

TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 6:00p.m.
Room 314, City Hall

Chairman Scott Liberty explains the process of the Traffic Commission, announces the commissioner in attendance, and calls the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Scott Liberty, Brian Gomes, Brad Markey, Richard Simmons, Manuel Silva, Jacob Gonsalves, Michael Baker

Absent: Patrick Sullivan

Motion by Commissioner Gomes to accept and approve minutes from 09/26/18 Traffic Commission meeting; second by Commissioner Simmons, the Ayes have it

PUBLIC HEARING

PH1.

SMRE 61, LLC, 100 Duchaine Blvd, is requesting to install a 30'x24' curb cut located at 61 John Vertente Blvd. (Plot 133, Lot 47)

Commissioner Gomes motioned to open PH1; second by Commissioner Silva the Ayes have it.

Matthew White from Farland Corp spoke on behalf of PH1, he stated this is for a curb cut for after the fact. This project was a redevelopment for a commercial building the property owner was able to gain another tenant for the property and with the heavy truck traffic from the current tenant the new tenant requested a second entrance that they would have exclusive rights to. Chairman Liberty asked any questions for the petitioner. Commissioner Silva states that this was after the fact which is not how things get done in the City of New Bedford you are supposed to get a permit first and approval from this board. DPI did notice that the driveway was built without permits and when we reviewed the site plan and we probably would have approved it anyway it's just not the way we do busy in the city that there are certain things they have to follow and they are well aware of this. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Commissioner Silva motioned to close PH1; second by Commissioner Gomes; the Ayes have it. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve PH1, second by Gomes; the Ayes have it.

Passed 6-0

PETITION

1. PETITION

William Monteiro, 349 Davis Street, is requesting a **CROSSWALK** on Nash Road at Brook Street.

William Monteiro, 349 Davis Street, spoke on behalf of the petition he states he has children that walk to Lincoln school and it's easier to cross from Brook Street then Ashley Blvd but when you get to Brook Street and Nash Road there is no crosswalk and it's hard to get across and they are not the only children that walk this way. Chairman Liberty asked if there were any questions for the petitioner. Commissioner Markey asked where he would like to have the crosswalk, he said from north to south. Commissioner Silva then interjected that we can't build it on the east side you need to have a wheelchair ramp there is one already there on the sw corner we would have to build one on the north west corner to be able to do that. So the only place to add crosswalk will be on the west side of the intersection. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Councillor Giesta spoke in favor of P1 and supports his request for the crosswalk. Commissioner Gomes amended P1 to include crosswalk and warning signs to be installed on the north and south side before the crosswalks; second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it.

Passed 6-0

2. PETITION

Derek Fernandes owner of Pack N Ship located at 535 Ashley Blvd is requesting **15 MINUTE PARKING MON-SAT 9AM-6PM** sign in front of said business.

Derek Fernandes, 127 Perry Street, is requesting for timeframe parking in front of his business he stated he had SRTA move their sign up and since then he has vehicles parking it there all day. Chairman Liberty asked if there were any questions for the petitioner. Commissioner Silva asked what sign was in the picture Mr. Fernandes stated that was where the bus sign was but has been moved. Commissioner Silva questioned if there was enough room between the fire hydrant and the telephone pole. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Councillor Giesta, 155 Princeton Street spoke in favor of P2. Commissioner Gomes motioned to approve with the condition that he has enough footage to be able to have a sign, second by Commissioner Silva; the Ayes have it.

Passed 6-0

3. PETITION

Michael Mathieu, owner of property for 450 Bolton Street, is requesting two **NO PARKING 8am-5pm** signs to be installed in front of business to allow containers to be delivered in and out of the warehouse.

Commissioner Silva motioned to table P3, second by Commissioner Gomes; the Ayes have it

Tabled 6-0

4. PETITION

Councillor Hugh Dunn is requesting to change the existing **STOP** sign on Logan Street at Acushnet Avenue stopping east and westbound drivers on Logan Street to Acushnet Ave at Logan Street stopping all north and southbound drivers on Acushnet Avenue.

