

**: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :**

**: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :**

A Special Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, was held July 19, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, with Mayor Ali presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were present: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11. Absent: None.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ali requested a moment of silent prayer or reflection and then she led the pledge of allegiance.

**PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA**

**(22-256) Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.**

Council Member Allen moved to approve the Declaration of Local State of Emergency; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

**(22-257) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to Hold a POLICY SESSION on VIOLENCE REDUCTION FUNDING.**

Council Member Allen moved to open a Policy Session on Violence Reduction Funding; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ali opened the Policy Session at 6:04 P.M.

The Policy Session regarding the Violence Reduction Funding was held.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to close a Policy Session on Violence Reduction Funding; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Motion to close a Policy Session on Violence Reduction Funding was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ali closed the Policy Session at 7:45 P.M.

### **CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD**

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ali granted privilege of the floor to those citizens wishing to address the City Council/Town Board.

C X Zhang, a citizen of Peoria, asked the Council for clarification regarding Policy Session discussions on supporting local programs with the violence reduction funding.

Samuel Duren, a pastor in the First District of Peoria, said life was precious, and he commented on the Council not approving \$25,000.00 for the Cure Violence Assessment when violence was increasing in the community. He said he supported evidence-based programs carried out in an ethically and legally responsive manner, and he asked everyone to work together towards viable solutions.

Reverend Benjamin Nicks Jr., a pastor in Peoria, said he was calling the Council to action. He said he witnessed violence and the aftermath in Peoria, and the largest hurdle was inaction. He asked the Council to consider alternative solutions and allow non-profit organizations to take the lead and determine the best use of funds.

Sherry Cannon, a citizen of Peoria, asked the Council to consider the qualifications and requirements of organizations applying for funding or grants, noting some small nonprofits that were doing good work in the City might miss some of the criteria. She finished by reading a quote from Linda Thompson.

Devon Sydnor, a citizen of Peoria, said he was frustrated with the politics getting in the way of progress. He said Police Chief Echevarria was hired to address crime and violence in the City, but the Council voted down initiatives he proposed. He said it was important to work together.

Shontah Means, a citizen of Peoria, said she was a victim of violence and she read a poem for the Council.

Pastor Harvey Burnett, a pastor in Peoria, said he witnessed violence in the streets of Peoria and how it effected citizens and families. He said he wanted to call the Council to action in benefit of the community, and he discussed the demographics of victims of violence in Peoria. He reviewed Council discussions at previous meetings concerning the Safety Network and Cure Violence, noting collaboration was needed to succeed in identifying alternative solutions.

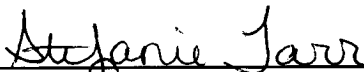
### **ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was determined there was no need for an Executive Session at this time.

Council Member Allen moved to adjourn the Special City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Motion to adjourn the Special City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.  
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,  
Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;  
Nays: None.

The Special City Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

  
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Stefanie Tarr, RMC, CMC, City Clerk  
City of Peoria, Illinois

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