



*City of Bristol
Diversity Council*

INFORMATION TO ACCESS THIS MEETING

<https://bristolct-gov.zoom.us/j/82946776934?pwd=cEVOUnVJaExGQlF3WFhHak1JZUJ3dz09>

*Meeting ID: 829 4677 6934
Passcode: 346884*

A Diversity Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 6:30pm in Meeting Room 1-2, City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Council Attendance
- III. Public Participation
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Meeting Minutes from the June 23, 2026 Meeting
- V. Current Business
 - a. Council Members Review Resource and Event News and Notes
 - b. Cash Mob/Vote Mob Review and Ideas
 - c. Tee-Shirt Orders
- VI. New Business
 - a. Final Cash Mob '26 Options
 - b. Diversity Council "Passport" Next Steps
 - c. Unity in the Community Execution
- VII. Adjournment

PER ORDER OF THE INTERIM CHAIRPERSON, Marcus Patton

Diversity Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 6:30pm

Meeting Room 1-2, City Hall, 111 N. Main Street & on Zoom

Present: Interim Chair Marcus Patton, Council Members Sandy Kamens, Jeff Israel (Zoom), David Rackliffe, Carolyn Palmquist, and Danny Palmquist

Absent: Council Member Tony Lopes

Guests: Donna Osuch, Bristol Early Childhood Collaboration (BECC) Liaison Regina Capozzi, Hubbell School Social Worker Daniel Mina,

I. Call to Order

The Interim Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

II. Council Attendance

The Council took attendance. There was a quorum.

III. Public Participation

Donna Osuch spoke to the Commission providing a brief history of the BECC which was formerly known as the School Readiness Council. BECC is support for families with infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school age children. The State of Connecticut directly contracts with programs that support these groups and the BECC serves Bristol families through those programs.

Some highlights of the Collaborative include representation from the Bristol Health Maternity Unit, Bristol Burlington Health District, WIC, Imagine Nation, New Britain Head Start and others. Ms. Osuch monitors sites like the Edgewood Pre-K Academy to ensure they're in full compliance and the classrooms are of high quality.

The BECC now has funding for staff which includes a Family and Outreach Engagement Coordinator, and three part time Parent Ambassadors. They're starting a Caring Closet housed at the Green Hills School and it will be available to the community. BECC provides the annual Family Fun Day event at the BAIMS Field on Memorial Boulevard, and a weekend food backpack program

supporting 35 families every other week has been in operation since December 2025.

The main goal of the BECC is meeting the needs of families in the community, and making those connections to determine what those needs are and how best to meet them. An example of this is their presence at the Bristol Farmers Market, conducting a diaper drive and later, a distribution of collected items. They also help with the daily, free lunches distributed at the library. Additional notes on programs and an upcoming community plan were shared.

Details of the attractions and opportunities planned for the 2026 Family Fun Day event were shared. Ms. Osuch welcomes partnerships with any groups that are working with families with young children. Discussion followed with a note about the Pride community being represented in this arena, and the Interim Chair offering to post and promote BECC's events through the Council's available channels.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Meeting Minutes from May 26, 2026

The Interim Chair called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the May 26, 2026 Meeting. Council Member Kamens made the motion to approve which was seconded by Council Member Rackliffe. There were no changes noted, all were in favor and the Minutes were accepted into the record.

V. Current Business

a. Back to School Community Backpack Event (Hubbell School)

Regina Capozzi spoke to the Council regarding the Back to School Back Pack Event she organizes for Hubbell School. The Back-to-School event is designed to be a family centric get together with food, music, activities, and also the back-to-school back packs. She is seeking community support and sponsorship for the next event to help offset the cost and the logistics an event of this size.

Current partnerships include Wheeler Clinic, the Boys and Girls Club, Fleet DJs, and Mojo from the Bristol Blues. Ms. Capozzi would love to see more groups involved to connect with the children and their families, and to help them succeed, and build a community and a network of resources before a need arises.

Discussion followed including the presence of other drives to collect back to school items, though there is always a need for more. Additional, potential sponsors and area businesses were named by the Council for Ms. Capozzi to connect with in support of the Hubbell School event. The Council also noted the dynamics of hosting an all-inclusive event for children on the spectrum. The Interim Chair confirmed the Council doesn't have a budget to offer financial sponsorship, but the members are willing to provide in-person assistance where they can.

b. Cash Mob 2nd Quarter

The Interim Chair updated the Council on his conversations with the Farmers Market Director, Mickey Goldwasser, about hosting a Cash Mob in support of Farmers and the Farmers Market. Many of the farms don't have their own retail space outside of the market. The idea was then presented to hold the Cash Mob at the Farmers Market, and a discussion about logistics followed. A block party, gifts with purchase, and interactive event ideas were explored. Further discussion with the Farmers Market Board will be needed and a Special Meeting may be held to facilitate that with the Council present.

c. Passport Discussion

The Diversity Council Passport idea was discussed as an option for use as part of the Farmers Market Cash Mob. Dan Mena was a member of the Diversity Council when it first began and is a local business owner. He was speaking with Marcus offline about the Cash Mob and ways to promote retailers as the current Cash Mob dynamic is more consumables based (food and drink establishments).

Mr. Mena presented a sample concept of a passport with Bristol's diversity represented throughout. He shared a number of ways in which the passport, either a physical book, a digital option, or both, could benefit businesses and residents. This tool could be part of a Welcome to Bristol packet, used for seasonal promotions, as part of existing city event marketing, and recruiting visitors to the city, as well as the Council's Cash Mobs. Discussion followed and included Mr. Mena's offer of assistance in designing and implementing the passport if the Council moves forward with it.

VI. New Business

a. Unity in the Community Ideas

The Interim Chair asked the Council to consider ideas of the next Unity in the Community event. The window for this event is the Winter of 2026. This will be discussed in more detail at the next regular Diversity Council Meeting on Tuesday, August 25, 2026.

b. High School Diversity Council Collaboration

The Council was asked to consider ways they can grow involvement of the Bristol high school students in and with the Diversity Council. This is an ongoing conversation and collaboration with Bristol School Superintendent Iris White and other Bristol educators. Members were asked to consider what type of program (mentorships, fostering existing high school diversity programs, etc.) the Council would most like to move forward with.

c. Council Roundtable News and Notes

The clock mosaic which Council Member Jeff Israel created for the Clock and Watch Museum's Mantels of the Season 2025 has been presented to, and accepted by the City Council at its last meeting. The response from City Council and guests was positive. Members of the Diversity Council represented the group at the meeting. The hope is that the clock will be displayed with information about its origin and some of the art included in it at a future date.

IX. Adjournment

Having confirmed no further items for discussion, the Interim Chair called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Council Member Kamens and was seconded by Council Member Israel. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Arsego
Recording Secretary