Councillor Hugh Dunn stated that he brought forth to the Commissioners last June to have the intersection turned into a four way stop it had the angular accident reports requirements but it was not granted and it is my understanding that you must wait a year before you can request the four way again. I spoke with Mr. Downing and he recommend in the meantime I can petition for the Stop signs to be switched. I consistently notice that people using that Acushnet strip as in place where they really accelerate cause there is not really any other stop signs if any so people are racing down that so when people are peeking out from Logan Street and they end up hitting each other because they can't slow down fast enough. Chairman Liberty asked if there were any

questions for the petitioner. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Councillor Silva motioned to approve; second from Commissioner Markey; the Ayes have it.

Passed 6-0

5. PETITION

Councillor Maria Giesta is requesting to remove the existing **NO PARKING 8am-9am & 2pm-3pm except Sat, Sun., & Holidays** signs located on Ashley Blvd between Brooklawn Ave and Carlise Street.

Councillor Maria Giesta, Ward 2 Councillor, 155 Princeton Street, Councillor Giesta stated that this location is where Ashley School is and there has been an ongoing problem in the mornings and in the evenings. Parents are parking on Rochambeau Street and also on Ashley Blvd across the street because there are signs along the school side that say no parking. What we would like to do and has been working with the Principal and also just had a meeting this past Monday with Capt. Paul DaCosta, Gus Santos the safety officer for the New Bedford Public Schools and also Jeff Tetreault supervisor of transportation. Problem on Rochambeau Street not only are parents parking on both sides of the street there are buses and vans that come down on Rochambeau Street that pick up and drop off the students. So we would like the signs on Ashley Blvd taken away so parents can park there and also if we can put extra signs on Rochambeau Street. Chairman Liberty asked if there were any questions for petitioner. Commissioner Silva asked if the signs were originally accepted by school, Councillor Giesta did not know who originally requested the signs. Laurie Alfonso stated that she did pull the cards the signs have been there since 05/13/1987. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve, second by Commissioner Gonsalves.

Passed 6-0

6. PETITION

Councillor Joe Lopes on behalf of the residents on Bellevue Street is requesting to install a **CROSSWALK** at the intersection of Bellevue Street and West Rodney French Blvd.

Councillor Joe Lopes, states this is the only street right in front of the bike path that has handicap access on the bike path. Chairman Liberty asked if there were any questions for the petitioner. Commissioner Silva states that the corner on the east side a wheel chair ramp will have to be built. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition Commissioner Silva motioned to approve with the amendment to include the crosswalk and warning signs, second by Commissioner Gomes; the Ayes have it.

Passed 6-0

7. PETITION

Benvinda Rose, 60 Dartmouth Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed on the Grinnell Street side of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is a driveway).

Benevida Rose was not present but Councillor Scott Lima requested to speak in favor of 60 Dartmouth Street. Commissioner Silva asked if there was a driveway, they are stating that there is garage on the other side. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Commissioner Gomes motioned to approve, second by Commissioner Silva; the Ayes have it.

Passed 6-0

8. PETITION

Gilbert Montanez, 443 Coggeshall Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is a driveway).

Gilbert Montanez, 443 Coggeshall Street states they are looking for handicap space outside the home. Commissioner Gomes asked if there was a driveway and who uses the driveway. Mr. Montanez states that his wife uses the driveway. Commissioner Silva asked what was the need for the signs he said that when the van comes to pick them up. Commissioner Silva states wouldn't it be easier for the van to pick up in the front. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Barbara Montanez, 443 Coggeshall Street spoke in favor of the petitioner because of the lady that lives with us she needs to go in and out and he also needs to get in and out. Because of the school there are a lot of cars and they park so close to the driveway it's hard to get in and out. Commissioner Gomes motioned to approve, second by Commissioner Silva; the Ayes have it.

Passed 6-0

9. PETITION

Jose Ramos, 96 Clifford Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is a driveway).

Nancy Ramos spoke on behalf of petitioner is requesting for the handicap signs and even though he has a driveway he has a hard time coming out of the driveway, the driveway is very narrow. Chairman Liberty asked if there were any questions for the petitioner. Commissioner Gomes motioned to approve, second by Commissioner Silva; the Ayes have it.

Passed 6-0

10. PETITION

Antonio Pimental, 103 Norman Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed on the Cleveland Street side of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is a driveway).

Steven Pimental, 103 Norman Street spoke on behalf of the petitioner that the area is very congested because they live near Roosevelt Jr. High. Chairman Liberty asked if there were any questions for the petitioner. Commissioner Silva asked if they use the garage to park the cars he advised that they did but there are four cars for a three car garage. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Commissioner Gomes motioned to approve, second by Commissioner Simmons; the Ayes have it.

