

*Wilmington, Delaware  
Louis L. Redding  
City/County Building  
January 31, 2019*

City Council met in **special** session on the above date at 6:30 p.m., President Hanifa Shabazz presiding.

The opening prayer was done by Maribel Seijo, City Clerk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by City Council.

### **ROLL CALL**

The following members responded to the Call of the Roll: Council Members Congo, Oliver, Harlee, Turner, McCoy\*, Williams, Freel, Adams and Guy, and Council President Shabazz. Total, ten. Absent with leave, Council Members Dixon and Walsh. Total, two.

### **MINUTES**

After reading a portion of the minutes of January 24, 2019, upon a motion of Council Member Congo, seconded by Council Member Williams, it was moved they be accepted as written. Motion prevailed.

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

The City Clerk read the following committee report:

<b><u>Committee of the Whole</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent with Leave</u></b>	<b><u>Absent w/out Leave</u></b>
Dr. Hanifa Shabazz, President	X		
Ernest "Trippi" Congo, II	X		
Zanthia Oliver	X		
Michelle Harlee	X		
Va'Shun "Vash" Turner	X		
Yolanda McCoy		X	
Robert A. Williams	X		
Charles M. Freel	X		
Ciro E. Adams	X		
Rysheema J. Dixon		X	
Samuel L. Guy	X		
Loretta Walsh		X	

President and Members of Council of  
The City of Wilmington

January 30, 2019

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, your Committee of the Whole, to who was referred **Substitute No. 1 to Ordinance No. 19-001** entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE  
REGARDING PROCEDURES TO FILL CITY COUNCIL VACANCIES

Have given this Ordinance careful study and recommend Council vote on it accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Ernest Congo, II  
/s/Zanthia Oliver  
/s/Michelle Harlee  
/s/Va'Shun Turner  
/s/Robert A. Williams

/s/Charles M. Freel  
/s/Ciro Adams  
/s/Samuel L. Guy  
/s/Hanifa Shabazz

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The following Treasurer's Report as of January 24, 2019, was read into the record by City Clerk and upon a motion of Council Member Congo, seconded by Council Members Freel and Williams, the Report was received, recorded and filed. Motion prevailed.

*Note: The Treasurer's Report is included herein as an insert from Page 3 to Page 4.*

# City of Wilmington Delaware

**Velda Jones-Potter**  
City Treasurer

Louis L. Redding City/County Building  
800 French Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19801-3537  
(302) 576-2480  
treasurer@wilmingtonde.gov



## City of Wilmington Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2019

**Cash on Hand:**

General Account	M & T Bank	\$7,962,759.81
Central Deposit	M & T Bank	\$183,041.17
Payroll	M & T Bank	\$611,661.86
Total Petty Cash Accounts	M & T Bank	\$12,368.46
Grant-In-Aid	M & T Bank	\$157,881.55
Evidence/Found Currency Account	M & T Bank	\$1,054,546.65
Rent Withholding Escrow	M & T Bank	\$4,137.97
Capital Projects Account	M & T Bank	\$1.00
Cement Workers Escrow	WSFS Bank	\$33,608.24
Police Department Discretionary	M & T Bank	\$31,335.03
Pension Payroll Account	M & T Bank	\$2,243,699.56
Old Non-Uniform Pension Account -Plan 1	M & T Bank	\$1,592.81
Non-Uniform Pension-Plan 2	M & T Bank	\$1,903.79
Non-Uniform Pension Act of 1990-Plan 3	M & T Bank	\$3,377.92
Police Pension Account	M & T Bank	\$2,000.00
Fire Pension Account	M & T Bank	\$2,000.00
Worker's Comp 3rd Party Account	M & T Bank	\$29,914.81
Retiree Healthcare Account	M & T Bank	\$442,725.63
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$12,778,556.26</b>
<b>Total Cash on Hand</b>		<b>\$12,778,556.26</b>

**INVESTMENTS JANUARY 31, 2019:**

Fund	Institution	Invest. Type	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Interest Receivable	Investment Amount
<b>GENERAL FUND:</b>						
General	TD	CD	1/31/2019	2.16%	\$16,740.00	\$3,000,000.00
General	WSFS	CD	2/7/2019	2.21%	\$15,470.00	\$3,000,000.00
General	TD	CD	2/14/2019	2.16%	\$12,600.00	\$3,000,000.00
General	WSFS	CD	2/21/2019	2.35%	\$10,663.96	\$3,011,486.30
General	WSFS	CD	2/28/2019	2.35%	\$15,967.12	\$4,000,000.00
General	WSFS	CD	3/7/2019	2.35%	\$8,979.45	\$2,500,000.00
General	WSFS	CD	3/14/2019	2.35%	\$14,679.45	\$3,000,000.00
General	TD	CD	3/28/2019	2.35%	\$12,287.67	\$2,500,000.00
General	WSFS	CD	3/28/2019	2.35%	\$14,943.10	\$3,014,220.00
General	TD	CD	4/3/2019	2.34%	\$13,260.00	\$3,000,000.00
General	WSFS	CD	4/25/2019	2.35%	\$17,664.64	\$3,015,008.21
General <sup>1</sup>	WSFS	CD	5/3/2019	2.40%	\$124,524.16	\$15,781,707.58
<b>SUB-TOTAL:</b>						<b>\$48,822,422.09</b>
<b>CAPITAL FUND:</b>						
Capital	TD	CD	5/15/2019	2.45%	\$179,196.06	\$25,077,000.00
Capital	WSFS	CD	4/17/2019	2.35%	\$149,675.31	\$22,353,309.84
<b>SUB-TOTAL:</b>						<b>\$47,430,309.84</b>
<b>RISK MGMT:</b>						
Risk Management	TD	CD	7/1/2019	2.41%	\$142,446.01	\$8,059,939.96
Worker's Comp	TD	CD	7/1/2019	2.41%	\$142,446.01	\$8,059,939.96
Retiree Medical Escrow	Vanguard-OPEB					\$19,815,702.00
<b>SUB-TOTAL:</b>						<b>\$35,935,581.92</b>
<b>PENSION FUND:</b>						
Non-Uniform 1990	WSFS	CD	2/27/2019	2.35%	\$9,657.53	\$5,000,000.00
Escrow Pension	Edgar Lomax					\$20,403,463.00
Escrow Pension	Vanguard Fixed					\$37,355,170.00
Escrow Pension	Earnest Partners					\$20,084,195.00
Escrow Pension	Wilmington Trust					\$37,904,216.00
Escrow Pension	Vanguard Stock Index					\$34,941,825.00
Escrow Pension	Artisan Global					\$6,230,436.00
Escrow Pension	Dodge & Cox					\$9,847,086.00
Escrow Pension	Fidelity					\$16,928,801.00
Escrow Pension	Harding Loevner					\$7,381,513.00
Escrow Pension	MFS Management					\$17,473,201.00
Escrow Pension	Clarion Lyon					\$6,006,575.00
Escrow Pension	Morgan Stanley					\$5,800,000.00
<b>SUB-TOTAL:</b>						<b>\$225,356,481.00</b>
<b>OTHER:</b>						
Deferred Comp	MassMutual					\$46,011,510.43
Port Debt	WSFS	CD	6/6/2019	2.40%	\$22,284.93	\$2,548,246.00
<b>Total Investments</b>						<b>\$406,104,551.28</b>
<b>Total Cash on Hand</b>						<b>\$12,778,556.26</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>						<b>\$418,883,107.54</b>

<sup>1</sup> Budget Reserve

  
**Velda Jones-Potter, City Treasurer**

## NON-LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Upon a motion of Council Member Congo, seconded by Council Members Freel and Williams, to accept non-legislative business. Motion prevailed.

President Shabazz noted that there was no non-legislative business this evening.

## LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

President Shabazz: Any legislation this evening Councilman Congo?

Council Member Congo: No Madam President, thank you.

President Shabazz: Council Member Oliver.

Council Member Oliver: Nothing tonight Madam President.

President Shabazz: Council Member Harlee.

Council Member Harlee: Yes, Madam President, I have an Ordinance to present and call for the third and final reading.

Council Member Harlee presented and called for the third and final reading Ordinance No. 19-001 (Agenda #4614) entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 OF THE  
CITY CODE REGARDING PROCEDURES TO FILL  
CITY COUNCIL VACANCIES

Council Member Harlee: Madam President, I have a **Substitute** to present in lieu of that ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 OF THE  
CITY CODE REGARDING PROCEDURES TO FILL  
CITY COUNCIL VACANCIES

Upon a motion of Council Member Harlee, seconded by Council Member Freel, the Substitute Ordinance was before the Council for consideration. Motion prevailed.

Council Member Harlee: Yes, Madam President. I would like to first of all, make a motion for a floor amendment. On page 2, under number 1C, I would like to strike out “an Executive Session,” for language that now reads “interview each qualada, qualified candidate.” Um, yesterday, during the Committee of . . .

President Shabazz: We need a second, acceptance of your amendment.

Council Member Harlee: Yes.

Council Member Oliver: Second.

President Shabazz: It's been moved and second that we accept the amendment as presented. Was you finish with the amendment, quoting the amendment? Or did you have more?

Council Member Harlee: Yes. I finished quoting the amendment; I was just going to speak about it.

President Shabazz: Okay, so now, let me get the acceptance of the amendment. All those in favor of acceptance of the floor amendment say aye. (Ayes) Are there opposed?

Council Member Freel: No.

President Shabazz: Okay. You may continue.

