

**HARRISBURG CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES  
July 21, 2016  
A G E N D A**

**CALL TO ORDER**

- President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:02PM.

**ROLL CALL**

- The City Clerk called the roll and 7 members were present during roll call, namely: Ben Allatt, Jeff Baltimore, Shamaine Daniels, Destini Hodges (via phone), Cornelius Johnson, Westburn Majors and Wanda R. D. Williams.

**INVOCATION**

- The invocation was led by Mr. Johnson.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- The pledge of allegiance was led by Ms. Hodges.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

- Gloria Vasquez Merrick thanked City Council for their past support. She said that this time they received zero dollars. She said that they were told that they had the most impactful grant of all of the grants that were submitted. She said their services are up 65% and they have a youth program and a senior center program. She said they have representatives from both of their programs in attendance today to speak. She asked if City Council reconsider funding the only Latino Center in the entire City of Harrisburg.
- Lucy Figueroa said that her family came here from Mexico 5 years ago and she is a part of the Latino Center Youth Program. She said they helped her brother who recently graduated from Central Penn College as a Physical Therapy Assistant. She said she has seen so many people come to the center and it's amazing how many people they help.
- Kim Fernandez said that she is a volunteer of the Latino Center and they have people come all of the time for help with jobs and the program helps Latinos very much.
- Leland Nelson said he is here because the Mayor put his organization (African American Chamber) in his press release stating he has great concern about their outreach. He asked how we stop a bullet; we stop a bullet through economic development. He said about a month ago they had 60 people at a free event (at no cost) to impact businesses and retain jobs. He said that he has members here today to talk about what they have done for them.
- Amhad Zaire said that he is a member of Dream Productions and they host the 717 music awards each year. He said that some of the money that helps to fund that show comes from the African American Chamber of Commerce. He said it was a positive event to help the children in the community and showcases talents in the area.
- Azu Afian said that he started a media business about two years ago and the African American Chamber was one of their first clients. He said that he is thankful for the networking opportunities that have come from them.

- Shariah Brown is the Chair of the African American Chamber. She said they did a management course and everyone was safety trained. She said they can give numerous accounts of job creation and she supports business start-ups. She said if you give a man a fish, they believe they are teaching a man how to fish. She said that they think the money from the CDBG funds are well allocated to the African American Chamber. She said that they can create jobs and they plan on doing the documentation so that you can see that for yourselves.
- Candice Henry said that she is an international event and wedding planner. She said she is there in support of the African American Chamber. She said when she first started her business the Chamber taught her everything that she knows today. She said it is an amazing organization and your business is their priority. She said that she is in support of the overturn of the veto.
- Mr. Boyd said that he can't talk about getting money from grants, but he can talk about people lying under bridges. He said it amazes him that they can come yearly with their hands out. He said Martin Luther King must be looking down from heaven and shaking his head with disgust. He said there is nothing ever said about what we will do for the homeless of this city and it amazes him that we know there is an issue and nothing is done for that cause. He said blight creates crime, but no one in this administration is doing anything.
- Rosa Perada (translated) said that she is happy with the Latino Center and what they provide. She said that there is a lot of love and they need the funding for the center. She said she comes every week and they do recreational things, they cook and the center needs your help.
- Les Ford thanked everyone involved. He said democracy is messy and this is an exercise in the process. He said he would like to continue to see us involved in democracy. He said he learned a few things over the last few weeks. But, he said that we need to continue to learn and not presume that we know it all. He said we come together to share each other's strengths and build on one another. He said please make your decision, but it is not a fundamental shift in the way we govern.
- Mel Johnson said he is the Board Chairman for the Fair Housing Council. He thanked City Council for the previous funding. He said they are busy working with people from the McFarland building and trying to relocate them. He said fortunately they have a well-rounded program allowing them to help people become financially stable. He said the majority of their clients come from the city. He said they will do all that they can to make Harrisburg the city everyone wants it to be.
- President Williams issued a statement in response to the letter from the Mayor regarding the reasons for his veto of Bill 14-2016.

#### OVERRIDE OF MAYORAL VETO

- **The City Clerk read Bill 14-2016 (AS AMENDED) into record** - An Ordinance appropriating Community Development Block Grant funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for Fiscal Year 2016 and authorizing expenditure of such funds.
- President Williams called for the vote and there were (7) votes confirmed for the override of the Mayoral Veto of Bill 14-2016.

#### ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 6:02PM.