

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017
6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the Public Session to order at 6:37 p.m.

Assistant City Clerk Frances Ortiz called the roll.

The following members were present:

- 130th District: Kathryn Bukovsky, Scott Burns
- 131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack O. Banta
- 132nd District: John Olson, M. Evette Brantley (6:48 p.m.)
- 133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
- 134th District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia (6:58 p.m.); Michelle Lyons (7:04 p.m.)
- 135th District: Richard Salter, Mary McBride-Lee (6:51 p.m.)
- 136th District: Jose Casco, Alfredo Castillo
- 137th District: Milta Feliciano, Aidee Nieves (6:48 p.m.)
- 138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
- 139th District: James Holloway, Eneida Martinez (6:58 p.m.)

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME	SUBJECT
John Marshall Lee 30 Beacon Street Bridgeport, CT 06605	Financial Issues.

Mr. Lee came forward and read the following statement into the record.

RED BOOTS again!! You have seen me in past years at many City Council meetings. If you were asked to objectively comment on my talks you might observe that I read, review, and reflect on City financial reports. Then I ask questions. Sometimes I compare and contrast words

and dollar descriptions of events. And I usually ask more questions. That is what is involved in my learning. That is what I have encouraged you to do because I see myself as a “truth seeker for my neighbors” and a reporter of real “truths” I encounter. I consider most people who work for the City as “my neighbor”. They are basically good people, even if they are not always well assigned, trained, or led in their duties.

I have a new story for you tonight. It may not be new to you if you have observed City Hall procedures closely over the years. But you may not be in the habit of comparing City procedures to Department Mission and looking at fiscal results that may harm taxpayers, as I have been. How many of you are aware that the City operates a Print Shop with a budget of approximately \$750,000 annually? Please raise your hands? (Pause) Whether you have raised your hand or not, annual budget books show the Print Shop employs 6-7 people with this Mission:

To provide all printing needs including typesetting, printing, binding, graphic art and desktop design for all City departments.

After reviewing annual budget adoptions and comparing them to “actual of completed budgets, Finance shows that Print Shop budgets are balanced most years. That should satisfy most “watchdogs” but I sought to “verify” this “balance” status when hearing curious reports:

1. More than one story from trusted parties indicated that Print Shop (under auspices of Chief Administrative Officer and Finance Departments in City Hall hierarchy) handled printing assignments for individuals or groups that were outside of City Departments. How could that be, I wondered?
2. If printing were done for a fee, the Print Shop has always indicated under “Revenue Summary” that there is no revenue, that the Revenue category is “Not Applicable. Is this true or false, I wondered? If money is exchanged, where does it go? How does it fail to show, in what I understand, are carefully collected records? Why does I show no revenue other than that supplies by taxpayers if some people are paying for Print Shop services?
3. If “outside assignments” are being done for “free” what is the cost of such work that taxpayers are supporting without knowing?
4. So I looked at more than five years of City purchasing records for the Print Shop (1030) and found that Operational Expenses and Special Services actual expenses for the Print Shop exceed the “adopted” budgets for those two items by \$829,000 from 2011 to 2015. (We await the Final Monthly Report for June 2016, only available after all adjustments and receipt of the 2016 CAFR according to Kenneth Flatto to see what happened in the first full year of Ganim2.)

If the Purchasing Order records are correct, then budgets have not been in balance as has been reported for some time. Why are City fiscal records in conflict? Why should taxpayers be paying, on average \$165,000 more, for Print Shop work than is showing in any budget record? If the Shop receives funds from sources and does not report, what is that about? Are certain people or organizations getting privileged service at the expense of the general taxpayer? Are persons pocketing funds secretly?

Lots of questions arise. Who will help pursue answers? When objective and fact-based questions, based on public documents, all of which are available in the City Clerk’s office raise important

issues, who will be a watchdog and assist in getting to the bottom of the questions? Can we have a conversation at the Budget and Appropriations meeting? Time will tell.

Ethan Book
144 Coleman Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

False prophets.

Mr. Book came forward. And greeted the Council Members and the Junior Council Members. Mr. Book referenced that Mr. Cecil Young had come forward at the previous Council meeting and spoken about his "unjust termination" from City employment. Mr. Book stated that Mr. Young had also pointed out that there were two ministers on the Council and referred to them as "false prophets" during the previous Council meeting. Mr. Book went on to give an overview of the definition of the words "false" and "prophets". He pointed out that the Council has no input on legal issues and went on to state that Mr. Young had received a settlement of \$85,000. He cautioned Mr. Young about his stance regarding this and quoted a story from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 5. At the end of his remarks, he quoted Mr. Lee's famous phrase, "Time will tell."