Council Member Harlee: Uh, yes. As I was stating, um, yesterday during the Committee of the Whole, Pro Temp Congo had asked about the public being able to be a part of the session during the interview for the candidates, so I, I wanted to incorporate that into this amendment, and I also wanted to make sure that it's inclusive, to make sure that it can move forward.

President Shabazz: So, we've already moved the, did we already move the amendment?

Maribel Seijo (City Clerk): Mhm.

President Shabazz: Okay. So now we're back to the Ordinance as amended.

Maribel Seijo (City Clerk): Mhm.

Council Member Harlee: Okay.

President Shabazz: On the question?

Council Member Harlee: Yes, so, again, on yesterday, during the Committee of the Whole . . .

President Shabazz: I know we talked about the amendment, but you wanna talk about the Ordinance as amended? Do you have any other comments before I open it up to the floor?

Council Member Harlee: Umm, well, yes, I would like to also say that the Substitute Ordinance amends Section 2-34 of the City Code, which sets forth procedures to fill City Council vacancy, that allowing all members of Council to be a part of the committee that recommends to Council an individual to fill the Council vacancy. As we all know, that current legisla-, legislation (ahem, excuse me) needs a five-member committee. Um, the Ordinance is intended to change the procedures by which Council appoints a person to fill a vacancy with a legislative body. In an effort to clarify procedures and make the process more inclusive of all of my City Council colleagues, this Ordinance also lays out the various stages of the process for filling a Council vacancy with the intent of clarifying this process as well as ensuring it flows smoothly and each candidate receives equal treatment in consideration with steps to ensure confidentiality. The same questions being asked of each candidate in the clear, codified process for express and interest and being considered to fill a vacancy on City Council. I just wanna say for the record that, again, the intent of this legislation is to be inclusive of all of my Council members and for us to get this seat filled as soon as possible, and I'm looking forward to my Council colleagues who have expressed that they want to get this done as soon as possible so we can move on with the business of the City, well, tonight is the time for us to do that. Thank you.

President Shabazz: Would you please recognize Council Member McCoy being present, please?

Maribel Seijo (City Clerk): So, noted.

*\*Note: At this time, Council Member McCoy was marked present and reflected in the minutes herein (Roll Call).*

President Shabazz: Council Member Williams.

Council Member Williams: Thank you, Madam President, and I appreciate Councilwoman Harlee making that friendly amendment. But I just wanna make sure that there is a portion whereby there will be public comment from the residents of that district. We even had it on our, our agenda last night, but it was an opportunity for public comment; and we blew right through it. We didn't give the people a chance to speak. And I go back, to the spirit of a legislation which was enacted in 2006, and it says, specifically, that this would be an open process per President Blunt at the time, and Mr. Potter said okay, I needed to know that, 'cause it was important at that time when this thing was enacted. You know, we're, we're using everything but superglue to, to get this legislation moving. I mean, I had prepared an amendment to, to strike the whole thing, and I'm still waiting, I still get a second chance to speak, I'm still waiting to see whether I wanna go through that, so I wanna hear what my Council colleagues have to say, but I

have a, I'm prepared to ask to just strike the whole thing now, so we can start over. That's all I have for right now.

President Shabazz: Councilman Congo.

Council Member Congo: Yes, thank you Madam President. Are we able to give, can you give us and give the public, a timeline, an, an expected timeline of what takes place, if this passes the steps that, that takes place after this?

President Shabazz: Well, it would, it would, I couldn't give you one tonight, because there's so many factors that we would have to, to check to make sure the time fits conveniently with everyone . . .

Council Member Congo: Mhm.

President Shabazz: . . . so I, I, our goal is to get it done as quickly as possible, as hopeful within the next - - I would give them a week to two weeks, but there's so many people they need to contact if there was going to be, arranged that to give a time, to give you a time line right off the top of my head right now, I, I, I could not do that, that would be giving injustice to, mislead the people but knowing that we would move this as quickly as possible, um, as I stated last night.

Council Member Congo: Just a follow up? Are we accepting new applicants or only those from the pool that we already have?

President Shabazz: We would continue with the applicants that are currently, have applied.

Council Member Congo: Okay. Just a, another follow-up. I know you can't get specific, specifics, but what, what's your, we're gonna have a meeting, we're gonna, once, once you reach out to the applicants and they all agree on a time they can be here, then you'll call another public meeting and then ask, or we'll have input and then after that, what happens? We recommend a person and in that following Council meeting, we vote, vote that person in or out, how's that, how, what's that?

President Shabazz: The specifics of the process has not been completely finalized. We have to get past the pass of the Ordinance. And, then we know what the steps, things that need to be done and I can't answer, give you anything finite until I, we know exactly what process we're following.

Council Member Congo: Okay, thank you.

President Shabazz: Mhm. Councilman Adams.



Council Member Adams: Yes ma'am, thank you. We seem to have a lot of difficulty with this Ordinance and as Councilman Williams mentioned the old procedure went all the way back to 2006 and did allow for public input on, so I realize we're passing this legislation this evening in order to make sure that our inability to follow the procedures before that we can make a change, I strongly suggest and would like to move that we add a provision, a sunset provision into this Ordinance that it expires as of December 31, 2020, so that once this Council is no longer in session that the following Council can go back to the old way of doing things and handle things accordingly like they had for many years. So, I'd like to make a motion to amend the Ordinance that's on the floor, I guess the amended Substitute Ordinance, that we put a sunset provision in there that that Ordinance would expire December 31, 2020, I say to those of my colleagues who are going to vote no on this, if the Ordinance does pass, at least we'd have a provision in there that it is done away with at the end of this Council session, so, I certainly would appreciate a second on this and have a vote on it. Thank you.

Council Member Freel: I'll second the motion of his comments.

President Shabazz: It's been, an amendment has been made and it's been seconded, all those in favor signify by saying aye (aye). All those opposed (no). Could we do a hand, could we do a hand count, please? All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Council Member Turner: Voice vote?

President Shabazz: Hand count please.

Council Member Oliver: This is for it?

President Shabazz: These are ayes, for the people, those in support of it.

Council Member Guy: Point of order, point of order.

President Shabazz: One second. Your point, sir.

Council Member Guy: Um, yes. There was a motion that was seconded and you never said on the question so that we can debate the motion to amend.

President Shabazz: You mean his amendment?

Council Member Guy: Yes. He made a motion to amend, he seconded it, then you . . .

President Shabazz: On the question.

Council Member Guy: . . . (inaudible) - - the motion and we get to argue the vote.

President Shabazz: Your, your, your point, your point is well taken, sir. On the question on the amendment proposed by Councilman Adams, before we take the vote. Yes, Councilman Guy.

Council Member Guy: Yes, as I view it, the spirit of all of this, the Charter, gave Wilmington City Council, that's thirteen people, the authority to fill the vacancies under the existing set of circumstances. The Wilmington City Charter also gave this body of Council, back when we had thirteen to create the Rules of Council, and in 2006, a group of Council people and the mayor decided that they wanted to handcuff themselves and they passed this Ordinance. So, one question is, given that we're entitled to make rules for this Council, is whether or not that Ordinance is even binding on us. That's one court question that has never actually been addressed. And, Councilman Williams made a comment about the whole thing needs to be erased and so to some degree Councilman Adams' motion is like getting halfway to a wreck, erasing, it's not erasing it now, but it's gonna erase it later, but I'ma still go back to the fundamental principle that my dad taught me and that is you don't let people change the rules of a game in the middle of a game, especially when you're fighting for adherence to a process and folks have been doing whatever they wanna do and that hasn't worked, and now they wanna change the rules to get a chance to do whatever they wanna do again. So, I, I understand the spirit of your amendment, but it goes halfway there. Nobody should ever interfere with us being able to address this by rule. That's my comments, Madam Chair.

President Shabazz: Councilman Congo, on the question.

Council Member Congo: Yes, thank you Madam Chair. I guess I'm trying, I'm struggling with, maybe somebody can help me, trying to understand the reason for the sunset provision? Because if, if the next, the next Council decides to do away with it, can't they just do it themselves? Can't they just deal with it when they come into session? So, there's no need for a sunset provision? I just don't understand it, totally.

President Shabazz: Okay. Well that's the, the, uh Councilman who presented his reason in amendment explained it, I can't speak on his, on his um, report.

Council Member Congo: Yes, maybe if he can clarify that for me, if, if that's, that's reasonable, . . .

President Shabazz: Councilman.

Council Member Congo: . . . 'cause I don't see the, the need for it.

Council Member Adams: Yes, thank you, Madam President, like Councilman Guy said, we're trying to amend the current procedure so that this Council

will, at least, get to an end point in the process. So, what I'm saying is, is, that, yes, okay, we'll use this process but, this process is just for this session of Council and at the end of it, ah the new Council can decide how they wanna manage themselves and govern their own rules. I don't think that this provision should carry on over to define another session of Council and dictate to them what should be done or what shouldn't be done. Let them pick and choose for themselves. And, so, in essence, ah, Councilman Guy is right in trying to find us this halfway point between erasing the thing entirely and having the thing set in stone where nobody changes it, so, yes, it's a compromise which never implies optimize but we're trying to get something here through, ah, Council and I thought that adding that provision would make it much more acceptable to everybody here on the floor. Thank you.

President Shabazz: Councilman Williams, on the question.

Council Member Williams: Disregard, ma'am. Thank you.

President Shabazz: Councilwoman Harlee, on the question.

Council Member Harlee: Yes, thank you Council President. So, if our intent and motive, is to get the seat filled, how is a sunset provision um addressing that situation? That's what I would like to ask my Councilman, my Council colleague.

President Shabazz: I, I, I, I, well I, I think he just gave his reason for it, but . . .

Council Member Harlee: Well, let me clarify the question, the question is, will the seat get filled between now and 2020?

President Shabazz: Well I, I think the only thing that he had stated was just that, if the process still would go, still be enacted, it just, that would not be the process after 2020. That's, I think, if I am interpret the conversation, his, his statement.

Council Member Harlee: I just wanted clarification. Yes.

President Shabazz: (inaudible) - - clarification...your hand up sir?

Council Member Turner: We, we on the motion or we on the question?

President Shabazz: We're on the ques-, still on the question.

Council Member Turner: On the motion, though?

President Shabazz: On his amendment, we're still on the question of... Councilman Guy.

Council Member Guy: Yes, Madam Chair. You know, we've had a serious number of meetings and it's, it's so funny to me, it's absurd. The Charter says Council fills the seat. So, nobody can do anything inconsistent with the Charter. And this is one of them moments where a legislative body has to realize like, when do we have authority to make decisions? And, when do we let people usurp our authority? Now, in 2006, somebody usurped our authority in 2019, by agreeing with a mayor to put a law in place. It's none of the mayor's business to get to veto it or not veto it. In fact, nobody in here even knows if we pass any law whether the veto, the mayor's gonna be okay with it, because he has say through the five people. So, he may wanna keep say through the five people, can't nobody make no comments about anything about this. But what we do know is, if somebody ever said to us did we comply with the Charter, if we all vote on somebody and we have seven people to put a person in place, whoever in the world ever asks us, we did just say yes, we complied with the Charter because thirteen of us, or twelve of us, in a majority of seven picked somebody. But if, there was some kind of person who wanted to throw some mess in the game and tried to accuse us of not complying with the Code, whether we think the Code is stupid or we think it makes sense, we've actually complied with the Code. So, at some point in time, we can't continue to hide behind like the biggest lie that continuously gets told. And that is saying, we haven't complied with the Code. There's a video tape of it on the internet. The committee recommended what they wanted to do, and we played fair. We didn't know that they was gonna play dirty; we played fair and we accepted their recommendation and folks debated it and voted on it. So, we did everything that that Code provision required, but at the end of the day, it's our duty as the thirteen, now twelve, to comply with the Charter. We're screwing over the people in the 1<sup>st</sup> District because we could've voted tonight on 1, 2, 3, 4 different people.

President Shabazz: Thirty seconds, Councilman Guy.

Council Member Guy: But no, we playing all these footsie games because there's hidden hands interfering with our business. Everybody on this floor knows that we're authorized to vote by Resolution. We just got folks acting like we can't, and we got people outside of Council interfering with us to meeting our duty to the people. So, . . .

President Shabazz: Time.

Council Member Guy: . . . all this stuff about . . .

President Shabazz: Time Councilman Guy. Thank you.

Council Member Guy: Where's the Resolution? Thank you, Madam President.

President Shabazz: Any other questions on the question? Councilman Adams.

Council Member Adams: Yes ma'am, thank you. Again, the former ah, Code, since 2006, I think was used four times successfully to fill vacant seats and now I, we as a session, seemed to get stuck on that issue come 2018, so, since we had four successes and one failure, now we feel like we gotta change the program, and all I'm saying is let's just change the program for ourselves; whoever comes after us can go back to the old way of success and fulfill that seat or make any other rule or Ordinance that they want at that time. So, this is, as you can see, Council Lady Harlee is making this Ordinance specifically for this session so that we can get to an end point, and all I'm saying is, is hey, when we get to an end point, let's finish this and let it expire with our own session. Thank you very much.

President Shabazz: Any other questions on the question? Then I ask that we vote on the proposed amendment to add a sunset statement into the Ordinance, Substitute Ordinance, as proposed by Councilman Harlee. All those in favor will signify by . . .

Maribel Seijo (City Clerk): By Adams.

President Shabazz: I mean, excuse me, the amend, the Ordinance was proposed by Harlee, but the amendment's proposed by Adams to add a subset statement in the Ordinance. All those in favor, signify by a hand, your hand raised please, all those in favor. All those opposed?

Council Member Turner: Aye.

President Shabazz: The amendment was, the amendment was defeated. For the, for the sunset. So, now we're back to the Ordinance as presented by Council Member Harlee. Councilman McCoy did you have comment you wanted to make on the Ordinance as proposed by Harlee?

Council Member McCoy: Yes, thank you Madam President. I, I do apologize for being tardy, so this question may have been asked, I just wanted to make sure that I have clarity as well. Because we received conflicting information, um, I wanted to be certain that the Ordinance that will be passed, that may be passed this evening, if it is passed, we will be using it to fill the vacancy at this time. That we will not do any tomfoolery and do something else with the Special Committee. We will be using this Ordinance as a whole Council to choose the, the next person to fill the 1st District?

President Shabazz: That would be an enacted Ordinance that we would operate under.

Council Member McCoy: Okay.

President Shabazz: Correct, yes ma'am.

Council Member McCoy: Well, I just wanted to state if that is going to be the case then I will be um supporting this Ordinance.

President Shabazz: Thank you. Councilman Freel.

Council Member Freel: Yes, Madam President, I gotta speak up, after Mr. Guy's comments about cheating and dirty hands and all that. And we've heard that at so many meetings and we've heard such self-righteous dignation about the public comment period and all that, and I wanna go back a couple months to how this whole thing started. We found out in November that we had a vacant seat after the election. At that time, we followed what was in the Code as far as filling that seat, which set up a Special Committee by the President to take applications, interview folks and make a selection. That was done. We selected an individual as a Special Committee, it was announced to the public, it was announced to Councilmembers. It was put on the agenda for December 6th, so there would be public comment that night. The night before, the night before that meeting, an email went out to all Councilmembers from a Council member, basically debate, debating that Resolution and asking to submit another Resolution in its place with another name.

Now, I hear all the time about open government, transparency, public notice; in my opinion, that whole electronic meeting was illegal. But it happened. We had the meeting the next night, Council was able to vote, they voted that person down. We accept that. The next thing could've happened was to bring the Committee back and pick another person. Nobody wanted to do that. The community kept talking about a special election. Councilmembers don't wanna do that. Now let's be honest here. The reason the original candidate was rejected, because I had Councilmembers on this floor talking about how he was a good dude, he's a good guy, he's done a lot in the community. The reason he was rejected, probably one of the reasons was because I supported his candidacy. I mean we know, we know what's been said out there, the personal attacks on myself that have been going on out there, so maybe that's why some Councilmembers rejected this individual; I don't know. But they rejected him, he got voted down. We've had a Councilmember come forward and say enough is enough, let's try to get the situation settled so the 1st District can have representation. She has an Ordinance here tonight, which Councilmembers still feel isn't perfect, and maybe it's not, but I think if we pass it tonight, and we set a goal of trying to have a name before us by the second meeting in February, I think we can accomplish that. And if not, if it doesn't pass, then I propose the Committee come back together, the Special Committee come back together, and propose another candidate for the 1st District. Thank you.

President Shabazz: Councilwoman Oliver.

Council Member Oliver: Thank you Madam President. I just wanted to echo a little bit off of Councilman Bud. I was in that Committee, there was no dirtiness going on in that committee, and I just wanna skip pass everything you said, but just to go back to if the Committee did some illegal, I would say some of the Council, one of our Councilmembers did something illegal by putting in a name, other individual from the 1st

District, which is excluding all the other individuals who did interview. So, if, if we've hand-picked the person, that you done hand-pick the person, I don't get it. So, if we did something illegal, Councilmember has done something illegal. I think what Council Member Bud said, Councilwoman Harlee's came up with something I think is a good idea, let's just move on. If everybody wants the seat filled in the 1st District, this is a good way to get the seat filled, and let's just stop all the rhetoric. That's my, that's all I have to say.

President Shabazz: Councilwoman McCoy.

Council Member McCoy: Thank you. Actually, I just wanted to piggy-back off of that which you stated. I'm so glad that my Council colleague was able to put this through, but when I had actually asked the question, I was made aware that we could not do it retroactively. That was the reason why it didn't go out as fast as it should have. That was the whole reason for the, having the special meeting and everything else, and so, because of the fact that it was that conflicting information, that's kind of why we're still here doing this in 2019. That was the reason why I went ahead and asked to make certain that there was clarity that we would be able to use this Ordinance now to fill that seat, because when I asked can we do something about the procedure back in 2018 so that we could do some-, you know, fill that seat, I was told that whatever we put together would not be used, could not be used retroactively to fill that seat. And that was exactly the reason why I just asked the question that I have. I'm like we, we definitely want to make certain that our 1st District, 1st District has its uh, representative, and I, I'm not gonna say anything about special committee or anything like that; it was more so, um, and my reason was a little different, Bud is my colleague, I do not, you know, I don't get into those types of things, but it was my personal reasons was more so about not looking as though all we do is pass favors back and forth between each other, it was the reason why I felt as though the selected person was not the best person to choose. So that, I'm sorry, that, that was basically all that I had to say.

President Shabazz: Thank you Councilwoman McCoy. Councilman Williams.

