

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2013  
6:30 PM**

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 7:15 pm.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2013 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

**Conrad DeJesus**  
277 Cottage Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Public Safety.

*The following statement was read by Conrad DeJesus during the public speaking session:*

**I walk into this house of tribulations because my conscience tells me I have no other choice. Fifty years ago hundreds of thousands of people rejoiced with the same glory that fuels my soul today. Fifty years later the voice of equality has not been renounced. I have with me not thousands not even hundreds of people, but as I stand here, I do not stand alone. What guides me is a higher level of spirituality which sings the same old song of the many brothers who have been trampled by defeat. Fifty years ago the focus of overcoming was alive and vivid; Whether by marching in the streets or by sitting in a undesignated area and rest assure those moments have earned their places in history.**

**The road of equality is a road that is not pleasant, for its abundant potholes, detours, and the many posted one way signs. For every one step of progression unfolds two steps back towards regression. For every thought of success, two or three more brother learns the true definition of oppress. When every brother from this nation learns oppression, you my brother, you scream recession. Without learning from the past lessons of transgression you call upon Congress which ignores us, until the calling for a special**

**session which is always headed in the wrong direction with thoughts of repossessions to aid the great depression.**

**Attention is needed my brother, to protect and serve the citizens of this Great nation. You know they say the best offense is a great defense and that a great defense shall win the toughest battle on the road to a championship. Equality is the trophy to be won and only by defense. Great defenses do not go out offending its fans or its neighbors. A great defense takes pride in its trophy along with its greatest fans and supporters and earns it respect.**

**Defending the road to equality, defending the American constitution, Defending civil liberties, defending the voices of people like me. Defending the many brothers who you have killed, Defending on another is how we are going to win this fight.**

**We have no business in Iraq, Korea, Afghanistan, or Syria just like we had no business in Vietnam.**

**We have no business there because you cannot even regulate a reasonable tax to bring business back to America.**

**State Rep. Jack Hennessy**  
556 Savoy Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Ox Brook Flood Control Project in regards  
to the bond contract for Elton Rogers Park  
BERM.

Representative Hennessy spoke about the Ox Brook Flood Control Project in reference to the earth berm at Elton Rogers Park. He stated that people of the north end have been waiting for years for something to be done, noting the wetlands overdevelopment and they were told that nothing can be done about it. He relayed that \$1 million was awarded for the project over a year ago and there was a contract with an engineering firm. He said that it should be three to four months for the Department of Environmental Protection to approve the project; however, the problem still persists. He requested that before the council votes to fund the project, he was hoping that the engineering firm that has been contracted to conduct the project would be approved and the money released. He emphasized that he doesn't want to come before the council again with the same request. He said this would be the first step by the engineering firm and they are looking to move forward. He asked for support from the city council.

Council President McCarthy relayed that they have been waiting since May for the DEP contract to get back to them. And he clarified that the item wasn't being voted on tonight; it was only on the agenda to be referred to committee.

**Ethan Book**  
144 Coleman Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

A suitable response to “the secularization of government” as pertains to education.

*The following are the Public Comments of Ethan Book before the City Council of the City of Bridgeport- September 3, 2013:*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS OF ETHAN BOOK**  
**BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**September 3, 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 2005. I have been known to appear before this Council to speak on matters of local, state and national interests since 1987, matters some long-term unaddressed including 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 together with my colleague David Goodman (father) as a registered candidate for the City Council to represent the 131 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 during the same month. 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 18th of this year and I have referred to the article on various occasions since then, including in my recent comments to this Council on August 5th when I cited portions of the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut.**

**With the caveat that Bill Clinton is a an association member of the Council of Foreign Relations, an association privately established in 1921 just after Congress rejected the proposal for the creation of the League of Nations, I quote here some important statements made during 1993 through 1995 by then President Clinton:**

City of Bridgeport  
City Council Meeting  
September 3, 2013  
Page 3 of 15

**At an Interfaith Breakfast on August 30, 1993, he referred to the book "The Culture of Disbelief" by Yale Professor Stephen Carter. He said, "Sometimes I think the environment in which we operate is entirely too secular. The fact that we have freedom of religion doesn't mean we need to try to have freedom from religion. It doesn't mean that those of us who have faith shouldn't frankly admit that we are animated by the faith, that we try to live by it, and that it does affect what we feel, what we think, and what we do."**

**In a Christmas radio address on December 25, 1993, he said "From the days of the ancient Maccabees down to our present time, tyrants have sought to deny people the free expression of their faith and the right to live according to their own conscience and convictions. Hanukkah symbolizes the heroic struggle of all who seek to defeat such oppression and the miracles that come to those full of faith and courage."**

