COMMITTEE ON FINANCE MONTHLY RULE 45 REPORT January 2020

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On January 13, 2020, at 10:10 am, the Committee on Finance held a meeting in City Hall, City Council Chambers.

The following members were present: Hopkins, Dowell, King, Sawyer, Mitchell, Sadlowski-Garza, Thompson, Cardenas, Quinn, Lopez, Moore, Curtis, O'Shea, Tabares, Scott, Burnett, Ervin, Taliaferro, Reboyras, Austin, Villegas, Mitts, Sposato, Reilly, Smith, Tunney, Osterman, Silverstein, Vice Chairwoman Hairston, and Chairman Waguespack.

The following members were absent: Harris, Beale, Burke, Brookins, and Napolitano.

The following additional aldermen were present: Cardona, Ramirez-Rosa, and Gardiner.

The Committee addressed the following items:

1. Approval of December 2019 Rule 45 Report of the previous meeting of the Committee on Finance.

Chairman Waguespack asked if there were any changes or corrections. There were none. Ald. Reilly moved do pass. Motion carried on a voice vote.

2. R2019-964 A subject matter hearing on the impact of the Earned Income Tax Credit on Chicago families.

Chairman Waguespack invited Lisa Christensen Gee from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy and Meegan Dugan Bassett from New America to speak on the item, which they did.

Ald. Hopkins asked what community organizations have done great work promoting the Earned Income Tax Credit. Christensen Gee said there are many chambers of commerce, faith-based groups, and other organizations working at promoting the EITC.

Ald. Thompson asked how Chicago's participation compared to other cities. Christensen Gee said most places have a failure-to-participate rate between 20 percent and 25 percent, and Chicago is at the low end of that range. Dugan Bassett said New York State's rate is about 18 percent. Ald. Thompson asked how else potentially eligible residents could be reached, and Christensen Gee provided several options. Ald. Thompson asked how the income thresholds are established. Christensen Gee said it is in the federal tax code and adjusted every year for inflation, and that the state EITC operates similarly. Ald. Thompson suggested that EITC outreach be folded in with the City's census outreach.

Ald. Ervin asked about the demographics of those who fail to apply for the EITC. Christensen Gee said it was very difficult to know since they are not participating. Ald. Ervin asked if there is a way to work with the State to identify those who have reported income but have failed to file. Christensen Gee said there are several ways to cross-share data. Dugan Bassett said there are several efforts to use publically-available data to identify groups who under-participate. Ald. Ervin said the IRS and State should do a better job finding those who fail to participate since they have the income data already.

Ald. Smith asked about the overlap between those eligible for the EITC who also receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. Christensen Gee said there are some who receive SNAP who would not qualify for the EITC, but groups are working to ensure those who receive SNAP are aware of the tax credit.

Chairman Waguespack invited Amy Rynell of Heartland Alliance to speak to the question. Rynell said more people are checking with them due to SNAP benefit changes. Ald. Smith asked what City agency could also do that work, and Rynell said the Department of Family and Support Services could. Ald. Smith asked if DFSS would be doing that, and Chairman Waguespack said we would request an answer and distribute it.

Chairman Waguespack opened the floor for public comment. Rosalva Nava with Community Organizing and Family Issues spoke in support of the EITC and said materials should be provided in Spanish.

Cornelia Sims of Community Organizing and Family Issues said EITC is important because the refund it generates is spent on delayed needs that cannot otherwise be met.

Isaiah Rogers with Community Organizing and Family Issues said that the EITC helps him pay for childcare so he can work.

Nikaya Johnson spoke of the importance of the EITC.

Amber Wilson of the Economic Security for Illinois Cost of Living Refund Coalition spoke of the importance of the EITC and said better outreach is needed.

Jade Mazon spoke in support of the EITC.

Ilda Hernandez of Enlace Chicago spoke on the importance of the EITC.

George Blakemore spoke in opposition to the EITC, claiming that undocumented residents receive benefits.

Chairman Waguespack said he would pass along the suggestion that DFSS offer materials in several different languages to service the City's diverse communities.

3. O2019-9391 A communication recommending proposed amendments to Municipal Code Section 2-32-515 to make City Investment Policy compliant with the Illinois Sustainable Investing Act.

Chairman Waguespack invited Assistant City Treasurer Michelle Murphy to speak regarding the ordinance, which she did. There being no questions from aldermen, Chairman Waguespack opened the floor for public comment.

George Blakemore spoke in support of reparations.

