

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020
6:30 P.M.**

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO
ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.**

This meeting will be conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

**The following named person may Dial into this meeting to speak by calling the following
conference line and then entering the conference code:**

Dial-in Number#: (929) 436-2866
Meeting ID#: 381 083 245

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Nieves called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jorge Cruz
132nd District: Marcus Brown
133rd District: Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons
135th District: Rosalina Roman-Christy, Mary McBride-Lee
136th District: Avelino Silva
137th District: Aidee Nieves
138th District: Maria Pereira, Samia Suliman
139th District: Eneida Martinez, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

NAME

SUBJECT

Michelle Brown
75 Highland Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Addressing the Bridgeport PD and
the City Council's role. The death of
Corbin Cooper.

Council President Nieves called Ms. Brown. There was no response. Due to internet difficulties, Council President Nieves could not chair the meeting. Council Member Brown took over chairing the meeting. He called for Ms. Brown three times with no response.

Grace Holleran
60 Clarkson Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Police brutality and defunding the
police department.

Council Member Brown called for Ms. Holleran to speak.

Ms. Holleran said that she wanted to speak about de-escalating methods and body cams. She said that many of these methods had been enacted elsewhere after Michael Brown was killed, but black individuals continued to be killed. She said that they were not asking to dissolve the police but stated that they were asking for investments into the community. The Police Department has been occupied all weekend and the protestors were asking for an in person meeting. She strongly urged the Council to meet in person with the protestors as they have been working on this issue for many years.

Jazmarie Melendez
316 East Pasadena Place
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Addressing the Bridgeport PD and
the City Council's role.

Council Member Brown called for Ms. Melendez. There was no response at this time.

Erik Kuranko
1963 Main Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Police brutality and defunding the
Bridgeport Police Department.

Mr. Kuranko said that he was outside of the Police Department during the call. He said that they were there because they wanted people and the police to take them seriously. He said that there were people on Facebook threatening to come down and shoot them. During his time as a former Marine serving in Afghanistan, he was armed and dealing with the same type of situation. However, the police seems to be willing to kill people more easily than the Marines did.

Kate Rivera
129 Alsace Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Police brutality and defunding the
Bridgeport Police Department.

Ms. Rivera said that it was no secret that she was a police abolitionist and she has been working on this issue for some time. There needs to be real consequences and the police officers need to be charged. The Council needs to charge the police who are abusing residents. The SROs should be out of the school. The choke hold ban is too limited. The Police Union needs to be eliminated because it protects the police officers. The police officers need to carry malpractice insurance like physicians. There is no accountability. There are 80 towns in Connecticut that do not have police departments at all. If the money is used towards education and housing, things will change. This is not going to go away until some drastic action is taken. The City paid for

the information in the Chief Ramsey Report, all of which could have been easily been googled and the money saved.

Clyde Nicholson
396 Madison Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Policing.

Council Member Brown called for Mr. Nicholson three times. There was no response.

Amina Seyal
448 Poplar Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Policing in Bridgeport.

Council Member Brown called for Amina Seyal three times. There was no response.

Mikaela Adams
1232 Reservoir Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Addressing the Bridgeport PD and
the City Council's role.

Ms. Adams said that she was at the Police Department. She said that she was asking for change. She said that she was a lifelong resident and facing the same issues that her parents did. Since Jason was killed in 2017, she has been working on this issue. [Inaudible]

The protesters have been peaceful and they have been met with riot gear and aggression. They are calling on the Council to come and support the residents. She said that she had watched Council Member Brown fight for change. He has shown up and listened to the narrative. The children need education, not a school to prison pipeline. The fact that about 50% of the budget goes to the Police Department is a problem. The officers are laughing and mocking them while being paid.

They are looking to fire James Cooley because he has three open cases. They will not stop until there is justice.

Council Member Pereira said that Mr. Nicholson was not able to participate at the hearing.

Council Member Brown called for Ms. Brown. There was no response.

Council Member Brown called for Ms. Melendez. Ms. Adams said that they would be sending in a written statement.

Council Member Brown closed the Public Speaking portion of the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services.

City of Bridgeport
City Council
Regular Meeting
June 15, 2020

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020

7:00 P.M.

This meeting was conducted by teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Brown called the Council Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO APPOINT COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN AS TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PRAYER

Council Member Brown asked Council Member McBride-Lee to lead those in attendance in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Brown asked Council Member Silva to lead 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

A quorum was present.

109-19 Public Hearing re: Resolution Making Certain Findings required by the City and Town Development Act (As Precursor to Consideration of a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for Windward Commons located at 20 Johnson Street).

Council Member Brown opened the public hearing at 7:16 p.m. He asked if there was anyone who wished to speak to the Council on this item and gave the instructions for unmuting their device.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that this development was something that was needed. She said the City needs to develop new affordable and mixed income housing.

Council Member Cruz said he wanted to second everything Council Member Taylor-Moye said. They need new housing and revitalization in the South End.

Council Member Pereira said she wanted to speak against this because she did not consider housing developments as economic development. The tax abatement was outrageous. The developers will only be paying 48% of the tax rate while homeowners will be paying 100% of their tax bills. Many of the Section 8 units will be paid at market rate. There are no 3 or 4 bedroom units for a single parent with children. She said her constituents should not have to do this.

Mr. Kelvin Ayala said he wished to speak on the tax incentive deal. He was concerned about attracting developers to the City. The developer did a great job with Crescent Crossing. Mr. Ayala said that he had reviewed the details and that people need to understand that the construction costs would be the same in Westport or Fairfield as it would be in Bridgeport. In order to make it worthwhile, they need to have the tax abatement. There is genuine interest in doing something positive in the South End of Bridgeport, which is in desperate need of revitalization.

Mr. Ayala added that at the end of the day, they have been staring at blighted property. Mr. Ayala said that he felt the tax deal was a good one and the project was also good.

Council Member Newton reminded everyone that the Housing Authority has control of the properties and does not pay taxes on them. They had this particular property for many years. Now the property will be generating some taxes. When the City bonds for schools, the residents don't complain about the cost. Now any way they can put property back on the tax rolls is good.

Council Member Castillo said that when the developers come into Bridgeport, they don't hire Bridgeport residents. The developers come in and get tax breaks but they don't hire Bridgeport companies. He said that McBride had submitted a bid on the job but hadn't won the bid because the developer told his friends what the bid was so they could underbid the submission.

Council Member Herron said if they don't start giving tax breaks for the lower income residents, the City will have nothing. She said that she was tired of seeing the low income residents living in poor conditions.

Council Member Lyons reminded everyone that this was a public hearing and the Council Members could speak during the discussion period.

Council Member Brown asked if there was anyone who wished to speak to the Council on this item. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing on the Resolution Making Certain Findings

required by the City and Town Development Act (As Precursor to Consideration of a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for Windward Commons located at 20 Johnson Street) at 7:30 p.m.

110-19 Public Hearing re: Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for Windward Commons located at 20 Johnson Street.

Council Member Brown opened the public hearing at 7:31 p.m. He asked anyone who wished to speak to the Council on this item and gave the instructions for unmuting their device. There was no response. Council Member Brown asked two more times. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing on the Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for Windward Commons located at 20 Johnson Street at 7:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES:

May 4, 2020 & May 18, 2020

****COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED MAY 4, 2020 & MAY 18, 2020**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that she had submitted corrections to the City Clerk for the May 4, 2020 meeting.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO AMEND THE MAY 4, 2020 MINUTES AS FOLLOWS:**

PAGE 2 – SECOND PARAGRAPH - SHOULD STATE “COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA SAID SHE HAD EMAILED A NUMBER OF CHANGES TO EVERY CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AND THE CITY CLERK WHICH ALSO INCLUDED INCORRECT VOTES CAST BY BOTH SCOTT BURNS AND ENEIDA MARTINEZ.

PAGE 8 – THIRD PARAGRAPH – SECOND SENTENCE SHOULD STATE “THE RESOLUTION SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THEY WANTED TO REVERSE ALL THE ORDINANCES RELATED TO THE TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. THE OPED DEPARTMENT SIMPLY LINED OUT ENTIRE PARAGRAPHS IN THE EXISTING ORDINANCE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER EXISTING LANGUAGE REMAINED, AND THEN DRAFTED ENTIRELY NEW PARAGRAPHS WITH MUCH OF THE EXISTING LANGUAGE FROM THE EXISTING ORDINANCE REMAINING. THIS IS A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE CITY CHARTER.”

FIFTH PARAGRAPH – “MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS DOES THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF WHAT THE JANUARY 9, 2018 RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY NEWTON & MARTINEZ REQUESTED. IT ACTUALLY GIVES OPED & MAYOR GANIM SIGNIFICANTLY MORE POWER TO APPROVE TAX INCENTIVE

DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS WITHOUT CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL. THIS IN NO WAY COMPLIES WITH THE 2018 RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY NEWTON & MARTINEZ. IN FACT, IT DOES THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE.”

SIXTH PARAGRAPH – SIXTH SENTENCE - “... THE CURRENT ORDINANCE HAS TWO PARAGRAPHS THAT SPECIFICALLY STATE THE PUBLIC WOULD HAVE A 30 DAY PERIOD BEFORE ANY CHANGES WERE MADE TO ANY PROPOSED POLICIES OR PROCEDURES RELATED TO ADOPTING THE TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM REGULATIONS/CRITERIA AND A NUMBER OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS HAD TO BE SUBMITTED TO QUALIFY FOR THE PROGRAM. ALL OF THESE REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN REMOVED IN THE AMENDED ORDINANCE...”

PAGE 9 – THIRD PARAGRAPH – “COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA STATED THAT SHE WAS TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHY RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED IN JANUARY OF 2018 WOULD BE VOTED ON THE CITY COUNCIL NOW. SHE STATED WE HAVE NOT VOTED ON ANY OTHER RESOLUTIONS REFERRING AN ORDINANCE TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE. IT SHOULD SIMPLY BE THE ACTUAL ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS ADOPTED BY THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE BEING REPORTED AND VOTED ON, NOT THE RESOLUTIONS FROM 2018.”

PAGE 12 – FIRST PARAGRAPH – “COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA STATED THAT THE 4 BUNNELL STREET LOTS BEING SOLD TO NANO SOLUTIONS, LLC FOR \$120,000 WERE ASSESSED AT \$209,110 ON VISION APPRAISAL/TAX APPRAISER AND THE SALES PRICE IS JUST 57% OF THE APPRAISED VALUE. THE TWO BUNNELL STREET LOTS BEING SOLD TO WC MCBRIDE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, LLC WERE BEING SOLD FOR \$20,300 WHILE VISION/BRIDGEPORT TAX APPRAISER APPRAISED THEM FOR \$52,390. THE SALES PRICE IS JUST 39% OF THE APPRAISED VALUE. IN TOTAL, ALL SIX LOTS WERE BEING SOLD FOR JUST 46% OF THEIR APPRAISED VALUE WHICH IS A DISSERVICE TO TAXPAYERS. MAX PEREZ SAID THEY WERE SELLING THE LOTS BASED ON AN APPRAISAL COMPLETED IN DECEMBER. COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA STATED THOSE INDEPENDENT APPRAISALS WERE NOT PROVIDED TO THE CITY COUNCIL.”

