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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
CHELSEA, MA

*C/B*  
Chelsea City Council  
Special Meeting

2023 DEC 20 A 9:47 December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

ACCEPTED AND FILED

SUSPENSION

A special meeting of the Chelsea City Council and School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers at Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150. Council President Robinson presided over the meeting. The meeting opened at 7:05 PM.

Name	District	Status	Arrived
Councilor Calvin Brown	Eight	Present	
Councilor Judith Garcia	Five	Present	
Councilor Tanairi Garcia	Seven	Absent	
Councilor Enio Lopez	Four	Present	
Councilor Leo Robinson	At Large	Present	
Councilor Giovanni Recupero	Six	Absent	
Councilor Damali Vidot	At Large	Present	
Councilor Norieliz De Jesus	Three	Present	
Councilor Brian Hatleberg	At Large	Present	
Councilor Melinda Vega	Two	Absent	
Councilor Todd Taylor	One	Present	
Member Shawn O'Regan	One	Absent	
Member Naomi Zobot	Three	Present	
Member Katherine Cabral	Five	Present	
Member Claryangeliz Covas Caraballo	Four	Present	
Member Kelly Garcia	Seven	Present	
Member Roberto Jimenez Rivera	At-Large	Present	
Member Jeanette Velez	Two	Present	
Member Yessenia Alfaro	Eight	Absent	
Member Hernandez	Six	Present	

The following communication was read from City Clerk Jeannette Cintron White. A motion from Councilor Brown to accept the call of the meeting was adopted under suspension.

Honorable Chelsea City Council  
City Hall, 500 Broadway  
Chelsea, MA 02150

Dear Honorable Council Members:

Please be advised that City Council President Leo Robinson has called for a Special Meeting of the Chelsea City Council and School Committee for Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 P.M in the City Council Chambers, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts, 02150 for the following purposes:

- 1.) Salute the Flag
- 2.) Calling the Roll of Members
- 3.) Public Speaking
- 4.) To interview candidates for the vacancy on the Northeast Metro Regional Vocational School Committee
- 5.) Vote to fill the vacancy on the Northeast Metro Regional Vocational School Committee

Sincerely Yours,

Jeannette Cintron White  
City Clerk

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Council President Robinson opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Councilor Brown made a motion to accept the call of the meeting under suspension. There were no objections.

Council President Robinson opened the floor for Public Speaking at 7:07 PM. No members of the Public spoke, and Public Speaking was closed at 7:07 PM.

Council President Robinson provided a summary of how the interviews and voting would be conducted. Several Councilors and School Committee Members inquired why one candidate who submitted her letter of interest was not being considered. Council President Robinson noted the individual was a current member of the School Committee, and thus not legally able to be appointed to the vacancy on the Northeast Metro Regional School Committee under the Charter of the City of Chelsea, presenting a legal opinion from the City Solicitor's Office stating as such. After debate, School Committee member Jeanette Velez declared she would withdraw her letter of interest.

The following candidates were present for interviews: Alexis Balcarcel, Frank Depatto and Blanca Gachama.

Candidates were afforded five minutes to make opening statements, and one round of questioning was conducted – with members of the School Committee first followed by members of the City Council.

Council President Robinson asked if there was a motion to open a second round of questioning. Seeing none, Councilor Hatleberg moved to have all candidates' names be placed for consideration. The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor.

<b>Name</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Candidate</b>
Councilor Calvin Brown	Eight	<b>Frank Depatto</b>
Councilor Judith Garcia	Five	<b>Blanca Gachama</b>
Councilor Tanairi Garcia	Seven	<b>Blanca Gachama</b>
Councilor Enio Lopez	Four	<b>Alexis Balcarcel</b>
Councilor Leo Robinson	At Large	<b>Frank Depatto</b>
Councilor Giovanni Recupero	Six	<b>Absent</b>
Councilor Damali Vidot	At Large	<b>Blanca Gachama</b>
Councilor Norieliz De Jesus	Three	<b>Blanca Gachama</b>
Councilor Brian Hatleberg	At Large	<b>Frank Depatto</b>
Councilor Melinda Vega	Two	<b>Absent</b>
Councilor Todd Taylor	One	<b>Frank Depatto</b>
Member Shawn O'Regan	One	<b>Absent</b>
Member Naomi Zobot	Three	<b>Blanca Gachama</b>
Member Katherine Cabral	Five	<b>Frank Depatto</b>
Member Claryangeliz Covas Caraballo	Four	<b>Blanca Gachama</b>
Member Kelly Garcia	Seven	<b>Blanca Gachama</b>
Member Roberto Jimenez Rivera	At-Large	<b>Blanca Gachama</b>
Member Jeanette Velez	Two	<b>Blanca Gachama</b>
Member Yessenia Alfaro	Eight	<b>Absent</b>
Member Ana Hernandez	Six	<b>Blanca Gachama</b>

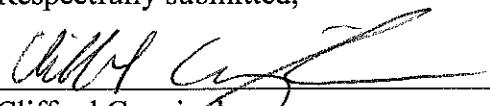
The vote count was: Blanca Gachama = 9, Frank Depatto = 5, Alexis Balcarcel = 1.

With a majority vote of members present required, Blanca Gachama was selected as the finalist to fill the vacancy on the Northeast Metro Regional Vocational School Committee pending the successful completion of a CORI Check.

Councilor Vidot made a motion to make the vote unanimous. There were no objections.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
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 Clifford Cunningham  
 Clerk, Chelsea City Council

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