



# *Appointments and Briefings*

November 18, 2014 – 7:05 PM – **Minutes**  
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS**  
**DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2014**  
**TIME: 7:02 P.M.**  
**PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS DAVID ALVES, CHAIRMAN; JAMES OLIVEIRA, VICE-CHAIRMAN; HENRY BOUSQUET; NAOMI CARNEY; DEBORA COELHO; BRIAN GOMES (7:08); LINDA MORAD; DANA REBEIRO; KERRY WINTERSON**

**ABSENT: COUNCILLORS JOSEPH LOPES; STEVEN MARTINS**

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Councillor Alves called the Committee on Appointments & Briefings Meeting to order and took attendance. Communications from Councillors Lopes and Martins were read into the record stating they would not be in attendance due to previously scheduled commitments. These communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Winterston and seconded by Councillor Bousquet.

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Councillor Morad made a motion to take items five (5) and six (6) out of order, and table them, there were no objections, and motion was seconded by Councillor Carney. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Council President Lopes, Councillors Martins, Morad, Alves, Winterston, Rebeiro and Bousquet, requesting that the City of New Bedford make much needed improvements to our newly updated City of New Bedford website to include ADA compliance for our City residents that have physical disabilities, and are unable to use the services that our website provides (Ref'd 10/23/14); and a Communication, Council President Lopes, submitting copy of letter from Mr. Phil Zukas, New Bedford, MA, relative to possible improvements to the City of New Bedford Website rendering said website fully compliant with ADA guidelines. (Ref'd 10/23/14) (5, 5a)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Council President Lopes, Councillors Winterston and Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings review 501 Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, to allow for the establishment of the New Bedford Harbor Master under the New Bedford Police Department, and allow for the duties and responsibilities of the New Bedford Harbor Master to follow under the direction of the Director New Bedford Police Department's Port Security Unit, said consolidation will ensure the

continuity in the Chief Law Enforcement entity in the City, under the control and authority of the Chief of Police. (Ref'd 10/23/14) (6)

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Councillor Morad made a motion to take item number eight (8) out of order and leave it on the table, which was seconded by Councillor Coelho; there was no objection to this motion. It is as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Martins and Morad, requesting, that Department of Inspectional Services Commissioner Romanowicz be invited to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss permitting procedures and enforcement for signs and flags on City sidewalks. (Ref'd 08/21/14, 10/14/14 – tabled) (8)

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Public Hearing, on APPLICATION, Valerie Torres, d/b/a Edwin's Towing, for a SPECIAL PERMIT for MOTOR VEHICLE SALES & RENTALS, BODY REPAIRS and GENERAL REPAIRS at 26-28 Collette Street, New Bedford, MA 02746 (Duly advertised in the Standard-Times on Wednesday, November 05, 2014 and Wednesday, November 12, 2014) was received and placed on file by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Bousquet. (1)

Councillor Coelho made a motion to open the hearing which was seconded by Councillor Bousquet. The hearing was opened.

Wilfredo Torres, father of Valerie Torres, 26 Collette Street was present to speak in favor of the application.

Dan Romanowicz, DIS Commissioner was present and informed the Committee that the location did meet the proper requirements and that there were no issues.

Councillor Morad asked who Valerie Torres was, Mr. Torres explained it was his daughter, she would own the business, but he would be running it.

Councillor Rebeiro asked if the property was zoned for such a business. Commissioner Romanowicz told her yes.

Councillor Coelho asked if it was an old or new business. Mr. Torres said it was a new business. Councillor Coelho also stated the body repair language checked off on the application should be removed.

Councillor Alves asked if there was anyone who would like to be recorded in favor of the application. There were none. He then asked if there was anyone who would like to speak or be recorded in opposition of the application. There were none.

Councillor Coelho made a motion to close the hearing, which was seconded by Councillor Winterson.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council, APPROVAL (as amended) of the Application, striking BODY REPAIRS, for Valerie Torres, d/b/a EDWIN'S TOWING, for a Special Permit for MOTOR VEHICLE SALES & RENTALS, GENERAL REPAIRS. 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 **David N. Pimental d/b/a CD'S RELIABLE TRANSIT, 135 Thompson 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 08/21/14, 09/16/14 – tabled, contact Mr. Pimental to see if he still wants this livery license, 10/14/14 – tabled, applicant not present) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Bousquet. (2)

