



Committee on Public Safety

March 24, 2009 - 7:00 p.m. - **Agenda**

City Council Chamber, Room 214, Municipal Building

View Minutes

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1. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Traffic Commission conduct a survey of the City's intersections, "No Parking Anytime" and "No Parking Here To Corner" areas throughout the City for the purpose of making these areas automatic "Tow Away Zones" when vehicles are in violation; and further, that smaller signage indicating the areas as a "Tow Away Zone" be placed on the aforementioned existing signs so that these signs will serve as a notice to the general public, as well as assist our Police Department and enable them to take immediate action against those in violation. (Also referred to Traffic Commission) (Ref'd 2/26/04, remain in committee 6/15/06, remain in committee 10/24/06, 7/31/07 - LOQ)

INVITEES: Traffic Commission's Executive Secretary Scott Downing; Police Chief/Chairman Traffic Commission Ron Teachman

2. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with the Traffic Commission for the purposes of implementing "No Parking Tow Away Zones" throughout the City, in that this issue that has been addressed repeatedly by this Councilor, but no avail and nothing has been implemented; therefore, the City Council Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, which also controls the streets of New Bedford, will work with the Traffic Commission in order to implement "No Parking Tow Away Zones" throughout the City, so as to provide safer intersections where cars are now parking in areas that blind motorists to oncoming traffic at locations across the City, and also in areas where the complaints continue to be made about cars parked in the areas where they impede motorists' vision and safety. (Ref'd 2/12/09)

INVITEES: Traffic Commission's Executive Secretary Scott Downing; Police Chief/Chairman Traffic Commission Ron Teachman

3. Written Motion, Councillor Martins, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods meet with Chief Teachman to discuss the proposal law, which would replace Police Details with civilian flaggers at construction sites, on secondary roads, and neighborhood streets, as part of a transportation reform package offered by Senate Leaders, and how it will affect the Police Department. (Ref'd 4/10/08)

INVITEES: Police Chief Ron Teachman

4. Written Motion, Councillor Martins, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with Police Chief Teachman, Fire Chief Leger and/or Fire Prevention Captain Kruger, to discuss the fires that are occurring in the abandoned properties throughout the City, specifically in Ward Two, the Ward I represent, and what is being done to solve this crisis, as well as what steps are being taken by the Police and Fire Departments to ensure the surrounding neighbors as to their personal safety and the safety/security of their properties. (Ref'd 5/8/08)

INVITEES: Fire Chief Paul Leger; Fire Prevention Captain Scott Kruger; Police Chief Ron Teachman

5. Written Motion, Councillors Gonsalves, Lawrence, Duarte, Alves, and Coelho, in view of the recent vandalism at Buttonwood Park, that the Committee on Public Safety meet with the representatives of the

Park Department, Police and Mayor's Office to discuss if it would be feasible to re-institute Park Police or to increase police patrols or to install security cameras in the City's Parks. (Ref'd 8/21/08)

INVITEES: DPF Superintendent of Public Works Kenneth Blanchard; Chief of Staff William Burns; Police Chief Ron Teachman

6. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Mayor and the Police Chief take immediate action to replace the windows at Station 2 with bulletproof glass, and, if not the whole window, at least half of the block windows that are presently there, should be taken out and replaced with bulletproof glass, not only for the safety of the Officers that are assigned to that Precinct, but also the civilians in the station; further, that Station 2 and Station 3 have video cameras immediately installed, just as Headquarters, and Downtown have at the current time, since this is a safety precaution for not only the Officers, but also for the civilians that visit these Stations; further, cameras should also be installed to visually observe Cove Street to Route 18; further, that immediate repairs be made to the roof, and be completed as soon as possible, due to the constant damage occurring to the interior of this building, necessitating that the restrooms to be remodeled, and clean ups that must be done due to the damage from this leaking roof; and further, that the air conditioning system also be repaired and/or a new one installed as soon as possible, since this is an inconvenience not only to the Officers, but to the Citizens who visit that Station and it is also nearly impossible for the Police Officers to do their work under these conditions which require the doors to be left open in the back and front of the building, creating an unsafe situation for all. (Ref'd 9/11/08)

INVITEES: Chief of Staff William Burns; Police Chief Ron Teachman

7. Related Motion, Councillor Lawrence, requesting that Mr. Houghton, Director of Grants and Finance for the New Bedford Police Department, be asked by the City Council to provide us with a list of the Grants that have been applied for and obtained over the last two (2) years. (Ref'd 11/21/06)

INVITEES: Director of Grants/New Bedford Police Department James Houghton

8. Written Motion, Councillors Gonsalves, Alves, Gomes, Lawrence, Saunders, and Coelho, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods, discuss the possibility of relocating the Emergency Medical Services/Medic One from its current location at Hillman Street, to the former Fire Station Three on Kempton Street; and further that James Trout, Director of Emergency Medical Services, Mark Mahoney, Director of Emergency Management, Emanuel Maciel, Director of Animal Control, William Belknap, Emergency Medical Services Shop Steward, and a Representative of the Mayor, be invited to the Committee Meeting to discuss the matter. (Ref'd 9/11/07)

