



Appointments and Briefings

March 31, 2015 – 7:00 PM – **Agenda**
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

1. Citizen's Input Time – Not to exceed the first thirty (30) minutes of the meeting.
- 1a. Gilly Safiolas, 22 Felton Street, New Bedford, MA, 02745, speaking on City Council By-Laws.

INVITEES: Gilly Safiolas

2. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting, that CFO Sky update the Committee on Appointments & Briefings on the City's Performance Measurement Initiative, to offer an overview of the program and the progress that the City has made to date. (Ref'd 2/12/15)

INVITEES: CFO Ari Sky

3. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting, that representatives of "South Coast Fair Housing, Inc." appear before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to outline and explain the details of the recently awarded "Fair Housing Initiatives Program – Education and Outreach" Grant they received from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, this is the first time Bristol County has been the beneficiary of this grant program, describing what benefit can it be to our constituents and the residents of our community, expanding fair housing knowledge and encouraging practices that affirmatively further fair housing throughout the Region. (Ref'd 11/13/14)

INVITEES: South Coast Fair Housing, Inc. Representative

4. Written Motion, Councillor Coelho, requesting that a representative from the Cemetery Board be invited to a Committee on Appointments and Briefings meeting to brief the Committee members on the new regulations at Pine Grove Cemetery, specifically, the change in the purchase of pre-need graves, and further, that Mr. Oliver M. Cabral, owner of Cabral Baylies Square Lamoureux Funeral Home be asked to attend said meeting. (Ref'd 08/21/14, 10/14/14 - tabled)

INVITEES: Cabral Baylies Square Lamoureux Funeral Home Owner Oliver Cabral; Cemetery Board Chairman Carol Grimes

5. Written Motion, Council President Lopes, Councillors Martins, Morad, Alves, Winterson, 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, 11/18/14 - tabled)

- 5a. 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, 11/18/14 - tabled)

INVITEES: Rep. of the Mayor Christina Connelly; MIS Director Maria Pina-Rocha; Phil Zukas; Alan Andrade

6. Written Motion, Councillor Rebeiro, requesting, that a representative from NSTAR Electric Company be invited to attend a Committee on Appointments and Briefings meeting to discuss creating a line of communication between whomever is in charge of repair crews and City Council, so we can provide constituents a time estimation of when repairs will be completed once they have been reported. (Ref'd 11/25/14)

INVITEES: Eversource Representative Dennis Galvam

7. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes and Winterson, requesting, that the City Council go on record in opposition to the 29% increase proposed by NSTAR Electric; and further, that a letter be sent to Company officials expressing not only our opposition to this increase, but our concern about the burden the 29% increase would be on residential customers; and further, that letters be sent to Attorney General Martha Coakley, and the Department of Public Utilities expressing our concerns and requesting that they both look into the matter of this increase and that NSTAR officials be requested to meet before the Committee on Appointments & Briefings to explain this increase. (Ref'd 11/13/14, response on file, 2/24/15 - tabled)

INVITEES: Eversource Representative Dennis Galvam

8. Written Motion, Councillor Rebeiro, requesting, that the Department of Public Infrastructure Commissioner, Ronald Labelle be invited to attend the next Committee on Appointments and Briefings meeting to discuss the new LED lights, this Council was assured that the lights would be adjusted after they were installed and now the Council has been told that the Department of Public Infrastructure will not honor this agreement, and the Committee members are requesting that Commissioner Labelle explain the plan for those areas that need extra lighting. (Ref'd 11/25/14)

INVITEES: Eversource Representative Dennis Galvam; DPI Commissioner Ron Labelle

Chairman suggests "No Further Action" as these matters are over a year old and more

9. Written Motion, Councillor Winterson, requesting, that a representative from NSTAR Gas Company, Inc., contact this Councillor regarding 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 01/08/15, 2/24/15 - tabled)