Vice Chairwoman Hairston moved do pass. Motion carried on a voice vote.

4. O2019-9398 A communication recommending proposed amendments to the General Obligation Bond Ordinance (Series 2019A Bonds) and Trust Indenture regarding the expenditure of previously approved bonds.

Chairman Waguespack invited Chief Financial Officer Jennie H. Bennett and Chicago Board of Elections Communications Director Jim Allen to speak regarding the ordinance, which they did.

Ald. Osterman asked why the equipment wasn't replaced sooner and if there is enough time to train election judges before March 17. Allen said they have been discussing this since August, but the Board wasn't sure how to pay for it. Ald. Osterman said this should have been discussed during budget hearings. Ald. Osterman asked how this would impact the Smart Lighting streetlight replacement program. Bennett said these funds weren't expected to be spent until 2022, and there are more efficient ways to fund the streetlights than keeping bond proceeds on deposit.

Ald. Scott asked why the change in plans for the bonds. Bennett said there is an urgent need to upgrade election machines, and the Administration is working on a new capital plan to fund the Smart Lighting, among other things. Ald. Scott asked if the last purchase of machines was split with the Cook County Clerk, and Allen said no. Allen added that, in the past, there was hope that federal money would be available to fund the machines, but that hope has largely disappeared.

Ald. Scott asked what makes the new machines more secure. Allen said the new system captures an image of the actual ballot as it is going into the machine, so there is always a backup that can be audited.

Ald. Dowell asked where the extra \$300,000 in the ordinance is going. Bennett said it was for any overages in the purchase. Allen said the Board does not anticipate any extra costs. Ald. Dowell asked if there was any MBE/WBE participation. Allen said the voting machine industry is extremely small, and there was no MBE/WBE in any of the bids received. However, Allen said, the Board has MBE/WBE participations on many of the other election supplies purchased. Ald. Dowell asked if the machine purchase was a sole source contract. Allen said it was the result of a request for proposals.

Ald. Moore asked about the unspent \$261 million in bond proceeds and what the other \$192 million is being used for. Bennett said it was for a variety of items, and she would provide more information through the Chair.

Ald. Thompson asked why the bond proceeds were on deposit unspent for so long. Bennett said it is more efficient to spend the money now, and she did not know why the bond issue had anticipated funding projects so far into the future. Ald. Thompson asked when the rest of the money would be used. Bennett said the Administration is working through a cash flow forecast for that, and she would be able to provide more information as the next capital program is created. Ald. King asked about Sec. 4 of the ordinance. Bennett said this was a sublimit restriction, and this change would allow for the Department of Finance to spend the money on the voting equipment. Ald. King asked if Sec. 4 only applied to this expenditure. Chairman Waguespack invited Deputy Corporation Counsel Jim McDonald to speak to the question. He said Sec. 4 needed to be in the ordinance to allow for the change in expenditure, and any future change in sublimits of the bond expenditures would require City Council approval. Bennett observed that the limitation being amended by Sec. 4 was not in previous bond ordinances.

Ald. King, and Ald. Thompson on a point of information, asked why it was included in the bond ordinance that is being modified by this ordinance. McDonald said it was due to a change in policy within the previous Administration.

Ald. Dowell, on a point of information, provided an example of how bond proceeds might be shifted without City Council approval. McDonald said the Administration would need to come back to the City Council in such an example. Bennett reiterated that this change was only to spend some bond proceeds on voting equipment.

Ald. Lopez asked when the election process in general would change so there would be vote-bymail with drop sites like other states. Allen said he did not know, but it would require a change in state law. However, Allen said, this expenditure would allow for the quicker counting of ballots cast by mail.

Ald. Lopez asked what is preventing the Board from doing more regarding vote by mail and ballot drop sites. Allen said election law generally changes slowly. Ald. Lopez asked if the \$110 million in the past bond issue allocated for the Aldermanic Menu Program was for two years or one. Chairman Waguespack invited Deputy Comptroller Jack Brofman to speak on the question. Brofman said it was for 2018 and some of 2019. The remainder of 2019 was funded through a commercial paper offering. Ald. Lopez asked for more detail of where Menu funds are coming from, and Chairman Waguespack said it would be provided through the Chair.

Ald. Ervin expressed a desire to ensure any other changes to the bond proceeds allocation required City Council approval and asked if Sec. 4 was really needed. McDonald said any future changes would still need to come to the City Council. McDonald further said Sec. 4 was needed because of the changes to allow the expenditure for voting machines, and without Sec. 4, this ordinance would be in conflict with the bond issuance ordinance.