Councillor Morad asked if we heard from David Pimental, which the Clerk replied he had not.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Coelho, 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 a VETO of a PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE granted to Rafael Reyes d/b/a Road Runner Transportation by the City Council on June 12, 2014; due to Mr. Reyes not filling out his Livery License application completely. (Ref'd 08/21/14, 10/14/14 - tabled) and a Communication, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, on behalf of **Rafael Reyes, d/b/a ROAD RUNNER TRANSPORTATION, 12 Roosevelt Street, New Bedford, MA 02744**, 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. (Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings – April 24, 2014; License Granted – June 12, 2014; Vetoed by Mayor Mitchell – June 25, 2014; VETO Received and Ordered Spread on the Record – July 17, 2014)(Ref'd 08/21/14, 09/16/14 – tabled, 10/14/14 - tabled) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Bousquet. (3, 3a)

Councillor Alves asked Mr. Reyes if he met with the City Clerk to review issues on his application to which Mr. Reyes said he had. Councillor Alves expressed his concern of Mr. Reyes' providing incorrect truths on his application.

Councillor Morad made a motion to go into Executive Session with the intent to come out of Executive Session to take action, which was seconded by Councillor Carney.

On motion by Councillor Oliveira and seconded by Councillor Bousquet, the Committee VOTED: To inform the City Council that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings took “No F

urther Action” on the VETO submitted by Mayor Mitchell, of a Private Livery License granted to Raphael Reyes d/b/a Road Runner Transportation by the City Council on June 12, 2014; due to Mr. Reyes not filling out his Livery License application completely. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Councillor Winterson made a motion to take item number seven (7) out of order, which was seconded by Councillor Morad and there were no objections.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with a representative from the Mitchell Administration, Director of Planning and Community Development, Patrick Sullivan, Department of Community Services Director, Cynthia Wallquist and Reverend David Lima, Chair, Homeless Service Provider’s Network, to discuss whether the City has formulated a plan to address and deal with the homelessness and vagrants across New Bedford; and further, if there is any plan in place, to please submit said plan to the City Council and to also include how much money the City has received to deal with homeless problem (Ref’d 10/23/14); and a Written Motion, Councillor Rebeiro, in light of the families living on the steps of the Church of County Street, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, invite Reverend Russ Chamberlain, Mercy Meals and More; Kristine Arsenault, Mayor’s Office, Department of Community Services Director, Cynthia Wallquist and Reverend David Lima, Chair, Homeless Service Provider’s Network to discuss the possibility of extending the Mercy Meals breakfast program to a day program that could direct people to much needed services (Ref’d 10/23/14) were received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Coelho. (7, 7a)

Patrick Sullivan, Director of Community Development, gave an overview of the homelessness issue in the city, to include, mental health issues, loss of jobs, etc. He gave an overview of the network the city has in place that works with many independent organizations. The city has a ten-year plan in place; the city receives \$2,000,000 each year to deal with homelessness in the city, continued care and placing the homeless into homes.

Councillor Gomes asked for a breakdown and Mr. Sullivan said he did not have one but could get one to him. Mr. Sullivan did say the average was approximately \$200,000 per agency. Agencies like, Veterans Transitional House, Catholic Social Services, Women’s Center, Stepping Stone, etc. They also contribute to three shelters.

Councillor Gomes asked how much funding goes to salary and wages. Mr. Sullivan replied very little, they are not paid enough for what they do.

Other Councillors asked Mr. Sullivan a number of questions as it relates to the homeless in the city.

Reverend David Lima, Chairman of the Homeless Services Providers Network, provided the body with an overview of the program and its outreach.

Peter Muse of the South Coast Leadership Council to End Homelessness also spoke on the issue and praised the city for its contribution that the state looks to as its model.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To send letters to the Federal and State Delegations that deal with homelessness and mental illness seeking out additional funding to combat homelessness in the city. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro 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 Written Motion, Councillor Winterson, requesting, that a Representative from NSTAR Gas Company, Inc., be invited to the Committee on Appointments & Briefings to discuss the possibility of installing gas lines in Tanglewood Drive, so that the homeowners on that street may heat their homes with gas, as residents on nearby streets do, oil heat is the only method at the present time that the residents of Tanglewood Drive have available to them and the cost is prohibitive. (Ref'd 10/23/14) (4)

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

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Council President Lopes submitting a copy of a Human Relations Commission report regarding denial of registration for a New Bedford youth by the South End Youth Athletic Association. (Ref'd 10/14/14) (9)

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

Councillor Oliveira made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Winterson.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:57 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Committees