



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

6:00 pm Wednesday May 18, 2022

New Haven City Hall Mayor's Conference Room 2 (or Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

New Haven Democracy Fund Board, Sergio Rodriguez, Chair

Members: Aaron Goode, James O'Connell, William Wynn, James Bhandary-Alexander

Democracy Fund Administrator: Alyson Heimer

To join the meeting please use one of the options below:

Web Browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82382679039> ; Meeting ID: 823 8267 9039

Phone: Please dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (New Haven, CT) Meeting ID: 823 8267 9039

+1 312 626 6799 US (Outside New Haven) Meeting ID: 823 8267 9039

In person: Mayor's Conference Room 2, 165 Church Street New Haven CT 06510

AGENDA:

- I. Call to Order & Attendance at 6:08pm. Chair Rodriguez was detained so this meeting was chaired by Vice Chair William Wynn.
- II. Approval of prior meeting minutes. Moved by Bhandary-Alexander 4-0-0.
- III. There was no Public Comment made.
- IV. Report from the Chair (Vice Chair Wynn deferred to Administrator Heimer for this agenda item)
 - A. Conference invite for Public Finance Program Administrators in Albuquerque, NM
 1. The Board had a discussion about how many individuals should attend this event, and what a reasonable expectation of cost to The Fund would be. Payment for this trip, including travel, hotel, and a per diem would be paid from the Board's discretionary spending account for fiscal year 2021-2022 until the cap of \$5,500 was met. Any overage could be paid in fiscal year 2022-2023. The Board will set a 2022-2023 discretionary spending budget at the June meeting.
 2. O'Connell adamantly supported the idea of attending over Zoom. The Administrator and Board Members highlighted the value of in-person learning, communication and networking. The conference in questions will host public finance officials and program managers from across the

country from all levels of government and multiple styles of organization. The benefits to attending are particularly important in a year when the board is considering ordinance revisions.

V. Administrator's Report

A. 2021 Overage Deposits

1. Both campaigns from the 2021 election cycle submitted overages to be deposited by the Finance Department but neither has been completed. The Carlson campaign has been particularly vocal about this and requested that the board follow up. Chair Rodriguez made a call to Michael Gormany, head of the department, during the meeting and asked for a status update.

B. RFQ draft

1. Language from the previous RFQ was distributed to the Board Members. Members will hold an executive session at the June meeting to discuss this hiring and staffing question.

C. Press Inquiries and Public Outreach for Ordinance Revision

1. The Administrator received requests to discuss possible changes to the NHDF ordinance with NPR and The New Haven Independent. These requests will be put on hold until after the conference in July - the Board wants to complete a draft of changes before discussing them with the press and presenting concepts to the community.

VI. Ordinance Review Sub-Committee (Bhandary-Alexander, chair)

A. Ordinance draft (tabled from 4/20/22)

1. The draft created by the subcommittee is complete. The Board members, particularly Bhandary-Alexander and Goode want to see what conversations, ideas, and exchanges occur at the Administrators Conference in Albuquerque before submitting a draft to the Board of Alders for workshopping.

VII. New Business

- A. An Executive Session will kick off the meeting in June to discuss the RFQ and other matters relating to personnel/staffing.