



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, February 15, 2023

Mayor's conference room #2

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

Meeting is in person with online attendance possible.

AGENDA:

- I. Call to Order 6:08 pm

- II. Review of the Minutes from January 18, 2023, motion to approve by Bhandary-Alexander. 3-0-0

- III. Public comment - Sarah Ficca joined the meeting, who has been submitted as a new board member by Mayor Elicker and will appear before the Aldermanic Affairs committee on February 27th. Ficca mentioned that she appreciates the work of the Board and looks forward to supporting ongoing efforts to expand the program's use in the city.

- IV. Chair's Report
 - A. Renewing membership, meeting on February 27th - Chair asks for attendance in person to address any questions the Alders may have. Administrator Heimer will also plan to attend.
 - B. New members proposed are Sarah Ficca, who was in attendance, and Lesley Heffel-McGuirk.

V. Administrator's Report

A. 2023 Election Update

1. Participating candidates - Justin Elicker and Shaffiq Adubassur have submitted the candidate contract and affidavit and shown intent to use the Fund. The Elicker campaign anticipates filing their first matching funds and grant request this coming week.
2. Other campaigns and committees - Three other candidates either in active or exploratory phases. A training has been requested by the Liam Brennan campaign and will likely take place in the coming weeks virtually.

B. Summer Internship - After board members were given the opportunity to review the description of the summer internship the following motion was made by James Bhandary-Alexander:

1. Motion to approve the summer internship program and pay a contract total of up to \$5,000 for the completion of projects, as outlined in the description. 4-0-0
2. Motion to authorize the finance department to make any necessary payments and cover any costs associated with paying an intern including but not limited to secondary costs associated with hiring people through the city. 4-0-0.

VI. Report from the Ordinance Review Sub-Committee (James Bhandary-Alexander, Chair) - The legislation is being held by the Legislative Affairs Committee as charter revision is taking a front seat. It is most likely that the Democracy Fund will appear on the agenda in April at the earliest. As this legislative proposal will not take effect until the completion of the current election cycle (likely January 1, 2024 active date) this is well within the reason of timely action by the committee.

VII. New Business - Administrator Heimer will complete training for new Board Members after their official appointment.

The Entire Board wished to thank Board Members William Wynn for his years of dedicated service to the New Haven Democracy Fund and regrets his departure from the board, solely due to a restriction in municipal statute limiting board member's terms to 9 years.