

MICROSOFT "TEAMS"

September 8, 2022

McAuliffe Pool Mural Bid Waiver

PRESENT Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair Donald Bell, Jr., Minority Leader John Morrison, Councillors Angela Parkinson, Awet Tsegai, Travis Simpson and Harry Amadasun, Jr.

ABSENT Majority Leader Sebrina Wilson, Councillor Tom Rup

ALSO Connor Martin, Chief of Staff
PRESENT Paul O'Sullivan, Grants Manager
Ted Fravel, Director of Parks and Recreation
Matt Conway, Executive Director, RiseUp Group, LLC

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and vote on a request by Town administration for a bid waiver on a contract with RiseUp Group, LLC to create a mural on the Drennan Pool House, located at McAuliffe Park, that is to be funded with a portion of the Town's ARPA art fund.

The Chair provided detail on the Town's relationship with RiseUp, who have previously developed other murals throughout East Hartford, including the East River Drive underpass and the Martin Luther King tribute on Main Street. Those two murals were not funded with town funds. Per Ordinance, bidding requirements are in place for any contracts over a certain amount to be put out for bid or require a waiver that is approved by the Town Council.

The chair asked if any resident wished to comment on the proposal. None came forward.

Connor Martin, Chief of Staff provided a brief summary of the administration's overall plan for spending of ARPA funds focused on art projects, with a portion allocated to beautification murals. For murals, the Town intends to primarily contract with RiseUp given the quality of the relationship and work previously done in the community. RiseUp also is one of the few organizations in the area that is spearheading mural projects and commissioning local artists for the work.

Matt Conway, Executive Director, RiseUp Group, LLC, spoke to the development of the RiseUp organization and their focus on local artists as a non-profit focused on youth development and strengthening community through the Arts. The organization has created "East Hartford Murals" as a brand, and has plans for additional private projects in East Hartford.

Mr. Conway provided details on Micaela Levesque, an East Hartford resident, who has been commissioned for the Drennan Pool project as well as list of other additional

projects planned for the future, including the other local pools, schools, and a collaboration with the Police Department to honor the K9 unit.

A more complete list of projects and use of funds will be presented at the Council's September 20th Regular Meeting. The Council recommended that in the contract funds be allocated for future maintenance of the work to assure proper upkeep of the murals.

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MOTION By Harry Amadasun
 seconded by Awet Tsegai

that in accordance with Section 10-7(c) of the Town of East Hartford Code of Ordinances, the Town Council waive the bidding procedures required by Section 10-7(b) and allow the town to contract with the RiseUp Group, Inc, to create a mural on the front of the pool house located at McAuliffe Park, located at 30 Remington Road, for the sum of \$7,000, the same being in the best interests of the Town given the ability of the RiseUp Group, Inc, to complete the mural during September, the Town's positive experience with RiseUp Group, Inc, and the limited number of organizations currently doing mural work of this type.

Motion carried 7/0.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By John Morrison
 seconded by Don Bell
 to **adjourn** at 6:40
 Motion carried 7/0.

Attest _____
 Jason Marshall
 Town Council Clerk