

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 12, 2021**

**ATTENDANCE:** Avelino Silva, Co-chair; Jorge Cruz, Co-chair; Marcus Brown, Michelle Lyons, Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman

**OTHERS:** Council President Nieves; Council Member(s): J. Herron, M. McBride-Lee, E. Newton & R. Roman-Christy (6:13 p.m.); T. Gaudett, Mayor's Office; Atty. M. Anastasi; Barbara, Call in User 1, iPhone 203-690-2385

**CALL TO ORDER**

Co-chair Silva called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

Council Member Pereira stated that Council Member DeFilippo was trying to get on the call but could not gain access. Mr. Gaudett checked the waiting room twice but did not see anyone waiting to be admitted to the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**• March 10, 2021 (Regular Meeting).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2021 REGULAR MEETING.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2021 REGULAR MEETING PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**• March 25, 2021 (Special Meeting).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**68-20 Grant Submission: re CT Department of Education AccelerateCT Summer Program Innovation Grant Program (#21681).**

Council Member Pereira said that this was a grant for youth and teens during the summer months. She did not understand how Atty. Anastasi could address this matter and this was crazy.

Council Member Silva said that Ms. DeJesus was not present to speak on this issue and they had asked Atty. Anastasi to address the issue. Council Member Pereira said that this was not okay.

Council Member Brown said that he had contacted Ms. DeJesus and Ms. DeJesus said that her office was not able to complete the application in time and they were going to withdraw the application. She wished the Committee to vote the item down.

Council Member Pereira said that this was a large grant and this was not acceptable.

Council Member Cruz said that they had just received the information that the application was being withdrawn.

Council Member Newton pointed out that they have to go by what the Grants Department wants to do. Council Member Newton said that the BOE has enough money to do something for the high school students.

*Council Member Roman-Christy joined the meeting at 6:13 p.m.*

Council Member Roman-Christy said that she would like to hear what Atty. Anastasi had to say. Atty. Anastasi said that if the Grants Department wants to withdraw the item, they have to submit that in writing. He said that it appears that Ms. DeJesus was requesting that the Committee vote the matter down, which will result in a negative Committee recommendation. He said that Ms. DeJesus would most likely explain to the Council why they were withdrawing their application.

Council President Nieves said that Ms. Papa was supposed to send out a letter about withdrawing this item stating the reasons why they do not have a chance to execute this in a timely manner.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED TO DENY AGENDA ITEM 68-20 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE CT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ACCELERATECT SUMMER PROGRAM INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM (#21681).**

Council Member Pereira said that the problem here was that the Grants Department was only at 50% staffing. This was added to the agenda by Ms. DeJesus. It is a City side grant for \$250,000 and has nothing to do with the BOE. This is a disservice to the youth and to the non-profits.

Council Member Cruz said that the Grants Department owes the Committee an apology but if they wish the Committee to vote the matter down, then that is what they should do. It is not a debatable issue.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO DENY AGENDA ITEM 68-20 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE CT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ACCELERATECT SUMMER PROGRAM INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM (#21681) PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (BROWN, CRUZ, LYONS AND SULIMAN) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

**ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services