

**Dial-in number: (929) 205-6099**

**Meeting ID: 849 1812 2517**

**Passcode: 882813**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - October Regular Meeting
- III. Communications/Correspondence
- IV. Treasurer's Report
- V. Reports of Officers
- VI. Reports of Committees/Action Items
  - A. Membership
    - 1. In-Person Meeting
    - 2. Internal/External Outreach
    - 3. Membership Material
  - B. Political Action
    - 1. Candidates' Forum – Quentin Palfrey , Prospective Candidate for Att. Gen.
    - 2. *Mass Call2Action* Virtual Forum – A Livable Future
    - 3. Chairperson
    - 4. Election/Campaign Strategy
  - C. Events
    - 1. Holiday Fundraiser
    - 2. Food Drive
    - 3. Social Justice and Civic Engagement
  - D. Public Relations
    - 1. Social Media
    - 2. PR Campaign
    - 3. Media Relations
  - E. By-Laws
    - 1. Review/Revision
- VII. Beacon Hill Round-Up
- VIII. City Hall/DEC Summary
- IX. Next Meeting – December 11, 2021
- X. Adjournment

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In lieu of dues, members are asked to make an annual voluntary contribution in the amount of \$25.00 to fund the Committee's community and political activities. Checks, payable to MDCC, may be mailed to Treasurer George LaVenture, 346 Brigham Street, Marlborough, MA 01752. [Glaventure@Trinity-Inc.net](mailto:Glaventure@Trinity-Inc.net). Contributions may also be made to "Marlborough (MA) Democratic City Committee" through [ActBlue.com](https://actblue.com). WE CANNOT ACCEPT CASH.

## **Marlborough Democratic City Committee Minutes**

### **Zoom Meeting**

### **Marlborough, MA**

### **Monthly Meeting October 9, 2021**

**Officers:** Dan Caruso, Chair; Barbara Allen, Co-Chair; Alex Williamson, Co-Chair; Debbie Doucette, Secretary; George LaVenture, Treasurer; Rosalind Baker, Affirmative Action Chair

**Attending Members:** Dan Caruso, Barb Allen, Debbie Doucette, Pamela McNair, Danielle Grégoire, State Rep, 14<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District, Roz Baker, Diane Stevens, Joan Gregoire, Teria Ellis, Doug Pizzi, Michelle Bodin-Hettinger, Alex Williamson, Alice Wertheimer, Donna Scalcione, Rick Guzzi

**Guests:** Kate Donoghue, State Dem Committee member, Carmine Gentile, State Rep, 13<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District, Chris Lorant, Druba Sen,

**Guest Speaker:** State Senator 2<sup>nd</sup> Suffolk District, Sonia Chang-Diaz. Democratic Candidate for Governor

**Time Meeting Brought to Order:** 10:06 AM

### **New Business**

#### **Candidates**

#### **Speaker: Sonia Chang-Diaz, Democratic Candidate for Governor**

Background - Has been state senator since 2008. Began as a schoolteacher in Lynn. Working in Lynn she saw how poorly the school did not provide enough for the marginal students therefore slipped thru the cracks of the educational system. This experience led her to become a grassroots organizer and to run for State Senator in 2008 promoting financial equity, reforming police, fixing the broken education system. She is a big fan of rank choice voting. Not sure if we are ready for it right now.

There is so much money in the criminal legal system that doesn't need to be there. We have the Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform Bill passed in 2017/18. She has been fighting for the Justice Re-investment Act since then. The second half of it has been codified and written into this year's budget. From this Act the Community Re-investment Fund has been created this year. There is \$15 million in the fund currently. This fund is for virtuous cycle of services including criminal prevention, wrap around services and economic empowerment. The first half of the Justice Re-Investment Act includes all the money required for incarceration. But as the incarcerated population goes down so does the money requirements. There needs to be a dedicated system for pulling money out so it can be intentionally invested into prevention services.

She wrote, championed and won landmark education funding to provide \$1.5 billion in new aid to K-12 districts throughout Massachusetts. She led the charge for repealing racist sentencing rules. Also sponsored and won multiple protections for trans Bay Stators. Had sponsored Environmental justice reforms and curtailed the misuse of special education dollars.

Wants to work on solutions with big ideas for climate change, equity and justice economy and erase the wealth divide. Continue equal rights in education, police reform, racial reckoning, building 21st century transit transportation. Building and working with grassroots organizations with strong leaders is how we begin the work ahead of us.

**September Minutes:** Incomplete, not submitted

**Treasurer's Report:** Not Available

**Officer's Reports -** None

**Committee Reports -**

**Membership Report: Barbara Allen**

Looking for new members or other members to discuss what direction they would like to see our organization take such as; social events, political speakers, making calls to other states, strategize elections. Need to re-group at beginning of the year.

Also co-hosting a fundraiser for State Senator Jamie Eldridge this Saturday, Oct 16<sup>th</sup> at her house from 2-4. Dan Caruso and Pam McNair are also co-hosting by bringing food to the event.

**Public Relations: Doug Pizzi**

Nothing new to report

**Political Action: Alex Williamson**

Per Dan—Alex is stepping down from MDCC temporarily. We will need a new person to take his place as Political Action Chair and Chair of Ward 2.

**Events: Teria Ellis and Pam McNair**

Completed second Food Drive September 18<sup>th</sup>. Received 1787 lbs. of food and \$370 in cash donations. All this was dropped off at the Marlborough Community Cupboard Tuesday morning. Thanks to our volunteers; Barbara Allen, Dan Caruso, Debbie Doucette, Michelle and Lee Bodin-Hettinger, Pam McNair, Alice Wertheimer, Teria Ellis and Bob Gregoire.

Pam McNair was interviewed on the local radio WCRN-88.30 AM in Westborough. Will be aired later today at 2pm.

Our third food drive will take place in January 2022.

**By-Laws Committee: Marilyn Perry & Dan Caruso**

Nothing new to Report

**Beacon Hill Round-Up**

**Carmine Gentile: State Rep 13<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District**

- Redistricting will be coming out next week. Not expecting much change.
- Passed legislation for students in grade K-12 for free meals at school without shaming
- Supplemental budget filed by governor a month ago. May not be able to make any amendments to the supplemental budget. Later this year in November there will be some appropriations made from the ARPA funds.

**Danielle Gregoire: State Rep, 14<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District**

- Redistrict maps on Tuesday
- Farm Animals and Cruelty to Animals, Ballot question passed in 2016—prohibited access to poultry, beef and pork products because of strictures on producers. Made an amendment on Wednesday to that bill to prevent a lack of supply coming into the commonwealth.
- ARPA –American Rescue Plan. Money from Federal stimulus money for covid-19 pandemic. Eight billion dollars was originally allocated to MA. Remaining 5.3 billion dollars. Need to allocate the remaining dollars by end of year 2024.
- American Jobs Plan

**Questions:**

**Michelle Bodin-Hettinger;** Covid in-home daily testing available to Mass Residents. **Danielle G.** Not there yet. More likely further down the road.

**Barbara Allen;** Any hearings coming up to vote the rest of this year? **Danielle G.** Several bills coming up to vote. Keep checking website.

**Doug Pizzi;** Thank you to legislation for voting on removing parking meters along Revere Beach and using 1/2 of the collected money already received toward the maintenance of the beach.

**Local Government Round-up**

**No City Councilors in Attendance**

**School Committee – Michelle Bodin-Hettinger**

- Free Public Preschool. The 3 yr. budget allows us to add one classroom each of the next 3 years. Building on expansion. First went free last year during Covid. Marlborough is the first city/town in MA to have free Public Preschool
- Kane Elementary School added solar---now we have the High School, Goodnow Bros Elementary and Jaworek Elementary School all with solar power.



**Question:** A Survey was sent out to families of students by the school committee asking how parents would like the ARPA fund be to be spent. Also, when will the results of the survey be known?

**Michelle Bodin-Hettinger:** Federal or State mandate was made to send out to all school districts. Currently don't when but will ask the superintendent.

### **Old Business**

**Mass Democratic Convention** —Dan Caruso/Pam McNair

Every Amendment to all platforms and resolutions passed.

**Pam McNair:** Attended meeting of LGBTQ+ on Thursday night. The group was very happy to be officially part of the platform with increased representation.

DMO-Democratic Municipal Officials, Nationwide Group, hosted by Nicole Lachapelle, Mayor of East Hampton, is Chair of the MA Chapter. She introduced Angela Woginsas, City Councilor-at-large from Warren, Michigan. She had no allies when she got on her Labor committee. No one would tell her whom to reach out to or how. Angela reached out to DMO and found assistance from a Brian Kennedy, Mayor of Glendale, Wisconsin also chair of the National Labor Council. He helped her with her situation. DMO is a resourceful and group for any Municipal Employees.

### **Wind Up**

Michelle Bodin-Hettinger is looking for people to post yard signs on their property

Next Meeting: November 13<sup>th</sup>

MDCC Looking for a replacement for Alex Williamson as Ward 2 Chair and Political Action Chair.

There are 3 vacancies on the Marlborough Disability Commission

Next Food Drive is January 15, 2022; 12pm – 2pm

Kate Donoghue announced the Westborough DTC would be having candidates for governor during the October and November meetings.

**ADJOURNED: 11:25AM**

**Next Meeting November**

**Submitted by Debbie Doucette, Secretary**

**October 23, 2021**