



Committee on Public Safety

March 19, 2015– 7:00 PM - **Agenda**
Chambers of the City Council, City Hall, Room 214

****View Minutes****

1. Written Motion, Council President Lopes and Councillors Alves, Gomes, Martins, Morad, Coelho, Winterson, Bousquet and Rebeiro, requesting, that Department of Inspectional Services, Commissioner Romanowicz and Fire Chief Gomes meet with the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods to discuss the proper policies and procedures that are required by homeowners who are in the process of selling their homes with finished basements that were constructed without Building Permits. (Ref'd 08/21/14)

INVITEES: DIS Commissioner Dan Romanowicz; Fire Chief Michael Gomes

2. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes, Oliveira, Martins, Winterson, Bousquet, Alves, Coelho, Carney, Rebeiro, Council President Lopes and Councillor Morad requesting, that the New Bedford Police Union, Police Chief Provencher and Mayor Mitchell adopt the following wording "Loyalty, Integrity, Courage" uniformly placed on every Police vehicle, which will be a Mission Statement to the people and the City they serve, this will be the first time ever in the City of New Bedford that a statement in wording has ever been placed on Police Cruisers. (Ref'd 09/11/14)

INVITEES: New Bedford Police Union President; Police Chief David Provencher; Rep. of the Mayor Christina Connelly

3. Written Motion, Councillor Carney, requesting that Police Chief Provencher come before the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, to discuss ongoing problems of drug related activities in certain city neighborhoods, and also to discuss why Police Officers are disclosing the person(s) who are calling the Police Station to report illegal activities. (Ref'd 10/09/14)

INVITEES: Police Chief David Provencher

4. Written Motion, Councillor Rebeiro, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods invite Emmanuel Maciel, Animal Control Officer, to discuss the trapping and euthanasia of feral cats and also to discuss the possibility of a catch and neuter release program. (Ref'd 10/23/14)

INVITEES: Animal Control Officer Emmanuel Maciel

5. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with Police Chief Provencher and a Representative from the Administration, for the purpose of discussing the purchase of a new device that is available to public safety responders which interprets different languages, making it easier to respond to and address the cultural diversity which makes up the City of New Bedford; and further, once we look into this device, that we consider the possibility of purchasing it for the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services and depending on the price per unit that we consider purchasing them for Departments throughout the City, to be able to communicate better with all cultures throughout the City. (Ref'd 11/13/14)

INVITEES: Police Chief David Provencher; Rep. of the Mayor Christina Connelly

6. Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Martins, Alves, Gomes and Carney, requesting that Police Chief Provencher, a Representative of the Mayor's Office and a Representative of the Women's Center, be invited to a Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meeting, to discuss the increase of prostitution in the City, especially on Acushnet Avenue, between Coggeshall and Sawyer Streets, including the side streets, and on North Front Street and Ashley Boulevard, which is affecting the quality of life in these neighborhoods; said discussion should include ways to stop this violent attack on the self worth of women struggling to survive in this City. (Ref'd 11/13/14)

INVITEES: Police Chief David Provencher; Rep. of the Mayor Christina Connelly; Women's Center Director Pamela Macleod-Lima

Chairman suggests to "Follow the Recommended Action", on the following:

7. 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, 05/14/13 - tabled) ***Refer to the Fire Chief and the Mayor***
8. 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 02/28/13, 05/14/13 - tabled, 03/25/14 - tabled, 06/30/14 - remain tabled) ***Refer to the Fire Chief***
9. 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, 12/09/13 - tabled, 03/25/14 - tabled, 06/30/14 - letters) ***Refer to the Police Chief***
10. Written Motion, Councillors Bousquet, Gomes, Lopes, Oliveira, Gonsalves, Coelho, Duarte, Alves, Lawrence and Saunders, requesting, that New Bedford Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Pia Durkin report the number of teacher assaults in the last three months, and what policy changes have been discussed to reduce the number of fights in our schools and what efforts are being made to make students and teachers feel more secure in what needs to be a safe environment for learning to occur. (Ref'd 11/26/13) ***Refer to Superintendent of Public Schools***
11. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting, that the Traffic Commission address the issues at the Zeiterion Garage, as they relate to the safety and security of residents and patrons. (Ref'd 08/21/14)
12. Written Motion, Council President Lopes, requesting, that the City's Animal Control Office look into establishing an on call Animal Control Officer position(s) which would be on duty after normal business hours. (Ref'd 08/21/14) ***Refer to Animal Control***

13. Related Motion, Councillor Morad, in consideration of the City Council's request, that for the purpose of making our schools safe in the City of New Bedford, that Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pia Durkin, respond to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods within 30 days as to the plans for implementation of panic buttons in all New Bedford Public Schools. (Ref'd 09/11/14) ***Refer to the Superintendent of Public Schools***
14. Written Motion, Council President Gomes, and Councillor Lopes, requesting, that the City Council go on record against any possible decision or consideration by the Administration or the Chief of the Fire Department to close Firehouse 11, located on Brock Avenue in the City's South End; and further, before any decision or consideration is made by the Administration or the Chief of the Fire Department, that they meet with the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods for purposes of alternative action. (Ref'd 01/08/15) ***Refer to the Fire Chief Michael Gomes and the Mayor***

Chairman suggests taking "No Further Action", on the following:

15. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with Police Chief Provencher and Commanding Officers of the Special Units within the Police Department, especially the SRT Unit, for the purpose of discussing what equipment the department needs and presently has and whether equipment issues should be addressed under the circumstances of the past months when the SRT Unit and Special Units were being called upon several times because of situations with guns and criminal stand-offs throughout the City which calls for this kind of resource to be available; and further, that this resource is becoming more frequently used in different criminal situations in the City, that the Police Department and the City take whatever actions necessary on the State, Federal, and Homeland Security levels for the purposes of grants or surplus equipment that is needed for these criminal situations that seem to be arising through our City that calls for more than just a regular patrol response. (Ref'd 04/26/12)
16. Written Motion, Councillors Coelho and Lopes, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, invite the Department of Public Infrastructure Commissioner Labelle, to a meeting for discussion of the current conditions of the restrooms/bathhouses at our public beaches and possible options for improving the conditions for the convenience of patrons visiting the beaches and for health concerns in the neighborhoods near the beaches. (Ref'd 07/18/13)