



# *Appointments and Briefings*

June 16, 2009 - 7:00 p.m. – **Agenda**

City Council Chamber, Room 214, Municipal Building

View Minutes

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1. Citizens Input Time – Not to exceed the first thirty (30) minutes of the meeting.
  - 1a. Rosa DaCosta, 23 Washington Street, New Bedford, MA, 02740, speaking on establishing a non-profit and human rights organization.

***INVITEES: Rosa DaCosta***

2. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of RAMONA C. SILVA, 93 Walden Street, New Bedford, MA, 02740, to the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, as an Associate Member, replacing William J. Villineau, who appointment was rescinded; this term will expire December 2012. (Ref'd 5/14/09)

***INVITEES: Ramona C. Silva***

3. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of DIANE A. BERUBE, 33 Arch Street, New Bedford, MA, 02740, as a PARK COMMISSIONER, replacing Sandra Grace, who resigned February 2009; this term will expire May 2011. (Ref'd 5/14/09)

***INVITEES: Diane A. Berube***

4. Communication, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to the City Council, on behalf of DANIEL XAVIER, d/b/a MCKENZIE'S BUS COMPANY, 68 Deane Street, New Bedford, MA, 02746, hereby submits a copy of the Application requesting a **NEW** Private Livery License, under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 159A, Section 1 and amendments thereto, and M.G.L. Chapter 270, Section 22 (Smoke Free Workplace Law) and all other laws applicable to such operation, to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford. (Ref'd 5/14/09)

***INVITEES: Daniel Xavier***

5. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with the Administration and members of the banking and mortgage community to discuss the number of home foreclosures in the City of New Bedford and what exactly are the intentions of the Administration to address this problem that is increasing in numbers weekly. (Ref'd 4/10/08)

***INVITEES: Chief of Staff William Burns; Director of Housing & Community Development Patrick Sullivan***

6. Communication, John King, to Councillor Gomes, requesting that the City adopt MGL Chapter 59, Section 5K, as amended by Chapter 184, Section 52 of the Acts of 2002, to establish property tax work-off program for taxpayers over 60 years of age to grant an abatement on property taxes of up to \$750.00; also enclosing a copy of MGL and Standard-Times article indicating Selectmen in Wareham taking steps to adopt same. (Ref'd 5/22/08, 5/12/09 – Referred to the Mayor, and remain in committee)

***INVITEES: Tax-Title Attorney Blair Bailey; City Treasurer Renee-Fernandes Abbott***

7. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, In an effort for the City Council to be better prepared to advise local residents, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings invite and meet with Representatives(s) of the “New Bedford/Fall River Housing Partnership” to learn about the “Mortgage Check-up & Counseling Workshops” that are being held in the area to inform New Bedford residents about the “Mass Housing’s Home Saver Program” instituted to give assistance to and help prevent residents from loosing their homes because of “Predator” mortgage companies that have been preying on homeowners with adjustable mortgage rates, or to assist those families who are in fear of losing their homes due to a lost job or decreased earnings, as part of a joint commitment to assist our local homeowners. (Ref’d 1/10/08)

***INVITEES: Fall River Housing & Planning Director George M. Hovorka; New Bedford Office of Housing & Community Development Director Patrick Sullivan; New Center for Legal Advocacy of New Bedford Director Richard McMahon; Catholic Social Services Fall River Housing Program Coordinator Carol Hernandez, New Bedford Housing Councillor Jackie Pina; Massachusetts Housing Partnership Executive Director Clark L. Zeigler***

8. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes & Gonsalves, requesting that the Mayor brief the City Council as to what the City is doing to help many of the residents across the City, through either Emergency Management, or FEMA, with Emergency Management Director, Mark Mahoney to address issues of flooded cellars, damaged burners and hot water heaters across the City, some of this affecting many of our elderly residents; and further requesting that our State Delegation be asked for their assistance in this matter, in any way possible, with some type of State Funding, including FEMA money, if available, to assist our residents with some of their losses, especially those hit with major losses that are causing hardships. (Ref’d 8/21/08, 5/12/09 – Committee request Mark Mahoney to inform the committee whether or not the City applied/received FEMA money)

***INVITEES: Emergency Management Director Mark Mahoney***

9. Written Motion, City Council President Gonsalves, requesting that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with Ron Labelle, Commissioner of the Department of Public Infrastructure and Mark Mahoney, Director of Emergency Management, to discuss FEMA’s plans to change the flood maps in the New Bedford area, specifically as to how that relates to the presence and the use of the Hurricane Barrier. (Ref’d 11/13/08)