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Matter concerning unjust termination.

Mr. Young came forward and said that he had a copy of the letter on his poster and announced that he was not a quitter. He said that while he respects people, he has a problem with those who are not treated the same as others. He sees the same injustice that he has received. He encouraged people to visit his website for the fact. Mr. Young then went on to speak about his disagreement with Council Member Holloway. Mr. Young said that he had been a City employee for 18 years and a community activist for many years. Injustice has to be called out and he knows his rights. The Council Members know that they are wrong and Council Member Holloway is wrong in not helping him.

Clyde Nicholson
54 Wallace Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Taxes.

Mr. Nicholson came forward to speak about taxes. He then said that Mr. John Gomes and Mr. Chapman were receiving large salaries but not generating a dime for the City.

Mr. Nicholson then said that there were a number of problems all over the country but reminded everyone that there was a time when everyone came to Bridgeport and lived together. Now with the Devil himself, Donald Trump, there are problems and people can't become citizens. He said that white folks are trying to claim that the U.S. is God's country. He stated that the U.S. is not Donald Trump's country. He then reminded everyone that everyone's family came from someplace and some came on slave ships.

He went on to speak but raised his voice to the point where his remarks became inaudible.

Council Member Olson objected to Mr. Nicholson's insults. Council President McCarthy informed Mr. Nicholson he was out of time.

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Council President McCarthy said Mr. Nicholson was the last speaker who had signed up in advance. He then called the first speaker who had signed up just before the meeting began.

Mr. Michael Merli
171 Hope Street
Bridgeport, CT

Sanctuary City

Mr. Merli came forward and read the following statement into the record:

Dear Bridgeport City Council Members,

My name is Mike Merli and I live at 171 Hope Street. I didn't grow up in Bridgeport, though, I grew up in Milford, just 15 minutes north of here.

Of all the things I haven taken for granted throughout my life, my citizenship status is at the top of the list. Only recently, at 30 years old, have I begun to think deeply about how my life would have been different if I were a first or second generation immigrant to this country.

I've been living in Bridgeport for over three years with my girlfriend, Cierra, who grew up here. The diversity here in Bridgeport is what makes this community beautiful, and a place I am proud to call home. I work for an organization here that helps homeless individuals and families get housed. Through this work, I've met so many people from different walks of life, and I have seen first hand the intersection of different issues in the community. I know that making Bridgeport a Sanctuary City is far from the only topic on your plates as City Council Members.

But for someone who is directly impacted, this is everything. There are mothers and fathers and children and college students in this room who are living in fear every day of immigration and customs enforcement knocking on their door.

Barbara, Alison, Julio, Luis and all the volunteers with Make the Road CT are doing important work. They are organizing with undocumented immigrants here in Bridgeport to advocate for equal treatment, respect and protection. And the members of Make the Road CT inspire me with their courage and their strength. They are risking everything to make Bridgeport a safer and friendlier place, not just for immigrants, but for everyone.,

Making Bridgeport a Sanctuary City would offer protection for so many residents. If our local law enforcement began working closely with Federal Immigration Enforcement, families here would face deportation and parents being separated from their children. I think we can all agree that we do not want that to happen here.

Bridgeport is our community. I see our community as a family. And since our community is a family, the undocumented among us are not just our friends and neighbors; they are our brothers and sisters. And right now, they do not feel safe. And as long as they do not feel safe, I don't feel safe.

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Please vote to make Bridgeport a Sanctuary City. This city is for all of us. We all deserve to feel safe. Thank you for listening and thank you for your time.

Ms. Alejandro Vazques

Sanctuary City

Ms. Alejandro Vazques came forward with a translator and introduced herself as a Bridgeport resident for 11 years. her family came to Bridgeport to better their lives. Here in Bridgeport, they have an opportunity to better themselves. They have jobs, friends, family and work hard. She said that they feel it is not fair to have to worry. About their children being placed in an Orphanage if they are deported. She said that being a sanctuary city would allow everyone to live together as a community.

ADJOURNMENT.

Council President McCarthy adjourned the public speaking portion of the Council meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

PRAYER.

Mayor Ganim requested Council Member McBride-Lee lead those present in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim requested Junior Council Member Daniel Bukovsky to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the conclusion of the Pledge, Mayor Ganim requested that all those present remain standing for a Moment of Silence in memory of a young Bridgeport resident who was recently killed. He said that Council Member Lyons had attended a vigil in memory of this young man recently. All those present stood in respectful silence for a minute.

