



MINUTES OF THE PROTECTION AND POLICY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021, 5:30 PM
Virtual Meeting. Public may join via Zoom.

A. ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION.

I. This item contains documents which provide call in information and instructions for the Zoom Meeting.

B. ROLL CALL.

Present: Craig Stevens, Kathy Lefebvre, John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer, Excused:

Also present: Deputy City Attorney Joanne Bungert, Lt Steve Mahony, Lt. Nate Allen, Clerk Celestine Jeffreys, Alder Dorff, Alder Gerlach, Alder Scannell, Alder Brunette, Alder Johnson, Alder Galvin

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Moved by Ald. Kathy Lefebvre, seconded by Ald. Craig Stevens to approve. Motion carried.
Yes- Craig Stevens, John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer, Kathy Lefebvre, No- None, Abstain- None

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

I. Approval of the minutes from the January 11, 2021 Protection & Policy Committee Meeting.
Moved by Ald. Craig Stevens, seconded by Ald. John VanderLeest to approve. Motion carried.
Yes- Craig Stevens, John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer, Kathy Lefebvre, No- None, Abstain- None

E. REGULAR BUSINESS.

1. Consideration with possible action on an application for a "Class B" Combination license by Rogelio Perez Jr. at 2475 University with a license premises description as "seating tables, small bar area" (Currently licensed as Z Harvest Cafe, LLC).

Moved by Ald. Craig Stevens, seconded by Ald. John VanderLeest to approve an application for a "Class B" Combination license by Rogelio Perez Jr. at 2475 University with a license premises description as "seating tables, small bar area" (Currently licensed as Z Harvest Cafe, LLC), with approval of the proper authorities. Motion carried.

Yes- Craig Stevens, John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer, Kathy Lefebvre, No- None, Abstain- None

2. Consideration with possible action on an application for a "Class A" Liquor and Class "A" Beer License by Family Dollar Stores of Wisconsin, LLC at 514 W. Walnut St. with a licensed premises description as "standalone building approximately 11,621 square feet."

Moved by Ald. John VanderLeest, seconded by Ald. Craig Stevens to approve an application for a "Class A" Liquor and Class "A" Beer License by Family Dollar Stores of Wisconsin, LLC at 514 W. Walnut St. with a licensed premises description as "standalone building approximately 11,621 square feet," with the approval of the proper authorities. Motion carried.

Yes- Craig Stevens, John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer, Kathy Lefebvre, No- None, Abstain- None

3. Consideration with possible action on an application for a "Class B" Combination by NW Spirits, LLC at 209 N. Washington St. with a licensed premises description as "store in coolers, behind bar, and in storage room on premises" (Currently licensed as Every Time I Dine, LLC).

Moved by Ald. John VanderLeest, seconded by Ald. Craig Stevens to approve an application for a "Class B" Combination by NW Spirits, LLC at 209 N. Washington St. with a licensed premises description as "store in coolers, behind bar, and in storage room on premises," with the approval of the proper authorities (Currently licensed as Every Time I Dine, LLC). Motion carried.

Yes- Craig Stevens, John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer, Kathy Lefebvre, No- None, Abstain- None

4. For discussion with possible action on a draft resolution written by Alderman Jesse Brunette titled: Resolution in support of Green Bay Area Public School district students, parents, teachers, and employees in urging the school board and administration to transition quickly but safely toward an in-person option for all students.

Moved by Ald. John VanderLeest, seconded by Ald. Mark Steuer to open the floor for discussion. Motion carried.

Yes- Craig Stevens, John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer, Kathy Lefebvre, No- None, Abstain- None

Moved by Ald. Craig Stevens, seconded by Ald. Kathy Lefebvre to close the floor. Motion carried.

Yes- Craig Stevens, John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer, Kathy Lefebvre, No- None, Abstain- None

Moved by Ald. Craig Stevens, seconded by Ald. John VanderLeest to open the floor for discussion. Motion carried.

Yes- Craig Stevens, John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer, Kathy Lefebvre, No- None, Abstain- None

Moved by Ald. John VanderLeest, seconded by Ald. Kathy Lefebvre to close the floor. Motion carried.

Yes- Craig Stevens, John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer, Kathy Lefebvre, No- None, Abstain- None

Moved by Ald. John VanderLeest, seconded by Ald. Mark Steuer to amend by removing the last four whereas clauses and revise the last paragraph to indicate the Green Bay Common Council instead of City of Green Bay. Motion failed. Vote 2-2.

Yes-John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer; No- Craig Stevens, Kathy Lefebvre

Moved by Ald. John VanderLeest, seconded by Ald. Mark Steuer to approve a draft resolution written by Alderman Jesse Brunette titled: Resolution in support of Green Bay Area Public School district students, parents, teachers, and employees in urging the school board and administration to transition quickly but safely toward an in-person option for all students. Motion failed. Vote 2-2.

Yes-John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer; No- Craig Stevens, Kathy Lefebvre

A motion was made to hold and refer to staff to get additional data, however, it failed for a second.

5. For an update, discussion, and possible action on the status of all Open Records Requests received by the city from November 1st to until the date of the Protection and Policy Committee meeting.

Moved by Ald. Craig Stevens, seconded by Ald. Kathy Lefebvre to receive and place on file on a request by Ald. Jesse Brunette for an update, discussion, and possible action on the status of all Open Records Requests received by the city from November 1st to until the date of the Protection and Policy Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Yes- Craig Stevens, John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer, Kathy Lefebvre, No- None, Abstain- None

6. For discussion with possible action on a request of City Council President Jesse Brunette to seek an outside Attorney Client Privilege(d) legal opinion for discernment on options to balance the incredibly important need for public disclosure and transparency with the need to protect the city against potential liability.

Moved by Ald. Kathy Lefebvre, seconded by Ald. John VanderLeest to refer to the Finance Committee a request of City Council President Jesse Brunette to seek an outside Attorney Client Privilege(d) legal opinion for discernment on options to balance the incredibly important need for public disclosure and transparency with the need to protect the city against potential liability. Motion carried.

Yes- Craig Stevens, John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer, Kathy Lefebvre, No- None, Abstain- None

F. INFORMATIONAL.

I. Consideration with possible action on the Liquor Violation Report for January 25, 2021.

Moved by Ald. John VanderLeest, seconded by Ald. Craig Stevens to receive and place on file the Liquor Violation Report for January 25, 2021. Motion carried.

Yes- Craig Stevens, John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer, Kathy Lefebvre, No- None, Abstain- None

G. ADJOURNMENT.

Moved by Ald. Kathy Lefebvre, seconded by Ald. Craig Stevens to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried.

Yes- Craig Stevens, John VanderLeest, Mark Steuer, Kathy Lefebvre, No- None, Abstain- None

MINUTES WITH VERBATIM

- [Celestine] All right, so we are recording and I just want to let everyone know that if you are on Zoom on a computer, you do have at the bottom of your screen the ability to see closed captions, so you can, it's a little something that you yourself can highlight if that is what you choose to do, thank you. Go ahead deputy attorney and chairman.

- All right, Chair we can open the meeting.

- Thank you, attorney Bungert. Hello, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to protection and policy meeting for Monday, January 25th. We will take a roll call Alder Steuer, I am here, Alder Vandelist?

- Here.

- Alder Lefebvre?

- Here.

- Alder Stevens.

- Here.

- Okay, all present and accounted for.

- On to approval of the agenda.

- Okay, do we have a motion to approve the agenda? So moved by Lefebvre, seconded by Stevens, all in favor, please say aye.

- [Group] Aye.

- Aye, all opposed that passes unanimously.

- All right, on to approval of the minutes.

- Okay, a motion to motion to approve the minutes.

- [Stevens] Motion to approve.

- Motioned by Stevens, do we have a second?

- Second.

- Second by Vanderlist. Any other discussion, all in favor, please say aye.

- [Group] Aye.

- Aye, all opposed that passes unanimously.

- All right, and on to regular business item number one.

- Number one, consideration with possible action on an application for a Class B combination licensed by Perez Jr. at 2475 University with a licensed premises description as seating tables, small bar area, currently licensed as Z Harvest Cafe, LLC.

- Law department has no objections.

- [Steuer] Police.

- Please concur with law.

- Okay, do we have a motion?

- [Stevens] Motion to approve.

- Motion, although Lefebvre did you have a question?

- Yes, I had a question for attorney Bungert, did Z Harvest have the license before?

- Yeah, so, it's currently licensed as the Z Harvest, which is why this isn't an available Class B, but a surrender and then and the application for a new applicant.

- Yeah,

- So it's for a new license.

- Yeah, and I'm kind of sorry that Z Harvest has change hands in a way, so I'll have to , cause I liked going to Z Harvest when it was perfect to go.

- Sure.

- Do we have a emotion?

- I think we have a motion by Alder Stevens, .

- Alder Stevens, do we have a second?

- Second.

- Seconded by Vandelist, any other discussion, all in favor please say aye.

- [group] Aye.

- Aye, all opposed, that passes unanimously.

- Number two.

- Number two, a consideration with possible action on an application for a Class A liquor and a class A Beer licensed by Family Dollar Store of Wisconsin LLC, at 514 West Walnut with a licensed premises description as standalone building approximately 11,621 square feet, staff.

- Law Department has no objections.

- Police.

- Please concur with law, but don't forget to remind them that it's gotta go through a full council as well.

- Right, I noticed Attorney Bungert that there are 24 stores in the state right now, Dollar Stores, two of them in Green Bay, there's one along Kiln Avenue and that's not up at this time, I presume.

- No, this is only for the location on Walnut street.

- Okay, so, we can say-

- Each location has to have its own separate. Yeah, we have no issues.

- You have no issues and the police, no issues as well, correct?

- Correct, we don't have any issues. Our community police actually met with them a couple of times and went over their business plan quite extensively and are okay with it.

- Okay, Alder Lefebvre.

- Mr. Chair.

- Yeah, go ahead , go ahead.

- I think that, yeah, I think we probably can't deny it, because it's, they already had had one, right? They already have a license, is that my understanding or is this no?

- That's my understanding, Attorney Bungert, well.

- Yeah, I believe this location has been licensed.

- [Steuer] Right.

- Yeah, I do have, I have a question, well, not a question, but it concern is that it's very close to a school, it's not that far and I think there're people in the neighborhood that were upset with when the gas station was allowed to have their license for some of the liquor or beer. And I just have a concern that it's close to a school, but I guess we can't, because it already has a license, so we have to approve it.

- Well, I was gonna ask Lieutenant Mahoney, have we had any issues at all with this establishment over time?

- No, we have not had any issues. I know right across the street on the Kwik Trip, I believe has their liquor license as well, but no issues there, occasionally shoplifting and that's what our community police went over with them to help solidify their business plan and giving them ideas on how to deter retail theft and shoplifting out of there, especially with the alcohol.

- Okay.

- I think this is something that we've gotta consider when we do some of these licenses, how close they are to a school and also that there's two places right across from the street from each other that are selling the alcohol and as you know, alcohol is a big issue in our community, so...

- Alder Lefebvre, I haven't seen it for a while, but I knew at one time there was a map out there that had a list of the Class A bear and Class A liquor and a Class B as well and I'm wondering Attorney Bungert, there might be something that the committee would like to see in the future as well as -

- Okay.

- .

- I think that was,

- The council, come again.

- Yes, I believe that was provided earlier in 2020. I think it was actually per communication requests from Alder Lefebvre and that map was provided and it was then therefor provided also to council as part of the report from protection policy.

- Right, well, if you could just make a note of that, I mean, we can go back over our records, but if there might be something that we haven't done it for over a year, so it'd be nice to at least have a copy of that again, if that's possible, if you could do that, okay.

- We can do that. As far as the school ordinance that prohibits an establishment from being, a Class A establishment from being within 300 feet of a school, so that is something that's reviewed by the Clerk's Office and by inspection before being cleared to proceed to committee. If it is something that's within 300 feet, that alerts Law Department as to that issue and then we always alert the committee, because then it requires a waiver vote in order to waive that requirement, so I don't have anything in my notes from the Clerk's Office or from inspections indicating that this location is within that 300 feet, so that's why there wasn't an issue of from our perspective, otherwise we would consistently alert the committee if that was an issue.

- Okay, I guess-

- , I'll second the motion.

- Okay, I just had one other question, as far as the school that used to be there, wasn't that Jefferson School that was over in that area? And maybe Alder Dolph could answer that. I think there was a school there and I don't know if that-

- Not exactly sure where this is on Washington, can somebody give me-

- No, it's on Walnut.

- Was it Walnut?

- [Lefebvre] Walnut.

- .

- Yes.

- [Dolph] .

- Well, it used to be, yeah, the Fort Howard school, no the Fort Howard school is still there. I was thinking of former Jefferson School. Maybe I'm-

- [Dolph] That's on Walnut.

- That's on .

- [Man] There is no school anywhere near it.

- I didn't think there was actually I didn't think , but okay.

- All right, I was just checking. All right, that's good, I'm good. All right, we have a second by Stevens. Any other discussion, all in favor, please say aye. [Group] Aye.

- Aye, all opposed, that passes unanimously.

- Hold there.

- Yes, there is someone, who made a motion?

- yes.

- .

- Yeah, I'm not sure who made the motion.

- Vandelist?

- Author Vandelist made the motion.

- [Bungert] Okay.

- Okay Vandelist, then seconded by Stevens.

- Craig, thank you.

- Okay, all right, thank you.

- [Steuer] All right.

- One second, all right, item number three.

- Number three, consideration with possible action on an application for a Class B combination by NW Spirits, LLC at 209 North Washington Street with a licensed premise description as store and coolers behind bar and in storage room on premises currently licensed as Every Time I Die In LLC, staff.

- Law Department has no objection.

- Police.

- Please concur with law.

- Okay, committee, do you have any concerns? If not, I'll entertain a motion.

- Motion to approve.

- Motion to approve.

- Motion by Vandelist, do we have a second, seconded by Stevens. Any other discussion all in favor, please say aye. [group] Aye.

- Aye, all opposed, that passes unanimously.

- All right, item number four.

- Number four, for discussion with possible action on a draft resolution written by Alderman Jesse Brunette, titled resolution and support support of Green Bay Area Public School District students, parents, teachers and employees and urging the school board and administration to transition quickly, but safely to toward an in-person option for all students. Before I turn this over, I just, this is gonna be, this is an emotional issue for both sides and I would entertain that civility is utilized here. We respect each other's opinions and I'll defer to Celestine Jeffreys on this to make sure that you take care of the clock on this as well, but before we do that, I'll open this up to Alder Brunette, if you could just describe briefly what your resolution is and we will hear it from both sides.

- Yes, thank you Chairman Steuer. Oftentimes City of Green Bay government passes resolutions, resolutions are typically non-binding when we advise or give opinion to another government or elected official, to act in a manner that is in the best interest of City of Green Bay residents. This happens quite a bit. We ask them quite regularly, in fact. So the reason this issue came to my attention was some of the parents and teachers in the community as well as students reaching out to me and as well as a number of other council members in frustration that City of Green Bay schools does not have at this point a safe in-person option or many if not all students. So I thought after watching the school board for the last few months and attending a public rally of a group of citizen members who wanted to encourage the Green Bay School District to offer an in-person option for their students. I thought it would be appropriate to bring this resolution forward for consideration by your City of Green Bay government. Before I read the resolution that I drafted for consideration, Chairman Steuer, I'd like to ask Attorney Bungert, if by reading the resolution here, then it will be entered into the record and that the committee could vote on it tonight.

- Yeah, that's fine. It's in keeping with past practice where sometimes we are able to get a draft together for committee's consideration prior to the item actually being referred or approved. So if, and I understand that with the timing of the, it wasn't included in the packet, but it was sent out to the committee to review and if Alder Brunette doesn't read it into the minutes, then the committee can be discussed and amended or approved and then forwarded on council.

- Yeah-

- Point of order, excuse me, I have a point of order to ask Attorney Bungert. So Attorney Bungert, if Alder Brunette or when Alder Burnett reads the resolution, the people that are on this meeting right now will have access to this resolution. It was not properly posted, so that means that there are many people who would have had no ability to see the resolution, who would not even perhaps be coming to the media tonight to speak on it, because the resolution was not properly posted and I'm asking if that is legal or fair or if that's the way we do business, that we allow something to be talked about and there are people on this call that I know and sincerely like a lot, but is it fair to the people that did not even get to see the resolution that don't even know it's gonna be read .

- Sure Alder, I can speak to what the legal requirements are for open meetings law and open meetings requires that notice be posted no less than 24 hours as to the items and topics, as specific as possible, hosted with respect to what the governing body or committee thereof is going to be discussing, that was accomplished by way of publishing the agenda on Friday with Alder Brunette communication indicating exactly what the resolution was going to be discussing. It does not need to go into so much detail as to basically divulging what the contents of the resolution are, however, it needs to be enough to be able to apprise the public as to what the discussion is going to be and that was satisfied with the communication that was placed on the agenda. I do want to just kind of refer to how we do, so basically the text of the resolution didn't need to be part of the packet. What is sufficient from an open meeting standard and practice is that the agenda item is clearly defined which is what happened here. We do on occasion, like I said, sometimes staff is able to prepare when there's a late communication from a council member or requesting a resolution or requesting a draft when ordinance that is of timely nature and needs to get in front of council as soon as possible, staff makes an effort when it can to prepare that draft and sometimes that draft isn't ready that afternoon or that evening. So we have done that in the past where the agenda items simply refers to amending an ordinance or passing a or adopting a resolution and then the actual of that draft, whether it be ordinance or resolution is discussed in detail at committee and then the committee is able to either approve the draft as presented by staff or in this case as presented by Alder Burnette or make amendments on the floor to the draft and then those changes can be made, so that to be included in protection and policies report to council.

- Thank you for that clarification, I just want you to make sure -

- You're very welcome, absolutely.

- Chairman Steuer, -

- [Steuer] Go ahead.

- Yeah and thank you for that Attorney Bungert and Alder Dolph for your question. As you all know, for many of you who know me process and the way I move forward with these things is very important to me, so I did communicate with the City Clerk, Deputy Clerk as well as the Law Office on making sure that I did this the right way. The reason why it was not published on Friday by 5:30 was that I wanted to get it right, I wanted to word it in a way that was not political, that was not shaming of the school board, that was not dictating that to them, the specific things that they need to do, but rather what I believe the outcome should be and so I wanted to make that clear. So I personally worded the resolution which I will read shortly. About 10:30 on Friday evening, I did email it individually to each of the council members on this committee, not as a whole, but individually and Alder Lefebvre, I believe you said you did not get it, I did send it to the District Six email account, but for some reason... your emails you may wanna look into that. So for the sake of the committee now, keep in mind you all have received this and I believe the clerk could send this out to the full City Council earlier today, so each council member has it, the members of the public who do not have it, please accept my apologies, by no way did I intend to keep anyone in the dark, It's just the way that this happened. And so I'd be happy to share it with anyone after this meeting, after I read it, so please feel free to reach out to me, nothing to hide, no secrets. I drafted this my own, I did not consult with the open schools group, I did not consult with

any specific special interest group, these are my words and hopefully the committee finds them acceptable. So having said that Mr. Chairman, my resolution is titled resolution in support, pardon me for one moment, . Okay, so its resolution in support of Green Bay Area Public School District students, parents, teachers and employees in urging the school board and administration to transition quickly, but safely toward an in-person option for all students. Data is unknown at the point of time by the common council of the City of Green Bay. Whereas COVID 19 has required all levels of government to implement sensible policies and procedures to confront the public health crisis while still providing quality public services for the betterment of all people. Whereas the Green Bay Area Public School District serves students in the City of Green Bay, Village of Alloway, village of Bellevue, Town of Scott, parts of Ledgeview, Eaton and Humboldt. Whereas the Green Bay Area Public School District includes four high schools, two charter schools, four middle schools, three schools, 24 elementary schools, one alternative school and three early childhood schools. Whereas the Green Bay Area Public School District is responsible for teaching over 20,000 students, including 14.8% with disabilities, 64.5% economically disadvantage and 21.1% English learners. Whereas the Green Bay Area Public School District employs over 3,500 people. Whereas the demographic makeup of the student body of the Green Bay Area Public School District is 43.1% white, 29.7% Hispanic, 9.1% black, 7.5% Asian, 3.6% American Indian, less than 1% Pacific Islander and 6.9% with two or more of the preceding. Whereas the state and mission of the Green Bay Area Public School District is quote, we educate all students to be college career and community ready, inspired to succeed in our diverse world. Whereas many parents, students and teachers of the Green Bay Area Public School District believe the school district is failing to fully meet their stated mission. Whereas current situations created by a lack of safe in-person instruction option is directly and negatively impacting the quality of life of Green Bay residents many of whom are our most vulnerable. Whereas many students with various vulnerabilities are falling behind their peers, in other green Bay Area School Districts and independent private schools. Whereas these inequitable conditions will be exacerbated in future years, creating a substantial achievement gap for many Green Bay children as compared to their peers. Be it resolved that the City of Green Bay is in support of Green Bay Area Public School District students, parents, teachers and employees and urges the Green Bay Area Public School District Board and Administration to transition quickly, but safely toward an in-person option for all students. I would encourage the Chairman, unless you have questions for me as a committee to open the floor to hear from interested individuals.

- Thank you Alder Brunette, we will do that, before we do that though, I'd like to have a couple of inputs from the committee, Alder Scannell, I do see you. Committee, do you have any specific questions off the bat before we open the floor and we hear from other alders.

- Before we open the floor, I think I'd like to listen to the other alders first.

- That's fine, all right, Alder Scannell.

- Thank you, Mr. Chair, I'm a little confused on the resolved of the resolution. From everything I've been able to understand, the Green Bay School Administration and the School Board wants to go to in-person schooling as quickly and safely as possible. I don't think there's a policy difference here. There's a difference in what that means operationally, but and I think Alder Burnette was very wise, he didn't have to including the language for that, because we should not be dictating to another governing body how to operate. So as a policy issue, I don't see where the difference is. I mean, when we've done resolutions in the past, they were about issues where there were division, where like the dark stores, there were politicians at the state level that supported

the dark stores being able to do what they are doing. So what wanted to support those state legislators who opposed the dark stores. So there was a divide to take it aside on and it directly related to city business. These are crazy times, so I guess I'm not, I'm open to other kinds of resolutions going forward in these difficult times, but I just don't see how this resolution does anything that the Green Bay School Board and the Administration isn't pursuing as a policy, so...

- Would you want Alder Brunette to answer that, Alder Brunette.

- Certainly.

- Thank you for those comments, Alder Scannell, if that's what you believe, then your vote or support of the resolution is almost insured, if you think that it's not going to create any difference from what the school board has indicated then I think by voting yes when it gets to the council, if it gets that far, then you basically are saying to the school board, we have your back and we approve of what you're attempting to do. If you believe that their objectives are the same as what the resolution calls for then to me that seems to be a simple vote, yes.

- Well, I don't understand the purpose though, what's the purpose then? from they disagree with what the school board is doing, but that disagreement is an operational one and I don't feel it's appropriate for the city getting involved in that. So, what is it we're doing? I don't understand if we're just support, I mean, no one from the school board as far as I know or the school has asked for assistance, that they need help or want our support in any way, I do not understand what the purpose of the resolution is.

- Alder Scannell.

- What I'm hearing from parents, what their concerns are, which as far as I can tell everybody's goal is the same, the policy is the same, but how to get there, there are division, that they should take up with-

- Alder Scannell.

- Yep.

- Alder Brunette before you, I just wanted to interject, we on council, each of the council members has gotten numerous emails from citizens mostly saying they wanna reopen the schools et cetera, like we all do and you might say, it's an operational thing, but we're answering to our citizens. We represent the citizens in our districts and we need to listen to them, that's all. So Alder Brunette, yes, go ahead.

- Actually I have to that.

- [Brunette] Alder .

- All right.

- I've been thinking a lot about this job lately.

- Yeah, .

- And we went through the fluoride issue, I brought this up, we have a job description, we have a job to do and it's inappropriate to put unreasonable expectations on us. Yes, people should come to us if they have a problem and we should redirect them to the appropriate place, if it's not our business. We have enough to do on our plate. I don't think it's appropriate for us to take on more than what we should be doing. This is the school board is a duly elected board, it's a local board, everybody has access to it, with an operational issue, if it was a policy issue, I could see some wiggle room here, but with an operational issue, I feel it's totally inappropriate for us to take this up. So I don't know, again, that's my I'm trying to figure out, just what are we trying to do here? I don't think we should be taking on business, that's not our business. If anything, this sounds more like a County issue with a health issue. I mean, at one time the city had a board of health, but we've given that over to the County. I mean, I just don't see how this relates to our city business, our job, unless it's a policy issue and I see no policy difference. I don't know why we're taking this up.

