

**City of Reading City Council**  
**Special Meeting**  
**September 13, 2022**

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz called the special meeting to order at approximately 5:10 pm and announced that the purpose of this meeting is to consider ordinances making ARPA allocations to non-profit applicants. She noted that several Councilors have conflicts of interest with various applicants requiring them to avoid making comments about the applications and to abstain from the vote.

**ATTENDANCE**

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz  
Councilor Daubert, District 1  
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2  
Councilor Ventura, District 3 - virtually  
Councilor Butler, District 4 - virtually  
Councilor Reed, District 5  
Councilor Miller – District 6  
City Clerk L. Kelleher  
Council Solicitor M. Gombar  
City Solicitor F. Lachat - virtually  
Managing Director B. Heim

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz opened the floor for public comment. She reminded everyone that comment is to be on the agenda topics. She stated that there are three (3) citizens registered to speak.

**Michael Toledo, of North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**, spoke about the importance of Hispanic Heritage Month, which occurs annually from September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the Hispanic Center has partnered with various community organizations for events over this one month period. He invited the community to the ribbon cutting ceremony at Centro Hispano's new location at 25 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. He thanked City Council for making ARPA grants that will benefit the community.

**Lourdes Peralta, of North 9<sup>th</sup> Street**, was assisted with translation by Isamac Figueroa. She stated that she owns a flower shop on North 9<sup>th</sup> Street and she noted the importance of the Latino Chamber for small businesses, especially those owned by women. She noted the value of the educational services offered by the Latino Chamber and how that improved her ability to operate her business. She encouraged other small business owners to participate in the services offered by the Latino Chamber.

**Juan Mora, of North 9<sup>th</sup> Street**, described the importance of the Latino Chamber and how participating in their programs improved his ability to successfully operate his business.

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz inquired if anyone else would like to comment. No one came forward and the public comment was closed.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz described the process developed to handle the grant applications, noting that this was the first time the City handled a grant application process thus the many hiccups that occurred during the long process. She thanked the applicants for their patience.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting and she inquired if anyone objected to the legislation listed. No one objected.

**The agenda for this meeting was approved by acclamation.**

## **ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE**

**A. Bill 83-2022 – The Village of Reading – \$~~195,000~~ \$143,600 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting; Re-introduced at the August 29 special meeting***

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Butler, to enact Bill No. 83-2022.**

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz announced that Councilor Butler has a conflict of interest with this applicant.

**Bill No. 83-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 6**

**Nays: None – 0**

**Abstention – Butler – 1**

**B. Bill 84-2022 – Berks Community Health Center –\$400,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

**Councilor Miller moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 84-2022.**

**Bill No. 84-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 7**  
**Nays: None – 0**  
**Abstention - None - 0**

**C. Bill 85-2022 – Berks Latino Chamber – \$200,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *maximum and authorizing the City’s consultant to determine the amount of funding required for one year as per the grant guidelines; Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz announced that she and Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz have conflicts of interest with this applicant.

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Miller, to enact Bill No. 85-2022.**

**Bill No. 85-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Miller, Reed, Ventura - 5**  
**Nays: None – 0**  
**Abstention - Goodman-Hinnershitz, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 2**

**D. Bill 86-2022 – CARE Inc - \$200,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

**Councilor Miller moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 86-2022.**

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz announced that Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz has a conflict of interest with this applicant.

**Bill No. 86-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 6**  
**Nays: None – 0**  
**Abstention - Goodman-Hinnershitz - 1**

**E. Bill 87-2022 – Centro Hispano – \$500,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 87-2022.**

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz announced that she has a conflict of interest with this applicant.

**Bill No. 87-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, - 6**

**Nays: None – 0**

**Abstention - Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 1**

**F. Bill 88-2022 – Goggleworks – \$500,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Daubert, to enact Bill No. 88-2022.**

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz announced that Councilors Reed and Miller have conflicts of interest with this applicant.

**Bill No. 88-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 5**

**Nays: None – 0**

**Abstention - Miller, Reed – 2**

**G. Bill 89-2022 – Habitat for Humanity – \$500,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

**Councilor Miller moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 89-2022.**

**Bill No. 89-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 7**

**Nays: None – 0**

**Abstention – None - 0**

**H. Bill 90-2022 – Berks History Center – \$20,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz announced that Councilors Reed and Miller have conflicts of interest with this applicant.

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No 90-2022.**

**Bill No. 90-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 5**

Nays: None – 0

Abstention - Miller, Reed – 2

**I. Bill 91-2022 – Hope Rescue Mission – \$500,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation**  
***Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 91-2022.**

**Bill No. 91-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 6**

**Nays: Daubert – 1**

**Abstention – None - 0**

**J. Bill 92-2022 – I-LEAD - \$200,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation** ***Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz announced that she and Councilor Daubert have conflicts of interest with this applicant.

