



National Association of Government Employees

AFFILIATED WITH THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

June 11, 2021

Dear Bridgeport City Council Members:

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the entire membership of NAGE Local R1-200, I write to thank you for your vote to accept and expend \$110 million dollars provided to Bridgeport under the American Rescue Plan.

Mayor Ganim's June 8, 2021 press release highlighted the fact that the funds awarded to Bridgeport are intended to be allocated for use in four general areas. One of those areas is "to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers."

NAGE Local R1-200 represents more than 700 workers employed by the City of Bridgeport and its Board of Education, many of whom performed essential work and provided essential services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. As stated in my earlier letter addressed to this Council, NAGE workers 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 workers have not yet been recognized or compensated for their contributions as essential workers despite the fact that these workers have faced and now face the same or similar risks faced by other essential workers.

These NAGE workers did not stay at home or work from home. They reported to work to provide essential services to the City of Bridgeport and its citizens. They prepared and provided meals for school children who otherwise might not have eaten. They provided security services and a safe environment for those providing or receiving those meals. They provided custodial services in the buildings where the meals were being prepared and served. They provided administrative and secretarial services to the City where the work could not be performed at home, and could not wait.

Like other essential work, this work was being performed at times and in places where any contact with the public posed an actual or perceived threat to one's own physical health and safety. And like other essential workers, NAGE workers perform this essential work for the City and its residents while facing the same risk of infection as all other essential workers unable to stay home with their families. Accordingly, NAGE Local R1-200 again respectfully requests that this Council strongly urge Bridgeport officials to include NAGE workers in classifications performing essential services as eligible for premium pay now made available through the American Rescue Plan.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James V. Meszoros, Sr.', is written over the typed name.

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