



Committee on Public Safety

February 9, 2010 - 7:00 p.m. - **Agenda**
City Council Chamber, Room 214, Municipal Building

View Minutes

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1. Written Motion, Councillor Coelho, seeing that the snow parking ban was not enforced during the recent snowstorm, requesting that the Police Department update the City Council on what their procedure is regarding the snow parking ban and how it is implemented; and further, requesting from the Fire Department that they inform the City Council why loudspeakers and the Fire Station's blow horns are not being used as they were in the past. (Ref'd 1/14/10)

INVITEES: Ron Teachman, Police Chief; Paul Leger, Fire Chief

2. Written Motion, Councillors Gonsalves and Martins, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods meet with the officials from the Police Department responsible for enforcement of the parking ban, the Executive Secretary of the Traffic Commission and the Commissioners of the Department of Public Facilities and the Department of Public Infrastructure to discuss parking ban enforcement and how changes in parking ban restrictions might improve plowing, specifically, restricting parking to alternating sides of the street after forty-eight hours have passed since a large storm, so as to allow the plows to clear the streets from curb to curb. (Ref'd 1/14/10)

INVITEES: Ron Teachman, Police Chief; Scott Downing, Executive Secretary Traffic Commission; Lawrence Worden, DPF Commissioner; Ron Labelle, DPI Commissioner

3. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes, Martins, Lawrence, Gonsalves, Morad, Coelho, Duarte, Dehner, Lopes, Alves and Saunders, requesting that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with DPI Commissioner Ronald Labelle, DPF Commissioner Lawrence Worden, DPF Superintendent Kenneth Blanchard, Police Chief Teachman and a Representative from the Administration to discuss what can be done and what assistance we may give to the City in order to resolve the snow plowing issues that have arisen again this year after 20 inches of snow had fallen; looking back to the 1990's, when Rosemary Tierney was Mayor, there was an implementation at that time of a grid and a procedure that was followed in this City of what main streets were plowed throughout the City from the north to the south, and we would like to take a look at that again and make sure we are following that procedure because it worked very well back in the 1990's, when we had almost fifteen weekends of snowstorms in New Bedford and took hold of snow plowing in this City; further, that the implementation of a parking ban be put into effect at least six hours before snow is even due to fall, and, once the implementation of that snow ban is in effect, that immediate action be taken by New Bedford Police and towing companies (that at one time in the 1990's were structured in groups from the south end, to the west end, to the east and to the north end) that handled removing cars from streets; further, that we start giving out tickets early, and that cars begin to be towed, approximately two hours right after the parking ban has been implemented, and that the City of New Bedford not wait until the snow begins to fall and then go into these neighborhoods to ticket and tow cars and try to enforce the parking ban, but that this be done in the six hours before snow even begins to fall; further, that the City Council also request a list of all the equipment that is available for snow removal be provided to the Council, and that an inventory be taken of all equipment, as to where trucks and snow removal equipment are located throughout the City, further, that this list be provided to the Council, as well as, if possible to the Department Heads to review if at this time they feel they have a "wish list" in order to handle the snow removal here in the City, so that we can update and remove snow from our City streets or sidewalks, and further, asking that this request be put on the first meeting of the Committee on Appointments and Briefings Agenda so that we may address this issue, and we may try to help resolve some of the problems that occurred during the

first big snowfall in December, so that we can clean the streets and make the streets safe for all that live in or visit New Bedford. (Ref'd 1/14/10)

INVITEES: Ron Labelle, DPI Commissioner; Lawrence Worden, DPF Commissioner; Kenneth Blanchard, DPF Superintendent; Ron Teachman, Police Chief; Bill Burns, Mayor's Chief of Staff

Chairman suggests "Following the Recommended Action", on the following items:

4. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the New Bedford Police Department and the New Bedford Police Union forward to the City Council a report of all accountable equipment within the Department at the present time; and further, that a "Wish List" also be provided to the City Council on equipment needed to bring this Department to its highest potential of providing safety to the Citizens of New Bedford and the Department itself. (Ref'd 12/21/06)
5. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with Police Chief Teachman to find out what happened to the 16 hand-held computers that were part of the City's Police Department computer operations system that now cannot be found, along with other surveillance equipment that has disappeared from the Police Department or City. (Ref'd 6/12/08)
6. Written Motion, Councillors Gonsalves, Saunders, Alves, Coelho, Lawrence, and Duarte, requesting that the Mayor, Police Chief and Fire Chief advise the City Council as to what plans have been put in place to protect the Armory from further vandalism and damage; and further, to ask the mayor to advise the Council what is the status of the proposal submitted by Arthur Motta in 2007, to convert the Armory into a Convention Center. (Ref'd 3/26/09)
7. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Mayor and the Police Chief authorize the Commanding Officer of the Downtown Station to request that the Patrol Officers in the area of City Hall, the Public Library and the Post Office keep all areas clear of persons who continue to hang around various areas of Downtown, on City Hall steps on William Street, and at the Library and the Post Office, due to the fact of what it looks like, and this is not the impression the City wants to convey, especially during the Summer Tourism months; and further, that the Police take swift action to keep these people from loitering, hanging around panhandling throughout Downtown, but especially in the three areas requested in this petition, where it has become a grave problem. (Ref'd 7/16/09)
8. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, asking that the City Council go on record and request the Administration to look into funding for the Department of Public Facilities night time street light repairman to be put back on duty, due to the amount of lights that are out in the City, and because, at present, that one person that is doing the job cannot do other various jobs throughout the city as far as the electrical repair, and is not able to provide the time that is needed for streetlight repairs throughout the City, which in some areas create havens for problems due to the darkness, not only for the motorists, but for the pedestrians and neighborhood residents throughout the City. (Ref'd 8/20/09)
9. Written Motion, Councillor Coelho, requesting that the Police Chief Teachman increase patrols in the area of Coggeshall Street and Shawmut Avenue, due to the increased number of break-ins, in this neighborhood, which is highly populated with elderly citizens. (Ref'd 9/10/09)
10. Written Motion, Councillor Dehner, requesting that the City provide the funds to restore the Carlos Pacheco School Playground; the current conditions are as follows: no swings, no basketball net, and a large portion of the playground slide is completely broken off, and there are many safety issues resulting from these conditions, enough that the parents of the Pacheco school's students are looking into various fundraising options for repairs to the playground, however, due to safety issues, this Councillor is requesting the City's input and assistance. (Ref'd 9/24/09)
11. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that a letter be sent to the New Bedford Police Department commending the Officers that have been involved in apprehending some of those individuals that are responsible for housebreaks throughout the City, and, at this point, at three different

times when Police have arrived on scene, assisted by residents with descriptions of those that were breaking in, were able to apprehend them; and further, that a concentrated effort be kept in neighborhoods across the City to help in any way to bring to justice those that continue to create havoc in our City with the hundreds of housebreaks that have been committed over the past few months; further, that immediate action be taken to resolve the 74 or so assaults, or attempted assaults, or attempted robberies, that are unsolved within the City, due to the fact of the nature of the criminal element that is within our streets, causing this kind of harm and inconvenience in many neighborhoods; further, that the Mayor and Police Chief do whatever is possible in order to resolve some of these cases, because many of them have been perpetrated on the very young and to the Senior Citizens who have been badly affected by this kind of criminal activity in the City; and further, that we ask and request that everyone in our City, especially those that live in the heavily populated neighborhoods, keep their eyes and ears open for possible criminal activity, and not to hesitate for a moment when they see something unusual or strange individuals in the neighborhood to take immediate action and notify the Police and/or call 911. (Ref'd 10/22/09)

12. Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Saunders, Gomes, Gonsalves, Alves, Dehner, Lawrence, and Pimental, requesting that the Administration look into implementing a cell phone alert system for all City Employees. (Ref'd 12/17/09)
13. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes, and Dehner, requesting that a traffic study be conducted at the corner of Rockdale Avenue and Hathaway Road, to see if a installation of a traffic safety light or improvements to the road would ease the flow of traffic on said intersection, due to the fact that the increasing amount of motorists using both Rockdale Avenue and Hathaway Road and motorists entering and existing the City; and further, if all possible that a traffic light be installed that would ease the flow of traffic on Hathaway Road and provide access to Rockdale Avenue, without the potential dangers of accidents. (Ref'd 12/17/09)

