



Committee on Public Safety

June 30, 2014 – 7:00 PM - **Agenda**
Chambers of the City Council, City Hall, Room 214

****View Minutes****

1. Written Motion, Councillors Martins, Lopes, Coelho, Dehner, Gonsalves, Saunders, Alves, Duarte, Lawrence and Council President Gomes, requesting that Chief Teachman be invited to the next Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods Meeting to discuss the rising number of pedestrian injuries and fatalities on the streets of New Bedford and what measures are being taken by the Police Department to enforce the laws against irresponsible and reckless drivers who don't follow the law by allowing pedestrians to cross safely; and further, that the Chief provide said Committee with a record of how many Citations were issued in the last three years to drivers who break the law by not allowing pedestrians to cross the streets safely; and that the Committee meet with DPI Commissioner Labelle to discuss how to better utilize crosswalks by paint or design to get pedestrians to use them again. (Ref'd 1/13/11, 2/23/11 - tabled to next meeting)

INVITEES: Police Chief David Provencher; DPI Commissioner Ron Labelle; Housing Authority Director Steven Beauregard; Rosemarie Stolmeier; Hilda Medeiros

2. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes and Gonsalves, requesting, that the School Department immediately look into the possibility of alarming all schools in their main office with panic buttons that would alert our Police Department in case of an emergency; and further, that we look into the possibility of alarming every classroom and at what cost would it be to do this throughout the city; and further, requesting that no new schools in the City of New Bedford be built without putting this safety mechanism in place in all classrooms and offices for the purposes of making our schools safe in the City of New Bedford for our students and faculty, making our school system one of the first in the Commonwealth to implement such a security system in order to guarantee the parents and the taxpayers of this City that their kids are attending school in a safe atmosphere with a resource to get immediate emergency response in case of any type of attack or emergency within each school building; and further, if implemented that the city look into if the panic button system can work in conjunction with the camera systems installed at some of our schools. (Ref'd 2/14/13, 3/25/14 - tabled)

INVITEES: Police Chief David Provencher; New Bedford Public Schools Business Manager Patrick Murphy; New Bedford Public Schools Director of Facilities Al Oliveira

3. Written Motion, Councillors Bousquet and Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods invite the Mayan community leaders to a Committee meeting to share their concerns with the Council and Station Headquarters Captains Flood and Cordeiro, it is our feeling that with increased patrols and bilingual Officers placed in targeted areas, better witness accounts can make an impact on the hostile climate these individuals face, and as Citizens of New Bedford legal or not, they do not deserve to be victims of hate crimes. (Ref'd 11/14/13, 12/9/13 – tabled, 3/25/14 - tabled)

INVITEES: Police Station Headquarters Captains Flood and Cordeiro; Organization Maya K'iche President Manuel Ruiz; Human Relations Commission Executive Director Marcelina Pina-Christian; Workers Community Center Director Adrian Ventura

4. Written Motion, Councillor Martins, requesting, that Fire Chief Michael Gomes be invited to the next Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meeting to update the Committee members on the

status of the 889 red fire alarm boxes, 809 of which need an upgrade; and further, the City owns about 100 properties, many of which connect to fire alarm boxes and the public should be informed of any new update to said fire alarm system, this Councillor would like to see this issue addressed, to see if this is a long-term capital plan. (Ref'd 2/28/13, 5/14/13 – tabled, 3/25/14 – tabled)

INVITEES: Fire Chief Michael Gomes

Chairman suggests to “Follow the Recommended Action”, on the following:

5. 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, 3/12/12 - tabled – invite Cynthia Wallquist instead of Romanowicz) ***Refer to the Community Services Department***
- 5a. 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, 3/12/12 - tabled – invite Cynthia Wallquist instead of Romanowicz) ***Refer to the Community Services Department***
6. Written Motion, Councillor Coelho, requesting that after the recent vandalism to the historic century old Whaleman Statute in front of the Downtown Main Public Library that the City move to install cameras at the Downtown Bus Station, City Hall and the Main Public Library and that these cameras should be equipped with a live feed to the Police Station, in an effort to provide higher security to the Downtown area. (Ref'd 5/23/13, 3/25/14 - Letters) ***Refer to the Legislative Delegation***
7. Written Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting that the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Infrastructure review the current design of County Street, between Hawthorn and Union Streets, to determine whether any changes can be made to make the roadway safer given that the repeated accidents continue to occur at the curve just north of Clinton street, most recent occurring last night on May 22nd. (Ref'd 5/23/13) ***Refer to the DPI Engineering Department***

Chairman suggests taking “No Further Action”, on the following:

8. Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Lopes, Dehner, Alves, Gonsalves, Gomes, Saunders, and Duarte, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods invite Animal Control Director Emmanuel Maciel to their next meeting to discuss any recent reports of dog attack incidents occurring in the City of New Bedford, and to discuss the results and effectiveness of the Dangerous Dog Ordinance to determine whether any changes and/or amendments to the Ordinance may be desirable to further assist Animal Control in their enforcement efforts. (Ref'd 4/22/10)
9. Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, and Martins, requesting that the Committee on Ordinances and the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods look into methods of ensuring that all dogs are properly licensed in the City of New Bedford, especially in more densely populated, residential inner-city areas, where “Pit Bulls” have been seen roaming at will on the City streets menacing pedestrians; and further, considering that these dogs have a long history of dangerous/violent behavior, that the Committee on Ordinances research any restrictions that may be placed on the owners of these dogs and the landlords of these buildings where the dogs reside, including requiring landlords to carry some form of insurance, as some other communities in Massachusetts already require property owners to do, further requesting, that the Committee on Ordinances look into creating an Ordinance similar to the one in Boston, “Responsible Pit Bull Ownership”. (Ref'd 6/10/10)

10. 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)
11. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes and Oliveira, on behalf of the Police Department and its men and women of the SRT Swat Team, requesting, that the City take immediate action and look for funding for the purchase of a tactical development vehicle for the City of New Bedford's Swat Team, this vehicle is very important to the deployment and actions taken in situations that call for this type of unit, it is imperative that the City make this purchase as soon as possible due to the increasing amount of calls coming in that rely on this tactical unit and for the purpose of giving the needed equipment to the SRT Swat Team to deal with situations that arise throughout our City. (Ref'd 4/11/13, 5/14/13 - tabled)
12. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that an emergency meeting be held with the Mayor, Fire Chief Gomes, IAFF Local 841 Union President William Cabral, Finance Chair Gonsalves, Chairman Gomes and Vice-Chairman Oliveira of the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, along with any members of said Committee who wishes to attend, to address the issue of the deplorable condition of fire apparatus in the City and what emergency actions can be taken to ensure that there is proper equipment available to the Fire Department as the City Council and the Administration look for revenue to replace the antiquated fire apparatus in the City; and further, requesting that Rule 40 be Waived. (Ref'd 9/12/13)
13. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with Department of Infrastructure Commissioner Ronald Labelle and a representative from the Administration, for the purposes of discussing protocol when it comes to icy road conditions and requests for sanding and salting of roads; and further, who makes the decision whether to put trucks out there after numerous requests from Police and emergency responders; and further, asking, that upon requests from Police or any other emergency agency, that we immediately put into service what is needed to keep our streets safe for vehicular traffic and more importantly, first responders. (Ref'd 2/27/14)