Ald. Ervin asked if the other original sublimits had been met. Bennett said there isn't any additional room under the other sublimits. Ald. Ervin asked what has been funded. Bennett said she would provide that information through the Chair.

Ald. Reilly suggested amending Sec. 4 to keep subsection (d) but add "unless otherwise approved by the City Council."

Vice Chairwoman Hairston asked who is responsible for monitoring projects and spending. Bennett said her department is responsible. Vice Chairwoman Hairston asked where the 3rd District Police Station project is in the process. Bennett said the spending is monitored by her department, but the actual construction is monitored by the department doing the work. Vice Chairwoman Hairston asked about the economic disclosure statements and what the various law firms are doing under the ordinance. McDonald said the Hardwick law firm is an MBE, and the Department of Law retained bond counsel to ensure that the changes being made did not impact the previous bond issuance. Vice Chairwoman Hairston asked about who had what percentage interest in the firm. After some confusion about a redacted economic disclosure statement, Chairman Waguespack provided that information.

Ald. Burnett asked if bond underwriters were needed to make this change. Bennett said that since the bonds had already been issued, no underwriters were needed. Ald. Burnett commended the Administration for hiring an MBE as lead bond counsel for this ordinance.

Ald. Quinn asked about the benefits of the new voting equipment. Allen said the Board would provide aldermen with the election judge handbook. Ald. Quinn asked if any public outreach had been done regarding the new machines. Allen said the public would notice very little difference when actually voting.

Ald. Reilly returned to his earlier suggestion to amend Sec. 4 and asked if it would accomplish the same goal as the wording in the original version of the ordinance. McDonald said he believed it would. Bennett agreed.

Ald. Reilly asked if the Chairman would entertain a motion to amend the ordinance to reflect that change. Chairman Waguespack said the item would be held until the end of the meeting to give the Department of Law time to make the change and submit a written substitute.

Ald. Cardenas agreed with Ald. Reilly's proposed change. Ald. Dowell, on a point of clarification, noted that while Ald. Reilly's proposed change was a good one, Ald. King originally raised the issue. Ald. Cardenas asked that more Latinx be included on future bond deals.

5. O2019-9419 A communication recommending a proposed ordinance concerning the authority to enter into a redevelopment tax-exempt bond agreement with Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation, Rockwell Community Development, Inc. and associated entities for the construction of affordable rental housing at 2602-2638 North Emmett Street.

Chairman Waguespack invited Department of Housing Analyst Anna Booth to speak regarding the ordinance, which she did.

Ald. Tunney commended Ald. Ramirez-Rosa's work to shepherd the development and asked if the commercial space would also be rented at a below-market rate. Chairman Waguespack invited Bickerdike Vice President for Real Estate Development Guacolda Reyes to address the question. She said the building would have 4,100 square feet of commercial space, and Bickerdike would work with local businesses to determine what financially works for them.

Ald. Tunney reiterated his desire that developments in fast-gentrifying neighborhoods also look at below-market commercial rents to help small businesses remain in the community. Bickerdike *Chief Executive Officer Joy Aruguete said Bickerdike does not anticipate the commercial space to be a profit-producing endeavor.*

Ald. Ervin, in response to Ald. Cardenas's previous comment on Item 4, asked if African American firms would be hired to execute the project.

Ald. Ramirez-Rose clarified that the project is not financially dependent on revenue from the commercial space, and Bickerdike will work with local organizations to identify local businesses and non-profit organizations to occupy the space.

Ald. Cardenas agreed with Ald. Ervin that it is important that African American and Latinx firms be hired for projects such as this.

Chairman Waguespack opened the floor for public comment. The Rev. Bruce Ray of the Logan Square Ecumenical Alliance spoke in support of the ordinance.

Community resident Gladys Rivera spoke in support of the ordinance.

Lupita Aguilar from SEIU Local 1 spoke in support of the ordinance.

Community resident Madeleine Schroeder spoke in support of the ordinance.

George Blakemore spoke against undocumented residents living in affordable housing.

Ald. Burnett spoke in support of the ordinance, noting that he has much experience with Bickerdike and praised the organization. Ald. Cardenas also spoke in support of the ordinance, as did Ald. Ramirez-Rosa.

Ald. Tunney moved do pass. Motion carried by a voice vote.

4. SO2019-9398 A communication recommending proposed amendments to the General Obligation Bond Ordinance (Series 2019A Bonds) and Trust Indenture regarding the expenditure of previously approved bonds.