PAGE 12 – FINAL PARAGRAPH – “COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA STATED THESE REPEATED SETTLEMENTS FUNDED BY TAXPAYERS ARE A REFLECTION ON THE ADMINISTRATION. IT IS CRITICAL THAT WHEN EMPLOYEES ARE BEING DISCHARGED, SUSPENDED OR DISCIPLINED THAT ALL LABOR STATUTES, CIVIL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS AND LABOR AGREEMENTS BE ADHERED TO WITH EVERY “T” CROSSED AND EVERY “I” DOTTED.”

PAGE 13 – FOURTH PARAGRAPH- PLEASE ADD A SECOND SENTENCE. “ SHE FURTHER STATED THAT IF THESE HUGE SETTLEMENTS CONTINUE DUE TO POLICE BRUTALITY, VIOLATING PEOPLE’S CIVIL RIGHTS, AND VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW; THEY SHOULD BE PAID OUT OF THE EXORBITANT \$102,000,000 BPD BUDGET.”

PAGE 13 – EIGHTH PARAGRAPH – SECOND SENTENCE – “IN 2018, THEY RECEIVED A TAX CREDIT OF \$3,860,930 AND ONLY PAID \$17,748 OF THEIR FULL TAX BILL OF \$227,792 WHICH EQUATES TO ONLY 8.5% OF THEIR TAX BILL. AT THE CURRENT RATE IN TEN, FIFTEEN OR TWENTY YEAR TAX ABATEMENT; WE WOULD LOSE \$1,907,030, \$2,860,545, AND \$3,814,050 IN TAXES RESPECTIVELY. FOR THIS ORGANIZATION TO SAVE MILLIONS AND ONLY PAY 8% OF THEIR TAXES WHILE HOMEOWNERS STRUGGLING TO KEEP THEIR HOMES PAY 100% OF THEIR TAXES IS INSULTING, THEREFORE I WILL BE VOTING AGAINST THIS.”

PAGE 14 – PARAGRAPH TWO- “COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA STATED THAT THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ORGANIZATION TESTIFIED THAT EVERY TENANT EARNS LESS THAN \$20,000 ANNUALLY AND ADMITTED THEY RECEIVE SECTION 8, WHICH PAYS 100% OF THE MARKET VALUE FOR RENT, YET THEY WANT TO PAY ONLY 8.5% OF THEIR TAX BILL WHILE COLLECTING MARKET RATE RENT ON 42 APARTMENT UNITS WHICH IS UNACCEPTABLE, AND THAT SHE CANNOT JUSTIFY THAT TO HER CONSTITUENTS WHO MUST PAY 100% OF THEIR TAXES.”

PAGE 14 – PARAGRAPH NINE- “COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA STATED SHE HAD ASKED MR. NASTU ABOUT HIS QUALIFICATIONS AND BASED ON HIS LACK OF QUALIFICATIONS WOULD BE VOTING NO ON HIS APPOINTMENT.”

PAGE 16 – FIRST PARAGRAPH – “MR. KNOW SAID THAT IT WAS ON THE LAST PAGE AS NOTED.” “COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA ASKED WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF TRANSFERRING THESE TWO DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS NEITHER HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH PUBLIC HEALTH. THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING SIMPLY PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS AND DID NOT ADDRESS HEALTH SCREENINGS OR MEDICAL ADVICE, AND WEIGHTS & MEASURES WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR WEIGHTS & MEASUREMENT OF ITEMS SUCH AS GAS PUMPS AND SCALES.”

PAGE 20- FOURTH PARAGRAPH – SECOND SENTENCE- SHE STATED THAT SHE WILL BE OFFERING AN AMENDMENT ON THE BUDGET AND REQUESTED A ROLL CALL VOTE ON BOTH THE AMENDMENT AND THE MAIN MOTION.”

PAGE 22- INSERT 7TH PARAGRAPH – “CITY COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA REITERATED THAT SHE HAD REQUESTED A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION AS REQUIRED IN THE CITY CHARTER AND MAYOR GANIM REFUSED TO ORDER A ROLL CALL VOTE. THE MAYOR ONLY ALLOWED THOSE OPPOSED TO STATE SO ON THE RECORD.”

PAGE 23 – FIRST PARAGRAPH- MARTINEZ IS LISTED AS VOTING IN FAVOR OF THE 2021 BUDGET, HOWEVER SHE DEPARTED THE TELECONFERENCE AT 9:03 P.M., THEREFORE SHE WAS NOT PRESENT WHEN THE VOTE WAS TAKEN. SHE SHOULD NOT BE LISTED AS A VOTING MEMBER AT ALL.

PAGE 23- SECOND PARAGRAPH- “COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA LEFT THE ZOOM TELECONFERENCE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 2021 BUDGET WAS VOTED ON AS NO OTHER ITEMS WERE LISTED ON THE AGENDA, AND ALTHOUGH CITY COUNCIL MEMBER MATT MCCARTHY MADE IT CLEAR COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA WAS NO LONGER ON THE CALL; MAYOR GANIM ALLOWED COUNCIL MEMBERS DENISE-TAYLOR MOYE AND JORGE CRUZ TO MAKE A NUMBER OF DISPARAGING REMARKS BOUT COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA IN VIOLATION OF ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER AND CITY COUNCIL RULE AND CITY COUNCIL RULE XXVI CONDUCT IN THE CITY COUNCIL WHICH STATES “IN SPEAKING, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS SHALL REFRAIN FROM MENTIONING ANY OTHER MEMBER BY NAME, SHALL CONFINE THEMSELVES TO THE QUESTION, SHALL BE COURTEOUS AND NOT USE UNBECOMING, ABUSIVE, OR UNPARLIAMENTARILY LANGUAGE AND SHALL AVOID PERSONALITIES.”

****COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MAY 4, 2020 MINUTES PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2020 AND MAY 18, 2020 AS AMENDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2020 AND MAY 18, 2020 AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC HEARING(S) TO BE ORDERED BY THE FULL COUNCIL:

126-19 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for July 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for 515 West Avenue).

127-19 Request from OPED to Order a Public Hearing for July 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for 515 West Avenue.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ORDER PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE FOLLOWING TWO AGENDA ITEMS:**

126-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR JULY 6, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR 515 WEST AVENUE).

127-19 REQUEST FROM OPED TO ORDER A PUBLIC HEARING FOR JULY 6, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR 515 WEST AVENUE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said that Mr. Gill and Mr. Coleman had submitted an executive summary but did not include what the market rate should be.

Council Member Taylor-Moye stated that she would be abstaining on both of the items.

**** THE MOTION TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR AGENDA ITEMS 126-19 AND 127-19 PASSED WITH NINETEEN (19) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, NIEVES, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ AND NEWTON) THE ONE (1) ABSTENTION (TAYLOR-MOYE).**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

114-19 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – Airport Improvement Program (AIP) – Snow Removal Equipment, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 114-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) – AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (AIP) – SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO AMEND THE ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION TO INCLUDE THREE OTHER ITEMS:**

119-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (#21388, #21389, #21390, # 21392 & #21393), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

120-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FY 2019 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM (AFG) OPERATIONS AND SAFETY (#20210), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

121-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY (CTDEMHS) MOA FOR THE STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (FY17-FY22), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that as one of the Public Safety and Transportation Co-chairs, she felt the items should go through the Public Safety and Transportation Committee for consideration.

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

Council Member Burns said that he wished to clarify whether they had combined the three items into the vote. He said that the three additional items were listed to be referred to committee and felt they should be sent there.

Council Member Lyons said that she understood the importance of the items coming up on Public Safety, but these grants did not need immediate consideration. Previously, the Council tried to avoid having many items for Immediate Consideration. She said that she agreed with her Co-chair Council Member Taylor-Moye about doing this according to the Council Rules.

Council Member Brantley asked if there should be a roll call vote.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that it was important to respect the Chairs and not talk over them.

Council Member Pereira said that Public Safety had a large agenda but that they have an issue about the Police Department. There are concerns and issues about policing issues in Bridgeport. She gave the details of the grants. This will allow the next meeting to be focused solely on the police issues.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she wanted to continue with the process that the Council follows. In the past, she said that she had sat in the Committee meetings for hours to hear out people's concerns. Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she did not want to set a precedence.

Council Member Lyons said that two of the grants were for 1 million dollars each and if they change the procedures now, they will start doing it again when the Council meets in person. She agreed with Co-chair Council Member Taylor-Moye.

Council Member Brantley asked if there would be a roll call vote on the matter. She said that there was additional information to include to the items to be discussed in Committee.

Council Member Newton pointed out that each Committee chair is different. He said that both Chairs of the committee agreed that they wanted it on their agenda.

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND THE ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION TO INCLUDE THE THREE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

119-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (#21388, #21389, #21390, # 21392 & #21393), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

120-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FY 2019 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM (AFG) OPERATIONS AND SAFETY (#20210), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

121-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY (CTDEMHS) MOA FOR THE STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (FY17-FY22), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

FAILED TO PASS WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (MCCARTHY, PEREIRA, MARTINEZ, BROWN AND SULIMAN) AND FOURTEEN (14) OPPOSED (BURNS, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, AND NEWTON).

Council Member Pereira asked why buying a snowplow was an urgent health item. Ms. DeJesus said that it was a draft and will be corrected.

**** THE MOTION TO WAIVE REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE FOR AGENDA ITEM 114-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) – AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (AIP) – SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

116-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Pereira, Cruz, Brown & Martinez re: Proposed resolution regarding Bridgeport Police Department Ban on All Choke and Knee Holds, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 116-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA, CRUZ, BROWN & MARTINEZ RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT BAN ON ALL CHOKE AND KNEE HOLDS, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton said that there was written correspondence from Atty. Bohannon, the Police Department has already banned these practices.

Council Member Herron said that it was a policy.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that it was passed by the Police Commission and the Department a number of years ago and it would only be used in emergencies. Council Member Newton said that Council Member Pereira's item would ban the use of the holds.

Council Member Pereira said that she had read the City Charter and had asked for a legal opinion. She said that Council Member Newton had contacted Atty. Bohannon and she was troubled by Atty. Bohannon's response. She said that she was offended by the fact that item described someone as a fleeing "felon". That is for the courts to decide.

Council Member Pereira directed everyone to review the use of knee holds. There is no ban on choke holds or knee holds in the posted Policies and Procedures. This is not something they should be condoning.

Council Member Pereira said that Atty. Bohannon had said this was passed in 2018, but Council Member Pereira had checked the agendas and minutes. It was not in the agendas or minutes.

Council Member Pereira said that the Council was to appoint four members to the Police Commissioner in December of 2019 and they did not do so. She wanted to know how the Commission was operating lawfully without the appointments. Atty. Anastasi said that the City Charter allows the Commissioners to remain on the Board until a successor was appointed, the member continues to serve. Council Member Pereira said that this was a conflict between the City Charter. Discussion followed.

Atty. Anastasi said that the current policies follow State regulations and POST regulations for the use of deadly force. He pointed out that choke holds were used to incapacitate rather than kill. Eliminating choke holds and knee holds would give the officers alternative uses of force such as a firearm or taser.

Council Member Brantley said that Atty. Anastasi was correct in that the officers could move from tasers or choke holds to the use of firearms. She asked how much authority the Council has in terms of Police policy.

Council Member Brantley suggested that there should be a discussion regarding possibly not paying for legal fees for officers who do not adhere to policy. As a taxpayer, she was tired of paying for the damages for officers who are guilty of misconduct. This need to be discussed in Public Safety and there is some serious work that needs to be done. They do not want to defund the Police Department, but they also do want the residents not to be in fear for their lives.

Council Member McCarthy said that Council Member Newton had made the points for him.

Council Member Herron said that this was for immediate consideration and would not be going to Committee for discussion. She asked for clarification.

Council Member Pereira said that this was strictly for the Police Commission to change policy. She spoke about the Supreme Court decision earlier in the day regarding immunity. Governor Lamont has been called on to address this item.

Council Member Pereira spoke about the definition of deadly force. She said that she was concerned that the officers had many reasons to use deadly force. This amendment was to tell the Police Commission that the Council would like to have this banned.

Council Member Cruz said that he supports the resolution and was against the no knock warrants. There needs to be changes regarding policies. There are residents that have underlying medical issues and choke holds could kill them.

Council Member Cruz spoke about the fact that the Police have qualified immunity. He then spoke about a recent no knock raid on the wrong address and the resulting death.

Council Member Newton said that the Mayor had re-appointed some of Police Commissioners during his first term in 2018 or 2019.

Council Member Newton said that are symbolic gestures that the Council can give. But the Federal and State Government have to change their laws. This will send a message. Council Member Newton asked his colleagues to support this item.

Council Member Silva said that he did not agree with an officer using force after the suspect is in hand cuffs. This won't stop the problem. If this is the starting point, he was all for it.

Council Member Lyons said that she would be abstaining from the vote. She also named another Commissioner that had been reappointed.

Council Member Roman-Christy called the question.

**** THE MOTION TO WAIVE REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE FOR AGENDA ITEM 116-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA, CRUZ, BROWN & MARTINEZ RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT BAN ON ALL CHOKE AND KNEE HOLDS, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO,**

HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (LYONS).

Council Member Newton asked that his name be added as a co-sponsor to Agenda Item 119-19.

Atty. Anastasi said that they still have to take a vote on approving Agenda Item 116-19. The first vote the Council had taken was to waive the referral to Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 114-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) – AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (AIP) – SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 114-19 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 116-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA, CRUZ, BROWN & MARTINEZ RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT BAN ON ALL CHOKE AND KNEE HOLDS, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

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

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADD MORE SPONSORS TO THE ITEM:**

COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY, COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY, COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON, COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE, COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ, COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA, COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON, COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO, COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE, COUNCIL MEMBER SULIMAN, COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS, AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Lyons said that she would be abstaining.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 116-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA, CRUZ, BROWN & MARTINEZ RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT BAN ON ALL CHOKE AND KNEE HOLDS, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (LYONS).**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she would like to change her earlier vote and stated she was opposed to Agenda Item 116-19 and wanted the item to go to committee.

**** THE MOTION TO WAIVE REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE FOR AGENDA ITEM 116-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA, CRUZ, BROWN & MARTINEZ RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT BAN ON ALL CHOKE AND KNEE HOLDS, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON), ONE (1) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (LYONS).**

117-19 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management – Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division Project Longevity Grant (#21351), FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO WAIVE REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE FOR AGENDA ITEM 117-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT – CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION PROJECT LONGEVITY GRANT (#21351), FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira asked if they had received any report regarding the effectiveness of the program. The State requires a report but they do not issue a report on their findings. Council Member Pereira repeated her question about the effectiveness of the program.

Ms. DeJesus said that she did not have that information. The City pays subcontractors for this.

Council Member Cruz said that he thought that Project Longevity were doing a great job but wanted to know why the Council has to approve the grant.

Ms. DeJesus said that the State requires this and wants the funds to be allocated through the municipalities. The City acts as a fiduciary.

Council Member Cruz said that he has an issue with the City acting as a fiduciary. However, in the spirit of fairness, the City should not be acting as a fiduciary for anyone. He said that he was uncomfortable with this practice.

Ms. DeJesus said that the program was run through the U.S. Attorney's Office. Council Member Cruz said that he respects it, but repeated that the City should not be acting as a fiduciary for anyone.

Council Member Newton said that the City of Bridgeport acts as a fiduciary for many other State and Federal grants. This has to do with the State and Federal guidelines and requirements. This

process ensures that the money is spent appropriately and that the record keeping is done correctly.

Council Member Brantley said that there were many State and Federal grants were set up this way and there were employment opportunities involved also.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that in the past, the Council had received reports on Project Longevity and it was beneficial. The City has the resources to administer the grant funding.

**** THE MOTION TO WAIVE REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE FOR AGENDA ITEM 117-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT – CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION PROJECT LONGEVITY GRANT (#21351), FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

118-19 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Secretary of the State – Computer Equipment Grant, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

Ms. DeJesus said that it was important to execute the part of the program. She said that it would help upgrade the equipment in the Registrar’s office for the upcoming federal election.

Council Member Burns gave some background information. Discussion followed about the details of the grant application. Council Member Burns said that he felt that this was a good step forward for the City.

Ms. DeJesus said that the Registrar’s Office was working on an additional grant application with the CAO’s office.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO WAIVE REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE FOR AGENDA ITEM 118-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT SECRETARY OF THE STATE – COMPUTER EQUIPMENT GRANT, FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.
** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

112-19 Communication from Tax Collector re: Municipal Suspense Tax Book, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

119-19 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Port Security Grant Program (#21388, #21389, #21390, # 21392 & #21393), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

120-19 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FY 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) Operations and Safety (#20210), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

121-19 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Connecticut Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (CTDEMHS) MOA for the State Homeland Security Grant Program (FY17-FY22), referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

122-19 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Long Island Sound Futures Fund – Johnson Creek (#21614), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

123-19 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA) – Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program – Bridgeport Senior Center Recreational Activities Program (#21533), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

124-19 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (SWCAA) – Title III Funding Older Americans Act Grant Program – Elderly Hispanic Program (#21270), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

125-19 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: CT Department of Agriculture – FY2020 Farm Viability Grant, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

126-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Making Findings Per Connecticut City and Town Development Act (Precursor to Consideration of a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for 515 West Avenue), referred to Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts.

