

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION

555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Monday, April 10, 2023

PRESENT: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Kyle Anderson, John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Clifford Avery Buell, Donald Currey, William A. DiBella, David Drake, John Gale, Peter Gardow, Joan Gentile, James Healy, Allen Hoffman, Jean Holloway, Gary Johnson, Byron Lester, Diane Lewis, Maureen Magnan, Jacqueline Mandyck, Dominic Pane, Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J. Salemi, David Steuber, Alvin Taylor, Calixto Torres and James Woulfe (26)

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Richard Bush and Dimple Desai (2)

ABSENT: Commissioners Christian Hoheb, Mary LaChance, Michael Maniscalco, Jon Petoskey, and New Britain Special Representative Michael Carrier (5)

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering (Remote Attendance)
David Rutty, Director of Operations
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant
Dylan Pecego, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Dave Baker, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Joe Szerejko, Independent Consumer Advocate (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman DiBella at 5:31 PM

ROLL CALL AND QUORUM

The District Clerk called the roll and informed Chairman DiBella that a quorum of the Commission was present, and the meeting was declared a legal meeting of the District Board of The Metropolitan District of Hartford County, Connecticut.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Steuber entered the meeting at 5:33 PM
Commissioner Lewis entered the meeting at 5:35 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

***On motion made by Commissioner Mandyck and duly seconded,
the meeting minutes of April 3, 2023 were approved.***

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

State Representative Tom Delnicki, of the 14th District South Windsor, requested that all discussion be done in open session.

Newington Mayor DelBuono provided written comment which was read into the record.



Beth A. DelBuono
Mayor

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

200 GARFIELD STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
(860)519-8177; bdelbuono@newingtonct.gov

April 6, 2023

MDC Commissioners,

I apologize for not being able to attend the meeting in person, as I am out of town. I have asked my Deputy Mayor, Gail Budrejko to read my letter into the record for your consideration.

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for taking the allegations against Chairman DiBella and Commissioner Salemi seriously, and acknowledging that a full investigation was necessary. After reading the "INVESTIGATION REPORT RELATING TO SANDLER & MARA, P.C. INVOICES", I continue to have concerns regarding the ability for Chairman DiBella to lead the MDC Commission. Based upon the Facts of Finding and the violations of the MDC's Charter and By-Laws that are stated and expanded upon on pages 43-44 of this document, I respectfully request that Chairman DiBella resign effective immediately from any and all positions held within the MDC and Commission. Should Chairman DiBella refuse to do so, I would ask that the Commission take any and all action possible to remove him from his position as Chair. Given that his actions are a clear disregard for the MDC Charter as well as By-laws, it is my opinion that he is not fit to continue in his role as Chairman.

I appreciate all that the commission has done to date to vet and investigate these issues. Additionally, I appreciate the meetings being held publicly, when appropriate, and being made available virtually for all to be able to attend. The transparency in dealing with such difficult and serious allegations is refreshing and valued.

Sincerely,

Beth A. DelBuono

Beth A. DelBuono
Mayor
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**INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE RE: TRANSMITTAL OF INDEPENDENT
COUNSEL REPORT RE: SANDLER & MARA PC FROM THE INTERNAL AUDIT
COMMITTEE TO DISTRICT BOARD**

Commissioner Pane made a point of order to request that Chairman DiBella relinquish the gavel.

Chairman DiBella ruled that he would continue to Chair the meeting.

Commissioner Pane appealed the ruling and requested a roll call vote. The decision of the Chair was sustained by roll call vote.

The results of the roll call vote:

Yeas: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Kyle Anderson, John Bazzano, Clifford Avery Buell, William A. DiBella, John Gale, Jean Holloway, Byron Lester, Diane Lewis, Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J. Salemi, David Steuber, Alvin Taylor, Calixto Torres and James Woulfe (15)

Nays: John Avedisian, Richard Bush, Donald Currey, Dimple Desai, David Drake, Peter Gardow, Joan Gentile, James Healy, Allen Hoffman, Gary Johnson, Maureen Magnan, Jacqueline Mandyck, Dominic Pane (13)

Abstentions: None

Absent &

Not Voting: Commissioner Jon Petoskey (1)

Commissioner Adil made a motion to table the Audit Report.

Commissioner Pane made a point of order that Commissioner Taylor had recused himself from on this topic and should not participate in discussion or consideration.

Chairman DiBella stated that Commissioner Taylor recused himself as a member of the Audit Committee, not as a Commissioner. He ruled that he has the right to participate as a Commissioner at the District Board.

Commissioner Mandyck appealed the decision. Commissioner Pane requested a roll call vote. The decision of the Chair was sustained by roll call vote.

The results of the roll call vote:

Yeas: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Kyle Anderson, John Bazzano, Clifford Avery Buell, Donald Currey, William A. DiBella, David Drake, John Gale, Peter Gardow, Joan Gentile, James Healy, Jean Holloway, Gary Johnson, Byron Lester, Diane Lewis, Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J. Salemi, David Steuber, Alvin Taylor, Calixto Torres and James Woulfe (21)

Nays: John Avedisian, Richard Bush, Dimple Desai, Allen Hoffman, Maureen Magnan, Jacqueline Mandyck and Dominic Pane (7)

Abstentions: None

Absent &

Not Voting: Commissioner Jon Petoskey (1)

Commissioner Torres made a motion to receive the report. The report was received without objection.

INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE RE: DISCUSSION RE: INDEPENDENT COUNSEL REPORT RE: SANDLER & MARA PC

Commissioner Adil made a motion to table agenda items #6B “Discussion re: Independent Counsel Report Re: Sandler & Mara PC”, 6C “Internal Audit Committee Resolution and Recommendation to the District Board following Independent Consul Report Re: Sandler & Mara PC”, and 6D “Resolutions from Commissioners Regarding Independent Counsel Report Re: Sandler & Mara PC”

The motion passed by majority vote. Commissioners Avedisian, Bush, Drake, Gardow, Hoffman, Johnson, Magnan, Mandyck and Pane voted no.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judy Allen of West Hartford stated she was upset with the meeting this evening. She stated that Commissioners recently had training with the State Office of Ethics and that recusal means recusing oneself even from discussion, and that members should act carefully, when there is even an appearance of a conflict of interest. She stated that the legislature should demand that the MDC adopt a more stringent ethics code.

State Representative Tom Delnicki, of the 14th District South Windsor, stated that the sooner information is provided the better, and situations become more difficult as time passes, and the public will lose confidence.

Commissioner Magnan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman DiBella requested a roll call vote.

The results of the roll call vote:

Yeas: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Kyle Anderson, John Bazzano, Clifford Avery Buell, Richard Bush, Donald Currey, Dimple Desai, David Drake, John Gale, Peter Gardow, Joan Gentile, James Healy, Jean Holloway, Gary Johnson, Byron Lester, Diane Lewis, Maureen Magnan, Jacqueline

Mandyck, Dominic Pane, Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J. Salemi, David Steuber, Alvin Taylor, Calixto Torres and James Woulfe (25)

Nays: John Avedisian, William A. DiBella and Allen Hoffman (3)

Abstentions: None

**Absent &
Not Voting:** Commissioner Jon Petoskey (1)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval