



Appointments & Briefings

February 19, 2013 – 7:00 PM – **Minutes**
City Council Chamber, Room 214, Municipal Building

****View Agenda ****

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2013
TIME: 7:05 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS DENIS LAWRENCE, JR., CHAIRMAN; DAVID ALVES, VICE-CHAIRMAN; HENRY BOUSQUET; DEBORA COELHO; BRUCE DUARTE, JR.; BRIAN GOMES; JANE GONSALVES; JOSEPH LOPES; STEVEN MARTINS; JAMES OLIVEIRA

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR JOHN SAUNDERS

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Councillor Lawrence called the Appointments & Briefings Committee Meeting to order and took attendance, with Councillor Saunders absent.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of PAUL R. PACHECO, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the CONSERVATION COMMISSION, replacing Bonita Cade, Esq., who has resigned; this term will expire June 2014 (Ref'd 10/25/12) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (1)

Mr. Pacheco was present to answer questions from the Committee. Councillor Alves asked Mr. Pacheco why he was interested in serving on the city's Conservation Commission. Mr. Pacheco replied that having been born and raised, and living in New Bedford, he loves and appreciates the city; additionally, as a former City Auditor, he would like to give something back to a city that gave him so much.

On motion by Councillor Bousquet and seconded by Councillor Martins, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of PAUL R. PACHECO, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the CONSERVATION COMMISSION, replacing Bonita Cade, Esq., who has resigned; this term will expire June 2014. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of COREY PACHECO, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the HISTORICAL COMMISSION, replacing Derek Santos, who has resigned; this term will expire February 2016 (Ref'd 1/31/13) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Duarte. (2)

Mr. Corey Pacheco was present to answer questions from the Committee. Councillor Gomes asked Mr. Pacheco why he was interested in serving as a member of the Historical Commission. Mr. Pacheco explained that he is a skilled Preservation Carpenter and is currently enrolled in graduate level Historic Preservation courses; and since moving to New Bedford in 2011, he has been a volunteer with WHALE. In response to a

question from Councillor Lawrence, Mr. Pacheco responded that he is aware of the city's ordinance pertaining to demolition of historic buildings and he would approach each instance with fairness.

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of COREY PACHECO, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the HISTORICAL COMMISSION, replacing Derek Santos, who has resigned; this term will expire February 2016. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of CARLOS A. DACUNHA, New Bedford, MA 02744, to the AIRPORT COMMISSION, replacing Pamela Bourgault, whose term has expired; this term will expire December 2014. (Ref'd 11/8/12) (3)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Alves, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter until the applicant can arrive at this meeting. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of JESSICA WILDMAN, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, replacing Whitney White, whose term has expired; this term will expire December 2013 (Ref'd 12/20/12) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councilor Duarte. (4)

Ms. Wildman was present to answer questions from the Committee. Councillor Gomes asked Ms. Wildman why she is interested in serving on the Human Relations Commission. Ms. Wildman stated that her background is in multi-cultural studies and affairs and feels she can offer a new perspective to the Commission. When asked by Councillor Gomes how she feels about Civil Rights, she stated that they are equivalent to Human Rights.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Duarte, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of JESSICA WILDMAN, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, replacing Whitney White, whose term has expired; this term will expire December 2013. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of DAGNY ASHLEY, New Bedford, MA, as DIRECTOR OF TOURISM AND MARKETING, Step 6 of the Unit C Salary Schedule, Grade 10 at \$61,628.00; Ms. Ashley presently resides in New Bedford (Ref'd 12/20/12) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Gomes. (5)

Councillor Bousquet asked Ms. Ashley to explain how she would promote the City of New Bedford to the outside world, particularly with such a small advertising budget, as well as to explain her vision for marketing the city.