Passed 6-0

11. PETITION

Dora Hernandez, 281 Orchard Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is a driveway)

Dora Hernandez, 281 Orchard Street is requesting a handicap space she shares the driveway with the tenant. Chairman Liberty asked if there were any questions for the petitioner. She states that because she shares her driveway with her tenants sometime she can fit sometimes she can't and then she gets a ticket. Commissioner Gomes motioned to approve, second by Commissioner Markey; the Ayes have it.

Passed 6-0

12. PETITION

Rick Miller, property owner of 22 Rockdale Avenue (formerly Green Diner), is requesting for **NO PARKING THIS SIDE OF THE STREET** signs to be installed on the west side of Gull Street.

Armando Pereira, 77 Branscomb Street spoke on behalf of the petitioner he stated that in 09/09/26 Gull Street became an accepted street and between property line and property line is 50ft. The problem is that people are parking up against the fence and they have damaged the fence, there are photos showing that cars are parking perpendicular so that means they are parking on the sidewalk side. So Mr. Miller is looking for signs to stop people from parking along his side of the road. Chairman Liberty asked any questions for the petitioner. Councilor Gomes states this fence was not originally there and now its been put up there, he asked if he had the entrance at the end of this street. Mr. Pereira states the gate is at the end. Councillor Gomes asked what the other entrance is for, he states on the west side of property there has been land that has been cleared out and black tar has been put down there. Mr. Pereira is asking how they are able to park on the sidewalk. Commissioner Silva he states there are two streets on both sides of the property and they are both city accepted streets at that time the owner relinquished all rights to those streets and the city took an easement it belongs to the city until discontinued. The sidewalk issue is not an issue you go all along the city and there are sidewalks that go right to the property, it's all over the city. Cars parking there he doesn't think it's right for the city to put no parking signs in an area that means nothing, nobody is walking that way for the sidewalk to exist. Mr. Pereira states that they way they are parking it prevents access to the opening. Mr. Silva states there is no opening there you have to petition the city for a driveway, along that fence line that belongs to the city. If you want an entrance to that lot you must petition for a driveway. Councillor Gomes asked if the city would like to know what was done on the west side and who cleared that area and put the tar down. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Councillor Joseph Lopes spoke in opposition of the petitioner he stated that there is a curb cut on Rockdale Avenue so I have no idea why Mr. Miller put the entrance on Gull Street. Jennifer Pereira, 12 Rockdale Ave owner of property next door wanted to advise that they do have multiple entrances. We acquired this business two years ago and they have always parked this way and we haven't done anything wrong. If something did happen to the fence we would take full responsibility for that. Commissioner Gomes motioned to deny, second by Commissioner Markey; the Ayes have it.

Failed 6-0

Commissioner Gomes asked to take to tabled items out of order T1 and T2, motioned to approve by Commissioner Silva; second by Commissioner Simmons; the Ayes have it.

T1.

Councillor Joseph Lopes and Councillor Brian Gomes are requesting to install two **NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER** signs at the intersection of Transit Street and Rockdale Ave and that the signs are placed on Transit Street

Joseph Lopes and Councillor Brian Gomes states that the patrons at the barber shop parking all along the sidewalk but also directly across the street they block the driveway to the lady that lives at 14 Transit Street as well as the owner of the hair salon as well as up to the corner of Rockdale Avenue. There are a lot of seniors that live on the street and Rockdale Avenue is a very busy street so you basically have a blind corner for anyone trying to exit. Chairman Liberty asked if there were any questions for the petitioner. Commissioner Silva stated that they would be unable to place a sign on the Rockdale Avenue due to a curb cut being there, they would have to close the curb cut first. Councillor Lopes states he asked former Commissioner Ron Labelle couple of years ago and he could not find any record that there was one there. Teresa Medeiros, 10 Transit Street spoke in favor of T1. Commissioner Gomes asked if we can put that curbing in Commissioner Silva states that it would take some time. Commissioner Gomes in the interim we can put a sign up Commissioner Silva says we can put one up on the east side and south side, he says we can put it there but it will have an open area Commissioner Gomes says that they park there anyway. Commissioner Gomes motioned to approve T1, second by Commissioner Silva; the Ayes have it.