**Then at James Madison High School, on July 12, 1995, he stated, "The First Amendment does not require students to leave their religion at the schoolhouse door... It is especially important that parents feel confident that their children can practice religion... We need to make it easier and more acceptable for people to express and celebrate their faith... If students can wear T-shirts advertising sports teams, rock groups, or politicians, they can also wear T-shirts that promote religion... Religion is too important to our history and our heritage for us to keep it out of our schools... Nothing in the First Amendment converts our public schools into religion-free zones or requires all religious expression to be left behind at the schoolhouse door... (These quotes were reported in the August 19th edition of the Internet publication American Minute by William Federer, a great author, speaker and publisher whom I have had the honor to personally meet).**

**Might it be because of the process of secularization referred to by Bill Clinton here and in my article "The Secularization of Government" that we now see in public schools more attention to the alternative three "R's"? Instead of prominent attention to reading, writing and arithmetic we now see undo attention to recycling, racism and reproduction. It is not that the alternative subjects do not have value. Rather the issue is the time, place and manner!**

**I close here with an important statement of Founding Father Thomas Jefferson: "Let us hasten to retrace our steps and to regain the road which alone leads to peace, liberty and safety."**

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

**Ethan Book**

**City Council Comments for September 3, 2013:**

**Council Members, fellow members of the Bridgeport community, TV viewers, in the next five minutes I want to talk about City Council stipends. It is a matter governed by Ordinance, rather than City Charter. It has been particularly shrouded in secrecy, with an occasional article published by the CT Post.**

**The language of the ordinance indicates that the amount for the Legislative budget year, specifically City Council Stipends is to be divided in equal shares among all 20 Council members. Since that budget line has been stable for as long as memory serves, it indicates that each member can potentially receive up to \$9,000 reimbursement for expenditures in line of their legislative duties. That suggests representation of the voters in your districts who elected you. (In reviewing the Charter I found no simple and distinctive listing of your duties. Have you ever considered creating such a listing? Our system of municipal checks and balances are in such disrepair that some clarity from the Council would assist the community at large, I expect.)**

**Back to stipends.....While you have appropriated \$180,000 for years, financial reports show a lesser amount is actually spent on this line item. A surplus is to be saluted as it reduces pressure on the taxpayer. But when surpluses are spent elsewhere, undetermined, it is frustrating. On the other hand, if some candidates spend \$9,000 annually and others take no reimbursement during a budget year, what can we say? It appears to me that reimbursements should require not only a request for the money but also an explanation of the expenses. That would be accountable behavior. It would open the record to the public. A report, at least quarterly as part of the Legislative internet information would be a major step to transparency.**

**It is only in the past two years that the Finance Department has published a June monthly report covering 12 months of revenue, expenses and variances as called for by the Charter. It is the only report where a taxpayer can view 12 month spending totals for a given line item. \$105, 685 was spent in 2011-12 and only \$88,429 was spent in the recently closed 2012-13 year. What caused the reduction? Less than half the money was claimed. Is it time for the Budget and Appropriations committee to budget half as much next year? How many City Council members are willing to share information on the amount and major categories for requesting reimbursements as they appear before the public asking for voter support? If not, why not?**

In July I filed a broad Freedom of Information request regarding stipend reimbursements administration, including debit cards, with the Finance Department. It was acknowledged by the City Attorney office. The Finance Director is a busy person with a small staff, but this type of information is valuable to the public in reflecting on how serious you are in looking at how all dollars are spent. She told me last week that she is gathering info as requested in the FOI. Your own disclosure would eliminate such FOI requests,

This legislative body passed purchasing ordinances more than a decade ago. It has failed to attend to the details of this. The recent Airport roadway controversy is current evidence of failure to follow through. The City Internal Auditor was tasked with an annual report and a triennial audit of City purchases. Where is such paperwork? You passed regulations. Where is your follow-up Council President McCarthy? (Yes, Mayor Finch eliminated the Internal Auditor, but who was charged with responsibility in that event?) A review of stipend “purchasing records” shows significant confusion in recent years about amounts charged to City Council Stipends line item. Has it been used for purposes other than reimbursements of City Council members? Yes. Why? Errors?

And about 15 months ago, this Council eliminated your only employee serving, according to the Charter, “a non-partisan office of legislative services to assist the members of the council in the performance of their official duties”. In budget hearings he expressed concern regarding his signature responsibility for reimbursement processing, but no permission to see stipend balances. To me it seemed a very reasonable concern. He wished to avoid authorization for an expense that might exceed a Council person’s annual stipend.

Why not become public about stipends once and for all? If you require funds to attend conferences on municipal matters where you are exposed to best municipal practices, why not share the concepts and ideas for Bridgeport for discussion and action? For those who are responsibly using stipends, why not go public systematically and report on line? For those, not using any funds at all, why not share that with the public, with an affidavit if that is the only way possible? For those others who are not using the funds in a manner the public expects shame on you. We understand why you are reluctant to go public with your data. Time will tell.