- It's not a binding.

- That's what I'm trying to figure out.

- This isn't a binding resolution, it's...

- It's still a resolution that we're taking our time with here, with staff, we're taking our staff time, we're taking our time and we're putting an , I'm not just thinking about us, I'm thinking about future alders. Is this a reasonable expectation that citizens come to us and expect us, because they're frustrated with another government body, which I understand and I appreciate that, but with an operational issue, it's just not our business and I don't think we should be taking it up, that's just not right.

- It's like going,

- All right.

- if there's two doctors, there's a plastic surgeon and a heart doctor and you need to go to the heart doctor, but you go to the plastic surgeon, it's not the right place. You should be saying, no, you need to go over here.

- All right.

- That's our job.

- Okay Alder Scannell, thank you, Alder Brunette.

- Yeah, thank you and I appreciate the give and take of council members, I don't wanna make it about us, really it's about the people in this community, the children specifically, parents specifically and the teachers specifically. We issue, We need to on the quality of life for people within the city of Green Bay. You can get pretty deep down the rabbit hole, if we allow ourselves to get there. All I did was bring forward something that does in fact affect the quality of life. What I'm suggesting isn't at all unusual or extraordinary. I've listened to a lot of people through the last several months at our school board meetings to suggest that the school board does want this, I find that hard to believe, because they're not open Alder Scannell, the schools are not open to in-person instruction, where other school district around us are, Catholic schools, Lutheran schools , school children in the city who we serve and represent on the Green Bay City Council in a very unfair and inequitable situation today and in the future. There's anxiety, there's depression, there's frustration, there are parents that cannot go to work, because they have to stay home to educate their children through the Zoom system, there is a lot, so I don't wanna make it about us in this back and forth between council members, you all can have your opinions, you all have to represent your constituents the way that you would want them to be represented. I sleep very good at night knowing that I brought this forward. I think it's very appropriate and I really wanna hear from the community, cause I think the community speaks to this. You're gonna perhaps hear a perspective that you probably haven't heard yet, so I don't mean to

- Alder Scannell.

- or I don't mean to put people on the spot, but come on, we pass these resolutions all the time.

- No we -

- Alder Scannell, Alder Scannell, please.

- One last thing, okay.

- Then we're gonna open the floor, I'd like to open the floor.

- Fine, I just wanted to-

- And Alder Dolph, go ahead Alder Scannell, last time please.

- Yep, again, I can't stress enough, I have heard from the people throughout the , I know what the and this pandemic, it's been horrible. It's been horrible, 400,000 people have died and we expect many more to die before we get through this, people who've had this are still many people are still being debilitated by having caught this disease. Our economy is a mess, our schooling is a mess. Yes, all those things are true, but it's not our job to make operational decisions for a different governing body. The policy, everybody wants to get through this, everybody wants to see everybody get to back to school. I don't know anybody, I've never heard anyone say that they think not going back to school is a great idea, it's a horrible idea, but what are you gonna do in the middle of a pandemic? And to compare the Green Bay schools, the third largest district in the state to a village or Catholic school, it's just, you're comparing apples to oranges.

- Chicago is going back.

- The logistics of a school this size are different and I trust the people who are elected and who are hired to work that, know their operations better than we do.

- All right, we need to move on a little bit. Alder Dolph, I'm not , if you wanna chime in , have a motion to open the floor.

- I yield to Alder Galvin and Alder Gerlach, they had their hands up before I did.

- All right, Alder Gerlach.

- Yes, I do have to agree with Alder Scannell, I absolutely cannot support this and I don't want Alder Brunette to take this personally, because I do think that he it's coming from his heart, but I think it's very ill-advised. We are not ever in a position to advise or give opinion and that's exactly Alder Brunette's words to the school board. Yes, all the children all over the country are seriously impacted by this in a negative way. Yes, we all want the schools to be open, but it's not our place, just as it would not be the place of the school board to start to include something about fat tire biking at Park. We just spent a lot of time on that, but what if they invited the public to come and talk about fat tire biking at Park? And then they passed a resolution telling us we are to safely and quickly and or continue or whatever fat tire biking, it just doesn't work. And I have some real concerns also about the content of this resolution which I cannot have my name attached to this. I don't know these things to be true. It says here, and I'm trying to read now on my screen, it says that it is negatively impacting the quality of life of Green Bay residents, many of whom are most vulnerable. I don't know where the data is to support that. I don't know where the data is to say that our students with various vulnerabilities are falling behind their peers in other Green Bay Area School Districts and independent private schools. I think that's a guess, there's nothing to support that. And to say that current equitable conditions will be exacerbated in future years. Hey, it's gonna happen to all the kids in the United States, I'm sorry. I have two grandsons who are missing their entire senior year this year and I feel really bad about it, but that's the way it is. I think that for us to suggest that we as a council have a better idea of what it means to be to do this quickly and safely is arrogant and unacceptable and I think for us to invite the public to tell us how they feel about what the school system should do is inappropriate. We should not be listening to that, we should not be passing judgment on that and I simply cannot support this resolution.

- All right, thank you Alder Gerlach. Are Alder Galvin?

- Thank you chair. I was tryna write down some notes with Alder Brunette's a little preamble that he started with, there were three things, he said that this was not supposed to be, it wasn't supposed to be political, it wasn't supposed to be shaming, I didn't catch what the third thing was not to be and I don't know if he remembers what it was or if he does if he could tell me what it was.

- I don't remember offhand.

- [Brunette] No, I don't.

- And then I think after those three things, I thought maybe it was not supposed to be pressuring them, I can't remember, but then you said, what it is supposed to be, is and I'm paraphrasing this, but this resolution should be something that outcome to be for this issue and let me ask the Chair a question here, Chair, you sat through fluoride, did you not?

- Yeah.

- How many hours?

- a lot.

- How many hours of testimony was that at the committee level?

- I'd say about 12 to 13.

- 12 to 13 hours. And then-

- time.

- And then we did open the floor at council, but that still took a good hour of just us discussing it back and forth. How would you feel if the fluoride people went to the school board about fluoride? Would you think that would be appropriate for them to take up the time of the school board members and have them through 12 to 13 hours of testimony about fluoride, so that they could send us a resolution, telling us how they think we should act on the fluoride issue. And then if they don't get the answer they want there, then they can go to the County Board and they could have some of their state representatives weigh in and they could keep looking for someone who is willing to take up the mantle for them and carry it forth to possibly get what they wanna get. And I'm just asking the Chair here, are you willing to commit your committee's time and the

council's time to listen to hours of testimony from concerned parents on both sides of the issue, possibly concerned teachers on both sides, are you willing to listen to the school board give you all the information that they have and what they base their answer on, because that's what we need to have here. If you really want us to get involved with this, with this resolution, because this resolution is about pressuring them to do it. I mean, you've got the emails about the city's emergency declaration. I had several emails from parents that actually threatened to have me removed from office if I didn't comply and help them remove the emergency declaration by the city. And I'm like, I'm gonna be removed from office potentially, because I didn't pressure the school board to change policies and procedures? I mean, how far down this road do we wanna go on every situation, where someone doesn't get the answer they want? And I would suggest there's three open seats on the school board right now, one is going to be appointed very shortly and if anyone feels that they're not getting the answers they want from your school board, they can certainly sign up for that or they can certainly run for office, just like you and I both know they don't, our constituents don't like what we're doing for the City of Green Bay and I'll remind you what we're supposed to be doing for the City of Green Bay is taking care of garbage, roads, police, fire, parks, we're not supposed to be throwing our opinion around about who does what and how they're doing it. And we can talk about how it's affecting the citizens that we represent, absolutely, but like Alder Gerlach said, where's the data? I mean, a lot of us are going from the gut, the heart about how we feel. We hear stories, we see some of those in the paper, we hear them from neighbors, we hear them from friends, but I don't feel right. I don't feel we have the right to be sticking our nose into something that's really not our business. I have my opinion about this, obviously Alder Brunette has an opinion about this and he feels so strongly about it, that he feels that this council should consider it, but I think we're overstepping our bounds.

- All right, Alder Galvin, I've read this draft as well and one, two, three, four, the first seven points that are made are, I consider factual in terms of percentages and the numbers of schools, the makeup of the demographic, things like that and I think that's all important to have at least have that to understand. The last four points are open for interpretation, so the last four items that were read. So, we've had some mess where we did not open the floor. I've been on council for nine years and we have always, when people show up even whether you or I or anybody else feels that it's not appropriate per se, we've always opened the floor and I know that that can be lengthy at times, but what if we do open it, we'll get heat for it, if we don't open it, we'll get heat for it.

- Oh, and Chair, I'm I'm going to make one point, if we don't open the floor for something that we have no business being involved with, we will not take any justifiable heat from it. Now, if you want, I can bring forth a resolution on the last election and I guarantee you, you will be buried under testimony from people that wanna give testimony on how they feel this last presidential election went. I can bring forth again next year, fluoride and I can bring forth many other things that are gonna be controversial and have absolutely nothing to do with this city council and if you wanna open the floor on every one of those, you will be buried, spending your time not doing what you were elected to do and we were not elected to do this, thank you.

- All right.

- Alder, Chairman-

- Alder Brunette.

- Yeah, I just-

- Yes, go ahead.

- I mean, there are 30 people in the Zoom call, 31 now, probably a third of them, close to a third are council members, perhaps a few are media members. There are probably 10 members of the public looking to speak on this, okay? We are spending more time as a council talking about why we don't wanna hear from them than the time we would actually take to hear from them. You don't have to vote for this, if you don't like it don't vote for it. Bottom line, adjust it, revise it, whatever it is, but don't not listen to them. That's what these folks feel, that the school board is not listening to them.

- Again, that is not our job to listen to them, if they don't think the school board is not listening to them. That is-

- .

- It's not our job.

- Alder Galvin, perhaps, but I have a disagreement with you. In December 17, 2019, we passed a resolution in the City of Green Bay government in support of state legislation, regulating the application and sale of coal tar and other high products, the last line was, now therefor, for be it resolved that the common council of the City of Green Bay urges the governor and state legislature to enact legislation banning the sale and application of coal tar and other high pH sealants within the state of Wisconsin. We can pass resolutions advising the State Government, the State Legislature and the governor to do what is in the best interest of the City of green Bay, but we can't do the same thing for the school board? I mean, that's just ridiculous on the face. We pass the resolution advising the President of the United States and the US Congress on what to do in regards to xenophobia around the COVID crisis. We have done this a number of times, don't vote for it honestly, if it raises that much frustration for you simply don't vote for it, but I wanna hear from these people, it does affect the people in this city and I think we owe it to them to at least hear them out. Literally 10 people, probably if that, limit it to two to three minutes, it's like 30 minutes. We're spending more time talking about why this isn't appropriate and why we don't wanna do it and we would spend actually listening to the people who pay the taxes, who live in the city, who support the Green Bay School District. So Chairman Steuer, please just open the floor, make a vote, I encourage you to the community-

- All right, before, okay, before we do that, I'm gonna go to the committee. Committee, how do you feel about this?

- I just like to make one comment, Mark.

- Yes, go ahead.

- This is an advisory resolution, just like the coal tar, just like many issues that we talk about, so I'm in favor of opening the floor. Why not, let the public, in other words, this is a frustrating, in other words, just give a little more information, the school board, maybe they need some direction, it's an advisory resolution, go for it.

- Alder Galvin, do you have an issue?

- Yeah, right there, he just said, what did Alder Vandelist say? He said, he went beyond the resolution, let's give them guidance and tell them how to do it. I mean, this is where this starts-

- It's an advisory.

- Well, advisory, you just said, we should give them guidance and tell them how to do their job. This is where, this is wrong. If you wanna tell them how to do their job, call them up, send them a letter, send them an email, go to their meetings, run for office. We should not be telling them how to do their job. That resolution that we've sent to the state was about items that were being used in the City of Green Bay, on the City of Green Bay roads that were causing harmful physical effects on our roads, the ones that we maintain, the ones that we built and so we were asking the state to pass a law that prevented that from being used on our roads, the things our tax payer, the things that we represent, the things that is our responsibility. Our responsibility is not to tell the school board how to do their job, thank you.

- All right, okay.

- Mr. Chairman.

- Alder Lufebvre, go ahead.

- Barb Dolph would like to, Alder Dolph would like to speak. I'll let her speak and then I got a suggestion.

- All right, Alder Steven, before he can do that, Alder Stevens, was there anything, any comments you wanted to make?

- I do have a comment, but I'll let Alder Dolph speak.