Chairman Waguespack returned to Item 4 on the agenda. Ald. Tunney moved to accept the substitute before the Committee. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Ald. King thanked Chairman Waguespack and the Administration for working on the substitute ordinance.

Chairman Waguespack opened the floor for public comment. After some confusion on which item he was speaking on, George Blakemore called the plan to purchase new voting machines "voodoo economics."

Vice Chairwoman Hairston moved do pass on the substitute. Motion carried by a voice vote.

6. O2019-9432 A communication recommending a proposed amendment of intergovernmental Tax Increment Financing ordinance for Revere Park Fieldhouse and Revere Park Boys and Girls Clubhouse at 2509 W Irving Park Rd.

Chairman Waguespack invited Department of Planning and Development Coordinating Planner Nelson Cheung and Chicago Park District Deputy Director of Budget and Management Beth O'Reilly to speak on the ordinance, which they did.

Ald. Sadlowski-Garza asked if these funds were in addition to what was originally allocated. Cheung said they were, from the previous \$6 million to \$7.5 million.

Ald. Thompson asked if the Tax Increment Financing District the money is drawn from is entirely in the 47th Ward. Chairman Waguespack said three percent of the TIF is in the 32nd Ward, and he supports the allocation. Ald. Thompson asked for the TIF balance. Cheung said he would provide that through the Chair, but the TIF does have surplus funds. Ald. Thompson added that he also wanted to know how much was surplused from the TIF for the 2020 budget. Ald. Thompson asked what changed in the scope of the project. O'Reilly said that the roof needed strengthening to support the air conditioning.

Ald. Tunney asked if the air conditioning was always in the scope of the project. O'Reilly said it was.

Ald. Dowell asked who will do the work. O'Reilly said the project is in for design now, but the Park District would oversee the work, not the Public Buildings Commission.

Vice Chairwoman Hairston asked what the Park District plans are to air condition all their facilities. O'Reilly said the Park District does not have a dedicated program for adding air conditioning to all facilities. Vice Chairwoman Hairston noted that areas without a TIF, or where the TIF is not generating an increment, often do not receive the same facilities or facility upgrades as areas with healthy TIF. Vice Chairwoman Hairston said there needs to be a plan for how to address the needs of areas without a healthy TIF.

Ald. Sposato said he supports the ordinance and asked for clarification concerning the Boys and Girls Club facility at the park. O'Reilly provided the clarification.

Ald. Burnett asked how much of the project is being funded by TIF. O'Reilly said the entire project is TIF funded. Ald. Burnett asked how the Park District used to fund these sorts of projects before TIF. O'Reilly said the Park District capital budget is \$30 million annually for 519 parks and playgrounds and 26 miles of lakefront.

Ald. Villegas asked if the Park District is receiving part of the State's capital budget. O'Reilly said she did not know but would provide the information through the Chair. She further noted that most of the State capital funds are allocated for specific projects.

Chairman Waguespack opened the floor for public comment. George Blakemore said the Park District should not come to the City for funding.

47th Ward Director of Development and Infrastructure Joshua Mack expressed Ald. Martin's support for the ordinance.

Ald. Dowell moved do pass. Motion carried on a voice vote.

- 9. Direct Introduction A proposed order authorizing the payment of various small claims against the City of Chicago.
- 10. Direct Introduction A proposed order denying the payment of various small claims against the City of Chicago.
- 11. Direct Introduction A proposed order authorizing the payment of senior citizen rebate sewer claims.

Chairman Waguespack said that, unless there was an objection, Items 8-10 would be placed on the omnibus agenda at City Council. There was no objection.

7. Direct Introduction A communication transmitting a list of cases in which judgments or settlements were entered into for the month of December 2019.

Chairman Waguespack returned to Item 7. He noted that it would be placed on file with the Clerk but invited Renai Rodney, First Assistant Corporation Council, to answer questions from the Committee.

Ald. Thompson asked about a jury verdict regarding a false arrest where the plaintiff was awarded \$1. Rodney said it was because the plaintiff was pro se, so there were no attorney fees. Ald. Thompson asked about a \$19.25 million payment. Rodney said it stemmed from a case that went to trial, and the City lost. The case was related to a police pursuit that resulted in the fleeing vehicle crashing into an uninvolved vehicle and killing an occupant. The verdict was for \$21,3347,418.72, but City attorneys negotiated the amount down in exchange for agreeing not to appeal the verdict, as well as to settle any potential future claims from victims who had not yet filed suit.

