

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM

MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021

6:30 P.M.

This meeting will be conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking portion of the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Assistant City Clerk Frances Ortiz called the roll.

- 130th District: Scott Burns, *Matthew McCarthy*
- 131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jorge Cruz
- 132nd District: Marcus Brown, M. Evette Brantley
- 133rd District: *Michael DeFilippo*, Jeanette Herron
- 134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
- 135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
- 136th District: *Alfredo Castillo*, Avelino Silva (6:35 p.m.)
- 137th District: *Maria Valle*, Aidee Nieves
- 138th District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman
- 139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

During the roll call, there appeared to be no response from the individuals whose names are listed in italics.

Council President Nieves announced that Council Member McCarthy was out of town and might not be able to join the meeting.

Council President Nieves announced that there was a 3-minute time limit for each speaker and explained how to mute and unmute their devices.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.

NAME

SUBJECT

Latoya Johnson
Left Hearts, Inc.
3 Edwin Street
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Dirt Bike Ordinance and Task Force.

There was no response.

Victoria Majewski
378 Willow Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Memorial Day Willow Street block party shooting.

Ms. Majewski said that she was part of Justice for Jason and would be running for the 139th Council District with Wanda Simmons. The City Council has failed to meet even one of Justice for Jason's conditions.

Council President Nieves said that Ms. Majewski's remarks should relate to her stated topic and Ms. Majewski should not be making political comments.

Ms. Majewski said that she was mentioning that because it related to what happened on her street. She said one of the people who was at the Bridgeport Police Department for seven days and had been at Kennedy stadium. She said that they had told the Council that if the Council did not work with Justice for Jason, they would run against them.

Ms. Majewski said that there were two people who were shot on her street on the Memorial Day Willow Street block party and another person was hit by a car. The police were there for hours and did nothing. She said that she saw one of the gun shot victims walk by her house before a single officer ran towards the gun fire. They sent in 20 officers after things got violent but they did nothing to prevent the violence from happening.

Ms. Majewski said that she did not understand why the City Council just gave the Bridgeport Police Department another \$5 million dollars in the budget. The way they acted was incredibly harmful and the Council Members should be working with members of Justice for Jayson rather than lying and tabling their resolutions. She repeated that they should be working with Justice for Jayson who live in Bridgeport.

Cecil Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Unethical Taxes.

Mr. Young said that he had sent all the Council Members copies about his unjust termination. He said that he was a taxpayer and an ex-City employee who deserved to hear why he was terminated. Someone from the Council and someone from Personnel should sit down with him to explain how he lost his job after all his years with the City. He said that he had worked for the City for 27 1/2 years without a problem. He was denied his benefits and his job for being out for medical purposes. He asked the City Council to look into this and if they did, he would be willing to help with the Juneteenth parade for people of color who deserve the right to be treated equally rather than based on the color of their skin.

This is an issue of right and wrong. He reminded the Council Members that they took an oath before God and should honor that oath. He mentioned Dr. Evans, Jody Paul and some City officials who were lying about him. Mr. Young stated that he was not going to stop telling his story to everyone that he could and handing out flyers to everyone every month. He will be playing excerpts of Dr. Evans or Jody Paul and the City officials who were paid by taxpayer dollars and violated the public trust. This should not be allowed to continue.

Mr. Young said that he was pleading with the Mayor to stand up as well and call out those involved instead of protecting them. The police officers do what they do because they feel that they have that kind of protection and can get away with it. That should not be the case. In America, right is right and wrong is wrong. If Mr. Young was wrong, they should spell it out to him and show him. The Council Members owe him the right to do that. For 65 years, he's been out helping people and saved an officer's life. He has been removed from a meeting when he asked for more patrol officers. The Council knows his record and his past. It's not about doing a favor for Mr. Young, but about telling the truth. He asked the Council Members to produce the evidence and send him copies. He repeated his request that the Council Members sit down with him and other City officials to determine if the City wronged him. He lost his wife and his daughter and is now home alone, suffering because of something that should have never happened. He should have been on a honeymoon and enjoying his life with his wife but couldn't do that because they were too busy writing letters. The Council knew this was wrong and they had audio tapes of what everyone said. The union and a number of others spoke on Mr. Young's behalf. Thank you and have a good day.

Jazmarie Melendez
Justice for Jayson
316 East Pasadena Place
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Defunding the Bridgeport Police Dept.

There was no response.

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Maria Pereira
206 Bradley Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

School Building Committee, Bassick
High School and In-person meetings.

Council Member Pereira made the following comments:

First the City Council needs to begin holding all City Council and Committee meetings in person. There are no CDC guidelines or executive orders that prohibited the Council from meeting in person.

