



Appointments & Briefings

December 10, 2013 – 7:00 PM – **Agenda**
City Council Chamber, Room 214, Municipal Building

****View Minutes ****

1. PUBLIC HEARING, on a APPLICATION, Andrew Daher d/b/a Tony's Service Center & Sales, 832 Rockdale Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02740, for a SPECIAL PERMIT for MOTOR VEHICLE SALES/GENERAL REPAIRS/LIGHT SERVICE at 832 Rockdale Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02740.

INVITEES: Andrew Daher; City Solicitor John Markey, Jr.; City Planner Jill Maclean; DIS Commissioner Dan Romanowicz; Licensing Clerk Nick Nanopoulos; DPI Commissioner Ron Labelle; City Clerk Rita Arruda; Abutters

2. PUBLIC HEARING, on an APPLICATION, GC, CF NEW ENGLAND, LLC, for SPECIAL PERMIT for MOTOR VEHICLE LIGHT SERVICE at 943 Shawmut Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02740.

INVITEES: Cumberland Farms New England, LLC Representative; City Solicitor John Markey, Jr.; City Planner Jill Maclean; DIS Commissioner Dan Romanowicz; Licensing Clerk Nick Nanopoulos; DPI Commissioner Ron Labelle; City Clerk Rita Arruda; Abutters

3. PUBLIC HEARING, on an APPLICATION, IRMANDADE DO DIVINO ESPIRITO SANTO DAS NOVE ILHAS DOS ACORES, INC., for SPECIAL PERMIT for a CLUB OR LODGE – NON-PROFIT at 199 Bonney Street, New Bedford, MA 02740.

INVITEES: Manuel Carrancho; City Solicitor John Markey, Jr.; City Planner Jill Maclean; DIS Commissioner Dan Romanowicz; Licensing Clerk Nick Nanopoulos; DPI Commissioner Ron Labelle; City Clerk Rita Arruda; Abutters

4. PUBLIC HEARING, on a COMMUNICATION/DEMOLITION, New Bedford Historical Commission, to City Council, re: BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW: 1131-1145 ACUSHNET AVENUE, MAP 92, PARCEL 106, advising that “the structure is a two-story brick Art Deco-style commercial building constructed in 1940 to house a F.W. Woolworth Company store with a decorative terra cotta façade, the front façade is bent to follow the street alignment and the bend serves to divide the building into two nearly equal sections, stepped parapets are spaced along the roof line, one in the center of the wide Woolworth’s store front, which contains two recessed entries, and two others above the entries into the subsidiary store fronts, an Art Deco-style cast stone frieze decorates the roof line; as the only surviving national chain store located on Acushnet Avenue, the building is architecturally and historically significant in the context of the mid-20th Century commercial development of the North End business district and its abandoned and altered condition diminishes its individual significance; however it is an important contributing component of a potential Acushnet Avenue historic district” and therefore, “the NBHC has determined that 1131-1145 Acushnet Avenue is a historically significant structure and preferably preserved.”

INVITEES: New Bedford Historical Commission Chairperson Jennifer Nersesian; City Planner Jill Maclean; Preservation Planner Anne Louro; DIS Commissioner Danny Romanowicz; Abutters

5. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of KEVIN THOMAS, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, replacing Reverend Richard Wilson whose term has expired; Mr. Thomas' term will expire December 2014. (Ref'd 11/14/13)

INVITEES: Kevin Thomas

6. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of MARIA MOJICA-MOSQUEA, New Bedford, MA, to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, replacing Joseph Cordeiro, whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2016. (Ref'd 9/12/13, 10/15/13 - tabled)

INVITEES: Maria Mojica-Mosquea

7. COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, on behalf of **Ana Varela, 208 Ashley Boulevard, New Bedford, MA 02746 d/b/a/ CAPE VERDEAN ASSOCIATES DELIVERY, 1709A Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02746**, hereby submit 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 11/14/13)