ROLL CALL

Assistant City Clerk Ortiz called the roll.

130th District: Kathryn Bukovsky, Scott Burns
131st District: Jack O. Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye,
132nd District: M. Evette Brantley, John Olson
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: José Casco, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Anthony Paoletto, Nessah Smith
139th District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): In Recognition of Lorraine Lombardo for her Civic Contributions.

It was announced that this presentation would be done at another time.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: February 21, 2017.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that she would like the record to reflect that she was not in attendance at the February 21st meeting due to a death in the family. This was so noted.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2017.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2017 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

46-16 Communication from Board of Education re: Proposed Resolution concerning Grant Application Authorization for School Construction Work and Design Initiation for the Catholic Center located at 238 Jewett Avenue, referred to Education and Social Services Committee.

47-16 Communication from Engineering re: Proposed Resolution regarding Letter of Commitment for State Project No. L050-0002, Bridge No. 4225 – Bridge Replacement Commerce Drive/State Street Extension over Ash Creek – Town of Fairfield/City of Bridgeport Utilizing Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) Funding, referred to Public Safety & Transportation Committee.

48-16 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with Jane Doe, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

50-16 Communication from Tax Collector re: Proposed Assignment of Tax Liens for Fiscal Year 2017, referred to Contracts Committee.

51-16 Communication from City Attorney re: (Ref. #195-14) Proposed Amendment of Resolution regarding the Agreement for Solar Power at Wonderland of Ice Facility, referred to Contracts Committee.

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

49-16 Resolution presented by Council Member Casco re: Proposed request that the Portion of Lexington Avenue adjacent to Lafayette Park and Sapiaos Grocery Store be given the Honorary Designation of “Jose A. Salgado Way” with appropriate street signage

being placed on Lexington Avenue between Linen and Jones Avenue(s), referred to Public Safety & Transportation Committee.

Council Member Lyons requested that Agenda Item 46-16 be held for a separate vote.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO COMBINE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR REFERRAL TO THE APPROPRIATE BOARD OR COMMITTEE:**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

47-16 COMMUNICATION FROM ENGINEERING RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING LETTER OF COMMITMENT FOR STATE PROJECT NO. L050-0002, BRIDGE NO. 4225 – BRIDGE REPLACEMENT COMMERCE DRIVE/STATE STREET EXTENSION OVER ASH CREEK – TOWN OF FAIRFIELD/CITY OF BRIDGEPORT UTILIZING LOCAL TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (LOTICIP) FUNDING, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

48-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH JANE DOE, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

50-16 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF TAX LIENS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

51-16 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: (REF. #195-14) PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION REGARDING THE AGREEMENT FOR SOLAR POWER AT WONDERLAND OF ICE FACILITY, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

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

49-16 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CASCO RE: PROPOSED REQUEST THAT THE PORTION OF LEXINGTON AVENUE ADJACENT TO LAFAYETTE PARK AND SAPIAOS GROCERY STORE BE GIVEN THE HONORARY DESIGNATION OF “JOSE A. SALGADO WAY” WITH APPROPRIATE STREET SIGNAGE BEING PLACED ON LEXINGTON AVENUE BETWEEN LINEN AND JONES AVENUE(S), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

46-16 Communication from Board of Education re: Proposed Resolution concerning Grant Application Authorization for School Construction Work and Design Initiation for

the Catholic Center located at 238 Jewett Avenue, referred to Education and Social Services Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 46-16 COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD OF EDUCATION RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION WORK AND DESIGN INITIATION FOR THE CATHOLIC CENTER LOCATED AT 238 JEWETT AVENUE, REFERRED TO EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia requested that Agenda Item 29-16 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

***17-16 Education and Social Services Committee Report re: Grant Submission: School Construction Project Application for State Grants and Initiation of Design for Anna Baum Skane School Roof Replacement.**

***29-16 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: (Ref. #218-15) Resolution regarding that two additional honorary street signs be placed above the corner signs at Bishop Avenue's Intersection with Boston Avenue and Stratford Avenue for "Jimmie W. Jones Way".**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM *17-16 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPLICATION FOR STATE GRANTS AND INITIATION OF DESIGN FOR ANNA BAUM SKANE SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***29-16 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: (Ref. #218-15) Resolution regarding that two additional honorary street signs be placed above the corner signs at Bishop Avenue's Intersection with Boston Avenue and Stratford Avenue for "Jimmie W. Jones Way".**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that while she had no problem with honoring Mr. Jones, she felt that the process for adding honorary street names needed to be reconsidered.

