

**CITY OF NORWALK
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2024
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Claudia Conner, Chair; Sharon Baanante; Chantal Coffy;
Jasmine Prezzie; Sarah Rendón Garcia; Kristina Teste-Buzzee.

STAFF: Michelle Woods-Matthews; James H., I.T.

OTHER: Dominique Johnson, Awardee; Roshni Yousef, Awardee;
Susan Bysiewicz, Lieutenant Governor; Bob Duff, State Senator;
Lucy Dathan, State Representative; Lucia Rilling, First lady of the City of
Norwalk; Barbara Wood, Principal of Brien McMahon;
Ashley Gulyas, BOE; Janine W. Randolph, BOE.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman, Ms. Conner called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- JANUARY 8, 2024
**KRISTINA TESTE-BUZZEE MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2024.
**SECONDED BY SHARON BAANANTE.
**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- FEBRUARY 21, 2024
**JASMINE PREZZIE MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2024.
**SECONDED BY SARAH REDON GARCIA.
**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

1. THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN WELCOMES EVERYONE AND INTRODUCES THE COMMISSIONERS.

Ms. O'toole-Giandurco welcomed everyone in attendance and called the attendance for the guests, commissioners, staff members and awardees. She also thanked Ms. Sherelle Harris, the executive director of the Norwalk public library for allowing them the space to host the special meeting.

2. THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ANNOUNCE THE YOUTH RISING STAR IMPACT AWARDEE.

Chairwoman, Ms. Conner introduced the award and how the selection process went. She mentioned it was important to include an award to those under 18 years old to recognize their dedication and impact to the city of Norwalk and broader horizons. Ms. Conner recognized Ms. Roshni Yousef as the winner for the Youth Rising Star ImpACT Award.

3. PROCLAMATION READING BY LUICA RILLING, FIRST LADY OF THE CITY OF NORWALK

Ms. Rilling read the proclamation from the Mayor's office to the awardee, Ms. Roshni Yousef.

4. REMARKS BY DR. ALEXANDRA ESTRELLA, SUPERINTENDENT OF NORWALK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This section of the program did not take place. Dr. Estrella was not in attendance at the special meeting.

5. REMARKS BY BARBARA WOOD, PRINCIPAL OF BRIEN MCMAHON HIGH SCHOOL

Principal Wood spoke on behalf of nominating Ms. Yousef for the award as she has worked with her on many projects and solving issues across the state of Connecticut. She described Ms. Yousef as a very selfless and doesn't seek acknowledgement for the work she does.

6. REMARKS BY SUSAN BYSIEWICZ, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ms. Bysiewicz welcomed everyone for joining the special event and allowing her to attend as well. She shared the honor of her mother being part of the first commission of the status of women and the history of women within politics. She mentioned the work of Ella T. Grosso, Constance Baker Motley, and Maria Sanchez. Ms. Bysiewicz is very proud of the work of the award winners.

7. REMARKS BY YOUTH RISING STAR IMPACT AWARDEE

Award winner, Ms. Yousef thanked everyone for coming out to the award ceremony and the programs that allow the youth to share their testimony and be able to be acknowledged for the community work they do that shapes the future.

8. THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ANNOUNCE THE ADULT IMPACT AWARDEE

Chairwoman, Ms. Conner acknowledged Ms. Dominique Johnson as the Award winner for the Adult impACT award.

9. PROCLAMATION READING BY LUCIA RILLING, FIRST LADY OF THE CITY OF NORWALK

Ms. Rilling read the proclamation from the Mayor's office to the awardee, Ms. Dominique Johnson.

10. REMARKS BY STATE SENATOR BOB DUFF, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

State Senator, Mr. Duff thanked everyone for being in attendance. He acknowledged Ms. Yousef for the work she has done and shared his reasoning on nominating Ms. Dominique Johnson for the award. He described Ms. Dominique Johnson as someone who is heard, taken serious and always making an impact.

11. REMARKS BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE LUCY DATHAN

State Representative, Ms. Dathan spoke on behalf of the award winner, Ms. Dominique Johnson. She is grateful to know Ms. Johnson and to know kids have someone they can look up to or resonate with.

12. REMARKS BY ADULT IMPACT AWARDEE

Award winner, Ms. Johnson thanked Mr. Duff for the nomination and always being there for her. She also thanked everyone who is involved with the commission. As well as acknowledging Ms. Yousef for having the confidence to testify bills and being able to base her work on the community and future.

13. FURTHER REMARKS IN HONOR OF AWARDEES

No further remarks were made.

14. THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMAN THANKS EVERYONE FOR COMING.

Chairwoman, Ms. Conner thanked everyone coming to the special meeting and wanted to recognize Ashley and Michelle who cultivated the award, they made sure the award process was inclusive and fair to all nominees.

ADJOURNMENT

****Chairwoman, Ms. Conner motioned to adjourn the special meeting.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vianca Rivera
Telesco Secretarial Services