



Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods

September 17, 2015– 7:00 PM - **Agenda**
Chambers of the City Council, City Hall, Room 214

1. Written Motion, Councillor Bousquet, Council President Lopes, Councillors Martins, Gomes, Coelho, Morad, Carney, Alves, Winterson, Rebeiro and Oliveira requesting, on behalf of the Citizens of New Bedford, that Chief of Police David Provencher and his Community Police force appear before the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods to discuss their neighborhood by neighborhood strategy to quell the eruption of violence in the City. (Ref'd 06/26/14, 04/22/15-tabled)

INVITEES: Police Chief David Provencher

2. Written Motion, Councillor 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, 03/19/15-tabled)

INVITEES: New Bedford Police Union President Henry Turgeon; Police Chief David Provencher

3. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with the Police Chief Provencher and a Representative from the Administration, for the purpose of discussing the purchase of a new devise 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 devise, 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, 03/19/15-tabled for 90 days (**JUNE**))

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

4. Written Motion, Councillor Coelho, requesting, that in light of the discussion regarding feral cats at the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meeting on March 09, 2015, and the public's interest in animal welfare, that the City and Animal Control Director, Manny Maciel look into establishing an animal emergency phone number, manned by a person not a recording, there have been many complaints that the current number immediately goes to a recording and the messages left are never returned, this is not in the best interest of animals in need of help. (Ref'd 03/26/15)

INVITEES: Emanuel Maciel Director of Animal Control

5. Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, requesting, that Department of Public Infrastructure Commissioner Ronald Labelle provide this body with an update as it relates to the Route 18 Phase II Project. (Ref'd 04/09/15)

INVITEES: DPI Commissioner, Ronald Labelle

6. Written Motion, Councillor Winterson, requesting, that the City of New Bedford consider establishing “Safe Zones” located at Police or Sheriff Stations parking lots or lobbies to enable users of Craigslist and other online classified services complete their transactions in a secure environment. (Ref’d 05/14/15)

INVITEES: Police Chief David Provencher

7. Written Motion, Council President Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods hold a meeting with Fire Chief Michael Gomes, Special Council Arthur J. Caron Jr. and a Representative from the Administration, for an explanation as to why the Chief is presently looking for another job; further, is there a problem which has not been dealt with previously in the past fourteen months which could lead to the loss of Fire Chief Gomes. (Ref’d 6/11/15)

INVITEES: Fire Chief Michael Gomes; Special Council Arthur J. Caron Jr.; Representative of the Mayor Christina Connelly

Chairman suggests “Following the Recommended Action” on the following items:

8. Written Motion, Council President Gomes, requesting, that the City Council and the Mayor go on record in complete support of New Bedford Police Department and the men and women of the department who do a very dangerous job protecting the City and its Citizens each and every day ; and further, that the Citizens of the City join us in showing support for Police Department by placing a blue light on your front porch, or in your windows as a sign of support, for the remaining days of the month of January; and further, asking our School Department and students from every middle school and elementary school to draw posters of support, and post them in the windows of every school across the City and that the every school be recognized for its efforts and award three students from every school with Citations for the best post of support, which will be awarded by the Councillor from each Ward and at large Councillors; and further, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with Police Chief Provencher, Police Union President Hank Turgeon, Vice-President Jimmy Estrella and Sgt. Josh Fernandes, to discuss measures that can be implemented to make a better relationship between the Citizens and young people across the City; and further, that the Police Department consider creating a Young Police Cadet Program, these initiatives will improve relationships across the City. (Ref’d 01/08/15)
9. Written Motion, Councillor Coelho, requesting, once again, that the Police Department take action and deal with people who ride unregistered, uninsured and unlicensed motorcycles in the City, these motorcycles are being ridden on public streets and sidewalks, they are a danger to pedestrians, drivers and themselves, people do not feel safe walking in their own neighborhoods. (Ref’d 6/25/15)

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

10. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, Coelho , Carney, Alves, Winterson and Martins, requesting that the company installing the new LED lighting throughout the City, install the high intensity LED lighting similar to the one being used on some of the main streets in the City and in Dartmouth; and further that any main street in the City of New Bedford be required to use the highest intensity of LED lighting, for the public safety of pedestrians crossing streets in high traffic areas; and further, that an entire evaluation of the lighting throughout the City be discussed as soon as possible before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings or Public Safety and Neighborhoods due to the public safety aspect of the lighting in some areas of the City. (Ref'd 10/09/14)
11. Written Motion, Councillor 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 the City. (Ref'd 11/13/14 tabled for 90 days (JUNE))
12. Written Motion Councillor Oliveira, Lopes, Council President Gomes, Martins, Winterson, Alves, Carney and Rebeiro, requesting, that the New Bedford School Department consider assigning a daily crossing Guard or Flag person at all City schools to control traffic and hinder the high rates of speed the daily commuter continue travel during school hours. (Ref'd 2/12/15, 05/21/15-tabled)
13. Written Motion, Councillor Coelho, Council President Gomes, Councillors Oliveira, Martins, Lopes, Winterson, Rebeiro, Bousquet, Carney and Alves, requesting, at Council President Gomes recommendation at the Committee on Finance meeting of March 18, 2015, that the City Council organize a drive-along, consisting of members of the City Council, a representative from Siemen's and Scott Durkee, Energy Manager, the purpose being to personally verify the many constituent complaints regarding poor lighting throughout the City, in some areas the lighting is so dark it has become a public safety issue and should be evaluated. (Ref'd 03/26/15)