Council Member Martinez said that this was beyond the regular signage and the honoree was a Bridgeport fire fighter.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 29-16 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: (REF. #218-15) RESOLUTION REGARDING THAT TWO ADDITIONAL HONORARY STREET SIGNS BE PLACED ABOVE THE CORNER SIGNS AT BISHOP AVENUE'S INTERSECTION WITH BOSTON AVENUE AND STRATFORD AVENUE FOR "JIMMIE W. JONES WAY" PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BUKOVSKY, BURNS, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, OLSON, MCCARTHY, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, SALTER, CASCO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, FELICIANO, SMITH, MARTINEZ AND HOLLOWAY) AND THREE (3) AGAINST (BANTA, VIZZO-PANICCIA AND PAOLETTO).**

Council Member Olson requested a point of personal privilege to make the following statement
RE: Resolution naming Bridgeport a Sanctuary City

The American poet James Russell Lowell (1819-1891) composed a poem whose opening lines read:

“Once to every person and nation, Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth with falsehood, For the good or evil side.
Some great cause, God’s new messiah, Offering the bloom or blight,
And the choice goes by forever, ‘Twixt the darkness and that light.”

The choice is whether this City Council will name Bridgeport a sanctuary or welcoming or friendly or whatever City.

The initiator of this choice is America’s president who wants us and our police force to locate, arrest and deport those we call “illegal aliens” of whom there are 11 to 12 million men, women and children living within America’s borders.

The intent of this resolution to name Bridgeport a welcoming City is to refuse the President’s demand. There are at least two issues involved in our debate.

*Why should we protect illegal immigrants?

*Why should we risk losing federal funding by becoming a friendly City?

#1 We should protect illegal immigrants because they have come to our shores for the same reasons as did our ancestors (except for African Americans who were forcibly brought here as slaves).

Sven and Nellie Thorson, my maternal grandparents and John and Matilda Olson, my paternal grandparents, came to America in the late 19th Century as refugees from Sweden, a nation that was not providing the opportunity to earn a decent living for several million of its citizens. They, with millions of other White European ethnic families, flooded our shores as refugees with hope they could provide a living for themselves. Both economic deprivation and anti-semitic persecution of Eastern European Jews motivated them to come here “the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

Into the 1920's the American immigration quota system provided a clear path to citizenship for Europeans. There were no quotas and no path to citizenship for Asians, Africans and South Americans. They did not fit the prescribed definition of who is an American, predominantly White Christians.

Such a definition still largely prevails. But now we have a President who uses the fear of terror to demonize people on the basis of their faith and the location of their native lands. He is redefining a quota system as shameful now as it was when my grandparents came here.

For the past several decades the federal government turned a blind eye toward the incoming flow of illegal immigrants. Those 11 to 12million "illegals" work for American businesses and families that gladly employ them and pay below minimum wages. Should we not also arrest those who illegally employ illegal immigrants? They remain illegal because the U.S. Congress through Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama has refused to create a process that makes citizenship possible.

Of the estimated 130,000 undocumented CT residents, many are so fearful that they will not go to hospital, enroll their children in school and report criminal acts to the police. We owe them assurance that Bridgeport police will not partner with federal immigration officers to identify, arrest and deport those who have not broken our laws.

Of the estimated 130,000 undocumented CT residents, many are so fearful that they will not go to hospital, enroll their children in school and report criminal acts to the police. We owe them assurance that Bridgeport police will not partner with federal immigration officers to identify, arrest and deport those who have not broken our laws.

#2 We should risk losing federal dollars because the "great cause" of standing against injustice and for human rights is worth the risk. Admittedly this is a hard saying when our mayor must produce a budget for the coming year.

Besides, we have no way of knowing whether the President by the mere signing of another one of his executive orders will prevail in the courts. Both U.S. Senators Blumenthal and Murphy told us last week in Washington D.C that they believe the President has no Constitutional authority to withhold funds if we declare Bridgeport to be a friendly- to immigrants- city. Undocumented immigrants who commit serious crimes, of course, risk being deported.

Let us let us unite around what is best in America, movingly described in the second inaugural address of President Ronald Reagan:

"(The song of America) is hopeful, big-hearted, idealistic, daring, decent and fair. That's our heritage; that is our song...a sound in unity, affection and love – one people under God, dedicated to the dream of freedom to a waiting and hopeful world."