- Okay, Alder Dolph.

- Thank you, I don't think this is about not letting the people speak, Alder Brunette and committee, I think this is about whether or not this issue is appropriate for city council to take up. I believe that most of the people, most of the public people on this call understand clearly that we have no control over the school board or the administration. We do not give them any money. The taxes they get are separate from the taxes that the city gets. We don't support them financially, we don't usually talk about the things that they're talking about. We have our agendas and they have their agendas. I believe that all of us here today would love to see children back in school. Let's see what the words are, quickly, but safely. And I believe that there is a group right at this very moment called the Green Bay Area School Board, School District, School Board, they're meeting right now. I have gone to as many meetings as I possibly am able to go to. I run the CDC indicators and the gating requirements, I know what's going on. I believe that they have a plan in place and that the kids are gonna be back in school very soon. I believe it is right for the City Council, advisory or not, to be passing a resolution that is indeed shameful, that is unsupported by any data, those four whereas you spoke of, Alder Steuer, those are unsupported by data, we don't, it's all conjecture. I will not put my name on conjecture, but I will agree that, I would love to see the children back in school, again quickly, but safely, thank you.

- All right, Alder Stevens, did you-

- , Alder Lefebvre wanted to talk.

- You can go first, Alder Stevens, you can go first.

- No, go for it because... Okay, yeah, the more I think about this resolution, now I'm not in support of it, I think again, I know Alder Brunette is very concerned and he's probably getting a lot of calls, maybe from parents that are pressuring him, but I have not received that here. And I know that the children are suffering, I know that, we are, actually, I'm suffering too. Some days where I feel so down, because I can't just go out and do what I wanna do, it's affecting me too, it's affecting all of us and the only solution is to take our time to do what we're supposed to be doing, wearing our masks, social distance, don't go shopping like you normally were, just go to where you have to go, but take precautions. These are things that we need to do for all of us and then we have the vaccinations. Once we get that and the teachers can get it, get the vaccinations then maybe it will be safe, but there are all these different priorities that we have to follow. These are things that we have to do first, but yeah, no, I'm not in support of this resolution. I was gonna say, if everybody had such a concern, write a letter to the school board and just saying that, we're here to support you, we hope that schools can open soon, as soon as you can safely, just a friendly letter. That's all we need, we don't need a resolution.

- All right, okay.

- As I just said, this is not our , this is not us. We're not the school board.

- All right.

- Thank you.

- Thanks Alder Lefebvre, Alder Stevens.

- Yeah, thank you. Jesse thank you, thank you to all the alders for your comments. I also have to agree with the majority of alders, I don't believe this is the right avenue for us to tackle at this time. The school board does have, the school board that's their own government, Green Bay has their own government, we're two separate bodies. I don't feel right as a person asking the City of Green Bay to meddle with what the school district is currently doing. Last week, the school district came out, said that one staff gets vaccinated. They'll open the schools within weeks, great. I totally understand that, we're in a pandemic. Look at all of us. We're all hiding behind a monitor, why?

- Yes.

- Because our city will not allow us go back to City Hall. So, this is the new norm for all of us. We all are learning, we've been learning. I don't think this resolution is the correct avenue for us to go down. In regarding opening the floor, opening the floor is the right of common council, it is the right of committees if they choose to open the floor. Everybody goes to expect us to open the floor, it's our right to do that. Yes, I am a newer alder, totally understand that, but that is part of our right if we choose to open the floor or not.

- Appreciate Alder Stevens.

- So, as of right now, I can't support this.

- All right, now that's fine.

- The school board is meeting tonight, we don't know what the discussion is gonna be tonight or what their plan is moving forward, we don't know. We won't know until there, as of right now, I can't support this.

- Okay, well, that's your opinion for later. So my thought is this, Alder Brunette, here's what I suggest then, we talked about opening the floor or not opening the floor and we've been beaten both ways by that and I understand where the other alders are coming in, I'm still a proponent of hearing the folks. I'm sorry I disagree with that, but I will ask for a vote of whether to open the floor or not and I will vote yes, Alder Vandelist?

- Yes.

- Point of order, Chairman, you have to, is that a motion?

- Okay, well, let's have a motion.

- I'd like to after the motion.

- Okay, Alder Vandelist, do you wanna make a motion?

- I'll make a motion to open the floor.

- Okay, do we have a second? I will vote second. All in favor, please say aye.

- Alder Steuer, I'd like to make a, you have a motion on the floor, so can I make a quick comment?

- Yes.

- I would encourage the committee to hear from the public, they've been involved in this call from the beginning, if I'm way off base, if I'm out of line, this is not something that this committee is desiring to bring up or majority of the council. I think if you say that I don't understand it or that we know we we shouldn't do this, please open the floor to hear from people. They will give you a perspective that perhaps you haven't heard to this point and to open the floor would be whether they believe that the City of Green Bay should have the resolution, okay? Whether the City of Green Bay, they are not voicing their support of the actual resolution, they are voting-

- Well, looking to open the floor right now.

- Alder Stevens, Alder Lefebvre, there's absolutely no harm to hear from these folks who have been sitting in this Zoom meeting for an hour as we debate why we shouldn't hear from them.

- I was gonna ask before we do that, Attorney Bungert, Attorney?

- So the question is if we have a motion, a second and then we vote whether the open the floor or not, if it's a two to two vote, I just wanna hear what is our purview after that?

- The motion would fail at that point.

- Okay, I'm gonna lean on that and Alder Brunette, that's just what I'm gonna do. We had a motion by Alder Vandelist, I seconded the motion to open the floor. Do we have, all in favor please say aye.

- I have a question for the attorney.

- Yep.

- If we were to open the floor, can we limit it to two minutes discussion?

- Yeah, that's within the purview of the Chair, so if the Chair wants to, the Chair basically controls the discussion. So, if Alder Steuer wants to do a two minute limit.

- I feel that the talk could keep it to two minutes.

- The reason why I asked-

- I'll agree with agree them.

- If you come to talk to us, please be prepared.

- Yeah, two minutes is better than zero, okay.

- Okay, so with that caveat, then I would say for two minutes I can agree to that. So, Alder Vandelist made a motion, I seconded it, all in favor, please say aye. [Group] Aye.

- Thank you.

- Okay, all right, the floor is now open.

- [Celestine] Okay.

- Celestine Jefferys, Chief of Staff.

- [Celestine] I'm not anymore.

- , I was gonna say once that's official, I guess that's official.

- [Celestine] Yes, it is official, thank you all.

- All right, well go ahead, you discuss what needs to be done and I'll defer to you.

- [Celestine] Thank you, Alder. So the committee has limited your comments to two minutes. I have a new timer, so I will put that up on the share screen and when your time has expired, if you can't see the screen, I'll let you know and then your comments will be over. And the best way to do this, if you do have the capacity to raise your hand in Zoom, there's actually an icon that you can activate, if not, what you can do is unmute yourself and start speaking and then I will give you the timer and we'll go from there. Okay, so I see Zoom user, please unmute yourself and state your name and address for the committee.

- Hi, my name is Christine Beckmann, I live at 1001 Square Terrace and that's in Green Bay at 5431 Street. We have two minutes here, I just want to tell you first of all, I support this resolution 100%. I have been in tears watching you guys say you don't want to hear us. The school board won't hear us, either. My son, my eighth grader, I asked him to write down his thoughts on why he feels like he needs to go back to school and just tonight, I found out he's suicidal. These children need this psychologically, they are being given a deficit. They will not be as far as the other children, they will miss out on jobs, they will not do as well in college, they are not doing well now. I am home with them every day, because I am in class too and they're not doing well. I'm a nurse, I know how to take care of mental health needs, I don't know what to do anymore. They need to be in school. They need to have the interaction, so that they can pass these psychosocial phases that they have to go through to be successful in life and with the board saying, they'll open only when the vaccination, excuse me, vaccinations are available, that is no date. That is a hanging carrot in front of us and it's never gonna happen. The State of Wisconsin has totally bumbled this rollout of these vaccinations and so we don't have a date. We don't know. We do have all the equipment, however, in the last board meeting there is the equipment to do

this safely. So, I would respectfully ask all of you to just consider, consider this resolution. It means our children's lives honestly and quite verbally right now, thank you for hearing me.

- [Celestine] Thank you very much, next we have Jessica , Ms. , please unmute yourself and state your name and address for the committee.

- My name is Jessica , my address is 2234 Mahoney Court. The code is 54311, obviously Green Bay. I wrote a letter, so I'm gonna read what I wrote. Children are the world's most valuable resource, it is the best hope for our future. That quote is from John F. Kennedy. Think about that quote from JFK. Please tell me what part is not true, to the point others and say, "You're wrong, it's your fault." Do you point the finger at yourself and say, "I did this wrong, this was my fault." Everyone has skeletons in their closet and we never want them to come out. If you do not, then you're living in quite a boring life. If I say I am an open book, I have nothing to hide, well, we both know that that's a lie. With working at a gas station, I hear from a lot of parents saying the same as I am. Our kids are struggling. As a parents, I feel helpless, because all we want to do is protect our children and guide our children in the right direction. Please tell me how I can do this. I can talk to them in the face, but these kids are smarter than we give them credit for. Look at the world, the kids look at the world differently than adults do. As we grow up, we lose something. How we saw the world as a kid is black and white. That's all they understand. They don't understand the great parts of life. Kids ask questions to understand and gain knowledge. What's the school board is doing is black and white. The numbers are saying, this is that and that's how it's gonna be.

- [Celestine] Well, let me ask you what your name is, because they're more about numbers.

- [Jessica] My name's Jessica, I wasn't given a number, I was given a name and the school board is treating us.

- is .

- Sorry.

- Oh, that's all right, no, thank you so much. Thank you so much for your comments.

- Can I just -

- I , two minutes have expired.

- Okay.

- Thank you so much. Next we have Jean , Ms. please unmute yourself and state your name and address for the council, oh, sorry for the committee.

- Hi, my name is Jean , I live at B625 Point Lane in Green Bay, Wisconsin, 54311. I just wanted to say that my viewpoint on this whole thing is that teachers are essential workers and my husband has a company and his company is considered an essential business and we've all been working through this. The people who are working as essential workers have been doing their jobs and working all through this pandemic. Kids need to be in school. They are immature, they don't do well in this virtual world. And I mean, I have a senior and I've pretty much written off this senior year for her, but I'm actually here, because I'm literally concerned about all the other kids. When you look at these statistics that I've been hearing about 15,000 kids, either having a failing grade or failing out of 21,000 kids that we have in our district and the thing that kills me is that all these other schools around us have figured out how to do this and they're doing it and Green Bay, who should be a leader in the community and should be making more progressive decisions, we're not doing it, we're failing , in all of these, they're suffering, they're hurting. I don't get it, honestly I feel like we're just, we're failing. We're failing the kids, we're failing our teachers. There are so many teachers that want to go back as well. I just want to say that I literally can't wrap my brain around this. Kids should be in school, it's as simple as that. They're not adults like us and they don't manage in this environment well and it's hurting them educationally, mentally, physically, everything, I've seen it, so that's pretty much all I wanted to say.

- Thank you, Ms. .

- We do not have anyone else who has raised his or her or their hands. If you would like to speak, please, I see Barbara Conniff, Ms. Conniff, please unmute yourself and state your name and address for the committee.

- Hello, Barbara Conniff, 2651 Seneca Court Green Bay, Wisconsin, 54313. You've raised the point some of you that this is outside of what you are elected to do. What I as a voter have elected you to do. I agree, ordinarily I wouldn't be here, but these are extraordinary times. I elected a school board to make decisions that deliver education to my child and all the children here in Green Bay. The school board on this issue met the majority of members have taken the position that they are leaving the lane of education and going broader into the lane of public health, making statements like, if other businesses would close, schools would open. would close, schools would open. So we believe that there has been a lot of good work done by the school district. At the last meeting I attended, departments reported on various, an array of readiness for the facilities looking into instructional innovations. There is a lot of good work done behind the scenes, that good work deserves to come out now, it deserves to come out with an implementation date, because this group of people has worked hard to figure out a way to provide safe education in the school building as well as in home

for those who want the and here is choice. We ask you to support the voice of choice. It is not being heard so far at the many meetings that many of us have attended and written letters and we are now asking for you to join us by supporting the good work that the school district is doing, set a deadline and bring the families back to school who believe that is the best interest of their child to receive education. We will handle what we think about appropriate response to public health, thank you.