Chairman suggests "Receiving and Placing on File", the following items:

14. Communication, Concerned parents of children that attend the Hayden McFadden School, to City Officials, Re: Allegations of child abuse, from a kindergarten teacher at the school. (Ref'd 5/28/09)
15. COMMUNICATION/ARTICLE, "When Clutter Turns to Crisis", by Stephanie Schorow, from Boston Globe Magazine dated January 10, 2010. (Ref'd 1/14/10)
16. Communication, Police Chief Teachman, to City Council, responding to "concerns from Council Floor," informing Councillors that the Police Department is fully staffed for Supervisors according to FY10 budget, no overtime monies have been expended due to refusal to fill vacancies and providing spreadsheet with names of the Ranking Officers. (Ref'd 1/14/10)

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

17. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the City hold a cultural Unity Day Festival in August, in a central City location for the purpose of bringing the entire City together as one, making people aware of the services that the City provides to everyone and allowing residents to enjoy and share ethnic food, music, and fun. (Ref'd 3/9/06, tabled 12/14/06, remain tabled 3/25/08)
18. 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, 3/24/09 - tabled)

19. Written Motion, Councillors Gonsalves, Alves, Martins, Gomes, Morad, Pimental, Coelho, Duarte, Dehner, Saunders and Lawrence, asking that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with Emergency Medical Services Director James Trout to inquire how EMS is operating without street supervision, given the same is a requirement of our State License. (Ref'd 2/26/09)
20. Related Motion, Councillor Gomes, asking that the Committee on Public Safety request the Administration and/or Fire Chief Leger and Police Chief Teachman to provide a breakdown of what the entire costs were for the operations dealing with the barricaded individual, at the exercise/standoff incident that took place on Wednesday afternoon on Ashley Boulevard, detailing what it took in time, costs (including overtime,) etc. for the whole operation. (3/12/09)
21. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Mayor and the Police Chief provide the City Council's Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods with a breakdown of how many Officers will be put back on the streets as a result of Federal Stimulus money, (the \$545,000.00 that was given to the City) and when those Officers will be put back on the streets or returned to their Special Units. (Ref'd 4/7/09)
22. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Mayor and Police Chief Teachman take IMMEDIATE action to apprehend the kids who brutally attacked a teenager at Riverside Park on Tuesday, April 7, 2009; and further, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods look into ways to reinstate Community Police Officers at various parks throughout the City to ensure that another vicious attack does not occur. (Ref'd 4/23/09)
- 22a. Communication submitted by Councillor Gomes from Betsy Hayes regarding the attack on her son at Riverside Park and also submitted photographs of the injuries. (Ref'd 4/23/09) **Receive and Place on File.**
23. Written Motion, Councillor Morad, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods recommend that the City Council ask the Mayor to immediately order that the Fire Department again, be notified and allowed to respond first responder-type emergency calls throughout the City. (Ref'd 5/28/09)
24. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Administration address, and do everything it can, to repair, and keep repaired, the numerous streetlights that are broken/cycling/out throughout the City; and further, that these lights be repaired as soon as possible because due to cutbacks in personnel, there has been an increase in the number of broken streetlights needing repair, and there are areas across the City that are in darkness, which may contribute to criminal activities. (Ref'd 7/16/09)
25. Written Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting that the Director of Public Health, Marianne DeSouza brief the City Council on the Board of Health's plans for preparedness in the event of a Swine Flu Epidemic. (Ref'd 9/20/09)
26. Written Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods ask that City Planner, the Building Commissioner, and the City Solicitor's Office to meet with the neighbors and the owner of the One Stop Gas Station at Rt. 6 and 140, in New Bedford, to address the legality and safety of the new signage at that location. (Ref'd 10/8/09)