Ms. Ashley responded that one of her top priorities will be ensuring that New Bedford is placed on web-sites as a "destination" location. She stated that in her work with the state, she knows that New Bedford is currently not on any of the major tourism sites. She also stated that she will promote the city utilizing the media outlets available, press releases, advertising, etc. in order to promote and build the "New Bedford Brand". She also provided a brief history of what she accomplished in her work with the state, including making the Governor's Conference profitable again, after it had operated in the "red" for several years. As for her vision

for marketing the city, she stated that she feels it would be necessary to inventory what is currently in place now prior to developing a full marketing plan. She stated that her research and conversations with the tourism stakeholders in the city will largely dictate the vision/plan. Additionally, she stated that tracking information is only as reliable as the people giving her the information. There is some basic tracking that can be done through the city's tourism web-site. She stressed that she plans to be out in the community as much as possible, speaking with the stakeholders and learning what their needs are, while also promoting the city at tourism trade shows, etc. It is her job to promote the wonderful attractions the city has – from galleries and museums to the waterfront to the multi-cultural events and foods the city offers, etc. By doing these things, she will be able to provide the stakeholders with direct leads, and will “sell” New Bedford as a true destination for tourists.

There was discussion about the Mayor's plans for Custom House Square and how Ms. Ashley would handle all of the resulting requests to utilize the dock for events. Ms. Ashley stated that while she is not fully familiar with the plan as of yet, she is meeting with the HDC on Thursday of this week in order to discuss that very thing. She did say that she has already had discussions with the HDC about becoming a partner with AHA! Nights.

Councillor Lopes asked what strategies she would use to promote New Bedford's Harbor. Ms. Ashley stated that she would heavily promote the city's harbor to Cruise Directors and demonstrate that she can put together wonderful packages for cruise passengers stopping into New Bedford as a port of call.

Councillor Lopes asked if she was aware of any grant money to augment her budget. Ms. Ashley stated that, having worked for the state, she “knows where the money is hidden” and feels confident that she could receive grants in small or moderate amounts.

Councillor Gomes stated that he is very happy that Ms. Ashley has now been given the opportunity to serve the city as its Director of Marketing and Tourism, and feels she should have been the original candidate all along.

Councillor Gonsalves asked how she might utilize interns. Ms. Ashley stated that she currently has one intern from the New Bedford Chamber of Commerce performing administrative functions, and would eventually like at least one more to work on social media. Councillor Gonsalves then asked why the administration felt the need to make hers an “emergency appointment”. Ms. Ashley stated that there are several deadlines quickly approaching to register for trade shows, conferences, etc.

Councillor Gonsalves then asked her how soon she thought she might be finishing up her degree. Ms. Ashley stated that she is taking courses at UMass Dartmouth and will finish as soon as possible.

Councillor Alves asked Ms. Ashley for her thoughts on how a potential casino in New Bedford could benefit tourism in the city. Ms. Ashley stated that, in her opinion, a casino could actually hurt the city's tourism industry, because they tend to be very self-contained, thereby not adding anything to area businesses, etc. However, she did say that if a casino did come to the city or area, then she would find a way to make it benefit the tourism industry for the city.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Duarte, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of DAGNY ASHLEY, New Bedford, MA, as DIRECTOR OF TOURISM AND MARKETING, Step 6 of the Unit C Salary Schedule, Grade 10 at \$61,628.00. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of MANDY ABOUCHANAB, Acushnet, MA 02743, to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, replacing Reverend Richard Wilson, whose term has expired; this term will expire December

2014 (Ref'd 12/20/12) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (6)

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time as the applicant was not in attendance. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting a ONE-YEAR WAIVER OF RESIDENCY for ANDREA LAGUE, Fairhaven, MA 02719, for the Health Department's Public Health Nurse; Ms. Lague's current waiver expired December 2012 (Ref'd 12/20/12) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Coelho. (7)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of a ONE-YEAR WAIVER OF RESIDENCY for ANDREA LAGUE, Fairhaven, MA 02719, for the Health Department's Public Health Nurse; Ms. Lague's current waiver expired December 2012. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of MARY RAPOZA, New Bedford, MA, as DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS, Step 5 of the Unit C Salary Schedule, Grade M-8 at \$52,195.00; Ms. Rapoza is a New Bedford Resident (Ref'd 12/20/12) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (8)

In response to a question from Councillor Lopes, Ms. Rapoza stated that she has lived in the New Bedford area for 7 years.

