



City of New Haven

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Committee

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Tuesday, December 17, 2019

6:30 PM

Alder Chamber

(Please scroll down)

Minutes

Public Safety Committee

September 17, 2019

Chair Gerald M. Antunes called the hearing to order at 6:36 p.m. in the Alder Chamber.

Present were Alders Roth, Crespo, Wingate and Hurt.

First heard was: FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ACCEPT UP TO \$65,000 FROM THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION AS PARTIAL REIMBURSEMENT OF PATROL PERSONNEL EXPENSES AT TWEED-NEW HAVEN AIRPORT FOR ON-SITE DEDICATED SUPPORT OF PASSENGER SCREENING.

Appearing on behalf were: Assistant Police Chief Renee Dominguez; Sandra Koorejian, grants manager from the police department; and Sean Scanlon, the new Tweed-New Haven Airport manager.

According to the submission, the federal government now requires city police to support TSA at Tweed New Haven airport security screenings.

Scanlon explained that the airport is now hosting a larger Embraer jet which increases the level of security the TSA requires. The security classification was raised partly due to the city's statistical crime rate or "threat level." The regulations require a local police officer to be present before and after passenger boarding. Officers are being trained for the special assignment and will receive a special badge.

Scanlon said TSA does not allow private security to be used for this program.

In response to Alder Roth, he said it was unlikely that other towns would contribute to the cost since New Haven owns the terminal.

In response to the committee, Koorejian discussed expenses for the program and possible revenue such as contributions from parking and car-rental operations. There was concern about the shortfall between the grant and program costs being shifted to local taxpayers. Dominguez agreed to provide follow-up information.

They said it is a new program and the details are still being figured out. However, the grant will have to be re-approved by the alders each year. There was some confusion over the final amount of the grant, whether it is \$65,000 or more like \$40,000.

In response to the chair, Dominguez said the amount of personnel needed varies according to the flight.

Alder Antunes asked Dominguez to look into how the city's crime/threat level is calculated for the purpose of this program. Alder Wingate asked for a breakdown of program costs. Roth added for preliminary information for budget season in 2020.

Second heard was: FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR THE NHPD VICTIM SERVICES SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE PROGRAM, INCLUDING FOOD AND SUPPLIES FOR SELF-HELP GROUP MEETINGS, EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, AND OTHER SUPPLIES AND SUPPORT.

Dominguez and Koorejian had remained at the table. They distributed written materials. Operated by the Victims Services Unit of the police department, the Survivors of Homicide program provides support and resources to individuals who have lost a loved one, including a monthly support group, other self-help activities, and educational resources. It mainly serves the mothers of young gunshot victims. It is a peer counseling program.

The money will be used to primarily purchase books, food for other meetings and other supplies. Most of the gifts are small, The Emerald Society, Silver Shields and other organizations have offered to donate. The program eventually may reach out to foundations and other funders, but the obstacle is not having 501c3 status. Alder The funds will be kept in a special account. Alder Roth said the account should itemized for expenses and income. Crespo suggested a GoFundMe account.

Alder Crespo asked if there is a limit on how long a person can receive these benefits. They agreed to provide follow-up information. Crespo was concerned that Spanish translations would be provided and agreed to volunteer.

The Public Safety Committee asked for annual reports on this program and its finances.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

AIRPORT SECURITY: On a motion by Alder Crespo, seconded by Alder Roth, the committee voted by voice to issue a favorable report.

Alder Roth suggested asking Washington delegation to increase the hourly reimbursement rate. She suggested looking at ways to make towns pay when their residents use the airport. Also, is there an Alder rep on airport authority?

SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE: On a motion by Alder Crespo, seconded by Alder Roth, the committee voted by voice to issue a favorable report.

Adjourn: 8:15 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Mercier,
Legislative Aide

BOARD OF ALDERS NOTICE - NEW HAVEN

The Public Safety Committee of the New Haven Board of Alders will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Alder Chamber of City Hall, 165 Church Street, re:

* From the Chief of Police, a Resolution authorizing the city to accept up to \$65,000 from the Transportation Security Administration as partial reimbursement of patrol personnel expenses at Tweed-New Haven Airport for on-site dedicated support of passenger screening.

* From the Chief of Police, a Resolution authorizing the city to accept donations for the NHPD Victim Services Survivors of Homicide program, including food and supplies for self-help group meetings, educational resources, and other supplies and support.

Per Order: Hon. Gerald M. Antunes, Chair; Attest: Hon. Michael Smart, City Clerk. These items are on file and available in the Office of the City Clerk, 200 Orange Street, Room 202, New Haven.

For accessibility-related requests please contact (203) 946-7833 (v) or (203) 946-8582 (tty) prior to the meeting.