



April 14, 2021

## National Association of Government Employees

*AFFILIATED WITH THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION*

Dear Bridgeport City Council Member:

As you are aware, the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") was enacted on March 11, 2021. It has been reported that Bridgeport is to receive more than \$127 million for education, and more than \$85 million for non-education purposes under ARPA.

Section 9901 of ARPA amended the Social Security Act to include Section 602, the Corona Virus State Fiscal Recovery Fund. Under Section 602, municipalities like Bridgeport are now authorized to utilize ARPA funds for four specific purposes. One of those purposes is "to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-10 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the metropolitan city...that are performing such essential work..."

NAGE Local R1-200 represents more than 700 workers employed by the City of Bridgeport and its Board of Education, many of whom perform essential work and provide essential services. Accordingly, NAGE Local R1-200 respectfully requests that Bridgeport officials responsible for making decisions concerning the allocation of any funds for use as "premium pay" under 602(c)(1)(B) carefully consider the essential work being performed by City and Board of Education workers employed in job classifications represented by NAGE, especially those workers who were required by the City or the Board of Education to report for work as usual, despite the very real threat of exposure to COVID-19. NAGE bargaining unit members have performed and now perform functions essential to the City's and the City's schools' continued operation during the COVID-19 crisis but have not been recognized or compensated for their contributions as essential workers. This is true despite the fact that these workers have faced and now face the same or similar risks faced by other essential workers that have been recognized by the City.

On March 25, 2021, Mayor Ganim, Superintendent Testani, Representative Himes, and several members of the Bridgeport City Council public announced their support and gratitude for the federal funding allocated to Bridgeport under ARPA. NAGE Local R1-200 agrees, and request that the City recognize those workers in job classifications represented by NAGE who have performed and are now performing essential work.

Respectfully,

James V. Meszoros, Sr.  
President, NAGE Local R1-200

Michael D. Freddino  
Vice-President, NAGE Local R1-200

Maria Ayala  
Secretary, NAGE Local R1-200

Anthony Paoletto  
Treasurer, NAGE Local R1-200

John Lombard  
Sgt. At Arms, NAGE Local R1-200

Manuel Garcia  
Chief Steward, NAGE Local R1-200

Banjed Labrador  
Chief Steward, NAGE Local R1-200

Waith Mitchell  
Chief Steward, NAGE Local R1-200

cc: Mayor Joseph Ganim  
Superintendent Michael Testani  
Representative Jim Himes  
NAGE Local R1-200 Members