- [Celestine] Thank you, Ms. Conniff. Is there anyone else who would like to speak, please unmute yourself and state your, I think Zoom user you've already spoken.

- I would like to speak.

- Celestine, this is raising their hand.

- I didn't do by Zoom, I just raised my physical hand.

- Yes, I'm sorry I muted myself. So, yes Ms. , please unmute yourself and state your name and address for the committee.

- Sure, my name is Melissa , my address is 3487 Bay Helen's Drive in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

- [Celestine] Go ahead.

- [Melissa] And I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you all. I think this is certainly, as we've heard as constituents within your districts, this is definitely a difficult topic for everybody, but when we look at the why and why view, I think that's a big part of what we have to continue to have conversation around. And although what falls into the definition of your parameter and rule of responsibility, I think we also have to take consideration that Green Bay's ecosystem runs together simultaneously. So, these kids that are in our Green Bay School District will become adults of the Green Bay School District and it's important that we continue to provide resources to them and although I've heard much comment that they have a plan, they do not have a plan. Their plan is to return three weeks after vaccination, date unknown. Within the state, we know that there's no declared deadline of when that will be. It may be the end of March, it might be April and I think the piece that I wanna to point to, Governor Evers just recently sent out an email and I just thought I sent this to all of you and I'll resend it, January 21st. While every family has struggled during this pandemic, extended school closures have been particularly devastated for children of color, children living in poverty, children with special needs and children learning from English as a second language. And I think that was one comment from

an alder person is how do we know this information? Well, here we go, it's coming from Governor Evers, so I believe he probably has done his research. This is something that is known that Department of Public Instruction has dollars available, but yet our school board continues to not use those dollars. They've spent it on Chromebooks and masks and we have kids with a mental health crisis with millions of dollars sitting there and no plan. We need your support and I urge you to vote for the resolution.

- [Celestine] Thank you, Ms. .

- [Melissa] Thank you.

- [Celestine] You are welcome. Is there someone else who would like to speak, thank you Betty. Please unmute yourself and state your name and address for the committee.

- Hello, my name is Betty Kasich and I live at 2346 Browning Road, Green Bay. I'm speaking tonight for Green Bay Advocates for public education. Since 2015, Green Bay Advocates has been supporting public education in our neighborhood schools. We are parents, grandparents, retired teachers who believe that schools are the center of our community and we support students, parents, teachers and parents in the public school system. We believe that in local control and trust that GBAPS School Board to make careful and calculated decisions about our students and teachers that are based on scientific evidence and safety. As elected officials of the Green Bay School District, the board together with the superintendent will make decisions that are best for students and teachers. We are speaking on this agenda item without any advantage of seeing the proposal, before we wrote this, that was written by Alder Jesse Brunette, should the Green Bay City Council decide to propose a resolution to support Green Bay schools, we are all for it as long as it does not undermine the decisions made by our local school board and does not include the approval or the support of private school vouchers. In fact, we came before the policy and protection committee a couple of years ago with a resolution to support public schools along with Mark Steuer. Should the city council decide to proceed with this resolution, we will come forward with our own proposal for one, thank you.

- [Celestine] Thank you, Ms. Kasich. Is there anyone else would like to speak to the committee, please unmute yourself and state your name and address for the committee. Anyone else going once, going twice, thank you Chairman Steuer, the floor is back to you.

- All right, thank you Celestine. For those six citizens, it was maybe 15 minutes, that was not too bad. We've had other meetings that have gotten much, much longer. So again-

- .

- Somebody needs to be muted there, please.

- [Celestine] Thank you Alder, I will do that.

- Okay, thank you. Well again, I just wanted to state that, Alder Brunette has a deep passion for his city and he does care for the citizens and he felt that this is very important. I did see the draft and like I mentioned before, the first seven items are quite factual and I think the research and data is very important for all decisions that we make. The last four are, I believe are open to interpretation a little bit. I will reach out to the committee for a minute or other alders and I think we've already heard Alder Dolph, Alder Gerlach, Alder Galvin and Alder Scannell are against this. So-

- [Dolph] You've to close the floor, point of order. Is the floor closed?

- I will ask for that.

- [Stevens] And can we keep it open in case we have questions?

- See the issue here?

- I do.

- all right. Okay, all right. Well, with that being said, are there any questions that...

- Hold on, let's close the floor, if we have to we'll reopen.

- All right, make that motion Alder Stevens, Alder Stevens, you made the motion.

- [Stevens] Yeah.

- Okay.

- [Lefebvre] I'll second.

- Second by Lefebvre. All in favor please, all opposed, thank you Alder Dolph for that. All right, committee, what's your feeling on this, by my points too, but let's ask the committee first and then if other alders wanna chime in, that's fine, committee.

- I also have issues the same as you on the last four point of this resolution, but I know Betty talked about possibilities. I would like to get her opinion if she thinks something should be different or better.

- Well, then we need to open the floor again, let's just hear from the committee and if we have any specific questions we can ask-

- Actually, my comment would be for everybody, would you like to see something different in this resolution.

- Mr. Chairman.

- Alder Lefebvre.

- Actually, I think most of it could be nullified. The school board knows the seven points, they know that and they know the issues with these children. We don't have to tell them these things, they know it. It's not like we think that we're smarter than they are, that they're dumb. They know what's happening. They know these children are, and they're going to have to, once they can open up the schools and go back, they know they're gonna have a big problem and they're gonna have to work on, maybe schools will have to go, maybe they have to go through summer. Maybe have to be year-long schools for a while to get these children caught up. That might be what has to happen, but that's their decision. They are the ones, that we elect them to make these decisions and a lot of them have some background on children. They were educators or else they, I know one, they have boys and girls club, he knows children, he knows some of the things that they're dealing with and they have help from other people. The Wisconsin Public Education, I'm sure they go to them for help on these issues. So, I don't think this resolution to me, I don't think most of us really even need it. Like I said, I think

what we need, we can say, write a friendly letter saying, yes we've been getting parents calling us and they're concerned and we do see the issues, that there's problems, but that we cannot make the decisions, but we stand behind you in your decisions that you're making. We know that you're professionals. We know you have concern, maybe something, I don't know on that order, that's all we need. We don't need this resolution, thank you.

- All right, hold on Alder Brunette, Alder Vandelist, do you have anything to add to that?

- I support the resolution, I think it's a good resolution to put forward. The public is very concerned about it and we weigh in on it and it just might, just a very good, have our city council weigh in on this and I support the resolution.

- Okay.

- [Stevens] I have a question for the attorney.

- Go ahead.

- So, to piggyback off of what Alder Lefebvre have said, could we draft a letter to the school board or does it have to go through this resolution?

- Certainly council members can either individually or collectively write the letter, but it wouldn't be, that's not necessarily part of this agenda item.

- Right

- I'm not sure, if I'm following correctly, but any action on this resolution isn't really impacting on sending a letter, it would then be coming, if the letter is to be coming from council as a whole, then I think that would need to be presented and voted on, but individual members of council can certainly, can submit letters on their own as well.

- Is that a communication Attorney Bungert that would have to be made by...

- Sure, that could be a communication, right.

- All right, , Alder Brunette.

- Yeah, thank you chairman, by the way, thank you for running the meeting of the way that you have in the manner that you have, it's been quite good in my opinion and I appreciate that. Regarding the resolution, I stand by it personally. I don't see anything in here that is inflammatory or incorrect, based off data that I have done, perhaps I did not include the last four points data to confirm those points, but there's plenty out there to in fact, prove those to be true points. So if the committee is at the point where maybe they feel the last four lines are not proper, I would order to get it, I would certainly recommend a motion to remove the last four points if the resolution still carries weight and to be officially approved by a city government is good. The first point, let's be real here. We have the Green Bay School District has students with 14.8% with disabilities, 64.5% economically disadvantaged and 21.1% English learners. These are stats that are given to us by the Green Bay School Board, these are not irrefutable or refutable, they are correct. And then look further, we have a, I guess you could say minority, majority school district here, right? There are a lot of people who need the Green Bay public schools to be open in person 14.8% with disabilities, 64.5% economically disadvantaged, 21.1% that are in need of English services that you just can't do the right way through Zoom. I mean, these are rather significant things and we all know that this is gonna set students back. So maybe, you don't like some of those final points and although I think there's absolutely nothing wrong with that to allay some of your concerns, I'd be fine with striking those four. It's the last thing that really carries weight, be it resolved that the City of Green Bay is in support of Green Bay Area Public School District students, parents, teachers and employees and urges the Green Bay Area Public School District Board, and Administration to transition quickly, but safely toward an in-person option for all students. How they do that, that's up to them. I didn't put gating criteria, I didn't talk about vaccinations, I didn't basically micromanage how they make that work. It's just us knowing our community and saying, please find a way to allow in-person schooling for our Green Bay children. Keep the virtual option for those who it works for. So it works for plenty, I've heard those comments as well. So Chairman Steuer, if your committee you can recommend a motion, however you see fit, but I would encourage you to make a motion to approve it minus those last points.

- Okay, thank you Alder Brunette, Alder Dolph.

- Thank you, first of all, I do need to object to the implication that we didn't want to listen to the public, that was not the point. We have all the time that we didn't wanna take the time to listen, not the point at all, the point was by allowing the public to speak, they might believe that we have power, influence, control over the school board and we don't. It broke my heart to hear what some of the parents said there, but we can't control the school board. So that was my objection, if any, any that I didn't hear, if I listened to them or not. Now going back to what Alder Brunette just said, even the last part, even saying that the City of Green Bay, I've read other resolutions, it just says the City Council, it doesn't say that the whole City of Green Bay, I don't think we can say that, can we? In that last portion of the resolution

- I'd, Attorney Bungert, do you have any thoughts on that? I mean, Alder Brunette brought it forward, so those are his words.

- Right.

- So, what is your opinion on that?

- Right, the draft language is it's essentially up to the discretion of the alders in the council as far as what terminology they want. I mean, logically, it can either be, technically it's the City Council that is creating the resolution on behalf of the City of Green Bay. So that, I think that is why it's been worded in the past.

- And Alder Brunette, are you comfortable with that?

- That final part, I actually took from another resolution that we passed in the beginning of COVID, almost word for word, but then I changed it. Green Bay Common Council would include the mayor. Green Bay City Council would include just the 12 of us, so keep in mind that-

- You can understand where the problem might come in . Change it to Common Council then, that's fine. I just mirrored what language I found in another draft, but if Common Council implies that the mayor at some point needs to make a vote if it's a six, six tie.

- Well regardless, I mean, it will come forward and it will be voted on yes or no. So, I'd be more careful-

- . I have one final point.

- Go ahead.

- Chair, the final point I have is that using the demographic makeup of the student body, unfortunately, Alderman Brunette, if you'd been listening to the last school board meeting where there was a three to one ratio of are our students of color families of our students of color that are choosing virtual over our white families. So you really can't use that as an argument, because those families three to one are choosing virtual in the surveys that the city has or that the school district has put out, thank you.

- Alder Scannell.

- Thank you, Your Honor Sir. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

- Thank you.

- Yeah, I have a problem with some of these statistics and that I don't know how they relate to the resolution and the implication is that, I mean are we saying that, because we're a minority majority, the school board is using that as a reason to not open the schools? That's the implication. The whereas set up the resolution, so what's in the whereas should be supportive of the resolution. For most of these are just facts, I don't see how they have anything to do with the resolution and the implication is, and this is why I have a problem with the whole thing that the school board isn't doing, isn't pursuing this goal, isn't pursuing this policy, that's the implication of us going forward with this. And I don't, I think that's wrong. There are differences in the community over this issue which is not surprising, it's a terrible issue, terrible difficult times here and there's lots of needs and lots of ways of of looking at this and trying to deal with it. So operationally, I'm not surprised there's all these differences and pain and suffering out there and it's very unfortunate, but again, it's not-

- Okay.

- The city is not a forum for every complaint.

- Okay.

- We get complaints, all kinds of complaints, but if it's not our business, we say, "Well, you need to contact the school board." "Here's a school board member." "You need to contact the County." "Here's the County contact." I mean, we are always, I mean, I've done this on many times I'm sure, Alder Steuer, Brunette, everyone has done that. , but that doesn't mean it's city business and we take it on as city business. That's the point I was trying to make.

- Okay.

- Yes, I'm concerned, yes, I appreciate, but we should not become a forum for every complaint in the city, that's not our job. And I really worry about putting that added job responsibility on Alders in the future, cause who's gonna watch, there's people I've talked to about running for city and they say, "Who wants that job?" "What a headache." We should really get a firm idea of what our responsibilities are and stick to that.

