



# New Haven Democracy Fund

"To ensure that all the citizens of New Haven have a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in the election of mayor."  
New Haven Code of General Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article XI, §2-821 • Established in 2007 • democracyfund@newhavenct.net



## DEMOCRACY FUND BOARD MEETING

6:15pm Thursday January 16, 2020

New Haven City Hall – 165 Church Street

Second Floor, Conference Room 2

New Haven Democracy Fund Board:

Sergio Rodriguez, Chair

James O'Connell

William Wynn

Aaron Goode

(Three Seats Vacant)

Democracy Fund Administrator: Alyson Heimer

Members of the public: Howard Blau, Renate Blau

### AGENDA:

#### 1. Call to Order & Attendance

Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:23 pm.

#### 2. Approval of prior minutes (November 2019)

Wynn motioned to move the minutes. 3-0-0. Goode was not present for this vote.

#### 3. Administrator's Report

- a. Financial Update - The purchased 18-month CD will not be at 2.06% but 1.46%. The board has requested a written explanation of why the discrepancy from the finance department. \$55,000 will be at Webster Bank

- i. Drew from GNHCF will come to discuss investment options for fund monies.

- b. 2019 Annual Report Presentation

Goode motioned to open the Annual Report for Discussion.

- i. The New Haven Democracy Fund has been appropriated \$120,000 at the end of 2019. The Annual report makes a further request of \$130,000 to fund the program and, possibly, expand the fund to other offices.

1. Goode argued that it is not the role of the Board to advocate for program expansion. O'Connell would want significant changes to the ordinance before expansion. Rodriguez was supportive of the expansion to other races.

2. Expansion of the Program was discussed - Heimer Heimer will reach out to the Board of Alders and begin the conversation on expansion.
3. Changing the language in the Ordinance is a major priority for the Board.
4. Goals for legislative re-write include augmenting the ordinance language to allow for the expansion of the fund to other citywide offices. The alders in 2015 were supportive of having a Democracy Fund Pledge for other offices in the City. The Ordinance language does not allow for that as is.

Goode motioned to accept revisions to the Annual Report to be reflected in the final version, which will be submitted to the Board of Alders and Mayor before the end of January 2020.

O'Connell motioned to approve the amended report. 4-0-0.

#### 4. Report from the Chair

- a. 2020 Board Meeting Calendar

Goode motioned to accept the meeting calendar for 2020. 4-0-0.

- b. Legislative Agenda 2020

#### 5. Public Comment

No public comment.

#### 6. New Business

O'Connell thanked the board for the rescheduling accommodation.

Goode motioned to adjourn at 7:18pm. 4-0-0.