



Appointments and Briefings

December 8, 2009 - 7:00 p.m. – **Agenda**

City Council Chamber, Room 214, Municipal Building

View Minutes

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1. Public hearing on an APPLICATION, Carlos M. Torres, Torres Auto Tech and Sales, 288 Mill Street, New Bedford, MA, 02740 for a SPECIAL PERMIT FOR MOTOR VEHICLE – SALES at 288 Mill Street (11/19/09, duly advertised in the Standard-Times on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 and Tuesday, December 1, 2009)

INVITEES: INVITEES: Carlos Torres; City Solicitor Irene Schall; City Planner David Kennedy; DIS Commissioner Dan Romanowicz; Licensing Board Clerk Nick Nanopoulos; DPI Commissioner Ron Labelle; City Clerk Rita Arruda; Abutters

2. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with Lawrence Oliveira, Chief Administrator for Finance and Operations for the School Department, and the contractor who is responsible for building Keith Middle School, for the purpose of having the contractor explain why the mortar is falling down from that building, which is not very old, the many cracks inside the building, water damage to the ceiling due to leaks into this building in the front hallways and other areas throughout the school; and further, to explain why the air and heating systems in the ceilings are continuously found with oil leaking out of them, and other mechanical problems, along with the company that installed the closed circuit cameras throughout the school that, at this time, are not visible to the staff within this building, and to discuss how these issues will be addressed with the School Department and the City as to the repairs that have been made to damages, and cracks in the walls on all three levels, in the middle of the school, causing damage to the entire structure of the building. (Ref'd 5/14/09)
- 2a. Communication, Councillor Gomes, submitting a copy of a Standard-Times article dated August 3, 2009, titled "Despite the cracks, Keith 'sound', school officials says." (Ref'd 8/20/09)

INVITEES: New Bedford Public School Chief Administrator of Financial Operations Lawrence Oliveira; Agostini Construction, Inc. Finance and Operations Manager Paula Bizer

3. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes & Pimental, requesting that the Department of Inspectional Services ensure that the two buildings at Hazelwood Park are secured and steps have been taken to stop the damage and/or vandalism to said buildings; further, that the City take immediate action to stop the buildings from further deterioration, as well as to initiate repairs to the buildings as soon as possible, and that they also request help from the various shops at New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, Youth Build, the Sheriff's Department and any other entity who could lend assistance and manpower needed to restore these Historical Buildings; and further, that the City Council send a letter asking Home Depot and Lowe's if they could assist with the historic preservation of these buildings, by providing building materials for the project and/or help in any other way they can. (Ref'd 1/24/08, tabled 2/19/08 – Sent letters to Sheriff, Youth Build, Voc, Home Depot, Lowe's, WHALE, 4/15/08 – tabled, 11/10/09 – severed from NFA)

INVITEES: DIS Commissioner Dan Romanowicz; Bristol County Sheriff Tom Hodgson; WHALE President Peter Hawes; Youth Build Coordinator Gloria Williams; VOKE Outside Construction Contact John Arruda; Lowes #1832 Regional Manager Mr. David Gomes; Home Depot #2673 Regional Manger

4. Written Motion, City Council President Pimental, asking that a member of the Administration meet with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to inform the Councillors as to who and/or what department/account is being charged for the Parking Spaces in the SRTA Parking Garage that were newly allotted for the private vehicles of Police Officers assigned to the Downtown Police Substation. (Ref'd 9/11/07, tabled 3/11/08, remain tabled 6/24/08, 11/18/08 - tabled to next meeting, 11/10/09 – severed from NFA)

INVITEES: Chief of Staff William Burns; Police Chief Teachman; City Auditor Peter Schmidt

5. 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, 6/16/09 – RFT, RPF info from CS, table for 6 months (DECEMBER 09)

INVITEES: Chief of Staff William Burns; City Planner David Kennedy

6. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with the City's Tax Title Attorney, Blair S. Bailey, to discuss the Abutters Lot Program, which was instituted in the 1900's, to see where we are in moving along some of these vacant lots that have been vacant for some time, dating back to the 1900's, and what is being done to make these lots available to the Abutters Lot Program and to residents throughout the City. (Ref'd 4/10/08, tabled 11/18/08, 11/10/09 – severed from NFA)

- 6a. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with Tax Title Attorney Blair Bailey, as soon as possible, so that the Committee can be updated on the Abutters Lot Program, which was instituted by the City Council in the 90's, since there are many parcels of land still sitting idle that could be tax generators for the City; and further, requesting that the Administration and Tax Title Attorney Bailey get together with the abutters and make those lots available for purchase to get them back on the tax rolls as soon as possible; and that Attorney bring a list of properties on tax title, not just Plot and Lot, but by address as well. (Ref'd 9/10/09, tabled-11/10/09)

INVITEES: Tax-Title Attorney Blair S. Bailey; City Solicitor Irene Schall

7. Written Motion, Councilor Gomes, asking that the City Council go on record in congratulating Mayor Lang and the Administration on bringing the New Bedford Bay Sox Baseball Team to the City of New Bedford, wishing the team a successful season and stating the hope that the franchise will bring good baseball and sportsmanship to the City; and further, requesting that the Mayor inform the City Council what the total costs will be for the improvements to Walsh Field, including additional seating, rain tarp(s), upgrading the field or any other requests by the Franchise, and agreed to by the Administration, that attracted the Franchise to the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 12/18/08, 5/12/09 - tabled)

INVITEES: Chief of Staff William Burns

8. 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, 6/16/09 – table to next meeting)

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 "No Further Action", on the following items:

9. Report, Committee on Appointments & Briefings, recommending that the City Council APPROVE 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, whose appointment was rescinded; this term will expire December 2012. (Ref'd 6/25/09, 8/18/09 - tabled)