Council Member Williams: Thank you Madam President. I wanna echo Councilwoman Yolanda McCoy's sentiments in that we need to have clear and concise and specific language from the Law Department saying that what we're about to vote on will be the governing Ordinance that will allow us to go forward because if they could see a Code prior to this Ordinance being voted on. And, you know, I'm, I'm gonna back to the open portion of what this thing is supposed to be about and, and I'm looking right here, at the 2006 Ordinance, talking about openness, talking about inclusiveness, and the roll call vote, it was Potter, Griffiths, Dayton, Shabazz, Ignudo, Kelley, Freel, Blunt and Gregory that voted in favor. So, we have two Councilmembers sitting with us who were part of this debate, and, I'm, I'm just dying to hear something from you to tell us what the spirit of this Ordinance was, for it to, to remain in effect. And I'm, it's, it's coming down to, to the debate that occurred around this Ordinance, whether we should scrap it and just

use the Charter and make a selection and be done with this and then resurrect it based on the feelings of this committee, this, this, this Council, and, and, and bring it back to life. Because if, if we're just, like I say, rubber bands, duct tape, bubblegum trying to get this thing down the road, for what? I need to know that this, what we're contemplating this evening is the law that will allow us to go forward.

President Shabazz: Council, Council . . .

Council Member Freel: I believe I'm one of the people he's, he's looking at.

President Shabazz: Say it again.

Council Member Freel: It's my response, I believe I'm one of the two he's . . .

Council Member Williams: I'd appreciate it.

President Shabazz: Please respond Councilman Freel.

Council Member Freel: Prior to that date, it was pretty much just left up to the President on who could be a candidate for a vacancy. They normally did pick a subcommittee of Councilmembers and at one time, I think it was maybe only three members that were on the committee. So, President Blunt decided he wanted to codify some sort of process so that it would stand as we moved forward because we do have a vacancy every, maybe every four, six, eight years and they thought that this was a process that would work, and that's why they moved forward with it. Now, I've gotta be honest with you, I never recall the public being involved in the actual interviews. We took public comment, either written comment, comment at Council members, but the reason the public really wasn't involved in the interviews was 'cause it wouldn't be fair to those folks that interview early in the process, because we always use the same set of questions. So, it wouldn't be fair to those folks when folks coming later in the process, and by that point learn what all the questions were, prepare answers and things like that. So, the interviews were use, normally done in Executive Session, that's always the way it's been. Now, I know we changed it to nine, that's fine. But that's, that's what happened. It was pretty loosey-goosey up to that point, President Blunt wanted to codify it, and that's, and that's the process we came up with.

President Shabazz: (inaudible)...

Council Member Freel: Yeah, and that was a great process, you know, obviously, this Council feels that it's not. I understand that, they wanna change it, and that's fine. Let's just do it the right way. I'm not sure I understand this whole retroactive thing. The vacancy still exists. I mean the vacancy still sits there, so, we're just not coming up with a method to fill it. I don't know if that helps or not, but . . .



President Shabazz: I'm too confused about the retroactive. I've never heard anything about a question about retroactive, so. That, that was never brought to my attention. So, I'm confused about that, as well, Councilwoman McCoy.

Council Member Williams: If, if I could follow for clarity just, just quickly one question, surrounding what, what they were speaking of and, and based on my readings here is that, I don't think they were gonna sit in on the interview process but there was going to be a public forum where folks can come in and talk about the candidate and, and allow for the Councilmembers to hear that, is, is what I read into the, into the spirit of the Ordinance.

President Shabazz: And I'm one of those Councilmembers at that time, and I don't ever recall, several different vacancy um, um, seats to be filled in that type of process took place where the public weighed in on the, on the candidate. I'm speaking about my history. Councilman Guy.

Council Member Guy: Yes. We keep talking about having to go through all of these changes, but we already went through them. We had all, we had the meeting with the ad hoc, they made a recommendation, it was defeated. We could put a check next that. We did it. We have a Charter that says it's still our duty to fill the seat. We don't get to duck and hide behind whether an Ordinance passes or doesn't pass. The Charter made it our responsibility. If the Charter wanted us to pass or pick somebody in accordance by a law passed by Council and approved by the Mayor, that's what our Charter would say. It's not what it says. They told us to make a decision, 'cause they trusted us to handle the legislative body's business without interference from the executive side. But what did people do in 2006? They brought the executive side in it. If I'm the Mayor, of course I want the president to be able to have four people sitting at table, because now you got this little country club of people that can operate in secrecy and do whatever they wanna do.

That's what the people in power always make these agreements amongst themselves, and then they get other people to go along with it, thinking that it's something that's legit. Every problem that we have can happen again with this law. Why? Our problem in this has been, #1, we've had legislation that has not been put on the agenda, related to these topics. Why? Because the Chair has decided she's not putting it on the agenda. There's no authority in the Code or the Charter to do that. In fact, it's to the contrary. Our rule, Rule 2, says the agenda shall list all legislative and non-legislative matters proposed by their sponsors for consideration at the meeting. So, we gotta read what our rules says. So, how is one person refusing to put the Resolution that I sponsored, along with three other members of Council. Councilman Turner, Councilwoman Dixon and Councilman Congo submitted it for multiple meetings. So, what would make you think that we're gonna, by changing to some other process that what has been totally violative of rights of members of Council, isn't gonna continue on? And if folks wanna pick somebody's name, the Council President is still gonna say I'm not putting that Resolution on the agenda if they want to. 'Cause that's what they just did.

So, if you're trying to fill the seat, we already complied with the Code, there's a Resolution that's supposed to be on the agenda tonight, and the last several meetings. Six people were on this Council floor and said that they support Council, Subira Ibrahim, six people. I had the video clip. Six people, including me.

President Shabazz: Thirty seconds.

Council Member Guy: Councilwoman Harlee said yesterday she supports Subira Ibrahim. So, while we playing all these games when seven people call a special meeting. So, if there were seven people who wanted to vote yes, this mess could've been over weeks ago. But, the Law Department and other people . . .

President Shabazz: Time's up, Councilman.

Council Member Guy: . . . interfered. Thank you.

President Shabazz: Councilwoman Oliver. Did you have something?

Council Member Oliver: I'll come back.

Council Member Freel: Can I make a point of order?

Council Member Oliver: Yeah.

Council Member Freel: Can we keep the discussion to the one agenda item that we have?

Council Member Oliver: That's what I'm talking about.

President Shabazz: Your point of well taken sir. So, everyone's Comments please continue to address the Ordinance that we're, that we are speaking to this evening. Councilman Congo.

Council Member Congo: Yes, first I want to address statements from Councilman Freel and Councilwoman Oliver, saying that someone on Council did something illegal. So, just to clear the air, they're talking about me, and if, if I can't, if I, I was an alternate on the committee, so, if I can't give my opinion of who I think should be the nominee, and especially when I know that the, the current nominee wasn't going to be, wasn't going to be supported and wasn't gonna be voted in, then do what you have to do legally. I did nothing illegal. I did it in the spirit of, of filling that seat immediately so we, so we still wouldn't be here two months later. So, if they wanna say I did something illegal by suggesting that we submit a name that might get passed when we already had a name that we knew wasn't gonna get passed, and we embarrass that young man publicly, and we could've embarrassed him, but I was the one who reached out and said don't come. You might not wanna come because you're not gonna pass and nobody in that

committee reached out; and I did something illegal. I'll live with that, and I'll do it again. But my, my spirit was to move it along so that seat could've been filled back in December. And here we are, two months later, still playing with it. So, let the, let the chips fall where they may, but, I wanted to clear the air 'cause they were talking about me and, and I take full responsibility for what I did because I did it with a good spirit and with that 1st District and this Council and the whole city in, in, in mind. Thank you.

Council Member Oliver: Madam President.

President Shabazz: And if I can say, I think the issue was not the spirit or intention – (inaudible)..., it's the following of the Code, the law and the process. We can do what needs to be done, but we have to do it in line with the Code, the, the Charter, the Code and the Council Rules which we took an oath for, and all we're trying to do is to do it as we are, as legislators, are responsible for doing . . .

Council Member Congo: And just like a committee recommended somebody ....

President Shabazz: ...wait ...

Council Member Congo: I would be part of that committee and I recommended somebody, so, they can't say I did something illegal. That's not even fair. I was there, and I heard every interview.

President Shabazz: It was the process, that, how it was done. It was the process of how it was done, which was questioning. Even when you came to me with the conversation, I said, how do I do that? How do I do that outside of the process? And if we did, could go back into the, the process, it had to fill it out, we had to proceed with the process of it, of, of what, of um, um doing what we were charged to do. And, . . .

Council Member Congo: I'd like to follow up, I'd like to follow up when you're finished, please.

President Shabazz: Well, you had your two time, I'm, we're not gonna debate that point there, we're not gonna debate . . .

Council Member Congo: That was not, nah, that was not three minutes.

President Shabazz: (inaudible)...

Council Member Congo: That was not three minutes. I went to you, I went to the committee and I went to the Mayor, so we wouldn't be here today. All I was trying to do is fix, fix it . . .

President Shabazz: And I was, and I shared with you Councilman Congo

....

Council Member Congo: . . . excuse me, I was talking Madam President.

President Shabazz: Well you cut me off, too, Councilman.

Council Member Congo: No, I didn't. No, I did not.

President Shabazz: Yes, you did.

Council Member Congo: No, I did not.

President Shabazz: I was talking, and you cut me off.

Council Member Turner: He has the floor.

Council Member Congo: I came to you, . . .

President Shabazz: I, I...

Council Member Congo: . . . I came to the Mayor, . . .

President Shabazz: . . . I, I give the floor.

Council Member Congo: . . . and I came to the committee.

President Shabazz: I give the floor.

Council Member Oliver: Come on Vash.

