



BILL FINCH  
Mayor

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TESTIMONY OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
Friday, February 6, 2015

**H.B. No. 6336 AN ACT NAMING A PORTION OF EAST MAIN STREET IN BRIDGEPORT AFTER THE 65TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, "THE BORINQUEENERS".**

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation: Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 6336 today. This bill would allow for a portion of Bridgeport's East Main Street to be renamed in honor of the U.S. Army's 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. The regiment, nicknamed the Borinqueners, was a Puerto Rican unit that heroically fought in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. Last year, President Obama honored their service and sacrifice by awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal, an effort spearheaded by retired U.S. Army Captain Frank Medina – who was raised in Bridgeport and whose grandfather served with the regiment.

In our city, we are home to a large Puerto Rican population, and they are an essential part of the fabric that makes Bridgeport such a great city. Two of our state representatives, Chris Rosario and Ezequiel Santiago, are of Puerto Rican descent, and serving Bridgeport mightily. As mayor, I enthusiastically support further honoring the service of the Borinqueners, and our Puerto Rican community as a whole, by renaming the section of East Main Street. In doing so, we further solidify the bonds that bring our diverse community together.

As the son of a veteran who participated in the Normandy invasion and also fought in the Korean War, I understand the sacrifice the men and woman of our armed services have made. And with memorials such as Col. Mucci Plaza in our downtown center, our city honors, and will continue to honor, our veterans and their sacrifice.

Once again, I'd like to thank the committee for the opportunity to speak in front of you today and would urge our legislature to pass HB 6336.

Sincerely,

Bill Finch  
Mayor