- I can mention one thing Alder Scannell that, since I've been in office and a few of us that have been on council for a number of terms, there's, locally more things that have been put on us, whether it's this issue or other issues, many things that have been put on us and it seems like they're almost looking for local politicians or public servants to make decisions. It kinda is going from a bottom up somewhat, because it's been difficult from the top down on numerous issues. So I have no problem with Alder Brunette bringing this forward. Like I did mention, the last four points were opinion as far as I'm concerned, much more so and like I said, you could have 100 people look at that and you might have 60% say yes, 40% say no. I'm interested in seeing what the other school districts around Green Bay have done and I know maybe Betty Kasich can answer that, I don't know. Everybody could answer differently, but there are other school districts surrounding Green Bay that hadn't been open for a while and I'd like to know some of the facts for that. In fact, Alder Dolph mentioned that there's a meeting tonight with the school board. Can anybody tell me exactly what's on their agenda for tonight? Are they discussing any of this at all? Alder Dolph, could you fill me in?

- Absolutely, yes I have their agenda pulled up, they are currently an open forum, so they're right now listening to parents, they've been listening to parents since about six. So it's been a little over an hour. All of this is absolutely on their agenda for tonight. I printed it. Now I've lost my visual with Zoom here. So they're looking again at, I know one of the thing they're looking at the CDC indicators and thresholds for risk of introduction. They're looking at the plan, they're looking at vaccinations. They have quite a long agenda tonight. So all of these things that we're talking about, they're looking at, I'm really not sure why we would want to have to discuss what other school districts in the area are doing. They're very much different than our school district, so, but-

- I realize it's apples and oranges, whether and that, but it was a point of just a point.

- Yeah, so in any case, they've got quite a long agenda and they are dealing with all of these things tonight and hopefully they'll have a plan to open schools by the end of the evening, maybe in a vaccination plan, I don't know, but they're working on it tonight.

- One thing I will give Alder Brunette credit for on this is that he brought it forward, citizens are answering, maybe it'll help the school district in decision-making, not sure, but I'm just saying that it's out there. So I have

no huge problem with that. I know that some of you have a problem with us overstepping our bounds. We do represent, like I said, each one of us represents 8,700 constituents and a lot of them have concerns and needs right now, so I think it's important to listen. I don't want to turn anybody off. So with that being said-

- May I please make one final observation.

- Yes Alder Gerlach, I was gonna call on you, I know your hand was up. Go ahead Alder Gerlach.

- Thank you, and I will be very brief. I just wanna make an

- Oh, that's fine.

- observation, because I've listened to all of this, the alders and the citizens speaking and there's one thing that I really didn't hear mentioned and that is coronavirus. People don't wanna talk about the fact that when we bring people together indoors into a crowded setting for a long period of time there's a good chance we will kill them. It breaks my heart really, my grandchildren aren't doing their schooling right now. I had an opportunity recently to have two of them visit me for a month, a lot of you know that, we all quarantined, we all tested and two grandchildren came from out of state and stayed for a month with me. As a retired teacher, I could have cried to see how horribly they performed their online schooling and they're bright, straight A kids, but they're not going to die of coronavirus by going to school. Let's keep that in mind, there's a pandemic raging and it's getting worse not better. Thank you for letting me say that.

- Okay, thank you Alder Gerlach, Alder Galvin.

- Chair, if this motion passes and is going to go to the City Council, I'd like you to instruct staff to start collecting the necessary data from the surrounding school districts, so that we can make an informed decision, so you'll be needing to get information from the Health Department on the rate in this area, the infection rate, probably averaged out over weeks or months at a time. We'll also need information from the surrounding school districts, private and public. How many times they've had to shut down classes and put their students and teachers in the quarantine, because students that were infected brought COVID into the environment there. I'd like to have data on exactly how the students in Green Bay are doing compared to say 2019, 2018 maybe average out over the five years before, so we can see if there is really a precipitable drop in their scholastic grades. If you could also get a hold of mental health information and how a students are fairing mentally with their depression compared to, now compared to maybe a five-year average before that. I guess I'd also like some other statistical information, so we can make an informed decision if we're gonna back this resolution or not. And in all honesty, what we're doing is telling if we back this, we're telling the school board they're wrong and that they need to change the way they're doing things and open up the schools sooner to

satisfy a group of parents, students and teachers that want the school opened up, School Board is deemed safe for everyone involved, thank you.

- Okay, Alder Galvin, I was just gonna ask, is this only if the resolution passes or would you like this information anyhow?

- No, only if the resolution passes, cause again,

- Okay.

- I feel this is none of our business. I have my own beliefs which I'm not gonna share with anyone, because it doesn't matter what I believe. If the school board member who goes, "Oh God, Alder Galvin thinks this, I'm gonna do this," then what the hell are they doing on the school board? I mean, why would, what I think changed their mind on anything at all, unless I've got some secret information from medical science or Pfizer or or one of these other people. All we're saying is we think the school board is doing this incorrectly and they need to open soon as we pass this resolution, that's exactly what we're saying.

- All right, thank you.

- , that's exactly what we're saying. The school board is wrong, we know better and they should open sooner, thank you.

- All right, thank you Alder Galvin, Alder Brunette -

- Alder Steuer,

- Oh, I'm sorry, go ahead Attorney Bungert

- Alder Steuer, yes, before we jumped to Alder Brunette I just wanted to address Alder Galvin's point. If the committee does want to have staff look into additional data and facts and figures in supportive of the resolution or to set out the resolution a little bit more recommendation would be at that point to just refer

the item to staff to work on it further as I don't believe staff will have adequate time to be able to pull all that information before council.

- Okay, thank you Attorney Bungert. Actually Alder Brunette, that's kind of what I wanted to ask. Is this something granted, as you're looking at this in a timely fashion and I understand that, but I think some good points were brought up by the alders on this, of overstepping our bounds and not having all the data and such. This is something that you could wait on, I would prefer to see what happens at the school board meeting tonight and just see what comes out of that. It's kind of giving them a chance to come forward and let us know and the city, what stances they're taking and what, how they're moving about doing their jobs. So I'd feel more comfortable listening to see what the school board comes up with and if it takes a couple of days to decide for that, so be it. We won't be ready before council if we decided to vote on this tonight to get all the information anyhow. So would you be willing to hold off till we get that information?

- No not at all, we need a vote tonight. I mean, it's a nonbinding resolution before you and the committee, either voted up or voted down. You voted up, explain to your constituents, you vote down explain to your constituents. We have children, one second, we have children all throughout this community, then three counties of Green Bay in person, amongst friends, with social workers, with teachers, with nurses with lunch workers, the social fabric of so many communities around the City of Green Bay is meshing well, children have not been dying as predicted by some. There are face mask requirements. There are ways that school districts have been able to do it. The City of Green Bay School District or the Green Bay School District has not been able to do it. We're just delaying is what these parents are most frustrated about. Listen to these students, crying, worn out, exasperated, just in Las Vegas, one of the biggest school districts, they had just reported like 13 or more students have killed themselves, because of lack of in-person instruction. Alder Steuer, I'm not directing my anger at you, but I think this is what the council needs to decide. against it, I'll pull it out the council either way. I stand with the parents and students in this community. I'm not intimidated by the Teacher's Union or all the other special interest groups that seem hell bent on keeping schools closed, okay. I'm just kind of worn out by it. This conversation has been just really ridiculous, quite frankly.

- [Stevens] I have a question.

- [Steuer] Go ahead Alder Stevens.

- So, how many citizens in the City of Green Bay want to keep the School District closed and how many want opened?

- They can have a virtual option, Craig, I'm not calling for a removal of a virtual option, all I'm saying is in-person instruction should be an option at this point.

- Yeah, but how many of the , how many of the citizens want that open?

- I don't understand your question.

- So is it 10,000 students who want to go back to school and 10,000 don't? Is it 15,000 students that wanna go back to school 5,000 don't? Vice versa, we don't know that information.

- I think the numbers are out there, we just need to listen to the parents.

- Do you know those numbers?

- I know that there are 21,000 students in the Green Bay School District and I know what I know from participating in the meetings and listening to the parents. I know that a great number of Green Bay schools children are failing right now.

- But how many are failing?

- I can get that graphic for you, Craig.

- You get the graphic, so you've asked us to do something when we don't have the backing of this resolution. 50% of the city may say, "No, please keep it closed." Yes, I'm greatly appreciative for the six people that came in. They all would like the school to be open. I appreciate their comments, I really do. We're in this pandemic. We're all learning, we're still learning. We truly are, but to throw a resolution out there we need some backing from it and I agree with Alder Galvin that we need more information. So we can't make a-

- [Lefebvre] Mr. Chairman.

- decision to move forward.

- Hello, who wants to talk?

- Mr. Chairman?

- [Steuer] Yes, go ahead Alder Lefebvre.

- I don't know if these parents who spoke are those who are pushing for this resolution or whatever's going on, have you really been listening to the news lately? I'm gonna put this out there. There's a new variant out there and actually they're finding this thing is more deadly. I mean, this is getting scary, really scary, what's going on out there. Come on and you're talking about the children, what about the teachers? They're not children, a lot of these are older teachers and I think Alder Brunette was gonna bring up that Chicago has it opening up, well, guess what happened? The teachers are not going to go back, they said they're not going to until they have the vaccination. People are scared.

- Teacher's Union.

- This is becoming scary, wait a minute.

- The Teacher's Union

- This is be coming, hey I'm speaking.

- [Steuer] Hold on, Alder Brunette, hold on.

- This is becoming scarier and scarier. Come on, this is real and you know what, and they are finding cases, it's affecting children more. Children are getting it now and children are dying also, so come on, let's be realistic. Let's have some real statistics. Come on, let's listen, let's listen to the news let's listen to, and they're not saying, they're not lying. Come on, they're not lying about it, they're telling us what's going on. And this is becoming much worse, because we're not being responsible.

- There are 15,000 F grades.

- Some of are not being responsible.

- [Steuer] Hold on,

- There are 15,000 failing grades in the Green Bay School District.

- I know and it's gonna have happen.

- .

- But sorry, it's going to happen, because we're in a pandemic. Come on, let's be realistic.

- [Steuer] Okay, well. Alder Lefebvre.

- We're in a pandemic.

- Alder Lefebvre.

- 15,000 students are failing in the Green Bay, 15,000 failing of 21,000 students, you tell me that's not a problem.

- All right, Alder Brunette.

- And we have

- Alder Lefebvre. we have adults who are failing too.

- Okay, Alder Lefebvre.

- ,

- You point.

- It's affecting everybody.

- Alder Lefebvre, your points are taken, thank you. Alder Brunette, you just mentioned about 15,000 failing, I didn't see anything on the resolution about that. Like I said, there's some open-ended issues here that, there's some belief, some factual, it's a little difficult to wrap our arms around it or heads or whatever you want. Alder Dolph and one more time.

- Just wanted to, I just wanna mention that, something I forgot about the school board agenda tonight is that they're voting on a mask policy for the schools in their preparations to get the kids back to schools. So, they need to put this policy in place. So they're taking yet another step that they need to take to get the kids back and I didn't mention that before when you asked me about the agenda.

- Well, and that's good, because I think there are frustrated people out there who feel that maybe, they're looking specifically at their children and some of the problems that are coming up, they might have, they might be more emotional than anything else, but it's close to their heart and that's, it's good that we need numbers in that and I have no doubt that the school were having meetings, but like I said, we're listening to citizens that feel like they're not being listened to, that's all. Alder Scannell, one more time, promise.

- Definitely , one is as you look, I mean I've been looking at this all year long and school districts all over the country, not just, I mean, I looked at bigger ones, cause they're the ones that are gonna be more like us, they've done everything and there's been all kinds of problems. There's an Atlanta district just right the other day in Atlanta that they opened up wide open then all along and now they've shut down, because their staff, they're short on staff. I mean Alder Brunette, you said you, you know this issue, cause you've been with these families and that have you to the superintendent, have you gotten any other side? Have you had discussions with why? And what's going on? I think you're only hearing one side and you're jumping the gun here and making conclusions and decisions where people who are paid to do this and elected to do this are, they've got everything and I just don't feel we, we're out of bounds, it is just not right. I mean, other resolutions were to

hide our entities that were directly affecting our city business or to hire entities that had to do with a social issue. And if there was a policy issue here, I could see this, this would make sense to me. There's not a policy issue here, it's an operational one and we're just, it's just obnoxious I think, we wouldn't appreciate some other governing body telling us how to operate our city that they would know better than us, it's not right.

- Alder Brunette, go ahead.

- The State Government does that all the time, Alder Scannell, they put balances and restrictions on our home world capabilities and we fight like Federal Government does things to the City of Green Bay and we pushed back. To think that somehow the Green Bay School Board is untouchable that we cannot use our positions at all, that's to do what's in the best interest of the city residents, including the most vulnerable, I mean, come on.

- .

- [Scannell] .

- Alder Scannell.

- [Scannell] Have met with the staff?

- Alder Scannell.

- I have not, but I think the superintendent has not met with a lot of parents as well. So let's be real here.

- All right, we're losing control here, I'm losing control. I don't know if I ever had a...

- My apologies Alder Steuer.

- Hold on, please for all of us. I know had her hand raised, I wanted to open the floor, maybe just have, she wanted to make one comment. I need a motion to open the floor.

- Motion to open the floor.

- By Stevens, do we have a second?

- [Vandelist] Second.

- Second by Lefebvre, all in favor, please say . Vandelist, all in favor, say aye.

- Aye.

- Aye, all opposed. All right, Barb, you wanted to make a comment. You had your hand raised and I just wanted you to get your point in.

- Yes and thank you. The question was asked by one of the alders, do we watch the news? Yes, we do. In fact, I am not only a parent, I also work for a company that provides therapy to children with autism and we monitor safety data continuously. And we are operating in five States, including Wisconsin, including Green Bay. When the pandemic first emerged in March as a key threat, we closed down our facilities and suspended our services and made the difficult decision to furlough workers, while we developed safety policies and procedures rapidly. We then trained our therapists and we went back into therapy, providing our services with strict protocols, continuing to monitor data and incidents in late April and early May. Most of our families did want to remain with us as did most of our employees. Some were not comfortable and that's okay, they had choice, but one of the things that is really notable about our experiences, since last May is, the COVID-19 , because people either met criteria on the screening tools, same as Green Bay is using or had a COVID-19 positive tests. These were community spread issues and not advanced by our practice of therapy, so I would suggest that the school board and the school district should give credit to the people in the district who've done the good work, the district employees and use the safety measures they have provided, that are CDC approved for COVID-19 and open. The issue here is the speed at which opening occurs. Mass policies are long overdue before tonight and could have been worked on prior, thank you.

- Thank you, Barbara. Okay, I think that was a-

- the floor.

- Motion, we have motion by Vandelist, do we have a second?

- [Lefebvre] Second.

- Second by Lefebvre, all in favor, please say aye.

- Aye.

- Aye, all opposed, that passes unanimously. Okay, I think we've heard enough. Alder Brunette said he'd be willing to take the last four whereases that would be eight, nine, 10 and 11 points off of this. I don't know if that that would alter it somewhat. The be it resolved that the City of Green Bay, I would feel more comfortable if it said the City Council, so we could vote up or down on that, because we represent, we are representatives of the city, but there are other, the administration and other things as well. So, that would be a proposal that I would put forward, but just include the first seven and then be a result of the City Council of Green Bay.

- Common Council, Alder Steuer.

- Common Council .

- Common Council.

- Common council would be fine, thank you. So I'll throw that out to the committee. If that's something you care to do, if that would be...

- I'll support that, Nark.

- Okay, do we have a second.

- resolution.

- Do we have a second? I'll second it for discussion. So we can take a vote on that. All in favor of that, please say aye.

- Aye.

- Aye, all opposed.

- Nay.

- [Stevens] No.

- Okay, that fails, two to two.

- Hold on, Alder Steuer. Hold on one second, so that was a motion to amend.

- To amend-

- And that is Alder Stevens, no. To amend as you put forth, that's a no from Alder Stevens, a yes from the Alder Steuer and a no from Alder Lefebvre.

- Correct.

- And then that's it.

- Right, so, well, we have to look at the entire drafts then I guess and we need to vote on that as well. So , all in favor of the draft resolution as proposed by Alder Brunette.

- You have to make a motion. Alder Steuer, you need to make a motion, if you have another motion to approve.

- All right, let's hear a motion.

- I'll make that motion, Mark.

- Alder Vandelist.

- -

- I will second for discussion. Okay, so all in favor of that motion, please say aye.

- Aye.

- Aye, opposed?

- [Stevens] No.

- Nay.

- Okay, that also fails.

- Alder Steuer.

- Yes.

- I think I know how the votes are gonna line up here and if you recommend you forward to the council with no recommendation, but at least explain to those assembled here that this would be discussed, just so they know it's not a dead issue necessarily.

- Right, okay, thank you for that. I was gonna mention that. All right, the motion fails two to two, you needed a majority on that. It will be referred to City Council on...

- I'd like to amend that.

- You would, huh? Well, we voted on that Attorney Bungert, do you have a point on that?

- I'm not sure, so at this point we've had a motion to amend, that motion was voted on and failed and we had a motion to approve that motion was voted on and failed, so at this point, I'm not sure what other-

- Well-

- I'm not sure what you mean by amending.

- Or a motion to hold.

- I'll suggest.

- I'd like to make a motion to hold.

- What does that entail ? -

- I'd like the motion to hold this resolution and direct staff to look into facts and determine what's gonna happen tonight at the school board meeting.

- Alder Brunette, would you

- [Bungert] I'd ask,

- go ahead, Attorney Bungert.

- Yes, with that, because of a timeline issue as committee and council members are aware, there are a number of high priority projects that staff is currently working on, so we would request specific direction from the committee as to where this lies in priority with respect to particularly the ethics ordinance and the sign ordinance.

- Alder brunette.

- Well, I would, I mean, I don't know if anyone's second that motion first, maybe if someone wanted to second it or not. Well, I'm against it. Holding is kind of a clever way of killing it. Holding until-

- No, I don't think it is, I think we need more information.

- [Scannell] .

- Alder Scannell.

- And discuss it until it's been seconded-

- Okay, no seconds then.

- Point of order.

- Hold on, okay, duly noted, Alder Stephens, please restate your motion.

- I asked that we hold this and refer this to staff for additional clarification on what's happening tonight with the school board meeting along with getting additional facts as of what Alder Galvin has stated earlier.

- Attorney Bungert is that enough for you or do we need more specifics?

- We would need more specifics and again, we would need more direction as to timeline.

- I would be open to timeline.

- -

- I specifically asked whether it's, essentially we just don't wanna run into a problem as we've been given direction by this committee and by finance committee to be looking into making the ethics ordinance the first priority. And this is going to take some time and looking up this data, this isn't something that's readily available to us, so...

- Well, Alder Stevens.

- .

- Alder Stephens, with that being said, we had two versions of this draft that were, there was a two to two vote, they both tied for that. Alder Brunette already mentioned that he will be pulling this at council, so I don't know what else we can do on that. I mean, there's just, unless somebody can fill me in. We voted on it.

- Mr. Chairman.

- We voted it on this already, so Alder Lefebvre.

- Mr. Chairman? I don't think we should do, I'm sorry Alder Stephens, I think that we're putting too much on staff right now. They can't get this done, so I think this is just, it's dead here, but it can be brought up at City Council unfortunately and it will be talked about again.

- Well, I think that's the route we need to go, so there .

- .

- Is there a second to Author Stevens? I don't hear a second.

- Okay, on that note, I think there's more work that needs to be done here and it's gonna be pulled at council, hopefully there's more information when it comes to council, but as of right now, I feel there's not enough information. We're looking at some, what an Alder wrote. We need to look at, yeah, six people talked on it, it was great. Their passionate about what's happening. I understand all that, but as a Common Council as a whole, we need more information. And of course that will be pulled .

- Alder Brunette, one more time.

- Yeah, that's it, I thank you, you've been very gracious with allowing me to speak. Yeah, I'm fine with that. The resolution that I drafted will be obviously more publicly noticed, so people can make their own opinion. For those who say that I need to add data and information and graphics in order to support my claims, I would challenge them by saying you need to have your data to channel it, to confirm or affirm your opinion as well. I don't want this all on me. So the information is out there, each of us have to do our own research. I feel completely justified bringing this forward. I see absolutely no reason with it and for those there that say we need to have more data and graphics and information, perhaps that's true. I have it and I would encourage you all to do your research as well, thank you.

- Duly noted, thank you Alder Brunette.

- All right, Attorney Bungert, we voted on that, correct? We can move forward?

- Correct.

- Okay, so we voted on that, all right.

- Okay.

- Well, you let me know when you're ready.

- All right, yep, we are on to item number five.

- Okay, item number five. For an update discussion and possible action on the status of all open records requests received by the city from November 1st to, until the date of the protection and policy committee meeting. Before you state that, I wanted to mention the City Council will be on February 2nd, Tuesday 6:00 PM. This will be part of, it will be on the agenda, so I just wanted to state that for the public and everybody else. Okay, go ahead Attorney Bungert.

- Yep, sure.

- .

- Yep, so generally I can provide that, we have had, since October, we've had 71 records requests filed and we currently have 27 pending, of those 27, 17 has just been received last week. And just to kind of give some parameters as to the discussion tonight, I'm just looking to get a little bit more information as to what I believe this was from Alder Brunette's communication as to what Alder Brunette is kind of speaking. At this point, I do want to share that the processing of open records request is entirely administrative, it's an administrative function within the purview of the City Attorney's Office, as it requires compliance with specific laws, as well as high level complex legal review research and opinion and open records request isn't within the authority or oversight of the committee or of council, it's council who set public policy, policy actually has been adopted by council designating. The department has those record custodians, the record custodians under open records law are the ones with the duty and the obligation to fulfill open records requests as they are filed by citizens and accordingly, this communication isn't really so much an item to be discussed under the purview of committee, but it's more so a district request of staff, so if Alder Brunette is looking for more updates, I believe we had sent him an update limited to specifically election related records requests. So if Alder Brunette separately has some additional information he wishes, staff can certainly provide that, but there really isn't any action that the committee can be making as far as directing staff with respect to processing of open records requests.

- Okay, thank you, Attorney, alderman, Alder Brunette.

- Yeah, thank you, Attorney Bungert. 71 open records request since October seems to me to be a very high number, is that ?

- Yes, , correct, the number of requests has steadily been rising, I think that with, just with the fact that we've put in certain policies and access points with online forms that have been available through our websites and then also with the fact that we've actually implemented more protocols and processes to track the number of records requests, so we are more aware of how many are coming through the door, I think than in years past, but this year, well, this year, particularly 2020 with the amount of various important issues and elections and the pandemic happening, we have seen quite a significant increase in records requests.

- 27-

- I have seen in my tenure

- 27 pending, what are the general nature of those 27?

- Various, again, I've had a number of elections related, or more mundane as far as just asking for different permit and inspection issues with respect to properties and the gambit is kind of wide as far as topics go.

- Of the 27

- .

- Of the 27 pending, how many are election-related?

- I know that at least 14 more.

- So 14 open record requests in regards to the elections this spring and November and August or a specific election.

- I think it touches all of them. I don't think so much August, but definitely spring and fall have been more interesting, I guess or more of the focus of records request filed with respect to elections.

- Are the specific election requests, is that all public record, we can divulge it, if I as a personal alderman, I shouldn't say personal, but I as an individual alderman, am aware of certain open records requests that have not been fulfilled. Is that information I could share publicly?

- Yes.

- So there is-

- Record requests themselves are public records, so those are able to be divulged.

- So there is one specific open records request dated December 2nd, from , am I able just to ask a few questions about that, obviously understanding there are certain things you can't divulge?

- You can certainly ask that, again I'm urging the committee that it's just kind of what we look the goal is and what Alder Brunette is trying to accomplish with this. As far as, this isn't really an appropriate thing for discussion for committee as committee isn't taking any action on this. If this is just informational stuff that the alder wants to get, I can absolutely answer any questions you'd like and send any information you would like.

- That's fine, okay, so again, stop me if I'm saying something that I'm not able to say or something that would put the city in any legal trouble.

- Right, it has nothing to do with liability or legal trouble, it's just not an appropriate item for discussion for committee as committee doesn't have any authority over this. It's just more appropriate just as a request from staff to provide information.

- Okay, so on a particular record requests, if you could provide information, is that okay?

- Yep.

- Okay, so on December 2nd.

- Alder Brunette, before you do that this is something that you could handle privately with Attorney Bungert, cause like I said the committee cannot, we can't-

- You don't have to act on it, but I think that my motion was to have a discussion on open records request. It's certainly, I'm not asking you to take an action on it, if you can't take an action on it Steuer, but I think it's just public, Attorney Bungert just said that there's absolutely nothing preventing the public from having this information, I'm just sharing it for public-

- So, you have one item.

