

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
PUBLIC SAFETY and TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 2, 2010  
6:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly; Co-chair, Lyons; Co-chair,  
M. Ayala, Brantley, Bonney

OTHERS: Council President: McCarthy

ASSOCIATE CITY ATTORNEY: Melanie Howlett

Co-chair Brannelly called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Approval of Committee Minutes of January 5, 2010.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER AYALA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**03-09** Application for Driveway Permit: #124-140 Logan Street.

Co-chair Brannelly noted that a discussion started as to what's necessary for this item.

Attorney Howlett updated that the ordinance was different, in that there was a request to widen the driveway. A map was forwarded to the Public Facilities Department and then to the city attorney for a ruling. It then was forwarded to the city council. According to the documents from Mr. Carroll and the city engineer, these documents are the basis for the approval of the application.

Council member McCarthy stated that the driveway application pertained to the committee's request for information. He noted that if the committee had additional questions, they could request that the city engineer and a representative from the Public Facilities Department attend a meeting to answer them.

Co-chair Brannelly asked if there was a representative present who could give some background of what was being requested.

Rick Ramon stated that he was the private manager who designed the site. He noted the site was approved and is under construction for the addition of 8,671 sq. ft., for a manufacturing type use. There are (232) curve cuts on site and one will be eliminated. He noted there were between five and ten box truck deliveries per day and the 22 foot entrance is pretty tight. He said that people often park on the street and block the entrance, so they were proposing to go from 22 feet to a 44 feet driveway entrance that will result in a wider entranceway. They will also install a security gate. Overall, it's a matter of easier maneuvering for the trucks. He further noted that the city engineer didn't have a problem with the proposal.

Council member Brantley asked what type of business was operating on the site. The response was that the business was a metal finishing manufacturer.

Council member Brantley asked where the site was located. The response was that the site was located on the same side of the bus company.

Council member Brantley mentioned the two entrance ways. She questioned if they were looking to close one of them and widen another. The response was that was correct. It was stated that the property was owned by a family and combined as one lot.

Council member Brantley asked how long the business has been on the property. The response was that they have been there since 1975 and they are a good neighbor to the church nearby.

Council member Brannelly noted that the city engineer recommended granting the proposal, to provide adequate turning for the trucks.

Council member Ayala asked if the widened driveway would interfere with the school. The response was no, there isn't any access to the back of the school. And the driveway is behind the school, which is far away.

It was further noted that entrance wouldn't conflict with the entrance of the bus company either, because it's only used for parking and there aren't any children in the area getting on or off the bus.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*Consent calendar**

**29-09** City of Bridgeport's resolution to commit assistance through the adoption of Haitian City (IES).

Co-chair Lyons gave some background about this item. She noted that there have been similar resolutions in the past, wherein there was an agreement with the city and sister cities in other countries to partnership around world. She explained that due to the Haiti earthquake disaster, community leaders in the city were looking into adopting the city of **(Petionville)**. *It was noted that technical changes would be made to the resolution (see final resolution below).*

Co-chair Lyons continued and said the resolution enables the city to give emotional support to the Haitian community. She further noted that the Annex building has been open to the Haitian community as a working site to enable them to locate families. Another reason for the resolution is to encourage any type of fund raisers and to do outreach, goodwill efforts and a clothing drive through the schools and city. She said the community also has help from Kingdom Life Church who has donated medical supplies to send to Haiti. They will also solicit contributions for books and other materials.

Council member Brantley asked with this help in place, if they gain the resources they need, will they then be shipped to the city adopted, (Petionville). Council President McCarthy stated that nothing outlined in the resolution was mandatory.

Council member Brantley clarified her question to ask if they build up the contributory resources they are seeking, will the supplies then be channeled to that particular city. Co-chair Lyons said that would be encouraged. She also stated that the supplies, etc. could go one particular city or they could be dispersed to varied city(s).

Council President McCarthy clarified that the Haitian community's intention is to concentrate on one area rather than just scatter the resources.

Council member Brantley asked if the City of Bridgeport would be obligated to assume the role of assuring that the goods are transported. Co-chair Lyons put the question to a representative present. Pierre d'Haiti and Pastor Joseph were present to address the committee and explain further.

Pierre d'Haiti stated that they were coordinating the effort. He thanked Council member Lyons for initiating the endeavor and for bringing the matter forth. He explained that the

idea of adopting a city entailed having a sister city away from home. They are looking at holding fund raisers and collecting monies, which will be used to ship books etc. He explained that when you adopt a sister city, there is an obligation to share, such as buying new computers. So in order to do that, they need to raise funds to accomplish that. He also mentioned that there are no hospitals in Petionville, so medical supplies are needed, so it will be good to ship the supplies to that specific area. In addition, they may recruit area doctors and nurses to go to Haiti to offer their medical services for a week or two.