**John Marshall Lee**

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

**Cecil C. Young**

99 Carroll Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Mr. Young spoke about speaking before the democratic city council body and bringing forth issues of public concern. He stated that it was a shame that Council member Baker and Council member Holloway haven't properly addressed some issues that the community have spoken out about. He went on to mention his lawsuit for wrongful termination and he said that he was upset that neither council member have said anything about it. He further stated that he was disturbed that the CT Post picks and chooses what articles to write, noting that they are the only avenue that the residents have to get their issues out there and heard. He repeated that it wasn't fair that they pick and chose what to publish, noting that all issues should be treated with an equal amount of respect.

He clarified that he's not looking to become a city council member; because he doesn't hold the same beliefs that they do.

**Michael Seagren**

Mr. Seagren spoke about the matter of food waste and the issue of bringing it to the burning plant. He mentioned the process of composting to cut down the cost of disposals. He relayed that they are educating students at schools and showing them how to take their lunch trays and bring them to the recycling bin and emptying all containers. Then they are shown how the recycled materials can be planted as compost and then cultivated to grow vegetables.

The public speaking session ended at 7:05 pm.

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2013**

**7:00 PM**

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

**Bridgeport, Connecticut**

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

**ABSENT:** Council member: Banta, Bonney, Ayala

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Moment of Silence - *Mayor Finch and council members requested a moment of silence for the following persons:*

- Raymond Julian passed away at the age of 80. He served the city honorably and will be missed.
- Lilly Summerville was a foster parent to sixty-three hard to place males and she did a wonderful job.
- Mr. Macklin raised several children in the city that went on to become athletes and successful business people.
- Charles Blank was instrumental in the well being of children on the east side.

Prayer - Council member dePara offered the prayer.

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

*Mayoral Proclamation: In Recognition of Globe Equipment Company for celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Bridgeport based business.*

Mayor Finch welcomed the Ringelheim family to receive the citation. He expressed that if anyone in the city has eaten at an establishment; Globe Equipment had something to do with it. He relayed that there are so many thriving businesses in the city, they like to recognize positive that those businesses provide. He further expressed that the proclamation was a small recognition to all those that have benefited from their business – *the proclamation was read.*

*City Council Citation: In Recognition of Globe Equipment Company for celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Bridgeport based business.*

Council President McCarthy echoed what's more positive than a business that has thrived for more than 75-years in the City of Bridgeport. He congratulated the family and *the citation was read.*

Mr. Ringelheim stated that it was a pleasure to work in Bridgeport and live here. He expressed that the recognition was appreciated by him and all his employees and he said they were looking to continue and thrive in Bridgeport.

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

### **Announcements:**

Council President McCarthy announced that the following council members were absent for the following reasons:

Council member Banta had a family emergency out of town; Council member Ayala was ill.

He announced that a big dinner would be held this week to honor the 2014 Barnum Festival Grand Marshal; Council member Mike Marella.

He extended happy birthday wishes to Council member Brantley who had a birthday on September 2.

Mayor Finch recognized the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Martin Luther King march that was celebrated last week.

Council member Olson commented that although he didn't attend the march, he tried to make up for it at the poor people's march that was held in 1968. He recalled the comment made by Congressman John Lewis that the country suffered a great loss.

Mayor Finch added that Martin Luther King marched against all odds. He said he made the statement to make the comparison to the city council and all they do that could be perceived as a body that makes sacrifices and must continue to work against odds.

Council member Brantley recalled the memories of the Million Man March and all that has been accomplished in the civil rights movement. She expressed that it's important to continue to stand for what's right in the face of adversity.

**81-12** Public Hearing re: A Resolution by the Bridgeport City Council Adopting the South Avenue Project Development Plan ("the Plan"), and Authorizing the Bridgeport Port Authority to Acquire, including by Eminent Domain, Certain Real Properties within the Plan Area so as to Further the Implementation of the Plan.

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor or against the item.

Martin Sussman stated that he was there on behalf of the owner of the property. He stated that the owner rejects the plan, because they don't believe there has been any effort on behalf of the city or the Port Authority to discuss specific details of the plan. He explained that they have requested numerous meetings, but they never occurred and his client Warner Corporation is surprised and concerned. He made a request to delay the vote until substantial negotiations can take place.

Mayor Finch questioned why his client left the property in such a polluted condition for so long and never cleaned it up. Upon Council member Brannelly's disapproval of the questioning, City Attorney Anastasi interjected to ask Mayor Finch to discontinue.

Bill Coleman approached the council and explained that there had been a recommendation to table the matter until further discussion took place and a public hearing could be scheduled to address questions.

