Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 1, 2023
6:00 PM

Meeting can be viewed on Board of Alders YouTube.

Aldermanic Chamber

Joint City Services and Environmental Policy/Health and Human Services Committee
The Joint City Services and Environmental Policy/Health and Human Services Committee of the Board of Alders will meet “in-person” on Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Alders Chamber located at 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor; New Haven, CT to hold the following workshop:

**LM-2023-0147 ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS WORKSHOP REGARDING EQUITABLE CIVIC, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMMIGRANT RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN.**

Per Order: Hon. Anna M. Festa, Co-Chair, and Hon. Alex Guzhnay, Co-Chair
Attest: Hon. Michael Smart, City/Town Clerk

These items are on file and available in the Office of the City Clerk, Room 202 at 200 Orange Street; New Haven, CT 06510.

For accessibility related accommodations, please call (203) 946 7651 (V) or (203) 946 8582 (TTY/TDD).

Public comment/testimony may also be submitted via email to publictestimony@newhavenct.gov before 2:00 pm on the day of the meeting.

This meeting may be viewed on the New Haven Board of Alders YouTube page.
Minutes

Alder Anna M. Festa, Chair, called the public hearing to order at 6:05 p.m. Present were Alders Anna M. Festa, Co-Chair; Alex Guzhnay, Co-Chair; Kampton Singh; Sarah Miller; Sal Punzo; Thomas R. Ficklin, Jr., and Troy Streater.

Non-committee members in attendance were Alders Carmen Rodriguez, Ellen Cupo, and Richard Furlow.

ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS WORKSHOP REGARDING EQUITABLE CIVIC, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMMIGRANT RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Carolina Sanchez testified regarding the abuses she experienced in her work at a local restaurant in New Haven including sexual harassment and wage theft. Ms. Sanchez testified regarding how the abuse affected her life, and the lives of her family members. A copy of the testimony is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

Eamon Coburn, 28 Cottage Street, Unit 2, spoke on behalf of undocumented workers in New Haven. A copy of the presentation is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

In response to Alder Miller, Mr. Coburn reviewed how ordinances in other cities have been used to encourage enforcement with labor laws through the local health departments licensing requirements.

In response to Alder Guzhnay, Mr. Coburn discussed how the ordinance would practically apply. Reviewed how it enforces current labor laws and does not create new ones. Spoke about how other cities have focused on labor theft and workers compensation violations.

In response to Alder Ficklin, Jr., Mr. Coburn confirmed how the health department has broad powers.

In response to Alder Festa, Mr. Coburn reviewed how he would respond with local data. Spoke about the national sample of 9,000 restaurants, which found 84% were violating wage and hour laws. Reviewed how similar ordinances are in San Francisco and Santa Clara.

Patricia Clark, Vital Statistics Registrar, reviewed how they issue between 150-320 Elm City ID cards annually. Discussed how it is a secondary-type of ID card, as applicants are required to have a primary form of ID that is valid. Reviewed how the cards are valid for 4 years. Spoke about how youth and reentry people use the Elm City ID card.

In response to Alder Festa, Registrar Clark reviewed how applicants need two pieces of mail that
is bank statement or utility bill dated within the past 90 days.

In response to Alder Miller, Registrar Clark reviewed that they do not collect data regarding demographics or additional data.

In response to Alder Streater, Registrar Clark confirmed that most people, who do not have the required information, return with the required information to obtain the ID.

Rivera spoke about how she was sexual assaulted by the owner of the restaurant, where she worked. Discussed how she filed a police report and thinks people like that should have their licenses taken away.

Lina Segura, 402 Sargent Drive, spoke about the wage theft she and other workers experienced. A copy of the testimony is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

Sara Montero spoke about how she worked in a restaurant for $12 an hour, and the owners advised her that was all they could afford to pay more. When she called out sick, she was terminated, and they refused to pay her wages owed. Spoke in support of the city having an ordinance that would enforce labor and wage laws locally.

Jhon Lugo, 276 Huntington Street, spoke about the Elm City ID cards regarding how the machine has been broken and program has not been utilized well. Discussed how New Haven is not an official Sanctuary City. Reviewed how Department of Labor does not have enough agents and needs better funding as it is taking a long time for cases to be heard. Named restaurants with reports of labor violations.

Tangan Engel spoke of her work as a chef and advocate for economic justice. Discussed how she has seen injustices occur in restaurants regarding the violations of wage and labor laws. Spoke about how we discuss how our food is grown and raised, but we do not discuss how people who prepare our food are treated.

COMMITTEE ACTION

No committee action.

Alder Streater moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alder Sarah Miller. The motion was unanimously approved at 7:17 p.m.

Alder Festa moved to adjourn, seconded by Alder Troy Streater. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourned: 7:20 p.m.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed on the Board of Alders’ YouTube channel here:
https://youtube.com/@boardofalders8363.

Respectfully submitted,
Misty Maza, J.D., Legislative Aide II