Ald. Thompson asked when the incident happened, and Rodney said 2016. Ald. Thompson asked if there were settlement discussions. Rodney said there were, but they were unable to reach an agreement. Ald. Thompson asked about the City's insurance coverage, and Rodney said the City's insurance covers any payment over \$20 million.

Ald. Lopez noted that the payments on lawsuits cost the City \$93 million in 2019.

Vice Chairwoman Hairston asked about payments to People's Gas. Chairman Waguespack noted that there was a need for someone from the Department of Water Management to speak regarding those, but no one was present. Vice Chairwoman Hairston asked about payments related to Freedom of Information Act lawsuits. Rodney noted that the Illinois Freedom of Information Act includes a provision providing for the payment of attorney's fees if the plaintiff is successful. Vice Chairwoman Hairston asked that a breakdown of those fees paid by the City be provided through the Chair.

Vice Chairwoman Hairston asked about payments related to contract interpretation cases. Chairman Waguespack invited Committee Chief of Staff Anne Emerson to explain. Emerson said those payments were related to various labor contract disputes. Vice Chairwoman Hairston thanked Rodney and Chairman Waguespack for information related to the various payments. Ald. Sposato asked that Rodney provide through the Chair information regarding police department policies on chases. Rodney said she would.

Ald. Dowell asked what the Department of Law is doing to mitigate claims related to damage caused to People's Gas lines. Rodney said she would need to follow up through the Chair.

Ald. Tunney asked what the premium is on the insurance with the \$20 million deductible. Ald. Thompson on a point of information asked if the insurance had ever been used. Rodney said she would need to follow up through the Chair.

Chairman Waguespack moved to the supplemental agenda.

- 1. Direct Introduction Three (3) proposed orders authorizing the Corporation Counsel to enter into and execute a Settlement Order for the following cases:
 - A. <u>Jardinas v. City of Chicago, Rodrigo Corona and Manuel Arroyo</u>, cited as 18 CV 7329. Amount: \$500,000

Chairman Waguespack invited Renai Rodney, First Assistant Corporation Council, to explain Item 1A, which she did.

Ald. Austin asked if video of the incident is available. Chairman Waguespack said the video is on the Civilian Office of Police Accountability website.

Vice Chairwoman Hairston expressed concern because the incident happened after the consent decree was entered into with the U.S. Department of Justice and asked what the officers are doing now. Rodney said the officer shown shoving the plaintiff remains on the force. Ald. Sadlowski-Garza, on a point of information, said her understanding was the officer is actually a field training officer now. Rodney said that, as of July 2019, he was no longer a field training officer.

Vice Chairwoman Hairston said it seems like police are not changing their ways and expressed indignation that Ofc. Corona was a field training officer, especially since he was involved in other incidents.

Ald. Thompson asked if either officer was reprimanded. Rodney said COPA did not propose any reprimand and thought the video was inconclusive due to blind spots. Ald. Thompson asked what the plaintiff demanded, and Rodney said it was \$1 million.

Vice Chairwoman Hairston, on a point of information, asked if the plaintiff was handcuffed to anything, and Rodney said he was not. Ald. Thompson asked why Ofc. Arroyo was named in the suit. Rodney said the suit included a claim for failure to intervene.

Ald. Sadlowski-Garza asked if COPA's findings impact the City's settlement posture. Rodney said that, while they are taken into account, they are not determinative.

Chairman Waguespack opened the floor for public comment. George Blakemore decried institutional racism.

Ald. Tunney moved do pass. Motion carried on a voice vote.

B. <u>Kelly Hespe v. City of Chicago and Gerald Breimon</u>, cited as 13 CV 7998. Amount: \$300,000

Chairman Waguespack invited Renai Rodney, First Assistant Corporation Council, to explain Item 1B, which she did.

Ald. Austin asked if the officer reported the sexual harassment. Rodney said she did not until the relationship ended. Ald. Austin asked how long it went on. Rodney said three years. Ald. Austin expressed skepticism regarding the claims of the plaintiff. Rodney said the officer did not feel the relationship was consensual and felt her career would be harmed if she ended it. Rodney noted that there are text messages and voice mails supporting such a claim.

Ald. Austin asked where the sergeant is now. Rodney said that, in 2019, he retired at the rank of lieutenant. Vice Chairwoman Hairston, on a point of information, asked how he was promoted. Rodney said it was not a merit promotion. Ald. Taliaferro, on a point of information, noted that there are service requirements before one can take the lieutenant's test, and once the test is taken, candidates are promoted based on how they did on the test.