Councillor Gonsalves asked her to explain her experience, and Ms. Rapoza stated that she had worked for the Dartmouth Children's Museum as its Educational Coordinator, where she wrote curriculum, during which time she developed a very good relationship with New Bedford Public Schools. She added that she is also a licensed landscaper and has served as a Program Director for a religious program for children. In this position, she hopes to be able to ensure that the city's parks are well maintained, and she would like to expand on many of the good programs that currently exist, specifically having an interest in expanding the Summer Lunch Program to new areas and additional foods.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Gonsalves, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of MARY RAPOZA, New Bedford, MA, as DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS, Step 5 of the Unit C Salary Schedule, Grade M-8 at \$52,195.00; Ms. Rapoza is a New Bedford Resident. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of CELIA BRITTO, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, replacing Jenny Fialho, who has resigned; this term will expire July 2017 (Ref'd 1/10/13) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (10)

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Lopes the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time as the applicant was not in attendance. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of JAMES HARTNETT as CITY PLANNER, since Mr. Hartnett has been a homeowner in

Westport for twenty years and presently has children enrolled in the Westport School System, also requesting a WAIVER OF RESIDENCY; and further, requesting to place Mr. Hartnett at \$73,831.00, Grade M-12, Step 7. (Ref'd 1/10/13) (11)

Councillor Lawrence informed the Committee that this matter was withdrawn by the Administration.

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To take "No Further Action" on this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of ARI J. SKY as CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER although not required by our City Ordinances, Mr. Sky will be a New Bedford Resident and Mr. Sky's salary will be \$120,000.00, consistent with the salary level established by the City Council earlier this year (Ref'd 1/10/13) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (12)

Mr. Sky explained how, in VA, the "County Government is King", as opposed to here in the north, everything is operated within each city and/or town government. He explained that he has worked at various levels of government and has supervised staffs as large as 60 or more and as few as less than a handful. He strongly believes in synergy between his office and other city departments, particularly offices like tourism, etc. He stated that he has looked at the city's recent audits and he is looking forward to the opportunity to assess the functions of each area within the city's financial operations.

On motion by Councillor Gonsalves and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of ARI J. SKY as CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER although not required by our City Ordinances, Mr. Sky will be a New Bedford Resident and Mr. Sky's salary will be \$120,000.00, consistent with the salary level established by the City Council earlier this year. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Councillor Lopes asked that item number three (3) be removed from the table, which was seconded by Councillor Alves.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of CARLOS A. DACUNHA, New Bedford, MA 02744, to the AIRPORT COMMISSION, replacing Pamela Bourgault, whose term has expired; this term will expire December 2014 (Ref'd 11/8/12) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Alves. (3)

Councillor Gomes asked Mr. DaCunha what his interest in the Airport Commission is and Mr. DaCunha stated that the Mayor asked if he would be interested in serving in this capacity, and that he has no direct ties to the airport or aviation. For that matter, he stated that he does not have any affiliation with the Mayor either, and believes he was asked to bring a financial perspective to the Commission, due to his work at Webster Bank.

Councillor Gomes asked if he was looking to move the airport forward in any way specifically. Mr. DaCunha responded that he feels it is his job to make the airport operate better in every way, including financially.

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of CARLOS A. DACUNHA, New Bedford, MA 02744, to the AIRPORT COMMISSION, replacing Pamela Bourgault, whose term has expired; this term will expire December 2014. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of JAMES LOPES, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the HISTORICAL COMMISSION, as an ALTERNATE MEMBER, to replace Susan Rothschild, whose term has expired; this term will expire February 2015 (Ref'd 1/24/13) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Duarte. (13)

Councillor Alves asked Mr. Lopes why he is interested in serving in this capacity. Mr. Lopes responded that he was asked to serve by members of the Historical Commission as a result of his being involved and interested in historic preservation since he was in high school. He did express concerns about the process by which a historic property is demolished and stressed the need for balance between the city's historic interests and that of private owners when determining whether or not to demolish a property.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Alves, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of JAMES LOPES, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the HISTORICAL COMMISSION, as an ALTERNATE MEMBER, to replace Susan Rothschild, whose term has expired; this term will expire February 2015. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, on behalf of *Khalil B. Arsanios, 1220 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 d/b/a INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION, 308 Mill Street, New Bedford, MA 02740*, 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 1/10/13) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Duarte. (14)

Mr. Arsanios explained that this is a new business venture, and that for now, he would only have two vans.

