



Committee on Public Safety

February 22, 2010 - 7:00 p.m. - **Agenda**
City Council Chamber, Room 214, Municipal Building

View Minutes

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1. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, due to the fact that it was reported that Councillor Gomes “made a claim” that the overtime that has been spent on Commanding Officers throughout the New Bedford Police Department, which in this Councillor’s opinion was not a claim, but was a fact, nothing but the facts are now being requested, in asking that the City Council request the Police Chief to provide a breakdown of every Commanding Officer that received overtime between August 1, 2009, and October 21, 2009, and that this information, be forwarded to the City Council, as soon as possible, before hearings are held to discuss whether there are vacant positions within the Department or not, and whether these vacant positions have been creating an unusually large amount of overtime; and further, that, if possible, from October 21, 2009, to the present date, that the overtime breakdown be provided by individual Officer and by shift to the City Council, so it can be proven that this was not a claim, but, that this was a fact, and it is nothing but a fact, that large amounts of overtime and taxpayer dollars are being spent because the City chooses not to make the appropriate promotions amongst the ranking Officers, such as the two positions that are open in Booking and Detectives Gang Squad, and the Commanding Officers of other entities such as a ranking Captain or Lieutenant. (Ref’d 11/12/09)
- 1a. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Mayor and the Police Chief take immediate action to appoint positions in the Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain positions in the Police Department, due to the fact that we continue to pay overtime to all, especially Sergeants, to work days and nights booking criminals; also a Sergeant needs to be in place in the Detective Division as well as the Gang Squad Unit; and further, that this action be taken as soon as possible to alleviate the continuing overtime that is accumulated as a result of these positions not being filled from the list of candidates, many of them good candidates for the jobs who have not been promoted into the positions, but, instead we continue to accumulate overtime costs within the Department. (Ref’ 10/22/09)

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

2. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, SECOND REQUEST, that Police Chief Ronald Teachman provide the Committees on Public Safety and Neighborhoods and Finance with an accurate dollar amount spent on overtime during the period of August 01, 2009, through December 13, 2009, for Commanding Officers within department; further requesting, that the Police Chief address the issue of Commanding Officers’ overtime and promotions as the overtime costs increase, which is about \$250,000.00, and why the department has not taken the opportunity to promote high ranking officers, such as Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains; and further requesting, that this information be provided to the City Council within seven (7) business days after this Written Motion is heard in City Council. (Ref’d 12/17/09)
- 2a. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that a Certified Letter be sent to Police Chief Ronald Teachman requesting for the third time the amount of overtime that has been spent on Commanding Officers, be provided to the City Council; further, that five (5) business days be given for the response to be forwarded to the City Council, and further, that if this information is not provided within the five (5) business days, that we request the City Council’s Legislative Counsel, David J. Gerwatowski to subpoena the information that we have requested for the third time from the Police Department. (Ref’d 1/14/10)

- 2b. Related Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, asking that the letter sent to the Chief of Police include a request that the list of overtime spent include not only the existing vacancies, but positions that are empty by virtue of IAD's, Disabilities, Medical Conditions, pending retirement. (Ref'd 1/14/10)
- 2c. 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)
- 2d. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that Police Chief Teachman provide the City Council Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, in addition to the information already submitted, the amount of overtime spent between the months of August 01, 2009, to December 14, 2009, which was in the amount of \$94,512.00, and that this is a breakdown of the overtime spent on Commanding Officers between the dates of December 14, 2009, and February 06, 2010, and that this breakdown be further broken down by individual numbers of who is receiving the overtime, and where the is going; and further, that the Chief continue to provide the City Council with a breakdown of the overtime, and who receives the overtime, due to the fact that the City Council on many occasions, has provided the Police Department and this Police Chief with monies needed to cover the overtime, only to not have a real explanation as to where the money authorized by this Council has been going; these numbers seem to be growing and fluctuating, especially in the Commanding Officers' positions, and that is why these breakdowns should be submitted to the City Council on an ongoing basis, right up to the end of Fiscal Year 2010, so that when the Police Chief does request overtime dollars, the council will be able to see exactly where the overtime has been spent and where it has gone; and further, that the information be provided in seven (7) business days. (Ref'd 2/11/10)

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

3. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Mayor, Police Chief and Fire Chief provide the City Council's Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods with a copy of overtime accumulated in each of these departments since the layoffs due to budget constraints have occurred; and further, that a copy also be forwarded to the City Council as soon as possible, BEFORE the Budget Hearings, in order to make a determination as to how much money is being spent on overtime due to the layoffs that have occurred within the City. (Ref'd 4/7/09)

INVITEES: Police Chief Ron Teachman; Chief of Staff William Burns; Fire Chief Paul Leger