- Pursuant to an open records request. Yes, in that context alder, that's what I was saying, is that if this isn't information with respect to what records requests have been filed and what is pending that is subject to release pursuant to an open records request. So if the alder would like to submit an open records request to get that information, we can certainly process it and provide you that information.

- You provided that information mostly to me in a private email.

- Correct.

- Is that right? so-

- Yeah, as a professional, correct, as a professional courtesy, but I did mention in my email that if you were looking, we gave you a summary of what we had available quickly as a courtesy to you as an alder, but if you wanted to actually get copies, cause I think you were looking at details as far as what the record requests were looking for, who they came from and what the date and all that, I said that I had indicated in my report too that if you were looking for that, then we would be would, if you want it to proceed that way, then we could, however we would have to process that as a records request that is the practice we followed before.

- Yeah, I agree, I mean, I understand that. And do you see the reason I don't want to submit an open records request myself, is that it looks rather odd to people, to the public, that Alderman Jesse Brunette is looking for an open records on this, that and the other. What I'm just trying to say is, there are 27 open records requests that are pending, 71 were received since October, 17 in the last week, I think that the public has some right to know the nature of the open records requests and specifically-

- And public can submit a records request to get that information, I guess, is what I'm trying to say. It's completely within, what I'm trying to get across is that the records requests are an administrative function which city staff is handling

- So you need an open records requests to get open records. That is the least of it. It's sounds like-

- To get information, right, to get a list or to get copies of records requests that have been filed, that would be an open records request. I believe we've received request from the media from the press, cause that recently about receiving or getting a compilation or a list or a report of records request filed, I believe either from October or November and that's a pending request that's gonna be released.

- Alder Brunette, we can't vote on this or anything at all. I would almost prefer if you could work with the Attorney's Office on this, if you would.

- So Attorney Bungert, if for the sake of my own knowledge and a public disclosure for those interested, I could submit an open records request, although I don't want to do that indicating oral 27 records received that are pending and I could share that publicly is what you're saying?

- If you so wish.

- What, okay.

- I'll leave that to you.

- It just seems a little off, that's all, thank you.

- Okay, is there anything else, another discussion, otherwise I would have a motion to receive and place on file.

- [Stevens] Motion to receive and place on file.

- By Stevens-

- [Lefebvre] Second.

- Second by Lefebvre, all in favor, please say aye.

- Aye.

- Aye.

- Aye, all opposed that passes. I'll wait for you, Attorney Bungert.

- Yep, just marking the and item number six.

- Discussion with possible action on a request of City Council President Jesse Brunette to seek an offsite attorney client privileged legal opinion for discernment on options to balance the incredibly important need for public disclosure and transparency with the need to protect the city against potential liability, staff, and Attorney could you?

- Yep, so on this item, grabbing my notes, as indicated to the committee in my email that I sent late last week, the City Attorney's Office, along with Director have already provided Alder Brunette with an opinion on this matter and you were shared what that opinion is. We can discuss generally what the opinion is, but not the context of the matter that we rendered the opinion on specifically. But if the committee truly wishes to seek a fourth opinion on the matter, this item really then needs to be referred to finance, to determine a funding source as to hire that outside control.

- Yeah, I would encourage the committee to make that motion.

- Okay, committee chime in if you would, anybody, what are your thoughts? I'll get to you Alder Galvin in a second. Alder Vandelist, Alder Lefebvre or Alder Stevens, do you have any comments on this initially?

- [Stevens] Not yet.

- Okay.

- [Lefebvre] .

- All right, Alder Galvin.

- I have a hard time understanding how the committee can money to be spent without knowing specifically what it's being spent for. I mean, the last time was to try and be clear and transparent as he tries to reveal ongoing open records request and I'm not sure what he's trying to reveal by having that discuss publicly, but now he wants you to authorize spending money, but it doesn't say what for. I'm not sure how the committee could even board on that.

- I received an attorney client privilege of legal opinion that I cannot divulge publicly.

- Well and again, you know what I mean, how many attorneys do you want to go to before you get the answer you want? You've got three attorneys.

- I'm looking for an answer I want Alder Galvin, I'm looking for an opinion outside of the city law office, the truth is the truth and whatever people make their interpretation of that truth, that's what I'm after. I'm not looking-

- What you're saying is you're not satisfied with the legal opinion of three attorneys who represent the citizens of Green Bay and so you wanna hire another outside attorney to get an opinion about something you're not willing to share publicly and if you're not willing to share publicly, I'm mystified, you're transparent, but you're not transparent.

- Attorney Bungert, can you explain why I cannot discuss what was discussed in the email? I mean, I'm not hiding anything here. I'm trying to be transparent, but I'm told I can't publicly explain what-

- Right, so sure, I understand what you're saying. I'm trying to, so I can speak to generally that the alder is looking for an opinion as to what constitute attorney client privilege communication in the context of personnel matters and how to balance that with divulging personnel matters in juxtaposition to attorney client privilege and protecting the city as a whole from liability exposure with divulging these personnel matters or matters relating to personnel issues. The City Attorney's Office provided Alder Brunette with an opinion as to what the city attorney's opinion, legal opinion is with respect to what is attorney client privilege communication, what can and cannot be discussed in public and what can and cannot be released and Alder Brunette wishes to seek another opinion with respect to that question specifically. We can't discuss the context, the specific context as to what our analysis was, but that is the general-

- Attorney Bungert can you,

- opinion that Alder Brunett is requesting.

- Attorney Bungert, can you affirm this that, I did everything that you would want a council member to do without personally investigating situations that I have been made aware of. I mean, do you think up until this point I've done anything wrong in my search for information? That you know, that you knowingly-

- Right, I'm not aware of you violating any privilege issues or violating any confidentiality requirements. I guess that

- . that is the most that I can say, I can't really pass, that's not really my role to pass judgment one way or the other, but I'm not aware of any ethical or attorney-client confidentiality breaches.

- That's why I'm bringing this forward, because there's a balance between public transparency and protecting the city and from time to time, we all are faced with some sort of ethical dilemma that we need to discern. And I'm trying not to say anything to be inflammatory or creates suspicion, that's why I'm going through the proper channels here. A motion to refer this to finance committee could help me understand how much legal expenses it would cost to get a very short legal opinion, no more than an hour likely. I wanna be able to disclose information that I know to the public, but also protect the city and I'm not trying to create a stir, trying to create scandal, I'm seriously searching my conscience and something just seems a little off to me, that's all.

- Yeah.

- And I still have the floor here. I still have the floor here, Chair.

- All right, Alder Galvin and then Alder Dolph

- If I could finish here with this long dissertation.

- Yes go ahead.

- Proclaiming his innocence here. If this is related to our last test closed session that we had at council and the information that was shared with everyone there, it was explained the basis of what was going on and in my opinion, there was no basis for anything to be done with this, but yet you sought three legal opinions and yet you don't feel you got the correct answer. You're out seeking another one you claim you're not trying to say there's anything rotten in Denmark here, but obviously you think there's still something wrong after getting three legal opinions. And you think that the legal opinions of the city staff are invalid or don't support what you think is truly going on. So you do think something's going on, you wanna get a legal opinion, you wanna pursue this. You are creating mystery and subterfuge here with the way you're going about this and I'm really not sure why you think there's something going on here, when it was explained to everybody at council meeting what was going on and that an investigation had taken place and what the results were, it's just that they hadn't been finalized and I would imagine if you got that investigative report right now, you would say you don't believe it any way, so you still want another legal opinion.

- No, come on, alder.

- Alder Galvin.

- That's ridiculous.

- [Galvin] Come on.

- Alder Galvin.

- Decorum, please.

- [Stevens] Yeah, I have a question.

- Alder Steuer-

- Hold on, Alder Dolph is next.

- Thank you.

- .

- Alder Galvin, are you finished for now?

- Yes.

- Okay you can chime in again, Alder Dolph, go ahead.

- Thank you, I think you guys should just refer this to finance and if we can have closed session language put in on on the item. This belongs in finance. You guys don't need to be talking about this, honestly, it should never have come to . It should have been right from the get go referred to finance. So that's what I'm just asking us, Chair finance. Please refer to us and Attorney Bungert, can there be closed session language attached to it?

- I will review and if it is appropriate we will add it to the agenda.

- [Dolph] Thank you.

- Thank you Alder Dolph for that. Committee, do you have any other comments?

- I'll make a motion.

- Go ahead, you make a motion Alder Lefebvre.

- I'll make a motion that we refer this to finance and then Attorney Bungert, you said that we don't have to put in the closed session in our motion, just that just to refer.

- Right, if it's on the agenda and I will review post if we can add that closed session language.

- Okay.

- Okay.

- That's good, thank you. We have a second.

- Second.

- Second by Vandelist. Any other discussion, all in favor, please say aye.

- [Group] Aye.

- Opposed, that passes unanimously. Thank you for all your inputs. I'll wait for you.

- One second, yep.

- Well, we Lieutenant Mahoney. Consideration with possible

- Yeah, we are on to correct, yeah go ahead.

- Consideration with possible action on the liquor violation report for January 25th, 2021, Lieutenant Mahoney, good to see you.

- Good to see you too. Happy to report, there were no violations in this time, so this item is very short and brief.

- Okay, I did have one question though.

- Yeah,

- You did include in the agenda the number from 2019 and the ones from 2020, there were 13 total in 2020, there were 14 total violations in 2019.

- Yes.

- Your estimation or over time, is this is a fairly accurate number in terms of, I won't even say accurate, what is your feeling on that? That doesn't seem like there's a tremendous amount, but there still are violations, so just, what is your feeling on that over time? Have we improved a little bit or do you feel that we're getting the word out to the owners and that.

- I think we are getting the word out to the owners. I think the stipulation agreements that we have with the owners or people seeking to get liquor licenses are very effective where they know what's expected of them and to work cooperatively with the police department. And then when there are violations, I don't wanna say it's the nature of the beast, I do realize in the bar business stuff does happen, but most of the bars have been very proactive with us when there are issues, we'll bring them in, we talk to them, we explain what the issues are and they're very good at working on them. And I know the committee over the past year, some of the ones that have been issues, yes, that's when we seek non-renewal or revocation of their license, because it's just constant police presence there.

- Well, I just noticed that there were a couple of establishments that have four, three or four violations and I don't know if I wanna mention those places, but have we, I can't remember, can you just divulge that? Have we taken away the licenses, maybe of all of those places or have we worked at all well enough with them?

- I can tell you now some of the places that have multiple violations, our community police officers have cited for a violation of this stipulation agreement and if it doesn't improve, so it could be something where we would either seek revocation or I know we're coming into the season that in terms of time and staff resources that we would, if it continues we would just seek non-renewal. Cause we're coming up within a couple months with the timeframe, if we go to revocation, it would actually push it past the time of we just sought non-renewal like we did to the one establishment a couple of years ago.

- Okay, well, I trust you for on that and I appreciate your efforts on that and I have a list of those places, so we'll just keep it under surveillance, so to speak and thank you again.

- [Mahoney] You're welcome.

- So, we had a motion to receive in place on file.

- place on file.

- By Vandelist and a second by Stevens, is fine, Alder Stevens?

- Yeah.

- Okay, seconded by Stevens, all in favor, please say aye.

- [Group] Aye.

- Aye, all opposed that passes unanimously. Do I see the word that I'm looking for? Adjournments, is that true? Do we have a motion to adjourn? Our next meeting.

- I'll make a motion.

- Our next meeting will-

- I will...

- Our next meeting will be, oh boy, what do we got, February 8th.

- I believe it's, yeah.

- February 8th, our next meeting. Okay, yeah, so Alder Stevens.

- Before I say second, I just wanna tell everybody thank you for joining tonight.

- Yes, thank you.

- Thank you for your hospitality Mr. Steuer.

- Oh, yeah.

- And if anybody wants to email us, feel free to email us and the school board.

- We will love getting information and research data, we love it, you know that, right?

- Well, -

- We do sleep once in a while.

- [Stevens] We try.

- Yeah, we do, well, thank you for all that.

- So .

- All right, so what's the motion? Do we adjourn?

- [Vandelist] Motion to adjourn.

- We need a vote.

- [Vandelist] Motion to adjourn.

- Second.

- Okay Vandelist, seconded by Lefebvre, all in favor, please say aye.

- [Group] Aye.

- Aye.

- Thank you and goodbye.

- [Lefebvre] .