127-19 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for 515 West Avenue, referred to Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA CONSOLIDATE AND REFER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES:**

112-19 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

119-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) PORT SECURITY GRANT

PROGRAM (#21388, #21389, #21390, # 21392 & #21393), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

120-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FY 2019 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM (AFG) OPERATIONS AND SAFETY (#20210), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

121-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY (CTDEMHS) MOA FOR THE STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (FY17-FY22), REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

122-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION – LONG ISLAND SOUND FUTURES FUND – JOHNSON CREEK (#21614), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

123-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) – TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM – BRIDGEPORT SENIOR CENTER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (#21533), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

124-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT AGENCY ON AGING (SWCAA) – TITLE III FUNDING OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT PROGRAM – ELDERLY HISPANIC PROGRAM (#21270), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

125-19 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – FY2020 FARM VIABILITY GRANT, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

126-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS PER CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR 515 WEST AVENUE), REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS.

127-19 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR 515 WEST AVENUE, REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

113-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Martinez, Newton, McCarthy, Cruz, Taylor-Moye, Brantley, Herron, Roman-Christy, Castillo, Silva, Nieves, Valle & Pereira re: Proposed resolution condemning police brutality evidenced in the George Floyd death and other recent incidents across the country and support for taking necessary steps to change the culture to prevent similar occurrences, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

115-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Pereira & Co-Sponsor Martinez re: Proposed resolution regarding Bridgeport Police Department Training, Reforms and Accountability, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY MOVED TO REFER THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS TO THE APPROPRIATE BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:**

113-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) MARTINEZ, NEWTON, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, HERRON, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, SILVA, NIEVES, VALLE & PEREIRA RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONDEMNING POLICE BRUTALITY EVIDENCED IN THE GEORGE FLOYD DEATH AND OTHER RECENT INCIDENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND SUPPORT FOR TAKING NECESSARY STEPS TO CHANGE THE CULTURE TO PREVENT SIMILAR OCCURRENCES, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

115-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA & CO-SPONSOR MARTINEZ RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING, REFORMS AND ACCOUNTABILITY, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

Council Member Pereira said that she had an amendment for Agenda Item 115-19.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY WITHDREW HER PREVIOUS MOTION TO REFER BOTH ITEMS AND MOVED TO REFER AGENDA 113-19 TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 113-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) MARTINEZ, NEWTON, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, HERRON, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, SILVA, NIEVES, VALLE & PEREIRA RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONDEMNING POLICE BRUTALITY EVIDENCED IN THE GEORGE FLOYD DEATH AND OTHER RECENT INCIDENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND SUPPORT FOR TAKING NECESSARY STEPS TO CHANGE THE CULTURE TO PREVENT SIMILAR OCCURRENCES, TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

115-19 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Pereira & Co-Sponsor Martinez re: Proposed resolution regarding Bridgeport Police Department Training, Reforms and Accountability, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 115-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA & CO-SPONSOR MARTINEZ RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING, REFORMS AND ACCOUNTABILITY, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira said she will send her amendment to the Council Members. She added that there had been a number of items that had happened in various other states. She spoke about a broad agenda item and did not want this done in a vacuum. She would like to hear from residents, the police and everyone should work together.

**** THE MOTION TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 115-19 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER(S) PEREIRA & CO-SPONSOR MARTINEZ RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION REGARDING BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING, REFORMS AND ACCOUNTABILITY, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PASSED WITH EIGHTEEN (18) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, HERRON, VIZZO-PANICCIA MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, SILVA, CASTILLO, VALLE, PEREIRA, SULIMAN, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (LYONS).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

***91-19 Contracts Committee Report re: Software License and Support Agreement with EPR Systems USA Inc. regarding a Software Package called EPR FireWorks for the Fire Department**

***98-19 Education and Social Services Committee Report re: Grant Submission: School Construction Project Application for State Grants and the Initiation of Design for Underground Oil Tank Removal Projects at the following schools; JFK Campus, Read, John Winthrop, Park City Magnet, Wilbur Cross and Columbus.**

Council Member Brown asked if any Council Member wished to have an item removed from the Consent Calendar. There was no response.

City Clerk Martinez read the Consent Calendar into the record.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CRUZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***91-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SOFTWARE LICENSE AND SUPPORT AGREEMENT WITH EPR SYSTEMS USA INC. REGARDING A SOFTWARE PACKAGE CALLED EPR FIREWORKS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

***98-19 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPLICATION FOR STATE GRANTS AND THE INITIATION OF DESIGN FOR UNDERGROUND OIL TANK REMOVAL PROJECTS AT THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS; JFK CAMPUS, READ, JOHN WINTHROP, PARK CITY MAGNET, WILBUR CROSS AND COLUMBUS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

96-19 Ordinance Committee Report re: Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Title 10 – Vehicles and Traffic, amend Chapter 10.16 – Parking.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 96-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 10 – VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, AMEND CHAPTER 10.16 – PARKING.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Lyons said she would be abstaining from this item. She said that they don't have the authority to change the amendment and read the charge for the Bridgeport Police Commission.

Council Member Pereira said she had brought this up and noted the Parking officers would have to be transferred to the Police from Public Facilities. She said that it was disturbing to her that it was transferred to Public Facilities in the first place and she believed it should be transferred back to the Police.