President Shabazz: And he stopped talking I responded to him and he cut me off. Again, if you allow me to do my job, and I can do it the best of my ability, then I, we can get past this. We're trying to follow a process, we're trying to create a process for us to follow that's within the law. Our feelings, our emotions, our spirits got nothing to do with, with the oaths that we took or when we come on this floor. All we're trying to do is to choose, with her Ordinance, is trying to create a process that we all could live with. Because per my understanding of the Code, the Charter, the Code and the Rules, it says for us to, to identify a person and recommend a person and then come before Council. It didn't say only do it once. It said to do it. So, if we have to come back five, six, seven, eight times, until we get a vote, a majority vote, that's what we were charged to do. And so, when we didn't wanna do that, the comments was from other Council members that they wanted other, other - more inclusive, so we came up with a change of Rule, for the proposed Ordinance that's here today, to do, that should include everybody's comments and concerns but no matter what we do, there's still something

else that doesn't meet it. If we're so eager, it's called compromise. We're trying to compromise. I think we have compromised by changing the Rules in the process to include a, make it a Committee of the Whole, to have all Councilmembers to have input of their choosing, but that's still not satisfactory. So, I, my goal today is to come up with what, if it's such urgency, who was willing to compromise to accept what's on the table today so that we can make this decision and by the second week of February, if we, if this goes through, we could have what everyone is asking for, which is a 1st District, a person to replace the person in the 1st District.

Council Member Oliver: Madam President.

Council Member Congo: Just a follow up, please, Madam President.

President Shabazz: Councilman Congo.

Council Member Congo: Thank you. If that were the spirit, that, when we, when we voted down Al Mills, everybody on Council floor gave their, their input of why they didn't. If there, if it were the spirit, we wouldn't have brought his name back that next week. But, I'ma let that go, I'ma, I'm gonna support this because I think that is, I think it's our duty to fill that seat. But don't try to, don't try to say I did something illegal. Because that's, that's not where my spirit was. If it was a spirit of the Council to, to go by what the Council felt, it wouldn't have brought his name back that second week trying to get it passed two weeks in a row. They would've brought somebody's name who, who they knew could've passed. But that, that's not what was done. But I'm done. I don't, I don't wanna argue with you, I don't wanna . . .

President Shabazz: Thank you.

Council Member Congo: . . . I don't wanna do that. But I'm not gonna let them say that I did something illegal. That's not fair, and that wasn't my intent. And I was a part of that committee.

President Shabazz: Okay. Okay. Point, point taken. Thank you.  
Councilman Turner.

Council Member Turner: Thank you, Madam President . . .

Andrea Queen (Deputy Clerk): No.

President Shabazz: I'm sorry, Councilwoman Oliver.

Andrea Queen (Deputy Clerk): She had her hand up.

Council Member Oliver: I was next.

Council Member Turner: Who - she called on me. She called on me next.  
You called me

President Shabazz: I'm trying to go in order, just trying to be fair.

Council Member Oliver: Go ahead, just go ahead.

Council Member Turner: Is this, is this . . .

President Shabazz: Councilman Turner.

Council Member Turner: Is this my first five minutes?

President Shabazz: Councilman Turner.

Council Member Turner: Is this my first five minutes?

President Shabazz: Yes, it is.

Council Member Turner: Thank you.

President Shabazz: Quiet in the gallery please.

Council Member Turner: Um, Councilman Harlee, Councilwoman Harlee, I, I commend you on what you, what your intentions was. I think that a lot of us still have questions Councilwoman McCoy, I don't know if we got clarity if we vote on this tonight, would just be retroactive, you know, some of us was told that, that it wouldn't be retroactive so I'm assuming that every, anything we vote on here amending or anything like that would be retroactive to the current process, that'd be correct.

Council Member Harlee: That's correct.

Council Member Turner: Okay. Alright. So, what I'ma do is, right, is we gonna put it back. I want to make a motion to amend and strike, strike out in sentence 1, to go back to the old Ordinance; I'll strike out "Committee of the Whole" and insert "Special Committee"; also wanna, where we go to Section D of 1 where it says "Committee of the Whole", strike "Committee of the Whole", add "Special Committee". We'll go to #1, #1 says "the Special Committee", says "the Committee of the Whole", strike out "of the whole" and insert "special" in front of "committee".

President Shabazz: Can I get clarification of Special Selection Committee or Special Committee.

Council Member Turner: So, the special select, what we had in the original, so we gonna go back to the original other amending, and I'll, and I'll get to what I'm doing, doing once I get to the end. So, because the process that we, we have currently is a Special Committee, correct?

President Shabazz: Special Selection Committee.

Council Member Turner: Okay, Special Selection Committee. So, what I want you to do, insert, strike out this substitute, strike out, in 1, where it says, "of the whole", in front of "committee", put "Special Selection Committee". Then we're gonna go to 1D, gonna strike out where it says "Committee of the Whole", insert "Special Selection Committee" in front of the word "committee", then come down to #3 where it says strike out "of the whole" and put "Special Selection Committee" in front of the word "committee," and then in #4, I want you to insert, in #4, "If the Special Committee Resolution fails to approve the accordance with the, with the section of the City Code, any member of City Council who is not a member of the Special Committee may propose by resolution his or her recommendation of a person who is qualified in accordance to the City Charter." So, what this would do to give light, we ought to insert #4, and anybody on this floor that's outside of the five Special Committee, such as Councilman Congo that was an alternate, can put a Resolution in tonight. Or anytime at the next meeting we have the power to do that since this, since this language will be vote on tonight, it would be retroactive, we ain't got to play a game about no Special Committee, I mean a Committee of the Whole, let's go with the current process and anyone that was outside of the five people that was selected can introduce a Resolution, because this right here, you just told me, that this would be retroactive. So, we gonna go back to the old, the old language and insert #4, where anyone outside of the Special Selection Committee can introduce a Resolution. Can I get a second?

Council Member Guy: Second.

President Shabazz: There's a motion on the floor to make an amendment as so noted, and I don't know if it's all captured, so noted as by Councilman Turner, and it's been second that the amendments that he proposed be made.

Council Member Congo: Just a point or order, please. Do we, do we go to on the question after this or should we have gone to that before this, before the vote?

President Shabazz: We went back, it's in, it's in, it's, it'll be on the question, after we . . .

Council Member Congo: Before we vote.

Council Member Williams: We're in second.

President Shabazz: We're in on the question now, I was just trying to clarify what the amendment is.

Council Member Congo: Okay.

President Shabazz: State what the amend is. He's, he's made several notes in various sections, he's made various, various, he's made various um amendments throughout the Ordinance, and it's been seconded, and we're now on the question. Councilman Congo.

Council Member Congo: Yes, thank you.

President Shabazz: On the question.

Council Member Congo: Thank you. So, so what, what, what was the intent of the, of the amendment? What, what, what is your vision that could possibly happen next?

Council Member Turner: The intent? The intent is that if this . . .

President Shabazz: Mr. Turner please wait to be recognized, please sir.

Council Member Turner: I'm sorry. I apologize.

President Shabazz: I'm sorry, what was your question?

Council Member Congo: Yes, I just wanted to get the, the intent and, and his vision of what, what would happen next if this passes.

President Shabazz: Councilman Turner, please.

Council Member Turner: Thank you Madam President. The intent, the intent is, is that we go back to the, the original Code that we had where the Special Selection Committee. We already went through the process of the process of the Special Selection Committee's recommendation. We were stuck on #3, so all we did was insert #4 that states, we insert #4 that states "If the Special Selection Committee Resolution fails to be approved in accordance with the section of the City Code, the Special, the Special Selection Committee brought forth a candidate. We voted against that candidate. There is no step, a step, a step 4, so we're adding a step 4 where it says, "any member of the City Council who was not a member of the Special Committee may propose, by Resolution, his or her recommendation of a person who is qualified in accordance with the City Charter to fill the vacancy by the full City Council."

Council Member Congo: Just a follow up, please.

President Shabazz: Go ahead.



Council Member Congo: So, as a follow up to that, so, in reality, someone who's not on that Committee could present a Resolution tomorrow and we could vote on it at the next meeting.

Council Member Turner: Correct.

Council Member Williams: Correct.

Council Member Congo: Thank you.

President Shabazz: Councilman, um, I'm want you to be last cause it's yours.

Council Member Harlee: Okay.

President Shabazz: . . . okay? Councilwoman McCoy and then Councilman Freel.

Council Member McCoy: Okay, thank you Madam Chair. So, my quest-, well, the reason why I was definitely in support of Councilwoman Harlee's legislation is because my issue was inclusion. This still does not deal with inclusion of other Council people. It'll be a Special Committee and someone else who believes that they know they have the golden ticket and then they'll place it, and we'll vote on it, and we'll, we can keep doing that over and over unless we come together and figure out who is the best person to fill that seat. That's all I have to say.

Council Member Turner: Can I respond?

President Shabazz: Well she - - she was making a statement; she didn't ask a question.

Council Member McCoy: Yeah, I'm sorry, I just made a statement. I'm sorry.

President Shabazz: Councilman Freel.

Council Member Freel: Yeah, I, this whole retroactivity thing, once again, the seat is still vacant, that's why we have the opportunity to change the, the language in the Code. If we, in my opinion, if we amend this the way he wants to amend it, the Special Committee will have to come back together again and select another candidate. And then if that candidate is rejected then there can be a motion, then there can be a new Resolution with a, with a, I guess would be a third candidate. That's the way I understand his, his Resol-, his amendment. 'Cause this is, this is new Ordinance, I mean, we're, we're creating new language here.

