

City of New Haven

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

6:00 PM

Via Teleconference

Aldermanic Affairs Committee

(Board of Alders Notice New Haven) The Aldermanic Affairs Committee of the Board of Alders will meet on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., via video conference at <https://bit.ly/3iLv83i> and by phone at (646) 558-8656 Webinar ID: 951 6545 6352, to hear and act on the following items (for required password contact publictestimony@newhavenct.gov):

- 1) [LM-2020-0403](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL LAWLOR TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.
- 2) [LM-2020-0384](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF REBECCA CORBETT TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION.
- 3) [LM-2020-0385](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF ELIAS ESTABROOK TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION.
- 4) [LM-2020-0388](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF ZEENIE MALIK TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION.
- 5) [LM-2020-0386](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF LISA MCKNIGHT TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION.
- 6) [LM-2020-0387](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JAIME MYERS-MCPHAIL TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION.

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 7833 (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.

If you wish to present testimony at the meeting, you must register in advance at <https://bit.ly/3iLv83i> or by calling (203) 946-7934 before 2:00 pm on the day of the meeting.

Public can view the meeting at <https://bit.ly/3iLv83i> or listen by phone at (646) 558-8656 Webinar ID: 951 6545 6352. For the required password, contact publictestimony@newhavenct.gov.

Minutes

Alder Rosa Ferraro Santana, Chair, called the public hearing to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present were Alders Rosa Ferraro Santana, Chair; Evette Hamilton, Vice Chair; Delphine Clyburn; Jill L. Marks; Evelyn Rodriguez; Ron Hurt; and Eli Sabin.

Non-committee members joining were Alders Walker-Myers, Furlow, DeCola, Antunes, and Roth.

1. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL LAWLOR TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Michael Lawlor, 95 Kneeland Road, spoke in favor of his appointment to the Police Commission. Reviewed some of his experience and dedication to New Haven and how it would be an honor to study on the Police Commission.

In response to Alder E. Rodriguez, Mr. Lawlor reviewed community policing and how he has encouraged people to join the NHPD. Spoke about how he viewed his position on the Police Commission.

In response to Alder Hamilton, Mr. Lawlor reviewed how he thought one of the largest issues regarding policing was the increase in shootings. Spoke of how they are not sure what is causing the increase whether it is Covid or lack of confidence in the police. Reviewed Project Longevity, and how that program has worked well in New Haven. Spoke of how they have shovel-ready funding available. Also, reviewed how other towns are picking off New Haven police officers and need to implement plans to retain them, as New Haven taxpayers are funding their training and development. Reviewed how arresting more people and giving them longer prison sentences did not work. Spoke of how he worked with Toni Walker and Toni Harp to increase the juvenile court age from 16 to 18.

In response to Alder Marks, Mr. Lawlor reviewed how the police need to be conscious on how they approach situations. Spoke about police officers use the tools given to them, which include guns and tasers, which often ends in disastrous results, especially when dealing with the mentally ill.

In response to Alder Clyburn, Mr. Lawlor reviewed how you need to provide resources. Spoke about how if you just suspend and expel teenagers without adequate resources, you are setting them up for failure.

In response to Alder Sabin, Mr. Lawlor reviewed how other police departments, like Yale, have a lot of power and should be subject to great oversight. Reviewed how he would be willing to review the MOU with Yale, but that he thinks that it is the Alders who have the power to amend the MOU

with Yale.

In response to Alder Hurt, Mr. Lawlor reviewed how he thinks there is more that needs to be done. Reviewed how the bill passed did not include funding and a lot of the parts of the bill require funding. Spoke about how he thinks later this year, state legislature will provide funding.

In response to Alder Ferraro-Santana, Mr. Lawlor spoke about how polygraphs are intimidating, and he doesn't feel like they are the best, reliable way to obtain information. Reviewed how it is important to destigmatize mental health issues, so police officers can get the help they need. Reviewed how suicide rates among police officers are high. Reviewed how although the number of police officers are lower now, they are not historically low in New Haven. Reviewed how some positions, such as work as crime scene investigators, in the evidence room, etc. do not need to be sworn police officers and can be civilians – freeing up sworn police officers to do their job they are trained to do.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Sabin moved items # 1, 3, and 6, seconded by Alder Hamilton. 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 REBECCA CORBETT TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was given.

COMMITTEE ACTION

No committee action.

3. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF ELIAS ESTABROOK TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Elias Estabrook spoke about his experience on the City Plan Commission. Spoke of the importance of the New Haven's goals to create affordable housing. Spoke about his experience of serving on the Affordable Housing Taskforce and serving on the City Plan Commission.

In response to Alder E. Rodriguez, Mr. Estabrook spoke about how more needs to be done to help tenants move to homeownership. Spoke of how the pandemic has affected both tenants and homeowners. Spoke of the importance of aiding both tenants and homeowners.

In response to Alder Clyburn, Mr. Estabrook reviewed how Livable City Initiative is in charge with

enforcing the safety of housing. Spoke about how he thinks we need to be activity looking at the issue and increase funding Livable City Initiative gets to enforce the housing code to ensure tenants are treated fairly by especially the large-scale landlords and provided with safe housing.

In response to Alder Marks, Mr. Estabrook reviewed how there are programs to help homeowners avoid foreclosures.

In response to Alder Hurt, Mr. Estabrook spoke of how serving on the commission he would advocate for solutions to help reduce the number of evictions due to the pandemic, which is connected to a lot of issues including jobs and food.

In response to Alder Sabin, Mr. Estabrook spoke of how builders are basing on their studies, which are indicating that there is a market here for higher rents, which he believes is influencing what is being built and driving other landlords to increase their rents. Spoke of creating an affordable housing fund, which could help subsidize housing making it more affordable. Reviewed how he would consider changes to New Haven's building code to make more affordable housing.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Sabin moved items # 1, 3, and 6, seconded by Alder Hamilton. 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 ZEENIE MALIK TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was given.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Sabin moved to give leave to withdraw to items # 4 and 5, seconded by Alder Hamilton. All of the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

5. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF LISA MCKNIGHT TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony was given.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Sabin moved to give leave to withdraw to items # 4 and 5, seconded by Alder Hamilton. All of the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

6. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JAIME MYERS-MCPHAIL TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Jaime Myers-McPhail, 135 Bellevue Road, spoke of willingness to serve on the Affordable Housing Commission.

In response to Alder Hamilton, Jaime Myers-McPhail spoke of his dedication to help people impacted fix the problems together.

In response to Alder Marks, Jaime Myers-McPhail spoke of how he moved around New Haven a lot because of increased rents. Spoke of the need to come together and do something to help people get housing. Spoke of the importance of changing the maps to help the communities that were redlined to get the resources they need. Reviewed how we should have safe affordable housing in all our communities, not just downtown.

In response to Alder Sabin, Jaime Myers-McPhail spoke about how he thought inclusionary zoning would be helpful.

In response to Alder Clyburn, Jaime Myers-McPhail spoke of the need to listen to people facing these issues.

In response to Alder Hurt, Jaime Myers-McPhail spoke of the need to

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Sabin moved items # 1, 3, and 6, seconded by Alder Hamilton. All of the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

Alder Marks moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alder Hamilton. The motion was unanimously approved at 8:10 p.m.

Alder Hurt moved to adjourn, seconded by Alder Hamilton. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourn: 8:20 p.m.

A recording of this meeting can be located online at [youtube.com/watch?v=EXCjRJAA66g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXCjRJAA66g).

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