Council Member Burns said that [inaudible] work through OPM on moving this department back to the Police Department.

Council Member Newton said when this discussion was held in the Budget Committee, Mr. Nkwo said that it would only require a line item change. The Council would only have to approve the move.

Council Member Newton said that it never should have been moved to Public Works. The Seniors were also moved back to the Health Department. He said that he did not understand why this had to be a special meeting with Budget and Appropriations to move the department. This was the same process that was done previously and Council Member Newton did not know why it had to be so complicated. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia concurred.

Council Member Burns said he and Co-chair DeFilippo would contact Mr. Nkwo about the line item transfer.

Council Member McCarthy asked about the Police budget. This transfer would add some revenue to the Police Department. He asked if there was a way to keep the revenue in the General Fund. Council Member Newton said that he believed that when the Police had the group in their budget, the funds went to the General Fund.

Council Member Pereira asked for clarification on the line item transfer. Council Member Newton said that it was his understanding that this type of situation would be just a line item transfer. This is not the first time they have done this. Council Member Pereira said that she wanted it done correctly.

Council Member Valle asked Council Member Newton for clarification about the parking meter officers being transferred to the Police Department. She also mentioned a staff member who had been working on collecting the fines. She said that she did not want people to lose their jobs. Council Member Newton said that the parking officers would not lose their jobs, it would just be moved to the Police Department.

Council Member Cruz said that it sounds like there was some confusion and this should be discussed. He said that he was happy to hear they would keep the same employees. The Police Department supervised the department originally and they transferred the department to Parks.

Council Member Newton said that the reason that they were transferred from the Police Department was because of politics. He said that a Public Works staff member had the parking meter officers ticket the Council Member he disagreed with. The parking meter officers should not be in Public Works.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 96-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 10 – VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, AMEND CHAPTER 10.16 – PARKING FAILED TO PASS WITH EIGHT (8) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, HERRON, SILVA, NIEVES, PEREIRA, SULIMAN AND NEWTON); TEN (10) OPPOSED (CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO AND VALLE) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (LYONS).**

There was some confusion regarding the results of the roll call vote, so a second roll call vote was taken.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 96-19 ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE 10 – VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, AMEND CHAPTER 10.16 – PARKING FAILED TO PASS WITH EIGHT (8) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, HERRON, SILVA, NIEVES, PEREIRA, SULIMAN AND NEWTON); TEN (10) OPPOSED (CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, DEFILIPPO, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO AND VALLE) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (LYONS).**

16-19 Contracts Committee Report re: Resolution for the Development of a Policy for Early Inclusion of the City Council in the Collective Bargaining Process.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 16-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POLICY FOR EARLY INCLUSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL IN THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCESS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton said this would give the Contracts Committee the opportunity to have input on the contracts that were coming up for negotiation. This will also let the unions realize that the Council has some issues that they have discussed with Labor Relations Department.

Council Member Burns said he was on the Committee when this was first discussed. This would also include contracts beyond the collective bargaining. This is a first step. He added that Atty. Anastasi had provided some language that was not included. That language should be sent to the Miscellaneous Matters Committee for consideration before the next Council Agenda.

Council Member Pereira said they had only amended one sentence. This item can't be voted on tonight.

Atty. Anastasi said the Council Rules require it to be presented to the Council and voted on in July. A copy of the letter from Atty. Anastasi was displayed on the screen.

Council Member Pereira said that when it was discussed in Committee, she had suggested that Labor Relations notify the Council Committee and be notified 90 days before the discussion starts. Council Member Pereira said that she would like to have the notification moved back to 6 months. She listed her reasons.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PEREIRA MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 16-19 BY CHANGING THE NOTIFICATION TIME FROM 90 DAYS TO 180 DAYS.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**

Council Member Burns raised the point that the document had not been included in the Council packet. The Council Rules indicates that it should go to the Miscellaneous Matters Committee before making any major changes.

Council Member Roman-Christy said that even though she was not on the Committee, Atty. Anastasi had indicated that this would not apply to all bargaining unit.

Atty. Anastasi said that he had sent an email to the Co-chairs about Council Rule 13, the item would not need to go back to Committee if there was a 2/3rd vote at the meeting.

Council Member Newton said the resolution would include all the contracts going through Labor. Discussion followed.

**** THE MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 16-19 BY CHANGING THE NOTIFICATION TIME FROM 90 DAYS TO 180 DAYS PASSED WITH FIFTEEN (15) IN FAVOR (MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, MCBRIDE-LEE, CASTILLO, VALLE, NIEVES, SILVA, PEREIRA, SULIMAN AND NEWTON) AND FOUR (4) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA, ROMAN-CHRISTY, LYONS AND BURNS).**

82-19 Contracts Committee Report re: Request by the Fire Chief Pursuant to and in accordance with C.G.S. §7-430 and their Collective Bargain Agreement, Fire Fighters Local 834 that Robert Whitbread having or soon to attain the age of sixty-five years or more to remain employed by the City for another year.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO MOVED 82-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REQUEST BY THE FIRE CHIEF PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH C.G.S. §7-430 AND THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAIN AGREEMENT, FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 834 THAT ROBERT WHITBREAD HAVING OR SOON TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO REMAIN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA SECONDED.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that this was not the first time that Mr. Whitbread's request was before the Council. She said that she would be voting against the item.

Council Member Pereira asked that they be informed when an individual comes before the Council a second or third time.

Council Member Valle asked for a roll call. Council Member Newton agreed.

Council Member Castillo said that the firefighters had to take a medical exam and that the Council should be considerate towards these firefighters' dedication. They also train the younger firefighters.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that it had nothing to do with training. She had previously asked them to put down their techniques in writing. Mr. Whitbread was not an active firefighter and works in the office.