President Shabazz: Right. And then, I'm kind of confused, also, if I could just - - okay, alright, okay, I understand. So, your amendment, your, is taking us all the way back to where we started again, and then makes it so that if the Council doesn't vote on the recommendation which I thought was putting it back to just the Special Selection because I thought the issue was that they wanted everybody to be included. So, if you go back to just a small committee again, you're back to just a few people making a decision and not allowing all Council members to come up with a, be included in the selection process, and then giving one candi-, Councilmember the authority to pick who that person is through a Resolution. That is, that's taking us right back and twisting what we were doing. I, I, I thought the, the intent is so that everyone could be included in the interview process and hear the candidates and, and, and weigh in on the selection of that candidate. This way we're back to a small section of five and then giving one person the authority to put a, a selection person out there, which completely derails the whole process of everybody being inclusive. If, that's my understanding. That's my understanding of what I'm hearing. Councilmember Harlee.

Council Member Harlee: Yes, well, I, I just wanna say that I appreciate everyone's comments as it relates to this legislation, I think it has been good discussion, but I do not agree with my Councilman Turner's suggestion because this amendment was designed to give all of Council the autonomy to participate and to be able to recommend a candidate, so I, I, I'm not in favor of a Special Committee because that's where we're coming from now. I've, I, I thought that I heard early on that we all wanted to participate, we didn't want a Special Committee, and that we needed a process. And in addition to that, this amendment is in line with the Charter. All Councilmembers being able to participate is in, is in line with the Charter. The only difference with this amendment is that you have to have a process, you have to figure out how you're gonna get there.

President Shabazz: Right.

Council Member Harlee: The Charter says what. This amendment gives us a guideline or map how we're gonna get there.

President Shabazz: Correct.

Council Member Harlee: Now we can decide on how we're gonna get there, but, this is in line with the Charter, so, I feel as though this Ordinance is addressing the concern and we all have to trust the process and at this time, I would like a vote.

Council Member Guy: Well, there's a motion on the floor.

Council Member Congo: Yeah, we still, yeah.

President Shabazz: We, we have the question of the amendment.

Council Member Harlee: Well, okay, well . . .

President Shabazz: For the ques-...

Council Member Harlee: I'm not in support of that, because that's what this amendment was designed to do.

President Shabazz: So, I'm on the question of the amendment as proposed by Councilman Turner.

Council Member Harlee: That's correct.

President Shabazz: Right. Councilman Guy. We're still on the question.

Council Member Guy: Yes, we're on the question of his proposed amendment.

President Shabazz: Correct.

Council Member Guy: Okay. So, no matter what we do, at some point in time somebody's gonna propose a Resolution. You know why? Because the Charter says that we fill this vacancy by Resolution approved by seven members of Council.

President Shabazz: By Selection Committee.

Council Member Williams: Not the Charter.

Council Member Guy: Nah, that's not what the Charter - the Charter says that we fill the vacancy by majority of Council. That's what the Charter says.

President Shabazz: And then the Code gives us the process of how we do it.

Council Member Guy: So, no matter what the Code says, at the end of the day, somebody has to sponsor a Resolution. And the one thing that we've learned, if we haven't learned anything else on this City Council, is we sat up here and watched the system get hijacked . . .

Council Member Oliver: Point of order.

President Shabazz: Point of order.

Council Member Guy: . . . where people could not introduce a Resolution.

President Shabazz: Councilman Guy, point of order.

Council Member Guy: What's the point of order?

President Shabazz: Because your allegations of, this has nothing to do with the - your allegations have nothing to do with the discussion of the, of the Ch-, of the Ordinance that we, and the amendment that's on the floor.

Council Member Guy: Sure, it does because the amendment (inaudible) about there being a Resolution.

President Shabazz: Well then speak to that and not what you alleged um, um allegations are.

Council Member Guy: No, mine aren't allegations. Mine are a fact. There's been efforts to . . .

President Shabazz: Councilman, please stick to, stick to, point of order to you Councilman Guy.

Council Member Guy: No, you're just trying to keep me . . .

President Shabazz: Councilman Guy . . .

Council Member Guy: . . . from having my five minutes.

President Shabazz: . . . you are out of order. I am so sick and tired of this  
...

Council Member Guy: (inaudible) you just wanna...me my five minutes.

President Shabazz: . . . so tired. Please, we're . . .

Council Member Guy: All you had to do (inaudible)...

President Shabazz: . . . trying to get some work done. Could you stick to the facts on the floor?

Council Member Guy: I'm talking about the Resolution. It's right there in this Ordinance. And the problem we've had is that you, as the President, have used your authority...

Council Member Oliver: Point of order Madam President, can we stick to the motion....

Council Member Guy: (inaudible)...

President Shabazz: Councilman Guy, . . .

Council Member Guy: ...(inaudible) - that's right.

President Shabazz: Councilman Guy, I'm going to cut you off from speaking if you do not stick to it.

Council Member Guy: ...(inaudible)... 'cause it's the truth.

President Shabazz: Councilman Guy, . . .

Council Member Guy: It's the truth.

President Shabazz: . . . you, you, well, . . .

Council Member Guy: A Resolution is in this (inaudible) . . .

Council Member Oliver: Madam President.

President Shabazz: You're out of order Councilman Guy, please, . . .

Council Member Oliver: Thank you.

Council Member Guy: You're out of order for interrupting me . . .

President Shabazz: . . . would you please . . .

Council Member Guy: . . . because I was telling the truth.

President Shabazz: Councilman Guy, . . .

Council Member Guy: That's what you (inaudible).

President Shabazz: . . . you are out of order and please cease talking.

Council Member Guy: Yep.

President Shabazz: Now, we're back to on the question. Councilman Tur-,  
Congo.

Council Member Congo: Yes, thank you. I, I, I think that Councilman Turner's amendment seeks to speed up the process of when we can fill that seat because if anyone can make a Resolution, I guess in reality we all know who is, the 1st District, District wants, and they've spoken here, they've spoken in their district at forums, and they know, they know that candidate, and it seems like his, his . . .

Council Member Oliver: Excuse me Madam President, we're still, point of order, we're still . . .

President Shabazz: Talking about the amendment.

Council Member Oliver: Yeah, we're still talking about the amendment.

Council Member Congo: That's what I'm talking about, Madam President.

Council Member Oliver: Not when he starts talking about the 1st District.

President Shabazz: Well, you're, you're, you're talking about the amendment . . .

Council Member Congo: Right, and I'm speaking to his amendment and what it would do. Now, in, in my, and I'm trying, I'm trying to get clarity that his amended - amendment will speed up the process of placing somebody in that seat because we could, someone could make a Resolution tomorrow, we could vote on it at the next Council meeting rather than go, go through the whole process again when we already know as a Council who the 1st District wants. So, it seems like his amendment would speed the process up and doing the . . .

Council Member Oliver: Point of order . . .

Council Member Congo: . . . doing the will of the 1st District.

Council Member Oliver: Point of order.

President Shabazz: Okay, Councilman Congo. We, we don't, we do have a full representation of the 1st District commenting on this. There was a selective group; my understanding is over five thousand elective, registered voters in the 1st District. Now, we've heard from several, maybe fifteen, twenty here, and I understand the meeting only had forty or some odd there. So, it's not a full voice of the 1st District input. So, that's we thought, we agreed that a special election will do this so that everyone in the 1st District would have some say, but to just say that forty people, forty, I give them fifty, speaking on behalf of a, a district that's five thousand registered voters, I don't think that's a large enough, to say that we speak for, on behalf of that, which is why we felt doing this process that has been done numerous times throughout this, throughout this history of City Council, is, is, is what we should follow because that's what our, our Codes and our Rules and our Charter speak to, all (inaudible) put together. That's what we're trying to, we're trying to use that process. Now, I mean, I hear you say speed it up, well we, every time we get to a place, there's always a, a wrench thrown in it that you don't wanna do this, you don't wanna do that, and we thought we had a solution.

Because, that was inclusive of everyone, because Councilmembers said they did not hear the interviews. So, they didn't know the people, so we made changes so that all Council members could hear the interviews. And so, then you want to have say into the voting. We changed it so that everyone have say into the voting. Now there's something else. So, if it's so urgent, and we're all compromising, we're all compromising; if it's so urgent to get someone in there, we have included all the wishes and every time we do that, you come up with another wish. So, if you, if you really want this to get done, and we're saying that we could have it done before the, no later than the second meeting in February, then we have the answer that's within line with the Charter, the Code and our City, and our Council Rules. That's, that's, that's just where my stance is, I mean, I don't think, I'm gonna keep going around and around in this over and again, and so once we even do that, there's gonna be a question about the Resolution. What's next?

Council Member Congo: This is a follow up, if I may, Madam President. We, we, we heard from . . .

President Shabazz: Wait, let's, let's . . .

Council Member Congo: . . . I mean, we, just as a response, we heard from the people who showed up. If, if people showed up and said another candidate, we could've heard from them, but everyone who showed up (inaudible) invited . . .

President Shabazz: But, . . .

Council Member Congo: But that, that's not, that's not (inaudible)...

President Shabazz: It's not, and you've not heard from people who didn't show up but what they say, also. There's many people who didn't show up who's also made comments as well, how they feel. So, that's why as it, we, I don't see how that we could take just that, that, that special interest group in, comment on what we should do. We are, have to, we have laws and rules we have to follow by. And we can debate this over and over again. I've been looking to try to resolve this evening, we come up with a solution, we're on the question in reference to his amendments. Is there any other questions on the amendment? Councilman Adams.