Passed 6-0

T2.

Councillor Brian Gomes and Councillor Joseph Lopes are requesting to install **NO PARKING ANYTIME** sign to be installed on Transit Street west side on Pole 698-1 to the southwest corner of Frank Street.

Councillor Gomes and Councillor Joseph Lopes also requesting that they install a no parking sign to allow garbage and emergency vehicles to be able to access Transit Street. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone had any questions. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Suzanne Walker, 7 Transit Street spoke in favor of the petition she states everyone just parks anywhere, she states that no parking be done. The latest issues is the garbage not being able to go down the street or emergency vehicles cannot get down this street. Teresa Medeiros, 10 Transit Street spoke in favor of T2. Commissioner Gomes motioned to approve T2, second by Commissioner Silva; the Ayes have it.

Passed 6-0

Commissioner Silva motioned to approve HP1-HP26, second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve rescinded HP signs, second by Commissioner Gomes; the Ayes have it.

NO PARKING EXCEPT HP OR V PLATES REQUESTS

HP1.

Jacqueline Liberty, 363 Ashley Blvd, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed on the Nash Road of said residence, for 22 ft. (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, there is no access to driveway).

HP2.

Katherine Pietkiewicz, 28 Arnold Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, there is no access to driveway).

HP3.

Wanda Cepeda Reyes, 70 North Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence, for 22 ft. (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, there is no driveway).

HP4.

Eliezer Cruz, 32 Malden St, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence, for 22 ft. (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from Housing Authority on file, there is no driveway).

HP5.

Stacy Soares, 141 Reynolds Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, there is no access to driveway).

HP6.

Tanya White Arrante, 503 Hillman Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, there is no access to driveway).

HP7.

Alda Medeiros, 81 Park Street is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, no access to driveway).

HP8.

Jose Borba, 407 Park Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, no access to driveway)

HP9.

Tanya Caraballo, 484 Summer Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, no access to driveway)

HP10.

Manuel Rosonina, 341 Orchard Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, no driveway).

HP11.

Natalie Mello, 41 Ellen Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, no access to driveway).

HP12.

Carolynne Rogerson, 833 County Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, there is no access to driveway).

HP13.

Rick Clements, 1049 County Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, there is no driveway).

HP14.

Maroun Daou, 190 Mt Pleasant Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed on the Peckham Street side of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, there is no access to driveway).

HP15.

Councillor Morad on behalf of Barbara Martel, 3001 Acushnet Ave, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed on the Essex Street side of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, no driveway).

HP16.

Maria Farinhas, 107 Rockland Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, no driveway).

HP17.

Sephra Moniz, 38 Sagamore Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, there is no driveway).

HP18.

Manuel Delgado, 192 Hemlock Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, there is no access to driveway).

HP19.

Debra Nunes, 194 Tremont Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, there is no driveway).

HP20.

Camille Dawn Xifaras, 289 Allen Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, there is no driveway).

HP21.

Carlos Arroyo Colon, 791 Brock Ave, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed on the Emma Street side of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, there is no driveway).

HP22.

Rita Mello, 130 Tinkham Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, there is no access to driveway).

HP23.

Armand Cabral, 10-12 Waldo Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence, for 22 ft. (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner on file, no driveway).

HP24.

Councilor Joe Lopes on behalf of Irene Barreiro-McDonnel, 160 Aquidneck Street is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, there is no access to driveway).

HP25.

Rita Machado, 106 Hadley Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence, for 22 ft. (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner on file, no driveway).

HP26.

Gilda Resendes, 77 Morgan Street, Street is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, there is no access to driveway).

RESCINDED HP SIGNS

239 Ash Street
167 Wood Street
13 Pope Street

33 Crapo Street
213 Mt Pleasant Street
185 Ash Street

82 Eugenia Street
23 Malden Street
510 Ashley Blvd

TABLED ITEMS

T3.

Abraham Cruz, 652 Summer Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is a driveway).

Petitioned taken off table 02/17/19 TC Meeting

T4.

Herman Couto, 37 West Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is a driveway).

Petitioned taken off table 02/17/19 TC Meeting

T5.

Kathleen Morrell, 96 Nye Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is a driveway).

Petitioned taken off table 02/17/19 TC Meeting

Commissioner Gomes motioned to adjourn time 7:12pm; second by Commissioner Silva; the Ayes have it