



Appointments and Briefings

September 13, 2016 – 7:03 PM – **Minutes**
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS

DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

TIME: 7:03 P.M.

PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS HENRY BOUSQUET, CHAIRMAN; BRIAN GOMES, VICE-CHAIRMAN; NAOMI CARNEY; DEBORA COELHO; JOSEPH LOPES; STEVEN MARTINS; LINDA MORAD; DANA RIBEIRO; KERRY WINTERSON

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS IAN ABREU; JAMES OLIVEIRA

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Councillor Bouquet called the Appointment & Briefings meeting to order and took attendance. The Chair announced he received a call from Councillor Oliveira stating he would not be in attendance at this meeting due to a personal family commitment.

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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 Robert M. Barnes, 204 Cedar Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, d/b/a R & M ENTERTPRISE, INC., 67 Clifford Street, New Bedford, MA 02745, hereby submits a copy of the Application requesting a NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, 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 5/26/16) (7/12/16-tabled 30 days) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney. (1)

The Chair informed the Committee that they had received the letters of recommendation as previously requested and asked Mr. Barnes to take the podium.

Councillor Rebeiro asked Mr. Barnes to go over his business plan. He plans to have eventually three (3) vehicles up and running and will hire drivers which will include himself but on an as needed basis.

Councillor Lopes asked why the change in the original plan when he had said that he would not originally be a driver. He was told that the applicant would register as a driver but would only be activated if his other drivers called in sick or something similar.

On motion by Councillor Rebeiro and seconded by Councillor Winteron, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the Application of Robert M. Barnes, 204 Cedar Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, d/b/a R & M ENTERTPRISE, INC., 67 Clifford Street, New Bedford, MA 02745, requesting a NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws,

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. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Councillor Bousquet informed the Committee that the next matter already held the Public Hearing and was tabled so that the applicant can supply the Building Department and the Committee with the parking plans for the special permit.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a APPLICATION, Jason Oliver of Cove Road Auto Sales, for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Sales & Rentals and General Repair at 1421 Cove Road, New Bedford, MA 02744 (Duly advertised in the Standard-Times on Wednesday, July 27, 2016 and Wednesday, August 3, 2016) (Ref'd 7/25/16) (8/9/16-tabled 30 days) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (2)

Danny Romanowicz, DIS Commissioner was asked by Councillor Morad if the applicant had turned over the parking plans as asked for at the last meeting, she was told no he had not.

Mr. Oliver was not present at this meeting.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Martins, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 7, Nays 2, with Councillors Morad and Martins opposed.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a 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; 3/31/15-Remain in Committee; 11/10/15-Remain in Committee) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney. (3)

Councillor Gomes stated that since the requested representation from the Mayor's Office was not there, it was not worth discussing at this time.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To tale 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, Councillors Coelho and Lopes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings look into the possibility of installing a Handicap Ramp at Ft. Taber

Beach to allow for wheelchair bound persons to have direct access to the shoreline, and that Ms. Zelinda Pereira, Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts / Southeastern Office, a representative from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches and a representative from the Harbor Development Commission be invited to attend meeting (Ref'd 10/10/15) (10/28/15 - tabled & Committee sent a letter to Cynthia Wallquist asking her to provide a status as to where her office is in securing a grant to fund the handicap access ramps at East and West Beaches; 5/17/16-tabled 6 months) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney. (4)

Cynthia Wallquist, Executive Director of Commission for Citizens with Disabilities informed the Committee that the city received funding from Community Development which was going to pay for the placement of a ramp at the West Beach. They have yet to receive funding for East Beach but can apply in the future.

Mr. Shanklin of 14 Coldbrook Road, Little Compton, RI, is from Roger Williams College and is the Architect for the project, gave an overview of the project and ramp installation. The cost of the ramp was \$1700.00 per 50 feet of material. The entire cost to purchase and install was \$5,200.00. The ramp does roll up for storage.

Councillor Morad asked if there was any federal funding available to purchase a ramp for East Beach; she was told that they were unaware of such funding.

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

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To follow the Chair's recommendation and take "No Further Action" on items five (5), six (6) and seven (7). This motion passed on a voice vote. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Winterson, Coelho, Lopes and Carney, requesting, that the surrounding Towns, Freetown, Acushnet, Dartmouth, Mattapoissett, Marion, Fairhaven and Wareham, inform the City Council what their current treatment plans are regarding the utilization of Town properties, or future site plans relative to the opioid crisis; and further, are there any treatment centers or plans for inpatient or outpatient services in these Towns, the resources of the City of New Bedford are being exhausted due to the influx of residents of these surrounding Towns coming to New Bedford and expending our services. (Ref'd 1/14/16) (5)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Carl W. Gehring, Gehring & Associates, LLC, on behalf of Verizon Wireless, to Council President Morad, regarding Verizon Wireless plans to augment its existing wireless network in the City by installing wireless equipment on certain selected utility poles in the public right-of-way. (To be Referred to Committee on Appointments & Briefings.) (Ref'd 6/09/16) (7/12/16-tabled) (6)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Abreu, Winterson, Martins and Bousquet, requesting, that Representatives of the Cannabis Society address the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, regarding the potential economic development impact here in New Bedford with the development of retail, cultivation, and manufacturing facilities to process Medical Marijuana, as a result of the Massachusetts voters passing Question 3 to legalize Medical Marijuana for those debilitating conditions in 2012, medical manufacturing facilities are needed all throughout the Commonwealth, especially within densely populated metropolitan communities such as New Bedford. (To be Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings and the New Bedford Economic Development Council.) (Ref'd 3/10/16) (7)

Councillor Morad made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Lopes.

This meeting adjourned @ 7:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees