

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 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 6:37 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, Thomas McCarthy
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

A quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Karyn Andrews
326 Nancy Drive
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Quality of life issues.

Ms. Andrews came forward and confirmed her address. She said that she was present with some of her neighbors to address the issue of quality of life in her neighborhood in regards to the traffic. Quality of life issues can quickly turn into life and death issues. She reminded everyone that during the winter of 2017, there was a major fire in her neighborhood that required several fire trucks to control. The family was displaced for several months while their residence was repaired. If that fire had happened two weeks earlier, the Fire Department would not have been able to get to the fire because there was not enough room for emergency vehicles to access the

street due to vehicles blocking the street. All of these vehicles were connected to Sacred Heart University.

There are two situations that are developing and both are related to the street's close proximity to Sacred Heart University. One situation has been created by students living in rental homes and the second from the transient students at the school. There are often more than four unrelated individuals living in a home and they all have cars. Frequently, there are many more students living in these residences than the four allowed by the City.

The second situation happens during the day when the students and employees park on the street. The situation will only become worse when the University increases their student enrollment in 2020. The University had created an educational mall without the mall parking. She suggested that people think about the Westfield Mall and what would happen if there was no parking there.

During the elections, Mayor Ganim addressed the problems associated with Sacred Heart University. Ms. Andrews said that she hoped Mayor Ganim would address some of these issues. Ms. Andrews thanked Council Member Lyons for her work on behalf of the neighborhood. She added that Mr. Vincenzi would be speaking next and would give some of the details of the situation.

Joe P. Vincenzi
297 Nancy Drive
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Quality of life issues in the
neighborhood.

Mr. Vincenzi came forward and confirmed his address. He said that due to Sacred Heart's never ending expansion plans, and the lack of parking, there has been an impact on the neighborhood's quality of life. Both sides of the street have cars parked on them and the driveways are often blocked. The students parking their cars are extremely rude and disrespectful to the home owners by parking their vehicles with the tires up on the home owner's property. The students consistently use Mr. Vincenzi's driveway to turn around.

Due to Mr. Vincenzi's disability, he is unable to drive and relies on private transportation to travel to locations. However, frequently his transportation vehicles cannot get to him because his driveway is blocked, forcing him to walk down the driveway. Delivery vehicles are also unable to access his house due to the blocked driveway or too many cars. This means the delivery service trucks are forced to park in the middle of the street while they make their deliveries. This is also true for ambulances and fire trucks. When the fire happened during the winter of 2017, the fire engines were not able to make it all the way down the street and the firefighters were walking to the burning building. The students have also started parking their vehicles on the street overnight.

Mr. Vincenzi said that he is able to ride a large bicycle and that the students have driven very close to him when he is on his bicycle on the street. There are often beer, wine and other liquor bottles thrown on to his property along with cardboard boxes from food deliveries and even used condoms on the lawn.

Mr. Vincenzi said that he would like to thank Council Member Lyons for her strong support through all of these issues. Council Member Lyons has been trying to have a Bridgeport City Police Officer dedicated to patrol the area and paid for by Sacred Heart. He concluded his remarks by thanking the Council for their time.

Derrick Underhill, Sr.
456 Peet Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Quality of life issues.

Mr. Underhill came forward and confirmed his address. He said that his wife would be reading his statement for him. Mrs. Underhill said that they were concerned about the location of the proposed Classic Academy School and the property value of their home, which is located immediately behind the school. She asked where they would be placing the exits for the school buses. That will affect the property values of the homes on Peet Street. Another concern is that the City should be fixing up the schools it currently owns rather than acquiring new ones. She asked if a traffic study would be done to address the speeding that currently happens on Peet Street. Mrs. Underhill thanked the Council for their time.

Ronald Cancellieri
387 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Catholic Center, Jewett Ave.

Mr. Cancellieri came forward and confirmed his address. Mr. Cancellier said that he did not think this was a wise move for the City.

Rev. Carl McCluster
Shiloh Baptist Church
477 Broad Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

City of Bridgeport Ordinance
regarding minority contracts and
hiring/ Industrial Development

Rev. McCluster came forward and said that he was representing more than 100 Bridgeport churches with over 10,000 members. He confirmed that he was the pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church.

Rev. Moses Mercedes from the Prince of Peace Assemblies of God Church also came forward and introduced himself. Rev. Mercedes said that he had lived in Bridgeport for the last 27 years and had served as the Vice Chair of the Ethics Commission in the past. He said when a company like PSEG comes to Bridgeport, they make promises of programs and jobs to the community, but they do not comply. The clergy went to their membership and told them that the company would provide opportunities for them. This is serious issue for the Council.

Pastor Cass Shaw, the CEO of the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, then came forward to speak about their frustration with the conduct of PSEG and the City administration. PSEG signed a Community Environmental Benefits Agreement (CEBA) which included the commitment to ensure access to jobs and contracts for Bridgeport residents and businesses, especially minorities, women and veterans. The environmental agreement was to include outreach and inclusion of the local community members. They have not followed through, and

the City has not provided the diligent oversight to ensure that they did so. They have not reached out to the City's Minority Business Office until 14 months after the contracting began. The job training and apprenticeship program that was supposed to provide 125 slots with stipends now only has 10 people in training without any stipends at all. Pastor Shaw said that they had already spent 95 million dollars. She said that her group had at least 125 pages of documentation showing that the delay tactics and broken promises have cost the Bridgeport residents millions of dollars and over a hundred job opportunities, apprenticeship opportunities and minority contracts have been denied Bridgeport as a result.

Pastor William McCullough of Russell Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, came forward and said that PSEG had promised that there would be jobs and apprenticeships for the local residents. He reminded everyone that he had stood in the Council Chambers and testified in favor of the company based on PSEG's promises. They have not followed through and Pastor McCullough said that he feels like he had been falsely betrayed. He asked the City Council to take a stand and look into these allegations on behalf of the Bridgeport residents.

Another Bridgeport pastor came forward and said that because of the great injustice perpetrated by PSEG against the community, he was proposing a list of remedies that would include:

- A comprehensive review of all PSEG activities in Bridgeport
- A special meeting of the Bridgeport City Council
- The establishment of a new Citizen's Advisory Committee for oversight of all activities involving the PSEG Environmental Task Force
- Withdrawal of City Permits for construction of the facility
- [inaudible due to applause] retribution for injuries and loss by the minority community.

Rev. McCluster came forward and said that when this was all said and done, this was part of a disturbing trend that was occurring all across the country where politicians and corporations come into communities and knock on the doors of churches because they want to reach the people that the pastors reach on a weekly basis. Promises are made but as soon as these politicians and companies secure the necessary approvals to move their projects forward, they do not hold themselves accountable to their promises.

Rev. McCluster said that they were simply asking for two things: truthfulness and admit where they did not follow suit. Secondly, the group is asking for accountability. None of the clergy is benefiting from this but simply want to see truth and accountability. He concluded his remarks by quoting Proverbs "When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices" and said that the pastors want the City to rejoice for the right reasons.

Steven Auerbach
151 Kennedy Drive
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Relocation of Classical
Academy School.

Mr. Auerbach came forward and confirmed his address. He greeted the Council Members and said that he was a member of the 134th Town Committee and was thankful for the opportunity to address the Council. He said that he would like to comment on the relocation of the Classical

Academy. For the past 16 weeks, he has heard eloquent speeches about the relocation of the Classical Academy to Jewett Avenue.

Personally, Mr. Auerbach said he has visited every school in Bridgeport and many of the schools need things like air conditioning, basketball courts and playgrounds. He said that he would support every improvement to any Bridgeport School. This is not a “Not In My Back Yard” (NIMBY) scenario. He said he was not sure how the relocation of the Classical Academy because the number one priority of the City. After visiting the Academy many times, he believes that those students deserve the best, along with every other student in the City. This particular school is a cut above the rest and the parents and students give their time to provide an excellent level of education, along with the principal. However, Mr. Auerbach said that he did not understand why there was such a problem. The parents have been speaking at every meeting about this issue and talking about the difficulty of having to send their children to two different schools. He then listed a number of schools, such as Edison that all have the same problem.

Mr. Auerbach said that to his knowledge, there had been no feasibility study done on the Catholic Diocese property. He also mentioned a blind spot on Jewett Avenue and said a traffic study would have to be done. There would also be the loss of property by some residents because the parcel is land locked. He said that the property had been a tuberculosis hospital and later was converted into a Catholic High School which closed. At a recent meeting of Town Council, several issues were raised, such as asbestos, and aging pipes. He asked if the Council Members had considered the impact to the neighborhood and the City budget.

Mr. Auerbach asked the Council and the BOE where the millions of dollars to update this facility would be coming from. The facility is much larger than what the Academy would need, with 30 rooms and 16 bathrooms. The Academy would only be using part of the facility and part would be used to take care of special needs children. He added that Trumbull takes care of their own special needs children and Bridgeport needs to do the same. Hartford, Ansonia and Derby are combining schools to save money. Many of the Bridgeport schools are under enrolled.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the public speaking portion at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 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 7:28 p.m.

PRAYER

The Mayor asked Ms. Janine Hawkins, the Labor Relations Director, to lead those present in prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayer, Mayor Ganim asked for a moment of silence for Council Member Eneida Martinez, who was recovering from some injuries.

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, Thomas McCarthy
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

A quorum was present. Council President Nieves announced that Council Member Martinez and Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia were absent due to illness.

City Council Citation(s): In remembrance of the 78th Anniversary for the Mass Deportations of the Polish People to Siberia with Special Recognition of Deportation Survivors Helena and Wincenty Knapczyk of Bridgeport.

Helena and Wincenty Knapczyk were called forward and presented with both Mayoral and City Council Citations recognizing their deportation to Siberia during World War II.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: February 5, 2018

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 5, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 5, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATION TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

62-17 Communication from Mayor re: Proposed Five-Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Years 2019-2023, referred to Budget & Appropriations Committee.

PETITION TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

59-17 Petition from Reverend Francis Asante re: Tax Abatement for Victory Bible Church International located at 850 Norman Street, referred to Joint Committee on Miscellaneous Matters & Budget and Appropriations.

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

60-17 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Langan & Brown re: Proposed resolution requesting that a speed study be conducted on Briarwood Avenue, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

61-17 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Martinez, Langan, Spain, Jackson & Herron re: Proposed resolution requesting the creation of an Ad Hoc Casino Committee, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

63-17 Resolution presented by Council Member Jackson re: Proposed resolution requesting that a “Do Not Block Intersection” sign be installed at the corner of East Main Street and Louisiana Avenue along with appropriate pavement markings, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***03-17 (A) Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Disposition of Certain City-Owned Properties (4) by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations.**

***47-17 Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with AFSCME, Local 1303-468, Council 4 (Public Facilities) regarding their Bargaining Unit Contract.**

***48-17 Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with LIUNA, Local 1224 regarding their Bargaining Unit Contract.**

***54-17 Contracts Committee Report re: State Lobbying Services Agreement with Reynolds Strategy Group, LLC for Consultant Services.**

***38-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Cheryl Anderson, Administrator of the Estate of David Anderson.**

***39-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Settlement of Pending Litigation with Kiarra Davis.**

***50-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the 2018-2020 Citizen's Union and Participation Plan.**

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Langan requested that Agenda Item 03.-17A be removed. The City Clerk then read the remaining agenda items into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***47-17 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AGREEMENT WITH AFSCME, LOCAL 1303-468, COUNCIL 4 (PUBLIC FACILITIES) REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT.**

***48-17 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AGREEMENT WITH LIUNA, LOCAL 1224 REGARDING THEIR BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT.**

***54-17 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: STATE LOBBYING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH REYNOLDS STRATEGY GROUP, LLC FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES.**

***38-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH CHERYL ANDERSON, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF DAVID ANDERSON.**

***39-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH KIARRA DAVIS.**

***50-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE 2018-2020 CITIZEN'S UNION AND PARTICIPATION PLAN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***03-17 (A) Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Disposition of Certain City-Owned Properties (4) by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED AGENDA ITEM 03-17(A).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Valle, the Co-chair of the ECDCE Committee asked Council Member Langan why he had pulled the item from the Consent Calendar when it had been both discussed and voted on by the Committee. Council Member Langan replied that he read in the minutes that one property slated for a WPCA foreclosure had been removed from the listing in Committee and wanted to know if this was accurate. Council Member Valle said that the minutes for that meeting were accurate. Council Member Lyons confirmed that it was the Wilmot Avenue property that had been removed. Council Member Roman-Christy reminded everyone that Council Member Martinez had requested the parcel be removed from the listing for further consideration.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 03-17 (A) ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES (4) BY AUCTION, SALE TO ABUTTER OR BY SALE TO COMMUNITY BASED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she had recently developed a relationship with Council Member Herron and wanted everyone to know that apologies for any negative remarks that were made have been given.

Council President Nieves then read the following statement into the record:

Clearly, the City Council needs to get to the bottom of the WPCA's procedures. Long time low and middle-income residents of Bridgeport should not end up losing their homes because they have fallen behind on their sewer bills by relative small amounts of

money. That being said, even with moments get heated, we can never have any tolerance for racism or bigotry in Bridgeport City government.

There should be no misunderstanding that Bridgeport is a racially, ethnically and religiously diverse community. We are a tolerant and indeed welcoming city, as is amply evidenced by our adoption last year of Bridgeport's official "Welcoming City Resolution", which proclaimed our open arms to all people regardless of group characteristics or personal history.

As City Council President, I believe it is vital that I, on behalf of the City Council, whenever statements are made that are perceived by the public as being discriminatory, it is essential to forcefully disavow such statements and to take responsibility for creating even the perception of discriminatory intent. For those reasons, I am making a clear public pronouncement on behalf of the entire City Council that we have no tolerance for racial, ethnic, religious or other discrimination.

With regard to the underlying issue of reforming collection procedures, it is my pledge as Council President to ensure that the Ordinance Committee promptly resumes its work, collaboratively with the City Attorney and WPCA staff, to identify and adopt procedures that ensure continued, effective collection of WPCA user fees while at the same time employing collection methods that are appropriately user friendly. Collectively, we owe our residents nothing less than our full effort in completing this initiative.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service