Mayor Finch asked Bill Coleman to elaborate about the (750) jobs that will be created as a result of the project. Mr. Coleman concurred that jobs would be created.

Council member Brannelly emphasized that this was a public hearing and that it wasn't an appropriate platform for questions, since it was a city council meeting and not an opportunity for the Mayor to voice his opinion.

Council member Holloway recalled when the pooper scooper law was passed. He noted that it didn't work then it doesn't work now. He said some dogs are leashed and others aren't and he didn't feel that the city could force people to leash their pet.

He further mentioned another resolution in regard to putting razor wire on fences.

He went on to say that during 1998, the city established a project to eliminate trash and they started a program called "Trash for Cash" that generated a lot of money for the city. He explained that they hired individuals to pick up thousands gallons of trash. He recalled an incident of a mattress that was strewn in the street and the person was fined \$100.00 per day that he thought was excessive. He made the point that we are double taxing the

citizens in the city. He emphasized that they need to put something in place again similar to the "Trash for Cash" program.

Mayor Finch reminded the council that this was a public hearing for the items that were on the agenda.

Mayor Finch returned to item 81-12 and he said he commented OPED for the negotiations that have taken place.

Council member Taylor-Moye asked Bill Coleman for an update about the item. Mr. Coleman stated that they were looking to move forward and they also want to remain open to discussions with the owner. He said they hoped to reach an agreement and they need to access the situation more thoroughly and move forward.

Council President McCarthy clarified that a public hearing is generally only conducted for hearing from the public.

Hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

**111-12** Public Hearing re: Adoption and Authorization to Implement the Black Rock School Municipal Development Plan ("BRSMDP").

Mayor Finch asked if there was anyone to speak in favor or against the item.

Hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Approval of City Council Minutes: July 1, 2013

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

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

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

- 131-12** Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Jeannie Bogan (D) to the Stratfield Historic District, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 132-12** Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Proposed Service Agreement with Pro-Act, Inc. to provide a Free Discount Prescription Drug Card to Residents of Bridgeport, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 134-12** Communication from Parks & Recreation re: Proposed Resolution regarding a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Bridgeport pertaining to Softball Field Diamond #2 at Seaside Park, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 135-12** Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution concerning the Disposition of Property located at "The Davidson's Block" in the Downtown North Redevelopment Area and Authorizing a Tax Incentive Agreement in support of the Block's Historic Renovation and Redevelopment as a Mixed-Use Residential, Retail and Commercial Complex also Ordering a Public Hearing Relative to the Same, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.
- 136-12(A-B)** Communication from OPED re (A) Proposed New Ordinance Mill Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, (B) Mill Hill Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Plan Resolution, referred to Joint Committee on Ordinance and Economic and Community Development and Environment.
- 137-12** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Transportation Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**138-12** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Office of Policy & Management: Youth Services Prevention Grant Program, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**139-12** Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for an Elton Rogers Park Dam – Ox Brook Flood Control Project, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:**

**133-12** Resolution presented by Council Member Stafstrom re: Request that a Streetlight be Installed on Utility Pole #2231 located in front of 72 Orland Street, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**140-12** Resolution presented by Council Members dePara and Silva re: Request that a Stop Sign be Installed at the Intersection of French Street where it intersects with Parrott Avenue and Anson Street, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

**141-12** Resolution presented by Council Members dePara and Silva re: Request that a Stop Sign be Installed at the end of Charles Street and Parrot Avenue, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

**142-12** Resolution presented by Council Members dePara and Silva re: Request that a Stop Sign be Installed on Quarry Street before it intersects with Stevens Street and North Quarry Street, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

**143-12** Resolution presented by Council President McCarthy re: Proposed Resolution of Endorsement regarding the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council (GBRC) to become a Council of Governments, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER McCARTHY 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.

There were none heard.

The city clerk read the consent calendar items into the record.

**\*118-12** Contracts Committee Report re: Student Education Affiliation Agreement with Southern Connecticut State University.

**\*122-12** Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Design Services Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for an All-Inclusive Playground at Beardsley Park.

**\*123-12** Contracts Committee Report re: (Ref. #83-11) Professional Design Services Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for a Neighborhood Park Located at 115 Virginia Avenue.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE**

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

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Other business:**

Council member dePara commented that he hoped they would see funds dedicated to development in other areas in the city in the near future.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERING AN ITEM TO COMMITTEE**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO REFER RE: ADOPTION OF THE CITY'S REVISED TITLE VI PROGRAM TO THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (ITEM #144-12)**

Council member Olson asked why there was a sign at the Sikorsky driveway that reads "NO TRESPASSING", if it's a driveway and not an access road. Mayor Finch responded that the matter will be researched and reported back to the council.

Council member Marella commented that the city should look into whether there is any type of agreement with the state to keep the city cleaner.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER STAFSTROM SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services