I am confident that our mayor and the City Council can devise a way for us both to uphold the law and provide a safe haven for our illegal, law-abiding, hard-working immigrants.

Thank you.

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Council President McCarthy announced that there was a resolution from the floor that would need to be referred to the appropriate Committee. He also mentioned that the Junior Council Members were present for the Council Meeting.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE:**

A RESOLUTION CALLING ON CONGRESS TO PROTECT “CDBG”

WHEREAS, the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut is a Participating Jurisdiction (PJ) and a recipient of Community Development Block Grant funding for Entitlement Community’s from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and;

WHEREAS, the City’s CDBG entitlement allocation is approximately \$2.8 million annually; and;

WHEREAS, these funds are used to subsidize activities related to public service, public facilities, housing and economic development; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Bridgeport and local nonprofits receive funding through CDBG to offer programs that help combat blight, stabilize communities and provide services for youth, senior citizens, handicapped, homeless, veteran and low-moderate income residents; and

WHEREAS, more than 55,000 Bridgeport residents directly benefit from those funds, programs and services on annual basis, and;

WHEREAS, the President’s recent budget sent to Congress eliminates all CDBG funding for cities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the impact these cuts will have on the City of Bridgeport, its residents, and other Entitlement Communities will be devastating;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT, the Mayor and the City Council stand in support of the CDBG program and strongly urge members of Congress to fight to protect CDBG funding for Entitlement Communities like Bridgeport

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the City Council requests the Mayor, or his designee, draft a letter of the Mayor and City Council to Congressman Himes, Senator Blumenthal, and Senator Murphy asking them to fight against proposed cuts to CDBG that will negatively impact our city.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

Council Member Holloway then spoke about the resolution and said that it would be sent to the White House in an effort to preserve the CDBG funding.

Council Member Brantley then spoke in favor of the resolution and said that she agreed with Council Member Olson's comments. She also reminded people that the President had already started taking away funding from the City. If he discontinues the funding, he would be in violation of the 10th Amendment because only Congress can remove funding from the cities. She pointed out that Bridgeport was a Sanctuary city and open to everyone from every nation on the face of the earth.

Council Member Bukovsky said that the resolution currently the resolution would go to the Connecticut delegation and went on to point out that the Council already knows that the City's Congressional representatives are already against this cut. She then asked if the resolution could be amended to have the resolution sent to all of the members of Congress.

Mayor Ganim said that there would need to be three votes, one to add it to the agenda, which is on the floor; one to waive the referral to Committee and one to amend the motion.

Council President McCarthy said that the entire City Council wished to be listed as sponsors of the resolution.

**** THE MOTION SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE RESOLUTION TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** A MOTION WAS MADE TO WAIVE THE REFERRAL OF THIS RESOLUTION TO COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL.**

**** THERE WAS A SECOND.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Casco then spoke briefly about sanctuary cities.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BUKOVSKY MOVED TO AMEND THE 9TH PARAGRAPH OF THE RESOLUTION FROM:**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, THE CITY COUNCIL REQUESTS THE MAYOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE, DRAFT A LETTER OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TO CONGRESSMAN HIMES, SENATOR BLUMENTHAL, AND SENATOR MURPHY ASKING THEM TO FIGHT AGAINST PROPOSED CUTS TO CDBG THAT WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT OUR CITY.

TO:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, THE CITY COUNCIL REQUESTS THE MAYOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE, DRAFT A LETTER OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TO CONGRESSMAN HIMES, SENATOR BLUMENTHAL, SENATOR MURPHY AND ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS ASKING THEM TO FIGHT

AGAINST PROPOSED CUTS TO CDBG THAT WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT OUR CITY.

AND TO ADD ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE BRIDGEPORT CITY COUNCIL AS SPONSORS.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED.**

**** THERE WAS A SECOND.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #52-16)**

Council Member Lyons said that she was not present for the Public Speaking portion of the meeting because she had attended a vigil for a young man who had recently died.

Council Member Herron said that she had an invitation from a sixth-grade class for the Mayor to attend International Day at their school on May 18th.

Council member Martinez said as elected officials, the Council Members serve the City to the best of their ability and at this point, while the Public Speaking portion of the meeting allows the public to express their opinions, it is important that the speakers remain on the topic that they have stated they will speak on. There has been too much insulting, over reacting and disrespect displayed by the certain individuals. This is a disgrace for the Council Members to be treated in this manner. At some point, it might be important to remove those individuals who do not address the topics that they signed up for during public speaking.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services