Ald. Austin asked why the City is paying due to the sexual relationship. Rodney explained the City's position.

Ald. Thompson asked if the lieutenant is also settling or has any exposure. Rodney said the lieutenant is not paying any money. Ald. Thompson asked if the lieutenant was ever reprimanded. Rodney said that he was issued a 30-day suspension. The lieutenant then filed an appeal, which was delayed because allegations that the lieutenant lied to investigators caused them to reopen the investigation. The lieutenant then retired before the reopened investigation could be completed.

Chairman Waguespack asked about the disciplinary process, and Rodney explained it.

Ald. Sadlowski-Garza said she was having difficulty understanding why the City was liable, and not the lieutenant. Rodney explained that because the incidents occurred while they were both on the force, sometimes at the police station, and because he was her supervisor, a jury could find that the then-sergeant was acting within the scope of his employment.

Ald. Sposato clarified that the defendant in this case would have been under the sergeant's collective bargaining agreement, not the Fraternal Order of Police bargaining agreement.

Ald. Taliaferro asked if there were depositions, and Rodney said there were. Ald. Taliaferro asked if, in the depositions, the plaintiff admitted to engaging in various sexual conduct. Rodney said the plaintiff admitted to at least some of the conduct Ald. Taliaferro asked about. Ald. Taliaferro said he could not support the settlement because the plaintiff also engaged in inappropriate conduct.

Ald. Burnett asked why the City is a party to this suit. Rodney reminded the Committee about the threatening voicemails and text message. She also said there was evidence of abuse. Ald. Taliaferro, on a point of information, expressed concern that some information was not shared during briefings but made its way to reporters.

Ald. Smith noted that it is very settled case law that employers can be found liable for sexual harassment perpetrated by their employees. Ald. Smith asked what steps the police department has taken to avoid future sexual harassment. Rodney said she would provide that information through the Chair.

Ald. Tunney noted that the City has a responsibility to create a safe workplace. Ald. Tunney asked what the age differential was between the parties. Rodney said she would have to provide that later.

Chairman Waguespack opened the floor for public comment. George Blakemore said that people who work together should not be allowed to date.

Vice Chairwoman Hairston moved do pass. Motion carried on a voice vote, with Ald. Taliaferro voting no.

C. <u>Travon Gardner and Treonia Gardner v. City of Chicago, James Haworth and</u> <u>Zachary Gammonley</u> cited as 18 CV 4251.

Amount: \$150,000

Chairman Waguespack invited Renai Rodney, First Assistant Corporation Council, to explain Item 1C, which she did.

Ald. Sposato asked if there is video or just audio. Rodney said there is video, but it is difficult to decipher. However, the audio is clear.

Ald. Dowell asked about the carpel tunnel claim. Rodney said it was diagnosed by a doctor after the suit was filed. Ald. Dowell asked about Gardner's injuries, and Rodney said it was a carpel sprain, but the City did not have the medial records on that claim yet.

Ald. Austin asked why police stopped the plaintiffs. Rodney said police said they were looking for a shooting suspect, and the driver was using a cellphone. Ald. Austin expressed concern with the conduct of the officers in this case.

Chairman Waguespack opened the floor for public comment. George Blakemore said things have happened to him in the past.

Ald. Dowell asked if the officer had previous complaints. Rodney said they did, and one officer had a sustained complaint. Ald. Dowell asked how long they had been on the force, and Rodney provided that information.

Ald. Sposato asked about the commendations the officers had received, and Rodney provided that information.

Vice Chairwoman Hairston noted that the suit was filed in 2018, after the consent decree, and moved do pass. Motion carried on a voice vote.

 D. Alma Benitez v. Paul Bar, Frank Castale, Thomas Curran, William Davis, Salvador Esparza, Daniel Gallagher, Roberto Garcia, Anthony Glaviano, Richard Hagen, John Halloran, David Hickey, Michael Jackson, William Johnson, Gregory Jones, Jeffrey Malik, Audie Manaois, David March, David, McNaughton, John Murray, Delores Myles, Michael Nestad, Robert Ranzzoni, Beth Svec, Terence Teahan, Peter Torres, Victor Wathen, Anthony Wojcik, cited as 16 CV 9847.

Ald. Villegas moved do not pass. Chairman Waguespack explained that the motion would allow the settlement to be renegotiated. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The Committee having no further business, on a motion by Ald. Tunney, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scotten Jaguespach

Scott Waguespack Chairman, Committee on Finance