



## **Committee on Public Safety - Agenda**

March 12, 2013 – 7:00 PM

Chambers of the City Council, City Hall, Room 214

**\*\*View Minutes\*\***

1. Written Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with the Commissioner of Inspectional Services, the Director of Public Health, a Representative from Coastline Elderly Services and a Representative from the Fire Department's Fire Prevention Division to explore the possibility of creating a task force to address hoarding as has been done in other cities in Massachusetts including Gloucester, Newton, and Beverly. (Ref'd 1/14/10, 10/19/10 – table for six months **APRIL**, 3/12/12 - tabled – invite Cynthia Wallquist instead of Romanowicz)
- 1a. COMMUNICATION/ARTICLE, “When Clutter Turns to Crisis”, by Stephanie Schorow, from Boston Globe Magazine dated January 10, 2010. (Ref'd 1/14/10, 10/19/10 – table for six months **APRIL**, 3/12/12 - tabled – invite Cynthia Wallquist instead of Romanowicz)

***INVITEES: Public Health Director Brenda Weis; Fire Prevention Division Captain Norman Charbonneau; Community Services Director Cynthia Wallquist***

2. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gomes, Oliveira and Coelho, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with City Solicitor and the Police Chief for the purposes of discussing the policies and procedures of the Liquor Licensing Board which has been jeopardized due to the fact that the previous Administration not only took them off the payroll, but removed the resources that are needed in order to enforce the Liquor Licensing laws across the City. (Ref'd 10/25/12, 11/19/12 - tabled)

***INVITEES: Police Chief David Provencher; Licensing Board Chairman Stephen A. Beauregard; City Solicitor John A. Markey; Chief Policy Advisor Neil Mello***

3. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with Fire Chief Michael Gomes, Union President of the Fire Department Bill Cabral and a representative from the Administration to discuss the situation presently facing our Fire Department, that antiquated equipment is being used in the City and the replacement of equipment that has not been done which jeopardizes the public safety aspect of our firefighters, at the present time we have several pieces of fire equipment that is down and needs to be addressed immediately due to the fact that taxpayers pay their taxes and the best equipment should be available not only for firefighters but for the Citizens of the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 2/14/13)

***INVITEES: Fire Chief Michael Gomes; Fire Dept. Union President Bill Cabral; Chief Policy Advisor Neil Mello***

4. Written Motion, Councillors Lopes, Gonsalves, Bousquet, Alves, Oliveira, Lawrence, Gomes, Coelho, Duarte and Council President Martins, requesting, that the Mayor and Fire Chief Gomes present this City Council with both short term needs of the New Bedford Fire Department; and further, that Chief Gomes provide this Council with a detailed analysis of the pieces of apparatuses in use by the Fire Department, the useful life of each piece, current status of each piece, along with the cost associated with replacing said apparatus. (Ref'd 12/20/12)

***INVITEES: Fire Chief Michael Gomes; Representative of the Mayor***

5. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes and Oliveira, requesting, that the Mayor take immediate action and explore the possibility of a bond with the purposes of obtaining new Police cruisers that have been requested by the Police Department, due to the fact that the fleet of cruisers that is presently running is nearly five to six years old and beginning to show wear and tear from their years of service by breaking down or needing frequent repair, we have reached a point where it is crucial that a new line of front line cruisers be purchased for the purposes of not only moral but assistance to the general public and City; and further, that the Police Department along with the City look into whether any State or Federal vehicles are available that may be bought at a cheaper cost for the second line of the fleet cruisers that may also assist us in replacing some of those special assignment cruisers that have become old in service to the City. (Ref'd 6/28/12)

***INVITEES: Police Chief David Provencher; Representative of the Mayor***

6. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes and Oliveira, requesting, that a public hearing be held with the Administration, Department of Public Infrastructure Commissioner Ronald Labelle, Department of Public Facilities Commissioner Kenneth Blanchard, and any other parties concerned to discuss snow removal during the Blizzard of 2013, that a plan of action be placed on the books for any type of storm related to the Blizzard of 2013 procedures and policies that will be followed in order to guarantee that we open up streets of the City of New Bedford as soon as possible and that the proper equipment is in place during a storm; and further, requesting that NSTAR officials be invited to said meeting to discuss their policies and procedures during the Blizzard of 2013 and what procedures were put in place to guarantee the constituents of the New Bedford area, rapid response from NSTAR and also requesting that during a hurricane or blizzard situation or any other emergency situation that arises, that NSTAR set up a command center similar to the one that is being done in the northern part of the state, such as National Grid which is a live operator speaking to residents giving them a breakdown of what has happened and how long it will take before their power is restored; and further, that this request be accepted by NSTAR due to the fact that the information that was coming out of NSTAR to the general public through an automated phone operator was not the way to handle a crisis such as this, and we demand that NSTAR explain why some areas took so long to get power back, also there were some small abutting areas where electricity was restored while others still had no power; and further, that NSTAR put in place policies and procedures that address areas where there are nursing homes or elderly housing due to the fact that these people should be prioritized due to the urgency of them possibly getting sick or freezing to death, so that the City can put in place along with information being fed from NSTAR a policy and procedure of emergency evacuation and shelters to be set up to accommodate those affected; and further, requesting that if the City of New Bedford is going to award the contract to ABC Disposal, that we look into the possibility of amending the contract to include using their trucks and plows during major snow storms and that ABC Disposal be compensated for said service. (Ref'd 2/14/13)

***INVITEES: DPI COMMISSIONER RON LABELLE; DPF COMMISSIONER KEN BLANCHARD; NSTAR REPRESENTATIVE; MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE***

***CHAIR RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED ACTION***

7. Written Motion, Councillors Lopes, Gonsalves, Bousquet, Alves, Oliveira, Lawrence and Gomes, requesting, that the Department of Public Facilities evaluate the living conditions at each of the Fire Stations, and prepare a maintenance plan for each station, and that said maintenance plan be part of the next Short Term Municipal Maintenance Bond. (Ref'd 12/20/12)

8. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that our State Delegation look into the possibility of filing an amendment to gun control in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that would make the laws stricter and penalize individuals that are involved in selling illegal firearms which then is used in a criminal act, if proven that the gun was sold illegal and if the seller is identified, that the individual be held accountable for selling said firearm and that a mandated prison sentence be placed, making the laws stronger against illegal guns on our streets. (Ref'd 2/14/13)

***CHAIR SUGGESTS TAKING “NO FURTHER ACTION” ON:***

9. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes, Gonsalves, Alves, Duarte, Martins, Coelho and Saunders, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods request in Executive Session, a tour of the present camera surveillance system that has been set up throughout the City, and that a computerized cruiser be made available to see if the updates have been made that would make it easier for patrols to request and analyze information with the system; and further, once more, requesting that the Police Chief provide the City Council with a “wish list” of equipment needed in order to bring the Police Department into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and to better serve the people of this City. (Ref'd 3/13/08, 3/25/08, tabled – letters to the State Delegation & Congressman Frank requesting that the State Rep's, Senator & CF do their very best to secure grant money to assist the NBPd in to install surveillance cameras within the City of New Bedford)
10. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lawrence, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with representatives from the Administration, Department of Public Infrastructure and the Department of Public Facilities to discuss the possibility of installing elevated crosswalks in the areas of our City's schools, this discussion has been requested on behalf of Neighborhoods United, due to the recent report released on the increase of pedestrian/vehicle accidents. (Ref'd 1/13/11, 11/29/11 – tabled, letter that Ron Labelle provide the Committee with the State Language that regulates elevated crosswalks, 3/12/12/ - tabled)