10. 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, 12/10/13 – Remain in Committee, 10/14/14 - tabled)
11. 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, 12/10/13 – Remain in Committee, 03/18/14 – tabled, 09/16/14 - Letters)
12. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with the Administration, Vice President of Berklee College of Music's Outreach Program called City Music, along with Berklee College of Music's Satellite Program Coordinator and Professor Jackie Santos for the purpose of finalizing the Berklee College of Music's Satellite Program at St. Mary's Home, located on Kempton Street, which has been in the works for some time now and Berklee College of Music is ready to locate a satellite program here in the City of New Bedford; and further, that during said meeting that a date of opening be discussed. (Ref'd 02/14/13, 03/18/14 – tabled, 04/22/14 – remain tabled until the availability of Mr. Curtis-Warner has been established – freq. out of the Country)
13. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that a Representative from the Mayor's Office, Temporary City Planner Jill Maclean and Preservation Planner Anne Louro, meet with the Committee on City Property to discuss exactly what the future plans are at this present time to address the Congdon House at Hazelwood Park that has for some time gone with no plans of action, which is only deteriorating more and more as year pass, there is a historical significance to this building that should be preserved for the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 04/11/13, 07/15/14 - tabled)
14. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with a Representative from the Administration, Tax Title Attorney Blair Bailey and City Treasurer Renee Fernandes-Abbott to discuss the new Side Yard program that was announced earlier this week, which in this Councillor's opinion is a duplication of the Abutter's Lot program that has been in place since the 1900's with every Administration utilizing said program; and further, that Tax Title Attorney Blair Bailey provide the City Council with a list of abutting lots that were sold between the time of implementation of the Abutter's Lot program to present time, along with an explanation from the Administration as to why the City Council wasn't notified of the change of said program. (Ref'd 5/23/13, 10/14/14 – letter to Treasurer)

15. Written Motions, Councillors Lopes, Martins, Alves, Gonsalves, Oliveira, Lawrence, Bousquet and Council President Duarte, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, meet with a Representative of the Mayor's Office and the Director of Parks and Recreations, Mary Rapoza, to discuss the feasibility of establishing a "Crowd funding" campaign as a means of soliciting private funds to maintain the level of year round programs across our City. (Ref'd 06/13/13, 07/15/14 – tabled)
16. Written Motion, Councillor Martins, requesting that the Director of Public Health, Dr. Brenda Weis, be invited to the next Committee on Appointments and Briefings meeting to discuss the new posted position in the Health Department, Code Enforcement Inspector; said posting states that the Inspector will also be doing some "outreach" and Landlords have spoken to this Councillor about outreaching which is important in the City; and further, requesting that the Health Department should create an awareness campaign to all living in the City about "Trash Violations" and develop a plan to also outreach to tenants who are not following the City's Ordinance. (Ref'd 12/19/13, 02/19/14 - tabled)
17. Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Alves, Morad, Carney, Martins, Gomes and Bousquet, given that the New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council decided in 2010, to **NOT** fund recreational project in the final round of its grants, projects like the 2.1 million for Riverside Park in the City's North End, which included the restoration of the 1.5 miles of North End shoreline, the installation of a pedestrian walkway, a boat house and boat ramp among other projects, requesting, that members of the New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council be invited to a Committee on Appointments and Briefings meeting to discuss what, if any future plans or recommendations they have for that site and to update the City Council on said matter. (Ref'd 01/23/14, 07/15/14 – letters to HTC/invite Mayor, CFO)
18. Written Motion, Council President Lopes, Councillors Martins, Bousquet, Winterson, Rebeiro, Morad, Gomes, Coelho and Carney, requesting that Mr. Joseph Mulvey, Real Estate Specialist with the United States Postal Service, meet with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, to discuss the future of the Downtown New Bedford Post Office. (Ref'd 02/13/14, 03/18/14 – Letters, 10/14/14 - tabled)
- 18a. Communication, Mr. Joseph Mulvey, Real Estate Specialist to the United States Post Office, to and from Mayor Mitchell, regarding the future of the Downtown New Bedford Post Office. (Ref'd 2/13/14, 03/18/14 – rpf, 10/14/14 – tabled)
19. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, at the request of the Trustees of the Bethel AME Church and on behalf of our Pastor, Reverend Irma Thibodeaux, officers and members of this historic Church, that the City Council look into what action or assistance the City can provide to ensure the Church is not forced to close, and that the Council follow up on many of the promises that have been made to the Church Trustees and Pastor by former Administrations for assistance; and further, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings invite Department of Public Infrastructure Commissioner, Ronald Labelle, Tax Title Attorney Blair Bailey, as well as representatives of Bethel AME Church to discuss the matter. (Ref'd 02/13/14, 09/16/14 – letters to DPI and Traffic, 10/14/14 – tabled)
- 19a. Communication/Email, Councillor Alves, submitting, request from Toni Pires, Trustee, Bethel AME Church, requesting assistance with issues and concerns at Church. (Ref'd 02/13/14, 09/16/14 – letters to DPI and Traffic, 10/14/14 – tabled)

20. Written Motion, Council President Lopes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings invite a local representative from Viridian Power to discuss their municipal green energy program. (Ref'd 05/22/14,10/14/14 – tabled)
21. Written Motion, Councillors Alves, Coelho, Morad, Oliveira, Carney, Gomes, Bousquet, Martins, Council President Lopes and Councillor Winterson, requesting, that the Administration reconsider the current allocation of trash collection containers used for trash collection allocated to duplex (side-by-side) homes which presents a problem different than the standard two-family homes in New Bedford, in that duplex units in most cases are independent with separate access entrances, driveways and in many cases, limited contact with neighbors, yet these facilities are only allocated ONE trash container for the building, making it a problem for placing trash in what would be considered “Your Neighbors” trash container. (Ref'd 06/12/14, 08/12/14 – Letter to the Administration asking for a written response)
22. Written Motion, Councillors Alves, Coelho, Morad, Carney and Gomes, requesting that the Administration provide the City Council with the names of City and Non-City individuals that were members of the “Trash Committee” that advised the Mayor and the Administration as to the new garbage pick-up service/system and who developed the rules, requirements and guidelines which were used in the development of the program implemented this week, and that the list be provided to the Chairman of the Committee on Appointments and Briefings within ten days so those members can be invited to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meeting at which the Trash program is scheduled to be discussed to brief the Council members on the process of being utilized and how it was developed and further, that this request be followed-up by the Council Clerk within ten days.(Ref'd 06/26/14, 08/12/14–Letter to the Administration asking for a written response)
23. Communication, Councillor Alves, submitting copy of letter from Mr. Manuel Carvalho to Standard - Times, regarding the contract between the City and ABC Disposal Service, Inc.(Ref'd 06/26/14,08/12/14 – Letter to the Administration asking for a written response)
24. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that a meeting be held with Health Department Director Dr. Brenda Weis and a Representative of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, to discuss what is being done to address the present bedbug problem that has plagued many housing complexes throughout the City; and further, to discuss strategies that have been put in place to address this issue which has affected many elderly and families across New Bedford. (Ref'd 07/15/14, 08/12/14 - tabled)
25. Written Motion, Councillor Morad requesting, that six months from approval of the revised Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Ordinance and implementation of Chapter 17, Section 17-18, Non-Criminal Disposition of Violations of Certain Ordinances, that the City Council Committee on Appointments and Briefings be provided with a detailed listing of every fine issued in conjunction with said revised Ordinance and fee schedule, to include specific violation, a photograph of said violation and the final disposition of the item. (Ref'd 07/17/14)
26. Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ACT that would extend the term of Mayor from two (2) years to four (4) years; because it would amend the City's Charter, the Act also would need to be approved by the State Legislature. (Ref' 08/21/14)

26a. AN ACT,

27. Communication, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, on behalf of **PAUL RODRIGUES, 10 Shirley Street, #C3, New Bedford, MA, 02746 d/b/a ROGER LIVERY, 10 Shirley Street #C3, New Bedford, MA, 02746**, hereby submits 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 11/13/14, **2/24/15 – tabled, called and sent letter to see if he still wants it, 3/3/15**)