



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, §2-321 • Established in 2007 • democracyfund@newhavenct.net



DEMOCRACY FUND BOARD MEETING

6:00 pm Wednesday, September 29, 2021

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

Join the Meeting from anywhere using Zoom!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85112166625>

Meeting ID: 851 1216 6625

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order 6:04 pm.
2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes September 15, 2021 motioned by Wynn, 5-0-0.
3. Public Comment - Kim Agyekum, representing the Elicker Campaign was present at the meeting. She had questions regarding the mayoral debate on October 19, 2021. That conversation was tabled until later in the meeting.
4. Chair initiated a conversation about the importance of neutrality during the last weeks of the campaign season. O'Connell, a candidate for the Board of Education, has been acting in good faith on his pledge not to co-ordinate or endorse any candidate for office despite running on the same ticket. Goode thanked O'Connell for his commitment and reminded him that he should not cast any votes regarding disbursement of funds for any of the candidates in the General Election. O'Connell thusly abstained from votes related to the Administrator's report.
5. Administrator's Report
 - a. Distribution of \$20,000 grant to John Carlson's campaign. Administrator Heimer approved 221 of the 232 names submitted to the Fund. The first submission on September 1 ran 3 qualified contributions shy of qualifying. The

second submission on September 7 resolved many questions and issues, qualifying the campaign for the \$20,000 Grant and \$9,148 in matching funds. These two checks were given to the Carlson Campaign on September 17 - The delay was caused by the annual closing of the books in the Finance Department.

- b. Venue costs - Goode motioned to approve the \$1,418 expenditure to cover venue rental and staffing costs. Administrator will ensure payment is made. 4-0-1.

- c. Debate

- i. Format of program - The proposed format is as follows:

- Two minute opening statement

- Alternating questions from the panel

- One minute answers, 30 second replies

- Twice during the debate the initial speaker can offer a rebuttal for 30 seconds to their opponent

- One minute closing statement

- Paul Bass will moderate

- d. Marketing of the event - Debate will be live streamed on WTNH.com and the Independent's Facebook.

The Administrator provided a draft invite/event flyer for review. O'Connell requested that candidate names and faces be added. Wynn requested that the party of the candidates should be added. Rodriguez initiated the verbal agreement of the Board over the COVID-19 related protocols of the venue. Rodriguez also suggested limiting the number of staffers campaigns are able to bring so as to maximize space for the general public.

Efforts will be made to ensure that all those planning to attend understand the requirements stemming from the ongoing pandemic. All attendees must wear masks to the event and only those on stage may remove their masks at any time. All attendees must show either proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test taken within the prior 48 hours. Attendance will be limited to 125 individuals, including press and candidates.

Goode requested that flyers be disbursed to community organizations, including the community management teams. Heimer will get that information from the city website, and also ensure the media covers the event and promotes the event on their end as well.

In-person meetings to resume in October on the 20th at City Hall in Conference room 2 at 6:00pm.

Motion to adjourn from Bhandari. 5-0-0.