

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 13, 2022**

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

ATTENDANCE: Aikeem Boyd, Co-chair; Jorge Cruz, Co-chair; Frederick Hodges, Michelle Lyons

OTHERS: Council Member(s): E. Newton, T. Mack, M. McBride-Lee & R. Roman-Christy; T. Gaudett, Mayoral Aide; Isolina DeJesus, Central Grants Director; Joseph Katz, Central Grants; Tammy Papa, Lighthouse & Youth Services Director; Andy Toledo, Barbara, iPhone-DNPH80EH0DXT; iPhone-DNPH80W00DXT; iPhone-DNPH80GM0DXT; iPhone-XWT67S

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

• **June 8, 2022 (Regular Meeting).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 8, 2022 REGULAR MEETING**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

94-21 Grant Submission: CT Department of Education – Summer Enrichment Grant Program. (#22681)

Mr. Katz presented the application and stated it was for the Summer Enrichment Grant. They will be able to hire 50 additional Junior and Senior Camp Counselors. It requires a 50% minimum match. There is an existing budget for 100 counselors and the grant funding would allow the City to have 150 counselors.

Council Member Cruz asked for clarification on where the matching funds would be drawn from. Mr. Katz said that it was already in the budget. Ms. Papa said that this funding was in her budget to hire camp counselors.

Council Member Cruz asked who they would be hiring. Ms. Papa said that the summer youth employment program started on July 5th.

Council Member Hodges asked what the criteria was for hiring the counselors. Ms. Papa said that these funds must be used to hire Bridgeport residents and they focus on hiring 14 and 15 year old teens as summer counselors. The majority are African American and the second largest number are the Hispanic hires. She outlined the additional criteria and noted that they were in partnership with The Work Place.

Council Member Hodges asked about the hourly wage. Ms. Papa said that the Junior Counselors get \$14.00 an hour, the Senior Counselors get \$15.00 an hour and the Monitors get \$16.00 an hour.

Council Member Lyons said that Ms. Papa had been running this program for a number of years and she was very satisfied with the results. Ms. Papa said that they were able to expand the training program and included things like yoga, meditation, and mindfulness. She added that she was able to see one of the programs earlier in the day and the campers were really engaged.

Council Member Newton asked how many applicants they had. Ms. Papa said that there were 450 applicants. The older applicants were sent to the Lighthouse Agencies, other applicants were hired on their own or accepted through The Work Place. Some of the applicants did not show up for the interview or the training and they were removed from the applicant pool. They will be doing some follow up with the Hispanic applicants regarding their lack of response.

Council Member Newton said that there were complaints that some of the applicants were from out of town. Ms. Papa said that her program was only for Bridgeport residents. She does not have any contact with Recreation so she could not speak to whether or not those hires were Bridgeport residents.

Council Member Lyons said her grandson had worked in the program, both as a volunteer and a paid counselor. When he was there for the interview, he still had to prove he was a Bridgeport resident.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED AGENDA ITEM 94-21 GRANT SUBMISSION: CT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – SUMMER ENRICHMENT GRANT PROGRAM. (#22681)**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
Education and Social Services
Regular Meeting
July 13, 2022