INVITEES: EMS Director James Trout; Emergency Management Director Mark Mahoney; Animal Control Director Emanuel Maciel; EMS Shop Steward William Belknap; Chief of Staff William Burns

9. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting that the City Council Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhood Issues investigate and evaluate the benefits of the "Reverse 911" Program currently being installed in RI, available to local Cities and Towns from the telephone company(s), which allows for immediate contact during and emergency. (Ref'd 1/13/05, 6/15/06 remain in committee, tabled 3/25/08)

INVITEES: Verizon's Executive Director of Products & Services Peter Lucht; Comcast's Government/Community Relations Manager Mary O'Keefe; Emergency Management Director Mark Mahoney

10. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods meet with Emanuel Maciel, Animal Control Inspector, for the purpose of discussing equipment needs within the Animal Control Department to better serve the general public and the employees of Animal Control. (Ref'd 5/8/08)

INVITEES: Animal Control Director Emanuel Maciel

11. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with Animal Control Inspector Emanuel Maciel, for the purpose of discussing an updated equipment list for Animal Control, due to several equipment situations that may endanger the Animal Control Officer and the general public as well. (Ref'd 6/12/08)

INVITEES: Animal Control Director Emanuel Maciel

12. Written Motion, Councillor Coelho, requesting that the Department of Public Facilities look into increasing the lighting at Custom House Square by William Street and Acushnet Avenue, specifically the seating area behind the fountain beside the parking lot, in an effort to increase safety and attract tourists throughout the summer months. (Ref'd 5/8/08, 8/26/08 - tabled)

INVITEES: DPF Commissioner Lawrence Worden

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

13. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety meet with Police Chief Moniz and someone from the Administration to discuss the possibility of implementing a program modeled after "Safety Kid Stop," which would request Police Officers to interact with young people by doing so-called "safety stops" in neighborhoods across the City (especially in trouble spots or high-crime neighborhoods) to approach and question children under 16 years of age who are out after 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11:00 p.m. on weekends, to make certain that they do not get involved in any illegal activities, and, more importantly, that they are not in trouble or in the "wrong place at the wrong time," to ensure their safety and to make them aware that, if needed, they have the support of the City's Police Officers. (Ref'd 9/11/03, tabled 3/29/04, remain in committee 6/15/06, remain in Committee 10/24/06)
14. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Mayor and the Police Chief provide a detailed breakdown of exactly what the new computers that have been installed into the Police Cruisers are able and available to do for the Police Officers; the Council was originally told by this Administration and the Police Department that these computers would be installed in cruisers to provide Officers with the ability to write reports right from their cruisers thus enabling them to stay in the neighborhoods patrolling and protecting the citizens of the City of New Bedford; and further, regarding the device in the Police Chief's house used to monitor the Police Station, provide information as to who pays for that, and how much did it cost. (Ref'd 11/23/04, rpf 6/15/06, tabled 3/25/08)
15. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the City's Grant Writer look into any State or Federal Grant money available to the City for the purpose of replacing all street signage throughout the City; and further, that the letters be sent to our State and Federal Delegation requesting any assistance that they may give to the City on obtaining monies for street signage. (Ref'd 2/9/06)
16. Written Motion, Councillor Morad, requesting that the Traffic Commission Parking Clerk, Scott Downing, along with appointed members of the Traffic Commission, Sergeant Ferreira of the Police Department's Traffic Division, United States Postmaster Ronald Pauline, and a representative of ABC Disposal Service, Inc., meet with the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods and affected property owners of the City of New Bedford, to discuss issues related to commuter parking in the various City Neighborhoods; said commuter parking is directly affecting these taxpaying citizens, placing a burden on these neighborhoods and constricting the ability of providers of basic services, such as garbage pickup and mail delivery, from providing said services. (Ref'd 2/9/06, tabled 6/15/06)
17. Communication, Andrea Marcovici, 11 Clark's Cove Drive, Dartmouth, MA 02748, to City Council, on behalf of Coach Antonio Machado, appealing to the City of New Bedford to continue a boxing program in the area, and assist Coach Machado, who had such a program at a previous site, by providing a subsidized location for the program, since the Coach already has the equipment and a following of students who wish to continue their training. (Ref'd 9/14/06)

18. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the New Bedford Police Department's Traffic Division take immediate action to monitor the speed in front of (and around) the Betsy B. Winslow School and that they also set up the speed monitoring/indicator device at that location due to the excessive speed on that street while school is in session; and further, that the Traffic Commission install proper signage indicating SCHOOL ZONE – 20 MPH BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7:00 A.M. AND 3:00 P.M., due to the potential danger to the children's safety resulting from speeding vehicles; and further in view of the lack of crossing guards at our City Schools, that EVERY school in the City have the SCHOOL ZONE – 20 MPH between the Hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. Signs installed at their sites. (Ref'd 5/24/07)