INVITEES: Ana Varela

8. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, submitting TWO ORDERS, relative to the Airport, due to construction work at the Airport in which wetlands have been filled in and turtles have been displaced, it was necessary to obtain permitting from the Army Corps of Engineers, the permit requires the City to place a Conservation Easement on abutting property in Dartmouth and to place a Deed Restriction on two Wetlands Mitigation Sites at the Airport. (Ref'd 9/12/13)

8a. AN ORDER, (Deed Restriction)

8b. AN ORDER, (Conservation Easement)

INVITEES: Airport Manager/Representative; Conservation Agent Sarah Porter; City Solicitor John A. Markey

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

9. Written Motion, Councillors Gonsalves, Lawrence, Oliveira, Saunders, Bousquet, Coelho and Duarte, requesting that the City Council explore the reasoning behind installing a wrought iron fence around the iconic Whaleman Statue in front of the New Bedford Free Public Library and whether the said fence can be removed, as it ruins the design as conceived by the sculptor. (Ref'd 1/26/12)

10. Written Motion, Councillor Lawrence, requesting that the City Council, through the Committee on Appointments and Briefings call for a public meeting to discuss the open issues and concerns as it relates to the City's new and old construction/building/remodeling permitting process to further secure the guidelines instituted by each department responsible for granting permits and review; and further, that any and all developers, homeowners, realtors, contractors be invited to attend this meeting, this issue and date when heard by the Committee should be published in the Standard-Times and/or additional media outlets available to the Clerk of Committees. (Ref'd 2/9/12)

11. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Administration along with the Planning Department, meet with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings or the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, for the purpose of supplying the City Council with a breakdown on how the \$5 Million Dollars

will be spent that was awarded to the City on improvements on Acushnet Avenue from Coggeshall to Nash Road; and further, requesting that the Administration explain as to what will be done to the interior neighborhoods that abut Acushnet Avenue on the east and west sides that prominently are troubled by criminal activity, drug dealing, and other problems that have pegged this area for nearly two decades and what will be done in order to improve the quality of life not only for residents in that area, but for the residents in that area, but for the business community and the investment that will be made on Acushnet Avenue for the betterment of the City and it's Tourism. (Ref'd 1/26/12)

12. Written Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with Patrick Sullivan, Director, Community Development, relative to the possibility of making improvement to City playgrounds and ball fields through the use of Community Development funds, in particular in Ward Five. (Ref'd 3/8/12)

13. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that a letter be sent to Senator Kerry, Senator Brown, Congressman Frank and Congressman Keating, asking that immediate action be taken as to any Federal monies or grants, such as the Safer Grant that was previously awarded to the City of New Bedford, which put thirty-four Firefighters back on line and gave us a full compliment of Firefighters throughout the City protecting the Citizens of New Bedford; and further, concern has grown as to additional funding for these Firefighters in the near future, the time is coming when we will need to be informed as to whether there is money available to keep these Firefighters on the job, it is important to keep these Firefighters who guarantee public safety in the City of New Bedford, which at one time was taken away, and at that time this Councillor said that we were playing "Russian Roulette" with our Fire Department and the Citizens of this City, this Petitioner will not let that situation occur again or let the City of New Bedford fall into the same situation as the City of Fall River is presently in; and further, requesting that Rule 40 be Waived on this matter, and that Mayor Mitchell join us in this effort by requesting that any grants/public safety monies be made available to the City of New Bedford in order to guarantee the number of Firefighters that we have protecting the City of New Bedford remain the same. (Ref'd 3/8/12)

14. Related Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting that the City's Forestry Division be invited to discuss their current working relationship with NSTAR regarding tree maintenance. (Ref'd 3/8/12)

15. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the City Council's Legislative Counsel and the City Solicitor look into Article II, Section 19-20 through 19-27, with respect to enforcing the requirement that City Employees be residents of the City of New Bedford during the full term of their employment with the City; further, that contracts with the City's Unions (AFSCME, Police, Fire) ensure that every City employee be a resident of the City of New Bedford for the full term of their employment and/or for a MINIMUM OF FIFTEEN years, if so negotiated, (and NOT the presently negotiated 3-4 years) before being allowed to reside in other Cities or Towns; further, that this change, after review by Legislative Counsel and Solicitor, not apply to positions exempted by the code or where Waivers have been granted by the City Council and Mayor when in the best interest of the public to do so, if the Legislative Counsel and City Solicitor so determine to continue exemption (s) after review; and further, that employees presently working for the City that were allowed by Union Contract to reside outside of the City be "Grandfathered In", so as not to cause hardship to said employees and their families. (Ref'd 3/8/12)

16. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, Gonsalves, Council President Martins, Councillors Duarte, Bousquet, Lopes, Lawrence, Oliveira and Saunders, requesting, that the City Council go on record against the closing of St. John the Baptist Parish located on County Street in the City of New Bedford and that a letter be sent to the Diocese of Fall River and to the Vatican requesting their assistance in looking to give the church more time to try to turn around the present situation and conditions that have led to the decision to close the church in order to protect the history and the years of service that this church has brought to the City of New Bedford and the community along with the history of it being the first Portuguese church in the United States of America to service not only the Portuguese constituency but all those of the Catholic faith; and further, that

history that history be protected by looking in any way possible to relook at this situation of closing down this church which would only lead to another church closed down and only to deteriorate and bring blight to the neighborhood; and further, that if possible a meeting be held with the Diocese of Fall River and/or whoever has made this decision of closing for the purposes of trying to keep this church open in order to serve the community; and further, requesting that Rule 40 be waived. (Ref'd 3/22/12)

17. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, Lawrence and Council President Martins, requesting that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with the Commissioner of the Department of Inspectional Services, Danny Romanowicz, Commissioner of the Department of Public Facilities, Lawrence D. Worden, Commissioner of the Department of Public Infrastructure, Ronald H. Labelle, Director of Community Services, Cynthia Wallquist, the City's American Disability Act Representative and Mr. Thomas F. Hopkins, Director of the State's Architectural Access Board, to address the current requirements that all entrances to businesses have a ramp, which is presently a serious problem in areas, such as Acushnet Avenue, where many of the businesses doorways open directly onto the sidewalk and the requirement for a cement ramp addition would prove to be dangerous to pedestrians because of the variety of heights it would leave on sidewalks and the expense of installing a ramp which is estimated to exceed over \$2 million, approximately 35% of all businesses on Acushnet Avenue do not meet the current requirement; and further, requesting that the Committee discuss the possibility of a waiver and to grandfather current buildings only. (Ref'd 3/22/12)

18. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting, on behalf of the numerous City residents, especially the elderly, that the City Council invite a representative from Comcast to the Committee on Appointments & Briefings to explain the reason for the continuing rate increase that for many feel has become an annual situation, what can be done to curtail both frequency and level of increase in the future. (Ref'd 3/22/12)

19. Related Motion, Council President Martins, requesting that the City Council email Roy Nascimento, President of the New Bedford Chamber of Commerce, asking that he provide each member of the City Council with a copy of the UMASS/Dartmouth Urban Initiative Analysis on the permitting process in Greater New Bedford, excluding this Councillor who has already received a copy, so the City Council can review the recommendations made and take action if necessary. (Ref'd 3/22/12)

19a. COMMUNICATION/EMAIL, Council President Martins, submitting communication from Roy Nascimento, President, Chamber of Commerce and Jose Castelo, Jose Castelo Real Estate, requesting review of Permitting Process citywide. (Ref'd 5/24/12)

20. Written Motion, Council President Martins, requesting, on behalf of many community organizations and concerned constituents, that a representative from the Mayor's Office provide the City Council with a list of dates on which flags will be displayed throughout the year and that the matter be referred to the Committee on Appointments & Briefings, so that the City Council can evaluate the schedule; and further, that the Administration also provide the City Council with the procedures of where and how the flags are put up, since this Councillor believes that there is some miscommunication on the procedures of the process. (Ref'd 3/22/12)

21. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings schedule at the next meeting to meet with City Solicitor Markey, Personnel Director Natho, a Representative of the Mayor's Office and a AFSCME Representative, to outline and inform the City Council of the AFSCME Settlement and how the Administration attempts to reimburse AFSCME City Personnel for Salaries and Wages determined to be owed as requested litigation filed. (Ref'd 4/12/12)

22. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting a DRAFT Fiscal Year 2012 Office of Housing and Community Development Action Plan, which set forth activities to be funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the Home Investment Partnership (HOME) Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program for the period July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013; the 30-day Public Comment period began on March 26, 2012 and will end on April 25, 2012. (Ref'd 4/12/12)

22a. FISCAL YEAR 2012 DRAFT ACTION PLAN & CERTIFICATIONS,

23. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes, Bousquet, Oliveira, Alves, Lawrence, Lopes, Coelho, Gonsalves, Duarte, Saunders, and Council President Martins requesting, that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with Mr. Johnson of the Whaling City Golf Course for the purpose of discussing some complaints that have been made to this Councillor about the club house conditions and conditions of the golf course as a whole; and further, requesting that City Solicitor Markey be invited to said meeting for the purpose of discussing the thirty-year lease that has been given to Mr. Johnson and whether Mr. Johnson's obligations to the golf course and club house are being upheld under the contract conditions that he signed with the City several years ago; and further, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings take an unexpected tour of the golf course as soon as possible for the purpose of seeing whether the golf course is being kept up to the standards in the original contract along with other entities that go along with the lease and contract of the golf course. (Ref'd 4/26/12)

24. COMMUNICATION, Councillor Lawrence, submitting a copy of his response to a letter from Mr. Charles P. Doyle, regarding conditions at Riverside Park. (Ref'd 4/26/12, 6/21/12 - RPF)

25. Written Motion, Councillor Bousquet, in order to explore the possibility of better servicing the environmental justice community, and it ensure that in the future environmental justice is a priority for planning, siting, and zoning projects that may have an impact on the overall health of a neighborhood, requesting, that the City Council, rather than creating a new position to address these concerns, explore the possibility of changing the name of the position to "Environmental Steward" to "Environmental Justice Steward" and also review the job description for possible amendments that better reflect the City's commitment to environmental justice, and safe, healthy neighborhoods for all Citizens. (Ref'd 4/16/12)

26. Written Motion, Councillor Martins, requesting that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings invite Mr. Thomas Vick, Airport Manager, to a meeting in June 2012, so that he may update the entire City Council on the Airport's Master Plan process; and further, that Mr. Robert Mallet, CEO of Airport Solutions be invited to this meeting. (4/30/12)

27. Written Motion, Councillor Coelho, Council President Martins, Councillors Lopes, Bousquet, Gonsalves, Lawrence, Alves, Oliveira and Duarte requesting, on behalf of Diane Bolton, due to the high population of underprivileged infants in the City of New Bedford and the problems that we are having in our schools needing assistance that our Federal Delegation look into the possibility of creating an Early Head Start Program here in the City as is being done in other communities. (Ref'd 5/15/12)

28. Written Motion, Councillor Coelho, Council President Martins, Councillors Lopes, Bousquet, Gonsalves, Lawrence, Alves, Oliveira and Duarte requesting, on behalf of Diane Bolton, that due to the amount of children under the age of five, issues of poverty and violence that we have in the City of New Bedford, that the Administration consider looking to create a position of a Child Advocate to service the needs of our growing population. (Ref'd 5/15/12)

29. Written Motion, Councillor Lopes requesting, that the City of New Bedford's Department of Labor Relations look into providing City employees with the Voluntary option of signing up for Group Medical Bridge Insurance Plans, as a means of reducing City employee's out of pocket expenses related to hospital admission/ER visits, outpatient surgery and common diagnostic procedures. (Ref'd 5/10/12)

30. Written Motion, Councillor Saunders, requesting, that the City of New Bedford's Planning Department and the Committee on Appointments and Briefings look into the possibility of making it a requirement, that all streetlights in the City of New Bedford be in the Washingtonian/New Bedford style of lighting; and further, as streetlights are replaced, they be replaced with this style of lighting. (Ref'd 5/24/12)

31. Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Gonsalves, Lawrence, Bousquet, Martins, Alves, Duarte, Gomes, Oliveira and Lopes, requesting that the Mayor's Office provide the City Council a briefing on the Marketing/Tourism Plan for the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 6/14/12)
32. Written Motion, Councillor Duarte, requesting, that Denis Keohane, owner of Keohane Company, Ltd., meet with the Committee on Appointments & Briefings to update the City Council on what his plans are to fix the former Keystone Building. (Ref'd 6/28/12)
33. Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, requesting, that Mayor Mitchell provide the City Council with his plans and timelines for Taylor School and Hannigan School before the beginning of the upcoming school year. (Ref'd 7/19/12)
34. Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, requesting, for the SECOND TIME on behalf of the residents of Morton Court, that the Election Commission consider moving the polling location back to the Howland Green Library. (Ref'd 7/19/12)
35. Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Bousquet, Gonsalves, Lopes, Council President Martins, Alves, Duarte, Oliveira, Lawrence and Gomes, requesting, that Marissa Perez-Dormitzer of Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District be invited to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to inform the Committee on the progress of the recycling in New Bedford; and further, to also explain what has been done with the grant money obtained to purchase recycling containers. (Ref'd 8/16/12)
36. Written Motion, Councillors Lawrence and Gonsalves, requesting that the Acting Director of the Buttonwood Park Zoo provide the City Council with an update on the Seal Pool Restoration Project, Councillor Lawrence toured the Zoo on August 14, 2011, when the project was underway, it has been well over a year since the project was started and it is not yet completed, it is the City Council's understanding that the funding for the repairs were allocated in full; and further, requesting, that the Director of the Zoological Society meet with the City Council to provide us with an update on their mission statement and vision for the Buttonwood Park Zoo as a whole. (Ref'd 8/16/12)
37. Written Motion, Councillor Duarte, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss the benefits of a program called "First Move" which teaches young people how to play chess. (Ref'd 8/16/12)
38. Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, requesting, that DPI Commissioner Labelle, on behalf of the property owners on Jenkins Street and Bolton Street, review the City's Engineering changes made to the sewer interceptor, eighteen months ago, which is now causing multiple homes on Jenkins Street and Bolton Street to be flooded with raw sewage; and further, requesting, that DPI Commissioner Labelle this Councillor with copies of the existing plan on file for the said intersection, along with the City Engineering plans and a timeline for the corrections of the problem. (Ref'd 8/16/12)
39. COMMUNICATION, Council President Martins & Councillor Lawrence, submitting copy of the resignation letter of Michael E. Antaya, former Chief Sanitarian for the Health Department. (Ref'd 8/16/12)
40. Written Motion, Councillor Duarte, requesting, that a letter be sent to President Barak Obama, our Federal Delegation, Governor Deval Patrick, and our State Legislative Delegation, stating our opposition to the catch limits; and further, requesting that a Representative of NOAA be invited to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss the reasons for these limits being imposed and also that local fishermen and businessmen involved in the fishing community also be invited to express their concerns as to how the limits would affect their families, businesses and the City as a whole. (Ref'd 8/16/12)

41. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes and Duarte, requesting that the City reach out to the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School for the purpose of refurbishing our trolleys that are now close to two decades old and in need of serious repair work especially on the wood portions of the trolleys and these Councillors feel that Voc-Tech can be of significant help in refurbishing said trolleys which are a beacon within the City and the expertise of the Vocational students to perform this work would be greatly appreciated. (Ref'd 8/16/12)
42. Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, requesting that the City Solicitor's Office send a notice to NSTAR Gas & Electric, that they provide property owners with a minimum of thirty days' written or verbal notice, if they are going to encroach onto their property for a tree maintenance as part of their yearly line protection program for trees and/or potential damage in the event of a hurricane; and further, requesting, that a member of NSTAR Gas and Electric Line Maintenance Division, meet with the Committee on Appointments & Briefings to discuss future line maintenance that will be done in the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 8/16/12)
43. Written Motion, Councillor Lawrence, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with Veteran Agent Christopher Gomes, to discuss the operation of the Veteran's Office and the possible need for additional clerical support to meet demands of said office and continue to provide superior customer support to our Veterans. (Ref'd 9/13/12)
44. Written Motion, Councillors Lopes and Gomes, requesting, ONCE AGAIN, on behalf of Mr. Alan J. Moore, that the New Bedford City Council half a public discussion period regarding the operation of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant; and further, allow for the discussion of the contract that the City of New Bedford has entered into with Veolia Water for the management of the City's treatment plant and that the abutters residing on South Rodney French Boulevard, Seymour Street, Portland Street and Hudson Street be invited to attend said meeting. (Ref'd 9/27/12)
45. Written Motion, Council President Steven Martins, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings discuss with Commissioners Labelle and Worden the snow removal plan for the upcoming winter session and that the Committee have monthly discussions relative to constituent services/calls on the aforesaid matter. (Ref'd 10/11/12)
46. Written Motion, Councillors Lopes, Alves, Council President Martins, Oliveira, Bousquet, Gonsalves, and Lawrence, requesting that Verizon New England, Inc., Comcast, and Nstar Gas and Electric send a local community relationship representative to meet with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, to discuss issues with the disruption of services which can be experienced by local residents during the hurricane season and the upcoming winter months. (Ref'd 10/11/12)
47. Written Motion, Councillor Lawrence, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with a representative from the Cemetery Board to discuss previous efforts to place Pine Grove Cemetery and Rural Cemetery on the National Register of Historical Places. (Ref'd 10/25/12)
48. Related Motion, Councillor Lopes, requesting that the City reinstitute Validating Parking, if a customer buys something in the Downtown Area, that they get their parking stub validated for free parking, if using the Zeiterion Parking Lot or Elm Street garage, as a way for people to use the parking garages again. (Ref'd 11/14/12)
49. Written Motion, Councillor Duarte, requesting, that Scott Downing, Executive Director, Traffic Commission, come before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss and update the Committee on the progress that has or has not been made relative to Downtown parking issues since the previous meeting held earlier in the year. (Ref'd 11/8/12)

50. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Alves, on behalf of the residents at 81 Taylor Street, requesting that they be invited to the next Committee on Appointments and Briefings meeting, to discuss with the Council, DPI Commissioner Ronald Labelle, Administrative Assistant to the Assessors, Peter Barney, City Solicitor, and Representatives of the Town of Dartmouth's Department of Public Works and appropriate Town Officials, to see what the City Council can provide in assistance with the maintenance of the street in front of said address, the family is concerned and upset in that they pay substantial taxes to the City and receive no services or benefits such as snow removal, street maintenance and trash removal, and to discuss if the City can make arrangements to work with the Town of Dartmouth, who currently have the responsibility for the street, but has done nothing to maintain the road because all the homes on Taylor Street pay taxes to the City of New Bedford; and further, requesting that the Council look into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Town of Dartmouth to insure our residents receive the services they deserve for the taxes they pay. (Ref'd 12/20/12)

51. WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Martins and Councillor Alves, requesting, that in light of the recent approval by the EPA of the South Terminal Project, that the Mayor's Office, School Committee and the Workforce Investment Board, provide in detail their plans to educate New Bedford residents about the anticipated jobs associated with the South Terminal Project, also requesting, that our local Legislative Delegation provide additional funding to the Workforce Investment Board to assist them in developing training programs related to this project; and further, that these plans be presented at a Committee on Appointments and Briefings meeting so that the public is made aware of them. (Ref'd 12/20/12)

52. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with the Department of Public Infrastructure Commissioner Ronald Labelle and all residents of Teresa Street, from the corner of Aquidneck Street, northbound, for the purposes of discussing why every time heavy rain comes to the area, the residents of Teresa Street are dealing with flooding in their cellars that has ruined many houses; and further, whether we can re-route the pipes in the area to guarantee that this does not happen to the residents of this area due to the fact that this has happened many times and has become costly to all. (Ref'd 12/20/12)

53. COMMUNICATION, Councillor Alves, submitting correspondence from Mr. James DeMello, regarding the tragedy at the Sandy Hook Elementary School, Newtown, CT. (Ref'd 12/20/12)

