Baker asked the following question(s):

- How much was spent on legal fees to date. **Response** – he didn't have an amount and the legal work was done by the city attorney's office.
- What was the cost of the roadway improvements. **Response** – he didn't want to speculate on the cost; noted the costs will be seen as the project develops.
- Asked if he was sure that there weren't any other parties involved that acted unethically. **Response** – a professional investigation was conducted, but not by the city attorney's office and he hasn't seen the report yet that led to Mr. Ricci's termination.
- Stated that many people were upset about this matter. He asked if there was any way the public can be provided with correspondence related to the issue. **Response** – he doesn't have access to the report, but he was adamant that the matter was thoroughly investigated.
- Was he able to provide a copy of the signed contract for the roadway improvements. **Response-** Purchasing Department may have a copy of the contract. He said he could find out if it's available, noting that it's a public document.

Council member Olson asked the following question(s)

- Stated it was a ridiculous deed that was done. He asked about the bidding process. **Response** – bidding was based on a full set of plans and site work. He gave details about the experienced contractor and the initial estimates.
- Did the bond issue contain the cost of the driveway. **Response** – he was almost certain that no federal funds were involved, noting that the airport manager and OPM could answer that question. He said he was confident that the cost was approved by the city council.
- Is there a guarantee that no federal funds were used for the driveway. **Response** – yes.

## ADJOURNMENT

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services