***INVITEES: DPI Commissioner Ron Labelle; Emergency Management Director Mark Mahoney***

10. Written Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting that the Police Chief Ronald Teachman, Fire Chief Paul Leger and EMS Director James Trout meet with the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods to discuss each Departments policies for the use of sirens and flashing lights. (Referred to the Committee on Appointments & Briefings)(Ref’d 9/25/08)

***INVITEES: Police Chief Ron Teachman; Fire Chief Paul Leger; EMS Director James Trout***

11. Written Motion, Councillor Lawrence, requesting a meeting with a representative from the Mayor’s Office, the City Solicitor and/or the City Planner to discuss the progression of the development on the Route 18 project. (Ref’d 1/27/05, tabled 11/15/06, tabled for 6 months 2/12/07, ***table for 6 months on 9/10/07 (MARCH)***, remain tabled – 11/18/08)

***INVITEES: Chief of Staff William Burns; City Solicitor Irene Schall; City Planner David Kennedy***

12. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, and Council President Gonsalves, asking that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with the Business Director for the Drum Corps Associates (DCA), Representatives of the School Committee, the New Bedford High School Band Director, and Representatives of ENCORE (Encore Performing Arts/Encore Companies,) to discuss bringing a Senior Drum and Bugle Corps Competition to New Bedford, as a major fund raiser to help ENCORE, the New Bedford High School Band Boosters and other musical organizations within the City to raise money to support music education programs, to include instruction, instruments and equipment; and further, that we support the Regional Championship Competition being held at Paul Walsh Field in New Bedford, which would seem to be an ideal location for this type of competition. (Ref'd 11/25/08)

***INVITEES: Drum Corps Associates Business Manager Dick Eschenmann; New Bedford Public School Committee Vice- Chairman Dr. John Fletcher; New Bedford High School Band Director Michael Coogan; ENCORE Performing Arts Executive Director Roberta Wolinsky***

***Chairman suggests taking "No Further Action", on the following items:***

13. Communication, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to the City Council, on behalf of VICTOR DA ROSA, 56 Westwood Drive, North Dartmouth, MA 02747, d/b/a BLUEBIRD TRANSPORTATION, 1551 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, hereby submits a copy of the Application requesting a **RENEWAL** of a Private Livery License, under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 159A, Section 1 and amendments thereto, and M.G.L. Chapter 270, Section 22 (Smoke Free Workplace Law) and all other laws applicable to such operation, to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford. (Previous license expired February 23, 2009)(Ref'd 3/12/09)
14. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the City Council go on record supporting the Mayor and the City, to clamp down on all contractors working on City water lines, (especially in the West End of the City where conditions have left unsafe situations for the citizens living in that area), making it mandatory that debris, rocks and other material be cleaned up after every working day in order to make the neighborhood safe as possible; and further, that the contractors be obligated to make sure the City streets are made safe for all, and that all debris is removed after a working day, and that water pellets, and watering down these areas to control dust, this is such a nuisance to the Citizens while this work is being done, be performed at the work sites. (Ref'd 8/21/08)
15. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that a letter be sent to Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Portia Bonner, Purchasing Agent Debra Travers, Darcy Fernandes, Principal, of the Roosevelt Middle School, and Lawrence Oliveira, Chief Administrator of Financial Operations/New Bedford School Department, asking that they explain to the City Council, in writing and within ten (10) business days, why, at the present time, the seventh grade students at Roosevelt Middle School do not have books that they are able to bring home for homework studies making it inconvenient for parents to help their children with their homework, due to not knowing exactly what is needed to complete the studies; further, that immediate action be taken to discover why these books have not yet arrived and are not available; and further, that an inventory of the entire system be taken to find out if every school in this City has the books that are needed for teachers to administrate the teaching of our students for their future. (Ref'd 10/7/08)
- 15a. COMMUNICATION, Superintendent of NB Public Schools Dr. Portia Bonner, submitting the current state of textbook distribution at Roosevelt Middle School, on behalf of Principal Darcy M. Fernandes, in response to a request by the Council on October 17, 2008. (10/24/08)
16. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting a letter of Resignation from Dennis Costa, from the Zoning Board of Appeals. (Ref'd 10/07/08)
17. Written Motion, City Council President Gonsalves, on behalf of Gerald Pinto, Rockdale Avenue Neighborhood Group, requesting that the City consider turning City-owned vacant lots into neighborhood parking lots. (Ref'd 10/23/08)