



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, December 15, 2021

Virtual Meeting on 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

AGENDA:

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:06pm. This meeting was held remotely following an uptick in COVID-19 Omicron variant infections The City has asked Boards and Commissions to refrain from meeting at City Hall until the pandemic wave wanes.
2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes November 17, 2021 motioned by Bhandary-Alexander. Approved 3-0-0
3. No Public Comment was provided.
4. Administrator's Report
 - a. Reappointment complete - The Board reappointed the Administrator to the second year of the NHDF Administrator contract with a 5% increase in stipend. The board thus reserves \$27,300 with the Finance Department for 2022 to cover this expense.
 - b. Audit and Annual Report underway - The Annual Report will be presented at the Monthly Meeting on January 19th. Heimer shared some of the key events in 2021 including having over 4,000 view the New Haven Democracy Fund Mayoral Debate and having the first Republican candidate to run for Mayor and qualify to use the Fund since its inception. Other key successes were having four campaign (three candidates) qualify for matching funds and abide by the rules of the Fund to the best of their abilities. The Board also was pleased to launch the Ordinance Review Sub-Committee dedicated to correcting the confusing passages of law governing operation of the Fund.

6. Ordinance Review Subcommittee Update - The Sub-Committee has begun group editing the existing ordinances and tackling some of the "low hanging fruit" fixes needed. These first efforts include grammatical changes allowing for expansion of the races the FUnd provides grants to, without actually expanding to those races yet.

5. Chair's Report

- a. The Chair extends healthy and happy holiday wishes to the Board, friends of the Board and thanks all those who worked with the Democracy Fund in 2021 to make this a successful election cycle.

7. New Business = 2022 will be a busy year with the Ordinance Review, prepping for 2023, and putting together a comprehensive RFQ for an Administrator this summer. The Fund also plans to tackle the CPI increase mandated by the ordinance every four years in 2023.

Motion to adjourn by Wynn. Meeting Adjourned at 6:46pm