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Butler, to enact Bill No. 92-2022.**

**Bill No. 92-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura - 5**

**Nays: None – 0**

**Abstention - Daubert, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 2**

**K. Bill 93-2022 – Million Youth Chess Club – ~~\$2,500~~ \$5,820 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation** ***Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting; Re-introduced at the August 29 special meeting***

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz announced that Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz has a conflict of interest with this applicant.

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Miller, to enact Bill No. 93-2022.**

Councilor Reed recognized Michael Reese who started this effective program for city youth, noting the low cost to operate this program.

**Bill No. 93-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 6**

**Nays: None – 0**

**Abstention - Goodman-Hinnershitz - 1**

**L. Bill 94-2022 – New Journey Community Outreach – \$125,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

**Councilor Miller moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 94-2022.**

**Bill No. 94-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 7**

**Nays: None – 0**

**Abstention – None - 0**

**M. Bill 95-2022 – NHS – \$200,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Butler, to enact Bill No. 95-2022.**

**Bill No. 95-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 7**

**Nays: None – 0**

**Abstention – None - 0**

**N. Bill 96-2022 – Olivet – \$404,500 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz announced that Councilors Butler and Goodman-Hinnershitz have conflicts of interest with this applicant.

**Councilor Miller moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 96-2022.**

**Bill No. 96-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Daubert, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 5**

**Nays: None – 0**

**Abstention - Butler, Goodman-Hinnershitz - 2**

**O. Bill 97-2022 – Prospectus – \$200,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Butler, to enact Bill No. 97-2022.

Bill No. 97-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 7

Nays: None – 0

Abstention – None - 0

**P. Bill 98-2022 – Reading Pride – ~~\$30,000~~ **\$50,000** ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting; Re-introduced at the August 29 special meeting***

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz announced that Councilor Reed has a conflict of interest with this applicant.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Butler, to enact Bill No. 98-2022.

Bill No. 98-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 6

Nays: None – 0

Abstention – Reed - 1

**Q. Bill 99-2022 – Reading Symphony Orchestra – \$100,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz announced that Councilor Miller has a conflict of interest with this applicant.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 99-2022.

Bill No. 99-2022 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 6

Nays: None – 0

Abstention – Miller - 1

**R. Bill 100-2022 – Star City Boxing Co – ~~\$200,000~~ \$215,963 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting; Re-introduced at the August 29 regular meeting***

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz announced that Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz has a conflict of interest with this applicant.

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Ventura, to enact Bill No. 100-2022.**

Councilor Reed stated that she supports this program with a caveat as boxing can cause injuries.

Councilor Cepeda-Freytiz stated that her son has a gym membership at Star City Boxing and she noted the positive changes her son experienced since joining this gym both physically and mentally.

**Bill No. 100-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 6**

**Nays: None – 0**

**Abstention - Goodman-Hinnershitz - 1**

**S. Bill 101-2022 – The Real Deal 610 – \$50,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No. 101-2022.**

Councilor Daubert stated that this is the final applicant that offers anti-violence programming and he noted the impact this programming can have to stem violence within our community.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the benefits of having the anti-violence organizations working together and the wide spread benefits those partnerships can create.

**Bill No. 101-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 7**

**Nays: None – 0**

**Abstention – None - 0**

**T. Bill 102-2022 – Salvation Army – \$100,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at***



*the August 22 regular meeting*

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 102-2022.**

**Bill No. 102-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 7**

**Nays: None – 0**

**Abstention – None - 0**

**U. Bill 103-2022 – YMCA – \$200,000 ARPA Grant Funding Allocation *Introduced at the August 22 regular meeting***

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz announced that Councilors Daubert and Goodman-Hinnershitz have conflicts of interest with this applicant.

**Councilor Miller moved, seconded by Councilor Ventura, to enact Bill No. 103-2022.**

**Bill No. 103-2022 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Butler, Miller, Reed, Ventura, Cepeda-Freytiz, President - 5**

**Nays: None – 0**

**Abstention - Daubert, Goodman-Hinnershitz - 2**

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz thanked Council for their work over the past months to come together and make decisions and she congratulated the grant recipients approved this evening which will allow them to continue to provide great work throughout the community.

The finance director stated that the next step for the applicants is to complete and execute the grant project agreement and finalize their budgets with Z&A, the City's ARPA consultant. He noted that the mayor thanks Council for their vetting process.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked Council and the Council Solicitor for coming together and working to solidify and navigate through the conflict of interest process which can be used as a model for the City and other organizations. She stated that although the public is aware of the applicants and the amounts awarded, the public is not aware about how the applicants will be using this funding. She asked the finance director to post that information on the City's website. The finance director stated that he will attempt to prepare that document prior to Thanksgiving.

Council President Cepeda-Freytiz thanked the administration for working with Council

through this process. She again thanked Council for considering the applicants and their programming. She asked Council members to get to know the non-profit organizations, their programming and mentoring those that they serve.

**Councilor Daubert moved, seconded by Councilor Miller, to adjourn the special meeting of Council.**

*Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk*