

# **City of New Haven**

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## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, January 23, 2023**

**6:00 PM**

**Meeting can be viewed on Board of Alders YouTube Page.**

**Aldermanic Chambers**

**Aldermanic Affairs Committee**

(Board of Alders Notice New Haven) The Aldermanic Affairs Committee of the Board of Alders will meet “in-person” on Monday, January 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Alders Chamber located at 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor; New Haven, CT to hear and act on the following items:

- 1) [LM-2023-0014](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF SHARON BASS TO THE HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION.
- 2) [LM-2023-0005](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF KELONDA MAULL TO THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH.
- 3) [LM-2023-0004](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF KYLE HOVANNESIAN TO THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH.
- 4) [LM-2023-0009](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF CORDALIE BENOIT TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION.
- 5) [LM-2023-0013](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. DONALD MCAULAY, JR. TO THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH.
- 6) [LM-2023-0002](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MILDRED MELENDEZ TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS.
- 7) [LM-2023-0006](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF UNEDRA MULEY TO THE HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION.
- 8) [LM-2023-0003](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW WILCOX TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Per Order: Hon. Rosa Ferraro Santana, Chair;  
Attest: Hon. Michael Smart, City 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](mailto: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 Rosa Ferraro Santana, Chair, called the public hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present were Alders Rosa Ferraro Santana, Chair; Gerald Antunes, Vice-Chair; Evelyn Rodriguez; Alex Guzhnay; and Thomas R. Ficklin, Jr.

Non-committee alders present were Alders Richard Furlow and Sarah Miller.

1. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF SHARON BASS TO THE HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION.

## PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Sharon Bass, 345 Fountain Street, Apt. 102, spoke of her experience with homelessness and reporting on the various issues homeless people face.

In response to Alder Ferrara Santana, Ms. Bass reviewed how children and youth experiencing homelessness tend to receive better services than older people. Reviewed how she had reported on homelessness in another state that had experienced success with running a program that assisted people as they transitioned from the shelter to being housed.

In response to Alders E. Rodriguez and Ferrara Santana, Ms. Bass reviewed how the program in Portland, Maine was very effective to the point where only people who wanted to live on the street were unhoused. Discussed how the shelter had a center that was open all day, so people did not get kicked out.

In response to Alder Antunes, Ms. Bass reviewed how a model that she saw that worked well was for two families to share an apartment, where they shared their kitchen but had separate bedrooms and bathrooms.

## COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Gerald Antunes moved item # 1, seconded by Alder Alex Guzhnay. All of the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

2. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF KELONDA MAULL TO THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH.

## PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Kelonda Maull, 360 Fountain Street, Apt. 27, discussed her experience working with youth and how she wants to continue to work with a board or commission that will keep her connected to youth in New Haven.

In response to Alder Guzhnay, Ms. Maull reviewed how she lives in New Haven and wants to stay involved here.

## COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Gerald Antunes moved item # 2, seconded by Alder Alex Guzhnay. All of the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

3. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF KYLE HOVANNESIAN TO THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Kyle Hovannesian, 205 Elm Street, spoke of his interest in serving on the Youth Commission. Reviewed how his focus has been on bringing youth representation to boards and commissions. Discussed how he supported having student representation on the Board of Education for his school in California. He ran and was elected for the position.

In response to Alder E. Rodriguez, Mr. Hovannesian discussed how our children are our future, and it is important to give youth stability and access to power. Reviewed how people did not support and met resistance to servicing.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Gerald Antunes moved item # 3, seconded by Alder Alex Guzhnay. All of the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

4. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF CORDALIE BENOIT TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony.

COMMITTEE ACTION

No committee action.

5. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. DONALD MCAULAY, JR. TO THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony.

COMMITTEE ACTION

No committee action.

6. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MILDRED MELENDEZ TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS.

## PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony.

## COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Gerald Antunes moved item # 6, seconded by Alder Alex Guzhnay. All of the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

7. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF UNEDRA MULEY TO THE HOMELESS ADVISORY COMMISSION.

## PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony.

## COMMITTEE ACTION

No committee action.

8. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW WILCOX TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

## PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Matthew Wilcox, 1135 Forest Road, spoke in support of his reappointment to the Board of Education.

In response to Alder Ferrara Santana, Mr. Wilcox reviewed how remote meetings have been working for the Board of Education. Discussed how they have board members, who either are high risk or have family members who are. Spoke about how those members would not be able to attend in-person meetings.

In response to Alder Antunes, Mr. Wilcox confirmed he will request that the switching the Board of Education to in-person meetings (hybrid) be added to its next agenda, so they can have the discussion again.

Reviewed how the Board of Education is reviewing chronic absenteeism, started a new math curriculum, and currently looking at a literacy program.

Mr. Wilcox reviewed how there is technical training supported in the schools, but he is not sure if students are able to graduate with any certificates needed to start work in that field.

In response to Alder Guzhnay, Mr. Wilcox reviewed how they need additional data regarding filling supporting roles, so they can ensure they are filled where there is the greatest need.

Reviewed how he enjoys visiting classrooms and meeting students. Discussed how he encourages other board members to visit schools, as he feels it is important.

In response to Alder E. Rodriguez, Mr. Wilcox reviewed how the Teaching and Learning Committee and another one of the committees works with a lot of the issues facing parents and students. Discussed how there were committees at the school level to hear from parents and

students. Spoke about how parents can testify before the Board of Education. Reviewed how as a board member, he does seek opportunities to hear from parents and students.

In response to Alder Antunes, Mr. Wilcox reviewed how currently the search committee for the new superintendent is the Board of Education. Discussed how they will be having their second meeting with the search firm the Board of Education hired is coming up. Reviewed how there will be opportunities for stakeholders to weigh in on the hiring of the new superintendent. Spoke about how the process will be open.

Tom Goldenberg, 324 Nicoll Street, spoke in opposition to reappointments being made to the Board of Education until demands, which should be made by the Board of Alders, are met.

Spoke regarding three demands:

- 1) Data regarding 3rd grade reading levels and chronic absenteeism;
- 2) Parental representation on the Board of Education and search committee for the new superintendent; and
- 3) Importance of Board of Education moving back to in-person meetings.

Shafiq Abdussabur, 670 Winthrop Avenue, spoke in support of Matt Wilcox being reappointed on the Board of Education. Discussed the importance of not leaving a vacancy on the Board of Education at a time when they are needed to work on the issues that facing New Haven Public Schools.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Gerald Antunes moved item # 8, seconded by Alder Alex Guzhnay. Alders Ferrara Santana, Antunes, E. Rodriguez, and Guzhnay spoke in favor of the item, Alder Ficklin opposed. The motion was approved, and the item passed.

Alder Gerald Antunes moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alder Alex Guzhnay. The motion was unanimously approved at 7:30 p.m.

Alder Gerald Antunes moved to adjourn, seconded by Alder Alex Guzhnay. The motion was unanimously approved. Adjourn: 7:53 p.m.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed on the Board of Alders' YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzL3Hv9xzwe7XK3Vqeu8qxdg>.

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