Second, the School Building Committee led by Council Member Marcus Brown and Council President Aidee Nieves, who is serving on the committee in violation of the City Council rules as well as the School Committee Bylaws that Council Member Brown likes to flout. Council Member Ernest Newton who is also serving on the committee, voted to authorize the purchase of 12 UB parcels for \$6 million for Bassick High School which is in absolute violation of the law. In 2018, the City Council approved a new Bassick High School which was to be built on the existing site. Therefore no funds were ever appropriated for land acquisition. The School Building Committee cannot spend what has not been appropriated by the City Council. At the May School Building Committee, Ken Flatto announced that the city's share of the new construction went from 27.5 to \$40 million, which is a \$12.5 million increase or an incredulous 45% increase placed on the back of our severely overburden residential tax payers

Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-24 specifically states no municipal agency or legislative body shall acquiring land for a public building any school or municipally owned property until the proposal to take such action has been referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a report. When was the \$6 million approval for the purchase required by the 8-24 report on the 12 parcels? We all know the answer.

Third, recent emails sent to Council Member Pereira from Council Member Ernest Newton and Council Member Anita Martinez utilizing their official city tax payer funded email accounts were “despicable and inappropriate, egregious and unprofessional”. Council Member Pereira said that she had repeatedly made it clear in numerous emails that were sent also to the City Council President and the City Attorney that Council Member Newton was not to email Council Member Pereira specifically relating to City Council business. Council Member Pereira stated she had found a number of Council Member Newton’s emails “threatening harassing, and highly inappropriate”. Council Member Pereira warned Council Member Newton that any further inappropriate email communications would be reported to the police. Unprovoked, Council Member Pereira received a number email from Council Member Newton making wild accusations of a political nature that had absolutely nothing to do with Council business. That was promptly followed by “several slanderous and vile emails” from Council Member Eneida Martinez which included who Council Member Pereira might be intimately involved with.

Council President Nieves cautioned Council Member Pereira about using the names of individual Council Members in her remarks. Council President Nieves also stated that Council Member Pereira had not included this topic in her application to address the Council.

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Council Member Pereira stated that Assistant City Clerk Ortez was on the call and would testify that her subject matter was included on her application to address the Council.

Council Member Martinez announced that Council Member Pereira's speaking time was up.

Council Member Pereira stated that this was outrageous behavior. Council President Nieves asked Council Member Martinez to refrain from speaking at that time.

Council Member Pereira said the accusations including charges of prostitution, racism, name-calling and drug abuse was egregious behavior. Council Member Pereira then asked Council President Nieves where she has been while all of this is been happening. Council Member Pereira claimed that Council President Nieves was making excuses for the other Council Members.

Council Member Pereira said it is outrageous when the Council tries to focus on her when she is making a statement on her private Facebook page about an elected official conducting themselves in a poor manner. The silence has been deafening and from this day forward any such emails will be reported to the police.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves adjourned the public speaking at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021

7:00 P.M.

This meeting was conducted by teleconference.

The public was able to listen to this meeting by calling a conference line.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:03 pm.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member Brantley to lead the Council in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member Newton to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, *Matthew McCarthy*
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jorge Cruz
132nd District: Marcus Brown, M. Evette Brantley
133rd District: Michael DeFilippo, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Avelino Silva
137th District: *Maria Valle*, Aidee Nieves
138th District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman
139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

During the roll call, there appeared to be no response from the individuals whose names are listed in italics.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

May 3, 2021

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2021.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

The following corrections were submitted by Council Member Pereira:

Page 11 – Second Paragraph – should read “ *Council Member Pereira said that this was yet another 15 year tax abatement which is in absolute violation of state law as the abatement had to be approved prior to the building being occupied, and the building had already been occupied for two years. Residential property owners will be experiencing a tax increase while developers are protected by these tax incentives.* ”

Page 11- Eight Paragraph -The sentence should read, “*Council Member Pereira said that they were giving them the 15 year tax abatement and a 7 year Enterprise Zone tax break.*”

Page 13 – Fifth Paragraph – First Sentence -the sentence should read, “*Council Member Pereira said that no funding was reallocated from the police as that was a false narrative because the proposed budget allocates an additional \$5,000,000 to the BPD.*”

Page 14 – Third Paragraph- The paragraph should read as “*Council Member Pereira said that the constant statements that the BOE was getting an additional \$2,000,000 was patently false as the \$500,000 in funding the BOE was receiving thru the Lighthouse Program had been eliminated which mean the BOE was only netting a \$1.5 million dollar increase.*”

Page 14 please change the following record of the vote from:

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY2021-2022 GENERAL FUND REVENUE INCREASES (A) AS PRESENTED PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTELY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, PEREIRA AND DEFLIPPO).**

to:

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY2021-2022 GENERAL FUND REVENUE INCREASES (A) AS PRESENTED PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO,**

SILVA, VALLE, NIEVES, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, AND DEFLIPPO).