Council Member Adams: Yes, ma'am, thank you. I don't know whether or not this is a full erasure or three-quarters of an erasure or whatever for any of those terms, but, Councilman Turner's suggestion that after there was a Selection Committee that there would be, I guess, four nominations or other people um ah that can be put up by the other Councilmembers on the floor in order to be voted on is the way that I read the Charter in that particular instance and I, if we were to make that type of ah amendment, I see it the way the Code and Charter works in that so, ah and it would really ah shorten the process like it's been inferred here, I know Councilman Turner's gonna speak to this amendment at the very end I'm sure ah before we vote on it, but ah it does seem that it would shorten the process and the fact that ah we'd have to re-establish a committee of

thirteen, go through a whole selection of applicants, I think it ah was suggested in the Ordinance that each person could pick three, which makes like thirty-six, so, ah in, in that particular sense, hey, if ah, if Councilman Turner wants to suggest a shorter way to get to an end point then, hey, let's, let's pick the shorter way and get it done. Thank you.

President Shabazz: Councilman Guy.

Council Member Guy: I have a question for Councilman Turner. Is the word "Resolution" left in the Ordinance after your motion?

President Shabazz: Councilman Turner.

Council Member Turner: Thank you, Madam President. Yes, it is.

Council Member Guy: Okay. So, then as I tried to do before, I'm speaking to the Resolution. We've already have proven evidence that every time a Resolution has been put on, has been submitted to be on the agenda, the President has refused to put it on the agenda. So, what would make anybody in here think that all of a sudden now if the Resolution doesn't say what they want it to say that we wouldn't face the same process. That's the, that's the point I wanna make. Particularly given the fact that our Rules say, "the agenda shall list all legislative and non-legislative matters proposed by their sponsors for consideration at the meeting." So, we already have a system that's been hijacked in violation of our Rules. So, what would make any of us think that this same Resolution procedure in this Code wouldn't face the same thing. I'm just not gonna put it on there because I'm the President. If there was any honor among our Rules, then the Resolution would be on the agenda today and at the last meeting and at the last meeting.

Council Member Oliver: Can we please move on?

Council Member Guy: The point that I'm making is those comments about the whole thing needs to be struck, is all messed up and trying to put a band-aid on a doggone shotgun wound isn't always the best way to do it. But, there's already seven people who have, who have stated publicly that they wanna vote for Subira Ibrahim, so why in the heck have we not had the Resolution up and she either gets voted up or she gets voted down? Why is the system being (inaudible) ...?

Council Member Oliver: Please, Madam President, please point of order. Can we stick to Councilman Turner's motion? Please.

Council Member Guy: And his motion was a Resolution.

Council Member Oliver: Come on.

President Shabazz: Point taken, Councilwoman.



Council Member Guy: So, where's the Resolution? His amendment calls for us to have a Resolution and if you really think about his amendment, at the end of the day what his amendment does is what I been saying all along, and that is, once the Committee was rejected, then through the Charter, we're supposed to put up a Resolution. And anybody who has seven people who support them can get voted in to that seat. Right at this moment. If we had put it on the agenda for City Council and seven (inaudible)...

Council Member Oliver: Madam President.

President Shabazz: Mhm?

Council Member Oliver: Please...

Council Member Guy: . . . that's all we need in a Resolution.

Council Member Oliver: ...point of order

Council Member Guy: You all . . .

President Shabazz: Your time is up Councilman Guy.

Council Member Guy: Is my time up?

President Shabazz: Yes, it is.

Council Member Guy: Thank you, Madam Chair.

President Shabazz: It also refers to our Rules that the agenda is set by the President.

Council Member Oliver: Okay, Madam President.

President Shabazz: Councilwoman Oliver.

Council Member Oliver: Whew, thank you. I'm, I'm, I wanna say something but I'm trying to stick with the Rules to stay with the motion. After we vote or whatever with this motion, I would like to say something. Can we get past this, please? Or is it okay for me to just talk 'cause everybody, it, it seems like an open field anyway. So, is it okay for me to say anything?

Speaker?: (inaudible)...

Council Member Oliver: Yeah, that's what I'm saying. I know, but, I'll wait. We're still on the motion, right?

President Shabazz: Yeah, we're still on the motion.

Council Member Oliver: Come on then, let's...

President Shabazz: Right.

Council Member Congo: Madam President.

President Shabazz: I see you.

Council Member Congo: Ok, thank you.

Council Member Oliver: May I follow-up then? (inaudible)... ain't nobody sticking to the motion, it's obviously.

President Shabazz: We're still, we're still on the question of the amendment, and we're trying to get past it. So, I would like to call for the vote on the motion.

Council Member Oliver: Thank you.

Council Member Congo: Madam President, I just have a, just a point of clarity . . .

Council Member Williams: On the amendment.

Council Member Congo: On the amendment.

President Shabazz: On the amendment, on the amendment.

Council Member Congo: On the amendment.

President Shabazz: Yes.

Council Member Congo: Yes, just a, a point of clarity.

President Shabazz: I, I would, I'd rather, I wanna move on, sir.

Council Member Oliver: Thank you.

President Shabazz: To the vote for the amendment as proposed by Councilman Turner. All those in favor, signify by saying . . .

Council Member Guy: Point of order. The sponsor of the motion gets to speak last (inaudible) . . .

Council Member Oliver: Please, please, please. This is ridiculous.

Speaker?: (inaudible)...

Council Member Freel: This is embarrassing.

Council Member Oliver: It is.

Council Member Guy: The sponsor (inaudible) .... gets to speak last.

Council Member Freel: She called the roll.

Council Member Oliver: She called the roll.

President Shabazz: I called, I asked for the calling for the vote.

Council Member Guy: Point of order.

President Shabazz: And I, your, your point of order is denied. So, please call for the vote.

Council Member Oliver: Keep going, keep going. Is it . . .

President Shabazz: We're, we're voting, we're voting on the, we're voting on Councilman Turner's amendment. All those in favor signify by saying aye, or show hands if aye, yea, as your support. All those in oppose. It's a tie. So, the amendment, the amendment is defeated. It's a tie.

Council Member Oliver: Madam President. May I say something now?

President Shabazz: So, we're back to the Ordinance as originally proposed by Councilwoman Harlee. Councilwoman Oliver.

Council member Oliver: Yes, thank you Madam President. I wanna, I'd like to ask Councilman Congo, I was trying to wait until after, who was his first pick? He was the alternate, he's called names. Who was his first pick? I'd like you to, is it okay if you can answer that question for me, please.

President Shabazz: You mean for the, . . .

Council Member Oliver: For the Special Committee, . . .

President Shabazz: . . . for the Special . . .

Council Member Oliver: . . . who was his first pick?

Speaker? (inaudible)...

Council Member Oliver: He's calling names.

Speaker? (inaudible)...

President Shabazz: But it, it's, that is, that is a question . . .

Council Member Turner: Point of Oliver, order.

Council Member Oliver: I asked a question.

Council Member Turner: Point of order.

President Shabazz: We've been out of, we've been out of order since we, quite some time, so if everybody calls point of order . . .

Council Member Turner: Point of order.

President Shabazz: . . . I mean there's only one point of order . . .

Council Member Turner: Point of order.

Council Member Oliver: I'm just asking could you please ask, is it possible.

Council Member Turner: Point of order. Point of order.

President Shabazz: I hear you Councilman. And could we be quiet in the gallery, please. Councilman Oliver, I hear your point, but it is not in line with (inaudible)...

Council Member Oliver: Okay, what I was saying, I mean, 'cause I, I wasn't talking about him, but ever since he was calling out I was just, okay. Thank you.

President Shabazz: Councilman, let me ask the question, Councilman Congo, do you wanna answer that question?

Council Member Congo: So now we're allowing . . .

President Shabazz: I, I've asked the question.

Council Member Congo: I mean, if you're gonna allow it, always allow it, but my, my, my first vote, and I've said it, is Subira Ibrahim. But if you're gonna allow outside discussion, please allow it at other times.

President Shabazz: Well, things, ever, don't ever go as all the time around here, everything goes (inaudible)....

Council Member Congo: Just, just remember, just remember what just happened.

President Shabazz: Councilman Williams.

Council Member Williams: Thank you Madam Chair, Madam President. I wanna make a motion to amend Chapter 2 of the City Code, . . .

President Shabazz: Can I get a point of order for a second, please. Let me, let me check, hold on one second, please .... (long pause) .... Thank you everyone for your patience. Councilman Williams.

Council Member Williams: Thank you, Madam President. Welcome back. I'd like to make a motion, an amendment by deleting Section 2-34 in its entirety and allowing the Charter to stand alone, thereby we can move forward with filling this seat expeditiously.

Council Members Guy and Turner: Second.

President Shabazz: An amendment to delete Section 2-34 of the Ordinance has been made and second. On the question.

Council Member Oliver: Madam President.

President Shabazz: Council Member Turner then Council Member Oliver.

Council Member Turner: Thank you, thank you Madam President. Just for clarity purposes, can you ask the sponsor does that mean that we, we're elim-, that we're erasing this completely so everyone can understand we're erasing this completely, Special Committee, the Committee of the Whole, all the language that's in there far as the Code, and now we go back to what the Charter originally stated before this section was even added to the Code?

Council Member Williams: That is correct. I'm sorry.

President Shabazz: Councilman Williams.

Council Member Williams: That, that's correct. The Charter will stand alone.

Council Member Turner: Can I, can I . . .

President Shabazz: Continue.

