

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

A Special Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, was held July 9, 2022, at 8:15 A.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 (electronic attendance), Kelly, Oylar, 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****(22-240) 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 Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**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.

Sherry Cannon, a citizen of Peoria, said the NAACP supported the recommendation by Mayor Ali and the Safety Network (S-NET) to proceed with the Cure Violence Assessment that was presented at previous Council Meetings for approval. She said she was disappointed regarding the lack of respect shown to the Mayor and citizens of the community.

Martha Ross, a citizen of Peoria, discussed crime concerns in Peoria and the strategies led by Police Chief Echevarria to mitigate them. She discussed her history with S-NET as well as the mission of the group. She asked the Council Members to listen to the community.

Catherine Godhigh, a citizen of Peoria, said she was concerned about crime in the City and she supported the efforts of Mayor Ali and S-NET to resolve them. She said crime would continue to spread in Peoria until action was taken.

Reverend Marvin Hightower, President of the Peoria Branch NAACP, said Cure Violence was an evidence-based solution to the problems Peoria faced. He said decisions the Council made would be remembered during elections, noting City leaders and citizens should work together to move forward.

Anthony Walraven, a citizen of Peoria, said he witnessed the aftermath of violence in the community on a regular basis. He said a multi-faceted solution was needed to address concerns. He discussed staffing and compensation at the Emergency Communications Center for the past fifteen years. He said the Cure Violence assessment had endured additional scrutiny compared to other City projects, noting the negative connotations of Council decisions on City employees.

T'aun McCutcheon, a citizen of Peoria, discussed violence and crime on Peoria's Southside and East Bluff neighborhoods. He said he worked with at-risk youth daily and he described examples and the impact of violence on the community. He discussed conflict resolution efforts in schools and guidance provided to the youth in Peoria.

Denise Moore, a former First District City Council Member and citizen of Peoria, discussed her many roles with organizations in Peoria. She said she was disappointed the Cure Violence Assessment was denied by the Council when it was supported by the Police Chief, Mayor, and many community leaders. She said \$7 million in funding was available for violence prevention and she asked the Council to give the Police Chief the tools he needed to mitigate the problem.

Robin Grantham, a citizen of Peoria, expressed a concern for the Special Meeting and she said she supported Mayor Ali and City Manager Urich's efforts.

Donna Crowder, a citizen of Peoria, said the youth were asking for the adults to take action to mitigate violence in the community. She asked everyone to come together to improve conditions for the next generation by approving \$25,000.00 for the Cure Violence Assessment.

Eileen Leunig, a citizen of Peoria, said she had worked with youth in the community and witnessed the violence that affected them. She asked the Council to set aside politics to work together towards a solution.

Jenny Bayless, a citizen of Peoria, said equality would bring everyone together. She discussed her history in Peoria and said the children did not feel safe in the community.

Antwaun Banks Jr., a citizen of Peoria, discussed his past experiences with violence and racism. He said when working with local youth, he told them location did not determine opportunity. He said they could not keep doing the same thing to address concerns and expect a different outcome. He said it was time for community leaders to lead.

### **ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka said there was no need to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) as outlined on the Special Meeting Agenda. She said the Council should enter into Executive Session pursuant only to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

**Consideration of a Motion for the City Council to enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as**

**independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body.**

Council Member Grayeb moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, with the Council returning to Open Session after Executive Session had adjourned; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Motion to enter into Executive Session was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Special City Council Meeting went into Executive Session at 8:57 A.M.

#### RECONVENING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

The Special City Council reconvened at 11:45 A.M. in Council Chambers.

The following Council Members were present: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen (electronic attendance), Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11. Absent: None.

#### ADJOURNMENT

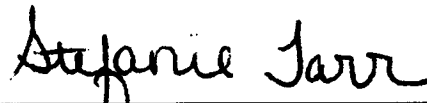
Council Member Cyr moved to adjourn the Special City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Motion to adjourn the Special City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: Grayeb – 1.

The Special City Council Meeting was adjourned at 11:46 A.M.



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