



Committee on Public Safety

March 25, 2014 – 7:00 PM - **Agenda**
Chambers of the City Council, City Hall, Room 214

****View Minutes****

1. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, meet with the Superintendent of Schools, a representative of the Administration, along with the Chief of Police to discuss what prevention policies are in place in City schools to guarantee the safety of all students, elementary to high school, in buildings across the City; and further, to discuss any safety precautions that can be implemented to guarantee the safety of all students while attending our public schools and anything that the City Council can do to make this an affirmative action on behalf of the students and the teachers in the New Bedford Public School system. (Ref'd 12/20/12, 5/14/13 – tabled)

INVITEES: Superintendent of Public Schools Dr. Pia Durkin; Representative of the Mayor Christina Connelly; Police Chief David Provencher

2. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes and Gonsalves, requesting, that the School Department immediately look into the possibility of alarming all schools in their main office with panic buttons that would alert our Police Department in case of an emergency; and further, that we look into the possibility of alarming every classroom and at what cost would it be to do this throughout the city; and further, requesting that no new schools in the City of New Bedford be built without putting this safety mechanism in place in all classrooms and offices for the purposes of making our schools safe in the City of New Bedford for our students and faculty, making our school system one of the first in the Commonwealth to implement such a security system in order to guarantee the parents and the taxpayers of this City that their kids are attending school in a safe atmosphere with a resource to get immediate emergency response in case of any type of attack or emergency within each school building; and further, if implemented that the city look into if the panic button system can work in conjunction with the camera systems installed at some of our schools. (Ref'd 2/14/13)

INVITEES: Superintendent of Public Schools Dr. Pia Durkin; Public School Departments Director of Operations Patrick Murphy; Police Chief David Provencher

3. 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, 12/9/13 – tabled)

INVITEES: Human Relations Commission Executive Director Marcelina Pina-Christian; Human Relations Commission Member Irma Perez; Mayan K'iche Organization Director Anibal Lucas; New Bedford Police Department Captain Thomas Flood; Police Chief David Provencher; District Attorney Samuel Sutter

4. Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Alves, Gomes, Carney and Martins requesting, that a representative of the Gang Unit appear before a Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meeting to brief Committee members on the status of gang activity in the City, given the recent shooting of a New Bedford Police Officer, the location of the shooting has seen a recent increase of gang related graffiti; and further, to

discuss the increasing number of criminals that are relocating to New Bedford, the reasons for that and the risk they pose to the City. (Ref'd 2/13/14)

INVITEES: Gang Unit Commanding Officer Sergeant Bryan Safioleas; Police Chief David Provencher

5. 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 2/28/13, 5/14/13 - tabled)

INVITEES: Fire Chief Michael Gomes; Representative of the Mayor Christina Connelly

6. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with the Mayor and the Police Chief to view the Winnebago City Unit was purchased some time ago, for the purpose of looking at the condition of said vehicle and to update the vehicle as far as its radio and camera status and anything else that is needed to make this vehicle up –to-date for the 21st Century, to be used not only by the City for surveillance and emergency situations but also by our Police Department. (Ref'd 4/11/13, 5/14/13 – letters to Congressman Keating, Senator Warren and Chief Provencher)

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

7. Written Motion, Councillor Coelho, requesting that after the recent vandalism to the historic century old Whaleman Statute in front of the Downtown Main Public Library that the City move to install cameras at the Downtown Bus Station, City Hall and the Main Public Library and that these cameras should be equipped with a live feed to the Police Station, in an effort to provide higher security to the Downtown area. (Ref'd 5/23/13)

INVITEES: SRTA Bus Administrator Erik B. Rousseau; Representative of the Mayor Christina Connelly; Acting Library Director Geoffrey Dickinson; Police Chief David Provencher

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

8. Written Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods meet with Neighborhoods United to discuss with them the possibility of how their roles in neighborhoods might expand, in light of Raven Business Group Consultant, Mr. Glenn Bachman's recommendation that these groups look and work on issues beyond public safety. (4/23/12, 11/19/12 – tabled, invite Neighborhood Watch Groups)

9. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes, Oliveira and Coelho, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with City Solicitor and the Police Chief for the purposes of discussing the policies and procedures of the Liquor Licensing Board which has been jeopardized due to the fact that the previous Administration not only took them off the payroll, but removed the resources that are needed in order to enforce the Liquor Licensing laws across the City. (Ref'd 10/25/12, 11/19/12 - tabled)

10. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes and Oliveira, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods along with the Mayor's Office and the Police Department look into Wendy's, located on Kings Highway, providing a Detail Officer, from 9:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m., on Fridays and Saturdays, due to the numerous calls that come into the Police Department over the course of the weekend and the ongoing problem of groups hanging around, traffic build-up and noise complaints coming from that location, as Chairman and

Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, we believe that a Detail Officer would curb many of these problems existing at this location during the night time hours of operation. (Ref'd 3/14/13)

11. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes and Oliveira, requesting, that a public hearing be held with the Administration, Department of Public Infrastructure Commissioner Ronald Labelle, Department of Public Facilities Commissioner Kenneth Blanchard, and any other parties concerned to discuss snow removal during the Blizzard of 2013, that a plan of action be placed on the books for any type of storm related to the Blizzard of 2013 procedures and policies that will be followed in order to guarantee that we open up streets of the City of New Bedford as soon as possible and that the proper equipment is in place during a storm; and further, requesting that NSTAR officials be invited to said meeting to discuss their policies and procedures during the Blizzard of 2013 and what procedures were put in place to guarantee the constituents of the New Bedford area, rapid response from NSTAR and also requesting that during a hurricane or blizzard situation or any other emergency situation that arises, that NSTAR set up a command center similar to the one that is being done in the northern part of the state, such as National Grid which is a live operator speaking to residents giving them a breakdown of what has happened and how long it will take before their power is restored; and further, that this request be accepted by NSTAR due to the fact that the information that was coming out of NSTAR to the general public through an automated phone operator was not the way to handle a crisis such as this, and we demand that NSTAR explain why some areas took so long to get power back, also there were some small abutting areas where electricity was restored while others still had no power; and further, that NSTAR put in place policies and procedures that address areas where there are nursing homes or elderly housing due to the fact that these people should be prioritized due to the urgency of them possibly getting sick or freezing to death, so that the City can put in place along with information being fed from NSTAR a policy and procedure of emergency evacuation and shelters to be set up to accommodate those affected; and further, requesting that if the City of New Bedford is going to award the contract to ABC Disposal, that we look into the possibility of amending the contract to include using their trucks and plows during major snow storms and that ABC Disposal be compensated for said service. (Ref'd 2/14/13, 5/14/13 – Letter to NSTAR)