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 3, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, NIEVES, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (BROWN).**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

81-20 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Charles Griggs (D) to the Ethics Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

82-20 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Terri B. Williams (D) to the Police Commission, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

83-20 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Glen Pettway (D) to the Fire Commission, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES:**

81-20 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES GRIGGS (D) TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

82-20 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF TERRI B. WILLIAMS (D) TO THE POLICE COMMISSION, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

83-20 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF GLEN PETTWAY (D) TO THE FIRE COMMISSION, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

Mayor Ganim asked if any Council Member wished to have an item removed from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Pereira requested that Agenda Items 74-20 and 80-20 be removed.

***72-20 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Municipal Suspense Tax Book.**

***80-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division – Project Longevity Grant (#22351).**

***74-20 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds.**

Assistant City Clerk Ortiz read the remaining item into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 72-20 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

74-20 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 74-20 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO REFUND CERTAIN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said she would be voting against this item. She stated that during the Budget and Appropriations Committee meeting she was not allowed to ask any questions on this matter. This was not lawful. She was concerned about the \$35 million dollars of General Obligations bonds being issued which allows for up to 3% in fees based on the decision of the Finance Director and the Treasurer. That could be over 1 million dollars alone. She opposed the items because the Council has fiduciary responsibility rather than the administration. She repeated that she could not support this.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 74-20 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO REFUND CERTAIN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, BROWN, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, NIEVES, SULIMAN, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

80-20 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division – Project Longevity Grant (#22351).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED AGENDA ITEM 80-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION – PROJECT LONGEVITY GRANT (#22351).**

Council Member Taylor-Moye, the Public Safety Co-Chair, said that this item had been discussed in Committee and had been approved unanimously.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said she wanted to make it clear for the record that she was opposing the application not because of the substance of the application but because there is language in every one of these resolutions, it allows the Mayor and/or any of his designees to sign any contract or agreement without coming to the Contracts Committee.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 80-20 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION – PROJECT LONGEVITY GRANT (#22351) PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, BROWN, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, SILVA, NIEVES, SULIMAN, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND ONE (1) OPPOSED (PEREIRA).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

73-20 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 73-20 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she would be voting no on this because of the boondoggle this has become. She was opposed to the city's share has increased from \$27.5 million to \$40 million, which is a 45% increase because of the School Building Committee's decision to buy 6 parcels for \$6 million dollars without City Council approve. They are moving this into a flood zone.

She said that she was against the [inaudible] parking structure for \$500,000, which was not listed as a priority.

Council Member Pereira was also opposed to the East Side Senior Center and did not know why they need an East Side Senior Center. She stated that she had visited the Hall Senior Center that have wrap around services and did not believe that there would be many seniors leaving that program to go to the East Side Senior Center, which is 12 or 13 blocks away. This is a waste of taxpayer funds.

Council Member Castillo said that he opposed the \$8 million because they need to put the brakes on this until they get permission from the State to build the building in a flood zone.

Council Member Burns said that this was one of the smallest bonding resolutions the Council has passed, so they are doing a good job in terms of leveraging the federal dollars and the finances. He said that he was excited that the Bassick project was moving forward.

Council Member Newton said that when he was growing up, he was told that he was not college material but was able to visit a college. VIP is doing a great job with the Bridgeport students by providing them with college exposure. He said that there were students at Bassick who had never had the chance to be on a college campus. This will give those students a change to be on campus and see other people that look like them. They will be surrounded by other young people that will be role models. Not everyone will graduate cum laude or summa cum laude, but they can graduate.

Council Member Newton said that Hartford had warned them about the continual delays and it could be another 10 years before they get permission to build a new school.

Council Member Cruz said that he wanted to make it clear that he wanted the students to have the best education possible but finds it hard to support the \$8 million. The process has been unfair and there has been a lack of transparency for the Council and public. The buildings should be left alone and used for low income housing. He said that the minutes from the School Building Committee had no details. Many of the South End residents were left out of the loop. They don't have full details about why there was a request for more \$8 million. Bassick does not belong at UB. The full Council should revisit the School Building Committee bylaws and take back the power. They have too much power and it should be returned to the Council. The money needs to come back to the Council to stop the scam.

Council Member Brantley said that she was asking the Council Members to support this item. The community is excited about the students getting out of the neighborhood and being exposed to a pre-collegiate situation. There will be exposure to law students, nursing students, tutoring and so much more. She said that Bassick looks no different now than it did when she was there. When Columbus School was hosted at UB, the students loved it. They were protected and had access to many more resources than they had before. With today's climate, they will be safe and secured and exposed to higher education.