On motion by Councillor Duarte and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL on behalf of *Khalil B. Arsanios, 1220 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 d/b/a INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION, 308 Mill Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, of the Application for 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. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council to City Council, on behalf of *Valerie Torres, 53 Ruth Street, New Bedford, MA 02744, d/b/a PONCE USED FURNITURE, 239 Ashley Boulevard, New Bedford, MA 02746*, hereby submit a copy of the application requesting a *NEW LICENSE TO DEAL IN JUNK, OLD METALS OR ANY OTHER SECOND HAND ARTICLES* under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 202-205 as amended, and as provided in the Code of the City of New Bedford, Chapter 15 and all Ordinances amending the same or in addition thereto, and further avers that he or she has been a resident of the City of New Bedford for at least six months next preceding the date of the application for such license or that he or she has been a resident of at least six months in one of the towns next adjoining the limits of the City or that he or she has applied for a waiver of said residence requirement by the New Bedford City Council (Ref'd 1/10/13) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (15)

Councillor Martins asked Ms. Torres who is currently operating the shop. Ms. Torres stated that she and her sister operate the business, along with other family members occasionally. In addition, she stated that her father is almost always present. Councillor Martins reminded her that they are not permitted, by City Ordinance, to have items on the sidewalk in front of the store's entrance, and such incidents will result in them being brought back into the City Council Chamber to discuss their licensing. Ms. Torres indicated that she understood this and would comply with the City Ordinance.

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Duarte, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL on behalf of *Valerie Torres, 53 Ruth Street, New Bedford, MA 02744, d/b/a PONCE USED FURNITURE, 239 Ashley Boulevard, New Bedford, MA 02746, of the APPLICATION for a NEW LICENSE TO DEAL IN JUNK, OLD METALS OR ANY OTHER SECOND HAND ARTICLES* under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 202-205 as amended, and as provided in the Code of the City of New Bedford, Chapter 15 and all Ordinances amending the same or in addition thereto, and further avers that he or she has been a resident of the City of New Bedford for at least six months next preceding the date of the application for such license or that he or she has been a resident of at least six months in one of the towns next adjoining the limits of the City or that he or she has applied for a waiver of said residence requirement by the New Bedford City Council. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Gonsalves and Bousquet, requesting that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with Mr. Paul Bishins, owner of Wamsutta Mill Number One, Matthew Morrissey Economic Development Council, Department of Inspectional Services Commissioner Danny Romanowicz and the owners of the Skate Factory, Phil DaSilva and Russell Anderson, regarding the ongoing and unresolved compliance issues that have prevented the Skate Factory from opening in Wamsutta Mill Number One (Ref'd 10/11/12) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (16)

Councillor Gonsalves updated the Committee on this item by stating that, according to the owner of a Skate Company, he agreed to rent without a lease from the landlord of the Mill Building, but then could not obtain an Occupancy Permit from the city for various structural reasons. Again, according to the owner of the Skate Company, the Mill owner's, did not do the renovations he had promised to do on the building, which resulted in being denied an occupancy permit. Councillor Gonsalves expressed it was her intent to bring both parties into this meeting in order to induce cooperation of some kind. However, subsequent to the illegal party/nightclub activity, as well as a shooting that took place at that location, the owner has evicted several tenants, including the Skate Company.

On motion by Councillor Gonsalves and seconded by Councillor Alves, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Councillor Alves made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Lopes.

This meeting adjourned @ 9:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Committees