

City of New Haven
Meeting Minutes (Short)
Human Services Committee

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Tuesday, January 6, 2009

5:30 PM

Aldermanic Chambers

ALDERMANIC NOTICE - NEW HAVEN

They Human Services Committee of the New Haven Board of Aldermen will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber of City Hall, 165 Church St., re:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERMEN PROHIBITING UNFAIR DISCRIMINATION IN CITY HIRING POLICIES AGAINST PERSONS PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED AND PROVIDING A MECHANISM TO ENSURE THAT PERSONS AND BUSINESSES SUPPLYING GOODS AND/OR SERVICES TO THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN HAVE ADOPTED AND EMPLOY FAIR HIRING POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE CITY'S GOAL OF REMOVING OBSTACLES TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH PRIOR CONVICTIONS.

Resolution of the Board of Alderman of the City of New Haven authorizing and approving Filing of an Award Entry under the National Organization on Disability, Accessible America 2009 competition.

RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERMEN URGING THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PROPRIETORS OF THE NEW HAVEN GREEN TO ERECT A MEMORIAL WALL ON THE NEW HAVEN GREEN INSCRIBED WITH NAMES OF LOCAL YOUTH WHO HAVE DIED BY SENSELESS GUN VIOLENCE IN THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN.

These items are on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk, Room 202, 200 Orange Street, New Haven. Per order: Charles A. Blango, Chairman; attest: Ronald Smith, City Clerk.

For a disability-related accommodation, please call 946-6483 (V) or 946-8582 (TTY) at least one business day prior to the meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes

Human Services Committee
6, 2009

Dec.

Vice Chair Sergio Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber. Present were Aids. Jones, Brison, Smart, and non-members Shah and Joseph Rodriguez. Chairman Blango arrived shortly afterward and took control of the meeting.

(1) From Alderman Shah submitting a resolution urging the City of New Haven, in conjunction with the proprietors of the New Haven Green, to erect a memorial wall on the New Haven Green inscribed with names of local youth who have died by senseless gun violence in the city. (Submitted 12/1/08).

Alderman Shah spoke on behalf. He said a debate broke out on the Internet about this item, and some of the remarks were hurtful. He said he was not notified of the City Plan Commission hearing on this matter; as a result, he was unable to present the item and explain it in more detail.

He said many lives have been lost by violent crime and gun violence. The city has much more work to do on this issue. The memorial is meant as a remembrance of the many young people lost over the years, not to glorify shooters or criminals as some community members have claimed. He acknowledged that the monument would probably be denied by the Proprietors of the New Haven Green. He asked the committee to pass the resolution with the understanding that the location is to be determined.

In response to the chair, Alderman Shah said he proposed the Green because it is a central location.

However, he was upset by some of the insensitive comments on the New Haven Independent web site.

Chair Blango asked Ald. Shah if he would be willing to come up with an alternate site. Shah said there have been suggestions, such as at the Q House site, or perhaps instead a quilt that could be unfurled at various places. Shah suggested having a committee to search for an alternate site, raise funds, and determine eligibility for inclusion on the monument to be sure it doesn't include perpetrators.

Alderman Rodriguez gave Ald. Shah Information on a similar program in Arkansas.

Also appearing on behalf was Charles Pillsbury, St. Ronan St. He said he supports the idea of a memorial. He believes that it should be something other than a marble slab. He distributed a document comparing Iraq war deaths with New Haven gun violence deaths in 2006. He read the list of New Haven gun victims. He proposed a monument that includes their pictures and stories, as well as their names. It could be shown in schools and archived at the historical society. He also suggested a "Truth and Reconciliation Commission" such as the one in Greensboro, NC. He volunteered to serve on any monument committee.

Also appearing on behalf was Sheldon Tucker, New Haven resident. He said he thinks the Green is an excellent place for the memorial, despite any objections of the Green Proprietors. He thinks a monument anywhere downtown would serve as a deterrent to youth violence. He has seen many of his friends die by gun violence. He agrees that the lines between victims and perpetrators are somewhat blurred. He also found some of the remarks in the Independent hurtful. He said youth violence is a black Holocaust.

Also appearing on behalf was a mother with her young son, Karen Christian and Faybian Plummer. She said she is concerned for his safety when he goes outside. She is deeply disturbed by gun violence.

(2) From the Director, Department of Services for Persons with Disabilities, submitting a resolution authorizing the filing of an award entry in the National Organization on Disability Accessible America 2009 competition.

Appearing on behalf was Michelle DuPrey, Director of Disability Services. She said her department entered this competition for the three prior years, but was not selected. She is hoping to win this year.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

(1) Gun Violence Monument: Alderman J. Rodriguez suggested a substitute amendment to (1) incorporate the City Plan Report and (2) form a committee within 30 days to study such issues as alternate sites and types of monuments, ways to raise private funds for the monument, and how to determine eligibility for inclusion of names on it. On a motion by S. Rodriguez, seconded Jones, the committee voted by voice to issue a favorable report, with the inclusion of the J. Rodriguez amendment.

(2) Accessible America: On a motion by S. Rodriguez, seconded by Jones, the committee voted by voice to issue a favorable report.

Adjourn: 6:40 p.m.

An audio recording of this meeting is available in the Office of Legislative Services.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Mercier
Legislative Aide