



Committee on Labor & Industry

July 18, 2016 – 7:07 PM - **Minutes**

City Hall - Councillor William Saltzman Antechamber, Room 213

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & INDUSTRY

DATE: JULY 18, 2016

TIME: 7:07 P.M.

PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS STEVEN MARTINS, CHAIRMAN; IAN ABREU, VICE-CHAIRMAN;
NAOMI CARNEY; DANA REBEIRO**

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR KERRY WINTERSON

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Councillor Martins called the Labor & Industry Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read a Communication from Councillor Winterson explaining his absence from this meeting. The Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Carney.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Abreu and Winterson, requesting that representatives from Beacon Compassion Services come before the Committee on Labor & Industry to discuss the medical marijuana dispensary industry, and how having a fully operational facility here in New Bedford can have a positive impact on economic development, job creation and can also help deter many from the potential abuse of Opioids, this organization has visited the City on several occasions and is willing to not only buy property and invest in our community, but also enter into a Community Host Agreement in which a certain percentage of revenue generated would be re-infused back into our local schools and economy (Ref'd 6/9/16) and a Communication, Councillor Abreu, submitting a copy of a letter from Beacon Compassion Center, regarding locating a Registered Medical Marijuana Dispensary in the City of New Bedford (Ref'd 6/9/16) were received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Carney. (1, 1a)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Abreu, Winterson, Gomes, Lopes, Martins, Bousquet, Council President Morad, Councillor Coelho and Councillor Oliveira, requesting that Ms. Rina Cametti and Mr. Stephen Angelo, Owners of Beacon Compassion Center come before the Committee on Labor & Industry to discuss and present their medical marijuana dispensary proposal for the City of New Bedford (Ref'd 6/23/16) and a Communication, Councillor Abreu, submitting the Beacon Compassion Center's Registered Marijuana Dispensary Proposal for the City of New Bedford (Ref'd 6/23/16) were received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Carney. (2, 2a)

Ms. Catherine Cametti, CEO of Beacon Compassion Services, 115 Lincoln Avenue, Walpole, MA, read the power point presentation distributed to the Committee and gave an overview of the Company's proposal to bring a Medical Marijuana Facility to the city as well as the services they will provide.

Mr. Steven Angelo, 115 Lincoln Avenue, Walpole, MA, Security Officer for Beacon, gave an overview of the security measures that would be put in place should the facility be allowed to come to New Bedford. It would be located at the Panagakos Office Building on Mt. Pleasant Street, near De Angelos.

Nicole Snow, 190 Birch Street, Salem, MA the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Patient Advocacy Alliance gave a summary of dispensaries currently in Massachusetts and addressed concerns that communities have had in the past in an attempt to put an ease to their fears.

Dr. Uma Dhawaqbalan provided a medical overview of cannabis and how it is used to treat pain in today's medical field.

Mr. Bob Lobel, a patient and user of medical marijuana, stated it has saved his life from constant pain and has kept him away from opioid use. He showed samples of how the product is used. He went on to explain the chemical compound that creates the high found within marijuana is removed and that compound which aids in reducing pain is kept in.

Mr. Steven Mandile, a disabled veteran having served in Afghanistan, gave an overview of his life and trying to reacclimatize his way back into society having returned from service and being injured, that the use of medical marijuana has been positive. He has since left his dark days of PTSD and has now become an advocate for disabled vets.

Janet Rapoza, 137 West Hill Road, Apt. C, in New Bedford gave an overview of her use of medical marijuana and the need to have a facility closer to home, rather than having to travel long distances to secure the product.

Janice Peters, 82 Court Street, New Bedford, told the Committee her story, a former employee of the city as a school bus driver, she has suffered from back pain which has resulted in surgeries. She explained how medical marijuana use has helped her. She also supported a local facility.

Dawn Blake Souza, read an email from Mark Delisle who was ill and unable to attend the meeting. It was also in support of the facility. She also went on to offer her own opinion and support of Beacon and their desire to bring a dispensary to the city.

Ms. Cametti asked the Committee for a letter of support which is needed in the application process with the State.

A discussion ensued as it related to the time line needed to receive the letter. It was decided that the motion should be sent to the Council at their July 21st meeting and that a copy of the presentation would be emailed to the other Councillors as well as the drafted letter language provided by Councillor Abreu to the Council via email.

Councillors Abreu and Rebeiro spoke in support of the initiative and thanked those involved for being here.

Councillor Carney offered support but had concerns should the State pass recreational use of marijuana and the possibility of Beacon then selling publicly.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council provide a letter of support to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health expressing its support of the efforts of the Beacon Compassion Center, Inc. to seek an appropriate location for and operate a Registered Medical Marijuana Dispensary in the City of New Bedford. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Abreu made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Rebeiro.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees