

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018
6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking session to order at 6:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll.

130th District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack O. Banta
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan
133rd District: Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy
136th District: Alfredo Castillo, Maria Zambrano Viggiano
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith
139th District: Ernest Newton, Eneida Martinez

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Lorie Gumbs-Tyler
33 Ridge Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604238

Classical Studies Magnet Academy
move into one building & purchase
of Jewett Avenue, Catholic Diocese
of Bridgeport building.

Ms. Gumbs-Tyler came forward to speak about the request to purchase Jewett Avenue property. She thanked the Social Service and Education Committee for changing their agenda and including a tour of the school facilities. The Academy has been in a divided campus for six years now and it is burden on the administration, staff, parents, students and the City. The City is renting one of the properties and the rent could increase during the next two years. The Diocese wants to sell their building and the City may not have the opportunity to purchase it. Once again, she wanted to know if the property is not the magnet school, what else would the

Diocese do with it? She also wanted to know if there was a better location and asked if the Council Members knew of anything, they should let the staff know.

Jewett avenue is already a school and zoned for it. There is no other property in the City that would have so many positive things going for it. This will also allow the Special Education students to be brought to the facility. What else would it take to bring this to the table. At the conclusion of her remarks, Ms. Gumbs-Tyler submitted a petition regarding Jewett Avenue to the Council.

Ethan Book
144 Coleman Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

WPCA & City Tax Issues.

Mr. Ethan Book, a member of the Republican Town Committee came forward and applauded the ordinance Committee for digging into the WPCA collection processes. Mr. book then gave information about Atty. Jonathan Klein's suit against Atty. Epstein regarding a property owned by Mr. Schultz. He added there were additional charges against Atty. Epstein for excessive charges to the tune of \$3,000. Mr. Book then listed two other properties that were located at 744 Stillman and the appraisals that were incorrect. He said that he would provide the Council Members with hard copies. Attempts to contact the appraisers were futile as the appraiser would only speak to Mr. Book with written permission from Atty. Epstein. The call to Atty. Epstein has not been returned. He concluded by asking Mayor Ganim how he would feel if any of his family members were involved in this type of arrangement.

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Young came forward and said that he was saddened by the loss of life in Florida. He said that the Congressional gun lobbyists have a lot of money and they need to be held accountable. Mr. Young said that they have the necessary man power to protect the schools. He suggested that the National Guard be called to be on standby to protect the schools and comfort the students. He said that anyone who has an assault weapons should be banned in the City of Bridgeport. He contacted the Governor about this. Children should be able to go to school safely.

He then played an audio recording of Dr. Martin Luther King speaking.

Valerie Billingsley
600 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Quality of life issues.

Council President Nieves called for Ms. Billingsley to come forward. There was no response. She requested Ms. Billingsley to come forward two more times with no response.

Brenda Underhill
456 Peet Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Quality of life issues.

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
February 20, 2018

Ms. Underhill came forward and greeted the Council Members. She said that she was a home owner and her property abuts the school on Jewett Street. She said that she felt that having the school would make the traffic even worse. The street is one way. She toured the school and the building needs a lot of work. A playground needs to be built. It would make people sell their properties because people would be parking their cars along the street. There is too much traffic on the street already. She said that people already speed down the street and this would make it worse. There needs to be another place to have the school and it would be a costly property.

Eric Cabrera
264 Sunrise Terrace
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Quality Living.

Mr. Cabrera came forward and greeted the Council. He said that he had lived in Bridgeport since 1986. he was proud and grateful for the opportunities the City has given him. He went to UB and obtained his Master's. Now he has purchased a house on Sunrise Terrace. However, there are others on the street who have started to have loud parties and it invades his privacy. When the Classical Studies Academy said it was going to move to the area nearby, this was a problem because it would increase the traffic from moderate to severe traffic conditions. The structure is from the 1950's and this location is not appropriate. There are other buildings for sale. If the City buys the school, it will destabilize the neighborhood even more.

Clyde Nicholson
54 Wallace Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Mr. Clyde Nicholson came forward and said that he was asking the City to become a gun free zone. He's been doing this for a long time and has been watching the families going through the recent Florida school tragedy. He said that there needs to be security cameras and fences around the schools. People in this City are playing games. They don't have to wait for some school to have an incident. There was a lock down in Norwalk today. This is not about Mr. Nicholson, but about the safety of the students. Mr. Nicholson said that he was not on the news, but was trying to save lives. A stray bullet does not discriminate. He reminded everyone that nothing would be done until white students were killed. There is already a gun free zone area in Bridgeport. When he tried to enter the Court house, he was not allowed to enter the court house. He cannot go to the Motor Vehicle or other Federal buildings with a gun. He then commented that the cams in the police cars point at the officer's face, not at the outside and said this was wrong.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the public speaking portion at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

PRAYER

Imam Mohamed Abdelati and another gentleman from the Bridgeport Islamic Community Center came forward and led the prayer in Arabic and English.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim then requested City Clerk Martinez to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll.

130th District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack O. Banta
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan
133rd District: Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy
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137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith
139th District: Ernest Newton, Eneida Martinez

Mayoral and City Council Citation(s): Recognizing Members of “Bridgeport Unidos Por El Mundo” and “CTBPT-UnitedforPR” for their Civic and Humanitarian Work Efforts in Puerto Rico.

The representatives of the “Bridgeport Unidos Por El Mundo” and “CTBPT UnitedforPR” were called forward and presented with both Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing their contributions to the hurricane victims in both Texas and Puerto Rico.

City Council Citation(s): Celebrating Black History Month and Recognizing Ernest E. Newton, II as the First African-American City Council President and Mary A. McBride-Lee for work as a foot soldier in the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement.

A member of one of the Bridgeport church choirs came forward and sang the Star-Spangled Banner for those present.

Council Member Ernie Newton and Council Member Mary McBride-Lee were presented with Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing both Council Members for their work in supporting African American causes. Council President Nieves then presented Council Members Taylor-Moye, Banta, N. Smith, Jackson, C. Smith and Brown with certificates acknowledging their service to the City of Bridgeport as Council Members.

Mayor Ganim announced that there were some students present that were enrolled in a Governmental Studies course and said that he would be explaining what the Council is doing as they move through the agenda.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: January 16, 2018

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 2, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 16, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

50-17 Communication from Housing & Community Development re: Proposed Resolution regarding the 2018-2020 Citizen's Union Participation Plan, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

53-17 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for Historic Restoration Fund Grant (#18219), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

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

51-17 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Banta & Taylor-Moye re: Proposed request that the Honorary Designation of "Linda T. Cervero Way" with appropriate street signage be placed on John Street from Courtland Street to West Avenue, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

52-17 Resolution presented by Council Member Jackson re: Proposed resolution requesting “Alternate Side of Street Parking” on Virginia and Louisiana Avenues on Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. all year round with appropriate road markings, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO COMBINE BOTH THE COMMUNICATION TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES AND THE RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC. FOR APPROVAL.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***18-17 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for an Emergency Management Performance Grant (FY17-FY22).**

***19-17 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Honorary naming of the corner of Clinton and North Avenue as “Bishop Ivory Holden’s Way” with appropriate signage.**

***49-17 Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with New York Typographical Union, CWA Local 14156 (Printers) regarding their Bargaining Unit Contract.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Newton requested that Agenda Item 49-17 be removed. The City Clerk then read the remaining agenda items into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***18-17 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION FOR AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (FY17-FY22).**

***19-17 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: HONORARY NAMING OF THE CORNER OF CLINTON AND NORTH AVENUE AS “BISHOP IVORY HOLDEN’S WAY” WITH APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

49-17 Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with New York Typographical Union, CWA Local 14156 (Printers) regarding their Bargaining Unit Contract.

Council Member Newton said that if an item was on the consent calendar, there could be no discussion regarding that item. He went on to say that during the negotiations, the only union that showed up was the printers. It is disrespectful to the Contracts Committee to submit a contract and not have the courtesy to attend the Committee meeting. He said that the people that did not show now want the Council to show up. They should have the courtesy to show up.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 49-17 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AGREEMENT WITH NEW YORK TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION, CWA LOCAL 14156 (PRINTERS) REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Martinez said that as a point of personal privilege, she would like to go back to referrals to the Committees. She said that the Ordinance Committee had met for years to get the City Attorney to address issues with the WPCA collection practices. She stated that she had presented three different potential ordinances to the City Council Members, added the following Council Members as co-sponsors: Jeanette Herron, Jack Banta, Christina Smith, Denese Taylor-Moye, Alfredo Castillo, Kyle Langan, Karen Jackson and Rev. Mary McBride-Lee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS FOR REFERRAL TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE:**

PROPOSAL AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 13.04 –UTILITIES, TO AMEND PARAGRAPH A OF SECTION 13.04.040 ENTITLED BOARD OF DIRECTORS. (ITEM # 55-17)

PROPOSAL AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 13.04 –UTILITIES, TO SECTION 13.04.050 ENTITLED TERMS OF OFFICE. (ITEM # 56-17)

PROPOSAL AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 13.04 – UTILITIES, TO AMEND SECTION 13.04.380 ENTITLED COLLECTION OF PAST DUE ACCOUNT AND LATE PAYMENT PENALTIES. (ITEM # 57-17)

Council Member Martinez said for the record that the proposed amendment to Section 13.04.040 changes the appointing authority from the Mayor to the City Council.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE:**

PROPOSAL AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 13.04 –UTILITIES, TO AMEND PARAGRAPH A OF SECTION 13.04.040 ENTITLED BOARD OF DIRECTORS. (ITEM # 55-17)

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**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Martinez then announced that she would like to read into the record the letter that was being submitted to the Mayor regarding this issue.

Hon. Joseph P. Ganim
Mayor, City of Bridgeport
City Hall Annex
999 Broad Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Re: Expired Terms and Vacancies on Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) Commission.

Dear Mayor Ganim:

As you know, the Ordinance Committee of the City Council is considering changes to the provisions of the Code of Ordinances which pertain to the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA).

We are particularly concerned with the Collection and Foreclosure practices which have been and are being employed by the WPCA.

Section 13.04.040 of the Code of Ordinances provides for a nine (9) member WPCA Commission. Four (4) members, the City Engineer, the City Attorney, the Director of Finance and the Director of Public Facilities are members by virtue of their office.

The remaining five (5) at-large members are appointed to three (3) year terms by the Mayor, with the approval of the City Council.

Our review of the City of Bridgeport we-page reveals that only four (4) at-large Commissioners have been appointed. All are serving expired terms.

We believe it's imperative that the existence of the at-large vacancy, and the four (4) expired terms be addressed immediately. Please let us know if you intend to fill the vacancy and the expired terms, so that the City Council is able to discharge its advice and consent role.

If you do not believe that these vacancies can be filled expeditiously, we intend to explore the possibility of amending the WPCA ordinance, and designate the City Council as the appointing authority.

Please give this matter your immediate attention.

Very truly yours,

Eneida Martinez, Ordinance Committee Co-Chair

Marcus Brown, Ordinance Committee Co-Chair

Council Member Newton then spoke about the fact that the City's lobbyists' contract was up for renewal.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRAL TO THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE:**

54-17 PROPOSED STATE LOBBYING SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH REYNOLDS STRATEGY GROUP, LLC FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. (ITEM #54-17)

Council Member Langan stated that he had concerns about this item since it was being moved through the approval process hastily. He felt that this was not transparent and wished to know why they were approving a contract that would extend beyond the end of Governor Malloy's term. He said that he would like the Contracts Committee discussion to address the fact that this was only a one-year contract and wanted a presentation by the Reynolds Group to the Committee since he was unfamiliar with the firm.

Council Member Newton said that this motion was simply to refer the item to the Committee and that during the Committee meeting, the Council Members will address the issues that Council Member Langan was concerned with.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO THE AGENDA FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRAL TO THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE:**

**PROPOSED STATE LOBBYING SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH
REYNOLDS STRATEGY GROUP, LLC FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.
(ITEM #54-17)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM REGARDING PENDING
LITIGATION FOR CHERYL ANDERSON FOR REFERRAL TO THE CLAIMS
COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NIEVES SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Newton said that Council Member Langan was correct and that the City Council could not continue to do business in this hasty manner. Mayor Ganim reviewed the agenda submission process with everyone.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH MOVED TO REFER AN ITEM REGARDING
PENDING LITIGATION FOR CHERYL ANDERSON TO THE CLAIMS
COMMITTEE. (**DUPLICATE ITEM—WITHDRAWN**)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NIEVES SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

{Following the conclusion of the Council meeting, it was determined by the City Clerk's Office that this agenda item had been previously referred to the Claims Committee on February 5, 2018.}

Council Member Martinez then said that the reason for the urgency regarding the four items before the Council so quickly was that they would be available to the public before the public hearing. She said that she had been advised by the City Attorney to make a motion to add the items to the agenda for the upcoming Public Hearing agenda on February 27, 2018.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF
THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE UPCOMING ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING
AGENDA SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2018 AND THE AND PUBLICATION OF
A NEW LEGAL NOTICE IN THE CONNECTICUT POST WITH THE ADDITIONAL
ITEMS:**

**PROPOSAL AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF
ORDINANCES CHAPTER 13.04 –UTILITIES, TO AMEND PARAGRAPH
A OF SECTION 13.04.040 ENTITLED BOARD OF DIRECTORS. (ITEM #55-17)**

**PROPOSAL AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES
CHAPTER 13.04 –UTILITIES, TO SECTION 13.04.050 ENTITLED TERMS OF
OFFICE. (ITEM #56-17)**

**PROPOSAL AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES
CHAPTER 13.04 – UTILITIES, TO AMEND SECTION 13.04.380 ENTITLED
COLLECTION OF PAST DUE ACCOUNT AND LATE PAYMENT PENALTIES.
(ITEM #57-17)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Ganim said that Rev. McCluskey and others were present to speak about gun violence. Council Member Martinez said that there had been a tragic school shooting in Florida and that recently two students at Blackham School had brought guns to school. It is important to act on issues that are taking place all across the nation.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO ADD THE FOLLOWING
RESOLUTION FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION (ITEM #58-17):**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION STRENGTHENING
STATE AND FEDERAL GUN LAWS**

**WHEREAS, MORE THAN 100,000 PEOPLE ARE INJURED AND MORE THAN
30,000 PEOPLE ARE KILLED EACH YEAR BY FIREARMS, TOTALING
MORE GUN DEATHS THAN IN AMERICAN WARS COMBINED; AND,**

**WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES HAS SUFFERED FROM NUMEROUS
MASS SHOOTINGS EACH YEAR, INCLUDING THE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY
AT SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT;
AND,**

**WHEREAS, WE STAND WITH THE PEOPLE OF PARKLAND, FLORIDA
AFTER THE RECENT MASS SHOOTING AT MAJORY STONEMAN
DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL; AND,**

**WHEREAS, THE EXPLOSION OF GUN SALES IN THE UNITED STATES
COMES AT A TIME WHEN MANY STATES HAVE CUT MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICE PROGRAMS; AND,**

**WHEREAS, THERE ARE MINIMAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND
BACKGROUND CHECK LOOPHOLES ON FIREARMS SOLD BY PRIVATE
INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING MILITARY-STYLE WEAPONS; AND,**

**WHEREAS, THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT LAWS
COVERING THE SALE OF FIREARMS SHOULD BE MADE MORE STRICT;
AND,**

**WHEREAS, THE LARGE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS SUPPORT
REQUIRING ALL GUN BUYERS TO PASS A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND**

CHECKS, NO MATTER WHERE THEY PURCHASE THE WEAPON OR FROM WHOM THEY BUY IT; AND,

WHEREAS, THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS SUPPORT A BAN ON THE SALE OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND HIGH CAPACITY MAGAZINES; AND, WHEREAS, THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS CONSIDERING SEVERAL COMMON SENSE GUN LAWS, INCLUDING GB 18 REGARDING BUMP STOCKS AND BILLS THAT PUT RESTRICTIONS ON UNTRACEABLE “GHOST GUNS”; AND,

WHEREAS, WE SUPPORT THE ADVOCACY OF ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS CT AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE REGARDING ISSUES OF THE MANUFACTURE, SALE, USE, AND SAFEKEEPING OF FIREARMS IN OUR STATE.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT SUPPORTS THE STRENGTHENING OF THE GUN LAWS IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, ESPECIALLY RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF BUMP STOCKS AND UNTRACEABLE “GHOST GUNS” HERE IN OUR STATE.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT ENCOURAGES OUR STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO ENACT COMMON SENSE GUN LAWS THAT WILL MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER AND SAVE LIVES.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT STANDS WITH CONGRESSMAN HIMES, SENATOR BLUMENTHAL, AND SENATOR MURPHY IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ENACT COMMON SENSE GUN LEGISLATION ON A NATIONAL LEVEL AND CALLS ON CONGRESS TO FINALLY ENACT MEANINGFUL CHANGE ON FIREARMS.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Mayor Ganim pointed out that this was simply a non-binding resolution addressing the recent tragedies. He asked the community leaders who were present to come forward to share a few words.

One of the speakers came forward and greeted the Council. He said that he appreciated the City Council addressing this so quickly and that the students were dying because of the guns in the schools. He thanked the Council for taking a stand on gun violence. He said that there was no legitimate reason for people to have bump stocks or ghost guns in our society. Ghost guns are available for purchase on the Internet. This will make the community safer because Bridgeport is no stranger to violence. He encouraged the Council Members to make Bridgeport a leader in the anti-gun violence movement.

A second speaker came forward and said she was a Youth Violence Prevention Officer for a number of years in Bridgeport and this resolution is needed.

The final speaker said that as a pastor who finds themselves standing by a graveside or a hospital beds, he applauds this resolution. Ghost guns are being used by gangs and terrorists. It is time to stop people from being killed. This resolution was important because when the law is there, it is enforceable. Bridgeport should continue to lead the nation on this issue.

Judge Carmen Lopez came forward and said that she thought it would be appropriate to have more legislation. She pointed out that City Council makes ordinances but do not create legislation. While they can do something about the WPCA, but they cannot do anything about legislation. The Council can pass ordinances but they are not a legislative body.

The third speaker came forward and said that it was important to have the Council approve this because it sends a message to both the State and Federal level that the City supports anti-gun violence measures.

Council Member Spain suggested amending the Proposed Resolution from:

Whereas, more than 100,000 people are injured and more than 30,000 people are killed each year by firearms, totaling more gun deaths than in American wars combined; and,

TO:

Whereas, more than 100,000 people are injured and more than 30,000 people are killed each year by firearms in America; and,

Whereas, more Americans have died from gunshots in the past 50 years than in all wars in U.S. history combined; and,

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE FRIENDLY AMENDMENT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION AS AMENDED. (IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION – ITEM #58-17)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she appreciated the resolution and that she teaches in the school system. It is important to do something about the gun violence.

Council Member Langan said that he believed that Judge Lopez has a point. He then read a number of statements from a website. He encouraged everyone to look into this issue and investigate that if there is more that the Council could do beyond a resolution. Mayor Ganim suggested forming an ad hoc committee to investigate this more thoroughly

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Martinez said that when she had entered her WPCA resolutions earlier in the meeting, she had inadvertently added Chapter 13.04 – Utilities, To Amend Section 13.04.380 twice. There were only three (3) items, not four (4).

Council Member Spain said that he would like to take a moment of personal privilege and spoke about a 15-year-old girl who was from Bridgeport and was recently murdered. He asked for a moment of silence. All those present then stood respectfully in silence in memory of the victim.

Council President Nieves said that Council Member McCarthy was out of town on business, Council Members Lyons and Vizzo-Paniccia were sick and Council Member Herron had to leave early due to a conflict in scheduling.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service