Council Member Cruz said that he did not know this was Mr. Whitbread's second request. It is counterproductive for someone who was just working in the office. He said that he would challenge the firefighters to a hand ball game.

Council Member Herron said that the applicants have to pass the same physical exams for the new candidates. These officers are supervisors. She pointed out that there were City employees that were in their 70's and no one complains.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she would be voting yes. If they can pass the test and are capable, they should be able to stay on the jobs. The new recruits should be on the trucks and learning the job, not in the office.

Council Member Pereira said that the firefighters don't take the CPAT test. She said that the State requires the judges to retire at age 70. She said that she would not be voting in support of the item. The State law allows them to vote it down. Chief Thode is against it and Council Member Pereira will be voting against it.

Council Member Cruz said that he would be supporting this but felt that they needed to look at the contract. He said that he was uncomfortable with this but would be supporting this.

Council Member Pereira left the meeting.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 82-19 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REQUEST BY THE FIRE CHIEF PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH C.G.S. §7-430 AND THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAIN AGREEMENT, FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 834 THAT ROBERT WHITBREAD HAVING OR SOON TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE TO REMAIN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY FOR ANOTHER YEAR ELEVEN (11) IN FAVOR (BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, BRANTLEY, HERRON, DEFILIPPO, CASTILLO, SILVA AND SULIMAN) AND FIVE (5) OPPOSED (VIZZO-PANICCIA, NIEVES, VALLE, ROMAN-CHRISTY AND NEWTON).**

109-19 Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts Report re: Resolution Making Certain Findings required by the City and Town Development Act (As Precursor to Consideration of a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for Windward Commons located at 20 Johnson Street)

110-19 Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development and Environment and Contracts Report re: Resolution Authorizing a Tax Incentive Development Agreement for Windward Commons located at 20 Johnson Street.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO COMBINE AND APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TWO ITEMS:**

109-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS REPORT RE: RESOLUTION MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS REQUIRED BY THE CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT (AS PRECURSOR TO CONSIDERATION OF A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR WINDWARD COMMONS LOCATED AT 20 JOHNSON STREET)

110-19 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AND CONTRACTS REPORT RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR WINDWARD COMMONS LOCATED AT 20 JOHNSON STREET

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEMS 109-19 AND 110-19 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.,**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia left the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

Council President Nieves said that there was a group chat going about the protestors at the Police Department. The protestors want a meeting with the Council. The protestors want to be heard and have been peaceful. [Inaudible] have the conversation. This is a hard conversation and it needs to be equitable. The protestors want an audience with the Council.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIEVES MOVED TO SCHEDULE AN IN PERSON PUBLIC HEARING ON THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH AT 5:30 P.M.**

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that she would be willing to listen, but before there are demands, there has to be dialog. She asked what they would be discussing. She asked if they would be answering questions or if the Council would just be listening.

Council President Nieves said that this request was phased as a “demand” but Council President Nieves said that there were things that were part of contracts and the Council does not have authority over item. This is a public hearing for suggestions from the young people. Discussion followed.

Council Member Castillo said that he had been receiving calls for Chief Perez to be fired from all over the State and some from New York State. He said that he was concerned that the young people were being used by other people.

Council President Nieves said that the hearing would only be for Bridgeport residents. She has also been getting calls and they are calling to talk with the Council. She said they would be working out the details. She said she wants it to happen with the best intentions. The Police Department, the administration and the Council all have to be part of the conversation.

Council Member Cruz said he had received some emails from people who were not Bridgeport residents. He said that what happened to Jayson Negron was terrible.

Council Member Cruz said he had worked as a community organizer in Massachusetts for six years and that he did not like the idea of the calls for “demands”. There are many black and brown people dying in Bridgeport – and some of them died at the hands of other residents, others from overdoses or gun violence and others from homelessness. He said that he has to think about all those who have died in Bridgeport streets and there was no police involvement. What are they going to do about the drug violence, the gun violence and the homelessness? They are manipulating these young people against the police. There are tragedies like George Floyd and others, but they also have to consider domestic abuse and drug violence.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM REGARDING THE SCHEDULING AN IN PERSON PUBLIC HEARING ON THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH AT 5:30 P.M.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE SECONDED.**

Council Member McCarthy said that he was for meeting the protestors because they want change and he wants to change. There will be no change unless they vote the way their hearts tell them to vote and not the way the administration tells them to. He said that he feels safe enough to attend the meeting.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE SUSPENDING THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM REGARDING THE SCHEDULING OF AN IN PERSON PUBLIC HEARING ON THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH AT 5:30 P.M.**

Council Member Pereira rejoined the meeting at 10:34 p.m.

Council Member Brantley asked if she was able to gauge whether the protestors would listen. Council President Nieves said that she believed so after having an hour and a half conversation with the leader. She said that she had told her that the speakers had to be Bridgeport residents, a Bridgeport organization or business owners and handled respectfully. They feel they have not been heard. Council President Nieves said that they have to have some type of solution. Ms. Jazmarie Melendez is the head of Justice for Jason.

Council President Nieves said that they would have to speak to the Health Director and Public facilities regarding a meeting venue.

Council Member Brantley said that she would be interested in the meeting but not if there is disrespect. She said that she had known Jason, which his sister denied. She said that her interactions with the protestors had not been positive.

Council Member Roman-Christy said that her statement was disrespecting the City by blocking off the streets and wanted to know how they could ignore the COVID-19 regulations. She wanted to know how they would find a place where these individuals would be able to gather without violating the COVID-19 regulations.

**** THE MOTION TO SCHEDULE AN IN PERSON PUBLIC HEARING ON THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH AT 5:30 P.M. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services