



Youth Commission

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Bristol City Hall-111 North Main Street Bristol, CT 06010 Room G-1

1. Call to Order

Chair, Officer Matthew Gotowala, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Attendance

Members Present:

Officer Matthew Gotowala, Chair
Deborah Ahl, Vice Chair,
Ryan Broderick, Commissioner
Donna Osuch, Commissioner
Lance Washington, Commissioner
Erick Rosengren, City Council Liaison
Dr. Josh Medeiros, Superintendent
Stephen Bynum, Youth and Community Services
Supervisor
Aubrey Minkler, Community Services Coordinator

Absent:

Ryan Broderick, Commissioner,
Jonathan Lukasiewicz, Commissioner
Miguel Salguero, Commissioner
Renee Singleton, Commissioner
Luke Viens, Commissioner
Sarah Larson, Deputy Superintendent

2. Public Participation

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes: December 11, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kilby to Approve the December 11, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Osuch, all in favor, motion carried

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4. Supervisor's Report

a. Supervisor's Report

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Supervisor's Report. Youth and Community Services Supervisor Bynum updated the Commission on the status of the programs, such as the Paul Vivian Internship Program, Women's Issues Group, Girls with a Purpose, B.E.S.T (Bristol Eliminating Substance Use Together) programs, Man Up and Empower Hour. He also presented updates on the current statistics of the Juvenile Review Board, as well as the results of the Community Conversations Event; discussion followed.

b. Year to Date Financials

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Year-to-Date Financials. Youth and Community Services Supervisor Bynum stated the finances are standard. There have not been any increases in Relocation Services, which is a decrease from Fiscal Year 2024; discussion followed.

c. B.E.S.T Year End Review

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the B.E.S.T Year End Review. Youth and Community Services Supervisor Bynum shared who the members of the BEST Coalition are, along with the upcoming meetings and events for 2025. The BEST Project Coordinator, Deedra Willingham, and Supervisor Bynum attended a meeting with the Board of Education about implementing a Wellness Survey to students in the high schools and one middle school; discussion followed.

5. New Business

a. YSB Quarter 1 Data Collection Review

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the YSB (Youth Service Bureau) Quarter 1 (one) Data Collection Review. Youth and Community Services Supervisor Bynum stated that Bristol is in the North Central Region and is higher in

programming. Statewide there are 1,351 current JRB cases in which 53% percent of them occur at school; discussion followed.

b. School Readiness Presentation

Commissioner Donna Osuch presented the School Readiness Presentation. The School Readiness Program is a Connecticut State-funded program established in 1997. It was established to provide spaces in high-quality preschool programs for eligible children from infants to age 4, in priority school districts or competitive grant communities. Commissioner Osuch presented all the collaborations and successes; discussion followed.

c. Social Media Presentation

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the idea of a Social Media Presentation. This would take place at Bristol Central High School. Supervisor Bynum and Commissioner Broderick had been looking for a presenter with a strong, interactive and lasting presentation for students; discussion followed.

d. BPRYCS Tentative Relocation Plan to City Hall

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the BPRYCS Tentative Relocation Plan to City Hall. Supervisor Bynum showed the commission the tentative layout of the space for Parks and Recreation, Youth and Community Services, proposed to be on the ground floor of the City Hall building at 111 N. Main Street. There were concerns raised about privacy for clients utilizing counseling services, programming, and parking; discussion followed.

e. By Commissioners

None.

6. Old Business

a. Holiday Gift Giving Program Impact Report

Community Services Coordinator Aubrey Minkler presented the Holiday Gift Giving Impact Report. The program was a huge success, serving 473 Bristol children and 184 families with the Shop with a Cop event, Stuff a Cruiser event, and donation bins in multiple locations; discussion followed.

b. By Commissioners

None.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Made by City Council Liaison Rosengren to adjourn at 6:59 p.m.
Seconded by Commissioner Kilby, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted
Amaris Estrada
Recording Secretary
Youth Commission