Council member Brannelly asked how far Petionville was Port-au-Prince. Mr. d'Haiti said it was approximately 5 miles away.

Pastor Joseph stated this was one of the best things they ever had that is to have cities support the effort. He commended Mayor Finch and the city council and he extended his appreciation for their help. He went on to state that they had a number of cities working with them, but in Petionville, there are people they're working with to received and coordinate the resources. He noted that on the heels of the disaster, they had between 300 and 500 people who participated in the relief effort. Subsequently, the Haitian residents of Bridgeport decided to adopt Petionville. He added that they will be working with other towns who have adopted other cities. Their overall purpose is to coordinate efforts to get the job done.

Pastor Joseph relayed a story about a woman that had a C-section without anesthesia. He made the point that with the city's help, they can assure the people of Haiti that they have their back.

Council member Brantley asked who would be responsible for getting the resources to Petionville. Mr. d'Haiti said the relief center that is set up in the Annex will coordinate the effort, as soon as everything is coordinated with Kingdom Life Church. He noted that they already have contacts on the ground in Haiti to disperse the resources.

Attorney Howlett clarified that the coordinator of the resources was not the city council's or the city's role. What they are doing through the resolution is only considered a good will gesture. There is no financial obligation seen by the City of Bridgeport.

Co-chair Lyons added that the relief center has the obligation to raise the funds. The city and the council's role will only be on a volunteer basis to help as a partnership of goodwill.

*Attorney Howlett read the resolution with the amendments incorporated as follows:*

Resolution #29-09 Referred to Public Safety & Transportation on 01/19/10 WITH THE UNDENIABLE REALITY THAT THE COUNTRY OF HAITI HAS BEEN HIT WITH THE ULTIMATE NEED FOR RELIEF DUE TO THE EARTHQUAKE OF JANUARY 12, 2010, AND THAT THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, IMMEDIATELY CONVENED A GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY AND OTHER STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS, THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT IS COMMITTED TO DOING WHATEVER IS NECESSARY; THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, TOGETHER WITH COUNCILWOMAN MICHELLE LYONS RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT THIS RESOLUTION BE IMMEDIATELY CONSIDERED AND VOTED UPON BY THE CITY COUNCIL.

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT'S RESOLUTION TO COMMIT ASSISTANCE THROUGH  
THE ADOPTION OF HAITIAN CITY(IES).**

**WHEREAS, the City of Bridgeport, Fairfield County, Connecticut ("Bridgeport") has the largest population in the State of Connecticut in the United States of America ("America"); and**

**WHEREAS, Bridgeport stands proudly as a representative of America's rich melting pot of diverse cultures and populations; and**

**WHEREAS, Bridgeport's melting pot includes a growing and vibrant Haitian community, contributing to the strength and wealth of Bridgeport's diverse culture; and**

**WHEREAS, the City of Bridgeport, together with its substantial Haitian contingent, stands united in its resolve to support any and all relief efforts necessary and prudent in the wake of the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti at 4:53 p.m. (EST) on January 12, 2010, including but not limited to, encouraging voluntary contributions through continued outreach, furthering of education and awareness, and coordinating locations for contributions, relief efforts, and rebuilding efforts; and**

**WHEREAS, the City's residents remain fearful, yet strong, as our own, our friends and our companions await word of loved ones in and about the island of Hispaniola; and**

**WHEREAS, our friends and relatives of Haiti are recognizing the horrific loss of life and basic necessities, while maintaining faith, dignity and strength as more word comes from survivors to notify us what we can do, how we can help; and**

**WHEREAS, the City of Bridgeport recognizes that the urgent and immediate relief efforts are most appropriately addressed by the federal government, other nations, and established military and relief organizations while continuing to encourage aid to donate appropriately; and**

**WHEREAS, Bridgeport and its collective caring and diverse culture feel the need to do more; and**

**WHEREAS, it remains painfully understood that the regrouping and rebuilding of Haiti's rich culture and structure will require patience, continued dedication, and devotion; Now,**

**THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, through the Resolution and the dedication, love, respect and committed efforts of its residents, that he City of Bridgeport does hereby adopt the city(ies) of Petionville, Haiti through the years it will take to revive, rebuild, restructure and reinstitute the valuable people, country and culture, resolving hereby NOT to vacate at the conclusion of physical and emotional immediacy: but remain, through said adopted city(ies), in touch and in help for Haiti over the many years to come; and**

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and/or his designees, through the appropriately and newly opened HAITIAN RELIEF RESOURCES OFFICE, continue and pursue all appropriate endeavors to assist this City's Haitian contingent with locating loved one; dealing with this calamity; and continuing forthwith, throughout the entirety of the necessary path to console, reunite, restrengthen, and rebuild the valuable country and culture now so much under threat and to ultimately rejoice. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed to commit the use of city funds for this purpose.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY MOVED TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* COMMISSIONER BONNEY SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services