The Chairman suggests to "Remove From the Table" and take "No Further Action", on the following items:

54. Written Motion, Councillor Martins requesting, the EPA Public Affairs Specialist Jeanethe Falvey and EPA Staff – Region 1, be invited to the Committee on Appointment and Briefings Meeting in March 2011, to provide an update to the Committee Members regarding the Aerovox site, and a more detailed presentation about CAD cell and their current proposal, since this Councillor has been updated and involved with EPA and their work regarding this site and feels it is important to update his colleagues and the public in a televised meeting since work on the site will begin soon. (Ref'd 2/24/11, 3/29/11 – tabled for 90 days JULY)

55. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings Meeting meet with the Administration and any other responsible parties for providing lifeguards to our City beaches for the purpose of putting together a program, which is being requested for the third time by this Council, for high school and college students to be trained in order for New Bedford to hire their own; and further requesting that the Boys & Girls New Bedford High School Swim coaches be invited to said Committee Meeting. (Ref'd 6/24/10, 8/30/10 – The Committee requests that Councillors Gomes, Gonsalves along with Chic Rose, and Cynthia Wallquist be invited to a future School Committee meeting in order to discuss a program to bring back life guard training, 5/16/11 - tabled)

56. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting the CITY'S MASTER PLAN: NEW BEDFORD 2020, as approved by the Planning Board on November 22, 2010, for presentation to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings. (Ref'd 5/12/11, 8/9/11 – tabled, 9/13/11 – tabled for at least 60 days)

56a. A CITY MASTER PLAN: New Bedford 2020. (Ref'd 5/12/11, 8/9/11 – tabled, 9/13/11 – tabled for at least 60 days)

57. Written Motion, Councillors Lawrence, Martins, and Alves requesting, that in light of the Commonwealth's move to approve legalized gaming in Massachusetts, that a Joint Committee meeting takes place between the Committee on Gaming/Casinos and the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss Section 89 of the proposal currently before the State Legislature; and further, that the commercial developers along with the local tribes interested in erecting a casino in the City of New Bedford be invited to discuss the pros and cons of the approval of Section 89 with the Joint Committees, this meeting is to ensure that the City of New Bedford does not lose out on the placement of a casino in our City. (Ref'd 9/22/11, 10/20/11 - tabled)

58. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lopes, Council President Gomes, Councillors Lawrence, Martins, Saunders, Alves, Coelho, Duarte, Dehner and Gonsalves, requesting that the Committee on Ordinance review the existing Ordinances on Graffiti, Chapter 17, Sections 17.5 (Graffiti, tagging, or defacing property) and 17.6 (Malicious damage to public property.) (Ref'd 2/10/11, 5/17/11 – Atty. Gerwatowski submits his draft, Referred from Ordinance, 4/19/12 – tabled)

59. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lopes, requesting, on behalf of Mr. Alan J. Moore, that the New Bedford City Council hold a public discussion period regarding the operation of the City's Wastewater Treatment plant; and further, allow for the discussion of the contract that the City of New Bedford has entered into with Veolia Water for the management of the City's treatment plant. (Ref'd 8/18/11, 4/19/12 – tabled, 5/16/12 – remain tabled)

60. COMMUNICATION, New Bedford Harbor Development Commission, Executive Director Kristin Decas, responding to a Related Motion by Councillor Saunders at the May 11, 2010, meeting regarding dockage fees. (Ref'd 11/23/10, 5/16/12 - tabled)

61. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, on behalf of Expo Duarte, owner of Expo Mini Marts across the City of New Bedford, along with other business owners, that a meeting be held with the Board of Health for the purposes of discussing the present structure of action that is taken as far as fining and suspension of licenses when businesses sell cigarettes to underage Citizens in the City, this is for the purpose of working together to strategize a method to ensure that cigarettes are not being sold to underage children; and further, that constraints are not put on these businesses that could possibly affect their license for sale. (Ref'd 8/18/11, 5/16/12 – tabled for 30 days)