Council Member Turner: So that, that means that we can, we can put a Resolution up and whoever gets seven votes, Resolution, they, they fill that 1st District seat? P.S. that's correct?

Council Member Williams: Per the Charter, my understanding.

Council Member Turner: Thank you. That's all I have Madam President.

President Shabazz: Councilwoman Oliver.

Council Member Oliver: Thank you Madam President. I think I'ma just go back and I guess reiterate what some other, my colleague, Councilwoman McCoy and Harlee has stated. I thought the whole purpose of this process was to want to be um . . .

Council Member Turner: Point of - - point of order.

Council Member Williams: Point of order.

Council Member Turner: Point of order. Can we speak to the amendment?

President Shabazz: You wanna, you wanna, do you speak to it, ask your question to it?

Council Member Oliver: Yes, I'ma say yes, I'd like to speak to the, I'm trying to, okay, let me speak to the amendment. Councilman Bob Williams' amendment is taking us back to what everybody, I thought, said they didn't want to happen. So, I'ma let it go. I will not be supporting this amendment.

President Shabazz: Councilman Turner. Oh, you spoke already, I'm sorry. Councilwoman Harlee.

Council Member Harlee: Yes, thank you Council President. I am not sure of the process, and again when I reviewed the Charter when I was doing the research because my Council colleagues said they wanted to be a part of it, the Charter tells you what, but it does not tell you how, and so I'm not clear on how the process is gonna work. That's, so, I'm not sure if I should be asking you or the sponsor. I just want clarity.

President Shabazz: I leave that to the sponsor to, to respond. Williams?

Council Member Williams: By, Madam President, thank you. By eliminating the process contained within 2-34, it would open it up for the Council to decide how we're going to go. The people put us in this seat to, to move forward. Eliminating this, we could present Resolutions at that point, take a vote, vote the person

up or down, and fill the seat and move forward. Rubber band, duct tape, bubblegum, scotch tape, you name it, trying to piecemeal an Ordinance together that, on its face, is flawed, in my opinion, is no way to go. Eliminate it, if we wanna get a committee together down the road, resurrect it, put something together that has more teeth to it or more meaning, let's do that. But right now, to get us out of this quagmire that we're in, let's just eliminate the whole thing, put up some Resolutions, vote a person up or down, and move forward.

Council Member Harlee: Follow up.

President Shabazz: Councilwoman Harlee, you still have the time.

Council Member Harlee: Okay. Alright, so, we're not interested in a process to fill this seat now and for the future. We're just trying to, to get someone in this seat right away. We're not trying to think about the future, because this particular amendment, the amendment that I was presenting, was for now and for the future. But if you're saying that we're just going to, everybody put in Resolutions, how does that work with those that are already, that have already applied and does that open up to new applicants? I'm just trying to make sure I understand again. I'm, I wanna ask the sponsor that.

President Shabazz: We, we're really getting deep in the weeds, and, I mean, I, I, your question is right, but I, it's the, you, you're following certain rules sometimes, you know, perfect, our, our rules is speaking twice and we're speaking more than twice, I'm just trying to get everybody to feel they get their points out, . . .

Council Member Harlee: Okay.

President Shabazz: . . . but I'm trying to also maintain order. Okay, so we have, we have surpassed that. So, um, I ask, I'm trying to keep count of who has already spoken twice on a question, because we've had four or five questions. There is no process it would have to be created is my assumption – okay, Council McCoy.

Council Member McCoy: Thank you Madam Chair. I, I seem to have left at a very vulnerable time, can I please get the cliff note of what happened?

President Shabazz: We're speaking of, we're on the question of the amendment by Councilman Williams to delete all the, the entire section 2-34, and push everything back to the, to the Charter, that just says that we ought to, to, you know, recommend a, a replacement for the 1st District, for the vacancy. It does not speak to process, it just says what we are charged to do.

Council Member McCoy: Thank you.

Speaker?: Oh God, this is crazy.

President Shabazz: I'm trying to make sure everyone had an equal amount of time to speak. That's what I'm trying to do. Based on my notes, I have - everyone has had an opportunity to speak twice to each question, to each, well, one time to this question, and twice to all other questions, and in order for us to move along, I would like to, Councilman Congo, this is your last . . .

Council Member Congo: Yes, thank you.

President Shabazz: . . . speaking.

Council Member Congo: Yes, thank you Madam President. So, the Charter says that Council has the charge of filling this seat by Resolution. Is that correct, is, to, to fill the seat and that is usually done by Resolution in, at the end of the day. Just want clarity.

President Shabazz: No. it's usually done through the selection process, but a recommendation to the Council by way of a Resolution. That's the way it's usually done.

Council Member Congo: At the end of the day it's a Resolution, so, so (inaudible)....

President Shabazz: By a Selection Committee. By the Selection Committee.

Council Member Congo: I'm just, I'm sorry, I'm just speaking to the Charter says Council has to fill the seat.

President Shabazz: It doesn't give process by the Charter. It just says the tasked to do it.

Council Member Congo: And that's done at the, at the, you know, end all be all by a Resolution.

Council Member Williams: Correct.

President Shabazz: Not from the Selection Committee.

Council Member Congo: So, in theory, what Councilman Williams is, is um, his amendment will allow every Council person to next week submit a, a Resolution that could be on the, on the agenda and if, if one of the Resolutions get seven votes that seat would be filled.

Council Member Williams: Done.



Council Member Turner: Correct.

Council member Congo: Thank you. Thank you very much. I think it's a great idea.

President Shabazz: I'd like to call for a vote for the amendment as proposed by Councilman Williams.

Council Member Guy: Point of order.

President Shabazz: I'd like to call for a vote by, I would like to call for a vote by the amendment proposed by Councilman Williams.

Council Member Guy: Point of order.

President Shabazz: All those in favor signify by saying aye. (Ayes)

Council Member Guy: You never asked what the point of order is. That's required in your Rules.

President Shabazz: I, I asked for the vote, please.

Council Member Guy: Point of order.

President Shabazz: Your point of order is not taken.

Council Member Guy: When Councilman Freel makes them you acknowledge his.

President Shabazz: I'd like to call for the vote. Then maybe you should start looking like Councilman Freel.

Council Member Guy: Right, and I guess you would want me to be a white . . .

President Shabazz: I'd like to call for the vote, please.

Council Member Guy: . . . you don't like my blackness, do you?

President Shabazz: Councilman Guy, again, you're out of order.

Council Member Guy: You're out of order.

President Shabazz: I'd like to call for the vote for the amendment as proposed by Councilman Williams. All those in favor signify by saying aye. (Ayes)

Those opposed (Nos). I'd like to take a hand vote, please. All those in favor for the amendment proposed to delete 2-34 from the Ordinance please raise your hand if you're in support. All those opposed, please. It's deleted. It's defeated. We are now back to the original Ordinance as proposed by Council Member Harlee. If you, if you have any, are they um, further closing comments Council Member Harlee in regarding your Ordinance as proposed, and with the amendment.

Council Member Harlee: I'm, I'm just speechless.

President Shabazz: Okay, well then, I'd like to call, I'd like to call for the vote for the Ordinance, number, agenda #4614, Substitute 1 to Ordinance 19-001 as amended. Please call the roll.

The **Substitute Ordinance, As Amended**, was read for the third and final time and was adopted by title and section recurring to the Enacting Clause and was passed by the following Yea and Nay Roll Call Vote: Yeas, Council Members Congo, Oliver, Harlee, McCoy, Freel and Adams, and Council President Shabazz. Total, seven. Nays, Turner, Williams and Guy. Total, three. Absent, Council Members Dixon and Walsh. Total, two.

President Shabazz: Declare it adopted.

Council Member Oliver: Thank you, Jesus.

President Shabazz: Council Member Turner, any legislation this evening?

Council Member Turner: No—nothing tonight.

President Shabazz: Council Member McCoy.

Council Member McCoy: Ah, nothing tonight Madam President.

President Shabazz: Council Member Williams.

Council Member Williams: Nothing this evening, thank you.

President Shabazz: Council Member Freel.

Council Member Freel: Nothing, thank you.

President Shabazz: Council Member Adams.

Council Member Adams: No ma'am, no legislation.

President Shabazz: Council Member Guy.

Council Member Guy: Yes, the Resolution that I submitted 4613 that you didn't put on the agenda.

President Shabazz: We now into, um, um, petitions and communications. Anything this evening Council Member Congo?

Council Member Adams: Can we have a motion to adjourn?

Council Member Oliver: Yeah.

Council Member Freel: Second.

Council Member Oliver: Second.

Council Member Turner: Roll call.

President Shabazz: All those in favor of adjournment, please raise your hand.

Aye.

Council Member Guy: Roll call.

President Shabazz: One, two, three, four – one, two, three, four, five...

Council Member Guy: Roll call - - roll call vote.

President Shabazz: All those wishing to continue with the meeting, please, or are opposed to closing the meeting, please raise your hand.

Council Member Freel: Madam President, I ask to be excused.

President Shabazz: Excused Councilman. It's five and five again, we will continue with petitions and communications.

### **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Council President and Council Members spoke on the following: a request was made to always allow petitions and communications; condolences expressed to the Wright Family; people were encouraged to research history of the City and Black History Month; community meetings were announced; the need for people to pay attention to democracy; oath of office; the need for people to research laws and interpretation of the laws; maintaining order, and including, but not limited to, the need to stay in compliance with the City Code, rules and laws.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion of Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Congo, Council adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Motion prevailed.

Attest: Maribel Seijo  
Maribel Seijo, City Clerk