Council Member Brantley said regarding the East Side Senior Center that there had always been two Senior Centers on the East Side. Hall House has co-existed with the East Side Senior Center. She gave a brief summary of the history about how the seniors moved to Hall House when the Ella Jackson Center closed.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that at the Budget meeting, she had reminded everyone that back in the 90's, there was a discussion about closing Bassick for a number of reasons. She noted that the BOE had the opportunity to purchase some adjoining property but decided not to buy it. She thanked UB for being in Bridgeport as long as they were and hoped that Goodwin would do well.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she knew Bassick would be moving and said that this would give the students a better education. People often say that there is a school to prison pipeline, but these students will have the chance to go from school to college. She said that she was looking forward to seeing this happen. She said that affordable housing does not belong on the campus. This would be taking property from education for affordable housing, but this is not about UB but about Bridgeport's students.

She said that she and Council Member Cruz were hearing two different stories. They need to have a discussion about this.

Council Member Cruz said that Goodwin was not good for Bridgeport.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she should not be interrupted, regardless of whether she agreed with Council Member Cruz or not. She told him not to interrupt her again.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM AGENDA ITEM 73-20 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO FUND CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, BROWN, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, SILVA, NIEVES, SULIMAN, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (CRUZ, CASTILLO, DEFILIPPO AND PEREIRA).**

Council Member Lyons said that she would be abstaining from Agenda 130-19 because she had abstained in the past when discussing the Police Budget.

Council Member DeFilippo said he was opposed to Agenda 130-19

130-19 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Resolution committing to reallocating certain funds from the Police Department to address the safety, security, educational and social service needs of Bridgeport Residents.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED AGENDA ITEM 130-19 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION COMMITTING TO**

REALLOCATING CERTAIN FUNDS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ADDRESS THE SAFETY, SECURITY, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS OF BRIDGEPORT RESIDENTS.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member DeFilippo said he was opposed to Agenda Item 130-19.

Council Member Pereira said that the item was referred on July 6th following a number of press conferences held during the July 4th week-end due to the death of George Floyd. She then read the following portion of the resolution into the record:

...**WHEREAS**, residents and their leaders are inspired by recent events and look to seize the moment to effect genuine budgetary changes; and

WHEREAS, allocations of funding deserve to be redirected towards community and Educational purposes;...

...**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Bridgeport City Council, through its Budget and Appropriations Committee, commits to reallocating certain funds from the Police Department to those that immediately address the safety, security and educational and social services needs of the residents of Bridgeport.

Council Member Pereira said not one dollar was reallocated from the Bridgeport PD but gave them an additional \$5 million dollars on July 1st. This is not genuine and there have been no re-allocations of funding to community services. The Committee gave the Police \$5 million dollars more as of July 1st. This is why she will be voting no. They are claiming that something was done here that was not done.

Council Member Burns said they had re-allocated funding from the BPD budget that was submitted to the Social Service unit. They also committed funding to a Race Equity Study and while the budget process is complicated, they did unfund a number of positions.

The long-term substantive changes will come from the staffing study, which Council Member Burns is working on. It will make concrete changes going forward. He acknowledged the Committee, the Council and the Task Force, which the Mayor appointed. He encouraged the Council Members to approve the item.

Council Member Newton thanked Council Member Burns and Council President Nieves for meeting with Community members to discuss this in a committee. Funding was moved from the BPD and he had difficulties believing that someone didn't believe this after sitting down with the NAACP and others. It is important to help the children who need help. It is time to stop the conspiracy theories on the Council and making accusations without evidence.

Council Member DeFlippo requested that that question be moved.

Council Member Martinez thanked Council Member Burns for all his dedication and time that he put into the budget and being as accurate as possible. She also thanked the other Committee members. There have been two other High Schools renovated and Bassick should not be left out.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM AGENDA ITEM AGENDA ITEM 130-19 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION COMMITTING TO REALLOCATING CERTAIN FUNDS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ADDRESS THE SAFETY, SECURITY, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS OF BRIDGEPORT RESIDENTS PASSED WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (BURNS, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, BROWN, HERRON, LYONS, ROMAN-CHRISTY, MCBRIDE-LEE, SILVA, CASTILLO, NIEVES, SULIMAN, NEWTON AND MARTINEZ) AND THREE (3) OPPOSED (DEFILIPPO, VIZZO-PANICCIA AND PEREIRA) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (LYONS).**

Council Member Newton said that he would like to have a point of personal privilege. He said that someone had spoken about him earlier in the meeting. This individual has a private phone, rather than a City phone. Everyone should have learned a lesson about that from Hillary Clinton. He said that the Council should have never allowed that to happen. If the Council Member doesn't want a City phone, then the Council Member will get the messages he's sending to all the Council Members. It's time to stop the shenanigans. He said that he did not care if they go to the Police Department or the FBI. If someone uses their personal phone, they will receive the information he sends to the other Council Members.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services.