62. Written Motion, Councillors Lopes, Saunders, Lawrence, Alves, Bousquet, Coelho, Gonsalves and Oliveira, requesting, that the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Property Insurance Underwriting Association, formally known as the FAIR Plan, provide this Council with an explanation as to why the proposed rate increase for the City of New Bedford is 10% while the proposed rate increase for Cape and the Island region is 6.7% and regions of Springfield and Worcester have a proposed rate increase of only 3.5%; and further, this Council is requesting that Joseph G. Murphy, the Commissioner of Insurance for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts provide the New Bedford City Council with the total number of policies written under the FAIR Plan by region within the Commonwealth, the total amount of premiums billed and collected under the FAIR Plan by region, along with the liquidity of the FAIR Plan; and further, requesting, that Commissioner Murphy or a Representative from the FAIR Plan meet with the New Bedford City Council to discuss the models that were used to establish and justify the proposal rate increase for the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 1/26/12, 5/16/12 - tabled)

63. Written Motion, Councillor Lopes and Council President Gomes, requesting that David English and Mary O’Keeffe the Regional Representative of Comcast Cable attend the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, and to provide this Councillor with an update as it pertains to their agreed upon meetings with the Residents of Tripp Towers. (Ref’d 11/22/11, 6/21/12 - tabled)
64. Written Motion, Councillors Duarte and Alves, requesting that a meeting with a representative of the Mayor’s Office, the Traffic Commission and Downtown New Bedford business owners regarding parking issues. (Ref’d 1/12/12, 6/21/12 – tabled)
65. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of REVEREND KEVIN J. HARRINGTON, New Bedford, MA, to the LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES, replacing the now deceased James L. Henry; this term will expire April 2013. (Ref’d 2/9/12, 6/21/12 – tabled)
66. Written Motion, Councillor Duarte, requesting, on behalf of students of the Parker Street School and concerned parents, that Assistant School Superintendent, Heather B. Larkin be invited to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to update the City Council as to what plans are in place to address the Parker Street School and Pulaski School playgrounds, and further, that any plan should include a timeline for addressing issues such as, rocks on the playground, no playground equipment and no nets on the basketball hoops. (Ref’d 8/16/12, 9/20/12 – tabled, letters)
67. Related Motion, Councillor Martins, requesting that Michael Antaya, Chief Sanitarian, Health Department and a representative from the Department of Public Facilities be invited to attend a Committee on Appointments & Briefings meeting, to discuss and evaluate the current process of how trash violations are issued and the removal of trash after a violation has been issued. (Ref’d 9/8/11, 10/18/12 - tabled)
68. WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Gomes, requesting, that the City Council Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with Marianne DeSouza, Director of Public Health, to discuss the policy and procedure being followed regarding the issuance of trash violations across the City of New Bedford, this Councillor is receiving many complaints from constituents who claim there is no merit to the trash violations being issued to them, in some cases the resident is not even involved in the violation they have received; and further, requesting that the Mayor and the City Council consider voting to have the personnel involved in issuing trash violations removed from the Health Department and returned to the Department of Inspectional Services, under the direction of Commissioner Danny Romanowicz. (Ref’d 10/27/11, 10/18/12 - tabled)
69. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gonsalves, Lawrence, Saunders, Alves, Council President Gomes and Councillor Coelho, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings discuss with the Department of Public Facilities and the Department of Public Infrastructure, the possibility of adding additional lighting to the walking path around Buttonwood Park at the request of pedestrians and runners who use the walking path, to include the Brownell Avenue entrance that enters the park on either side of the monument on Fuller Memorial Parkway. (Ref’d 11/10/11, 10/18/12 - tabled)
70. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Board of Health’s new Director Brenda Weis and a Representative from the Massachusetts Board of Health be invited to a Committee on Appointments and Briefings meeting to give a detailed explanation as to what is being done on a City and State level to combat the growing bedbug problem that has hit New Bedford and other communities in the Commonwealth and what plans the City and State are implementing to alleviate this problem. (Ref’d 8/16/12, 10/18/12 - tabled)