

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2017
TIME: 7:01P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS BRIAN GOMES, CHAIRMAN; JOSEPH LOPES, VICE CHAIRMAN; IAN ABREU; NAOMI CARNEY (7:07); DEBORA COELHO; HUGH DUNN; LINDA MORAD; DANA REBEIRO (7:16); KERRY WINTERSON

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS STEVEN MARTINS; JAMES OLIVEIRA

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Councillor Gomes called the Appointments & Briefings Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read Communications from Councillors Martins and Oliveira explaining their absences. These Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Winterson.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of Citizen's Input Time – Not to exceed the first thirty (30) minutes of the meeting. (1)

Joyce Rowley, P. O. Box 50251, New Bedford, was present and spoke to the Committee about retiring Ruth and Emily the elephants at Buttonwood Park Zoo. (1a)

Antonio Rodrigues, 422 Brock Avenue, New Bedford, was present and spoke to the Committee regarding the property located on Brock Avenue and Ruth Street, an old church building that is an eyesore. (1b)

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting APPOINTMENT of MARIA A. ROSARIO, New Bedford, MA, to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, Ms. Rosario will be replacing Maria Mojica-Mosquea whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2019 (Ref'd 6/22/17) (7/24/17-tabled) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney. (2)

Maria Rosario, 149 Armour Street, New Bedford, was present to answer questions from the Committee. She told the Committee that she has always wanted to serve her community in some capacity and was excited when Marci Pina-Christian asked if she would be willing to serve on the Human Relations Commission.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of MARIA A. ROSARIO, New Bedford, MA, to the HUMAN

RELATIONS COMMISSION, Ms. Rosario will be replacing Maria Mojica-Mosquea whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2019. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of PETER BLANCHARD, New Bedford, MA to the CONSERVATION COMMISSION, replacing Robert Morris whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2018 (Ref'd 7/20/17) (8/24/17-tabled) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Coelho. (3)

Peter Blanchard was present to answer questions from the Committee. He stated he has always wanted to serve the public in some capacity and when asked to serve on the Conservation Commission, he accepted. He does not have a conservation background, but has attended meetings and has been in discussions with Sarah Porter on the inner workings of the Commission.

On motion by Councillor Winterson and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of PETER BLANCHARD, New Bedford, MA to the CONSERVATION COMMISSION, replacing Robert Morris whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2018. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of MARCUS CHUMACK, New Bedford, MA to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, replacing Robert Schilling whose term has expired; this term will expire December 2019 (Ref'd 7/20/17) (8/24/17-tabled) was removed from the table by Councillor Dunn and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (4)

Marcus Chumack was present and answered questions from the Committee. He was born and raised in New Bedford. He lived out of State for some time and has returned to the city. He was looking to get involved with various Commissions in the city and thought that the Human Relations Commission would be a good fit. He submitted his name for consideration and has been submitted before the Council.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of MARCUS CHUMACK, New Bedford, MA to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, replacing Robert Schilling whose term has expired; this term will expire December 2019. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Martins, requesting, that Attorney Richard Manning, 167 William Street, who represents Empire Loan, be invited to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, to address concerns with the regulatory provisions related to pawnbrokers recently adopted by the City Council in 2013; and further, requesting, that Empire Loan be given the opportunity to

address their concerns with the Council and provide additional information which, hopefully, will result in the recommendation of some changes (To be Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings) (Ref'd 4/14/16) and a COMMUNICATION, Councillor Martins, submitting a letter dated March 15, 2016, from Attorney Richard Manning Jr., regarding regulatory provisions related to Pawnbrokers. (To be Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings) (Ref'd 4/14/16) (5, 5a)

Councillor Gomes explained that there was no one from Empire Loan or a representative present to answer questions.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: To table 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, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with the CEO or Director of CleanSlate Addiction Treatment Center, 92 Grape Street, to discuss neighborhood concerns and security issues around the facility, due to the number of complaints about illegal activity and sales on the premises; and further, that if the Management and Security cannot control what is going on at this facility, that the City request a Police Detail during business hours (Ref'd 3/23/17) (6/15/17-tabled for 60 days) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro. (6)

Mr. Brian Coonan, Area Manager at Clean Slate Addiction Treatment Center was present and gave an overview of the improvements in security and reaching out to neighborhoods, which include a food truck event for patients and the neighbors. Councillors were invited to attend the function as well. He did mention that Clean Slate is currently looking to relocate to a larger facility 11,000 square feet at the old Salter School building on Kings Highway; they have outgrown the Grape Street facility.

Councillor Gomes thanked Mr. Coonan for addressing the concerns the Committee had in June. He commended him on being a good neighbor.

Councillor Winterson commended Mr. Coonan and stated he is the type of person all managers should strive to be like, especially when it came to neighborhood outreach.

Councillor Morad expressed the same thanks and wanted the Council to be invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony when and if they relocate to a new facility.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with the CEO or Director of CleanSlate Addiction Treatment Center, 92 Grape Street, to discuss neighborhood concerns and security issues around the facility, due to the number of complaints about illegal activity and sales on the premises; and further, that if the Management and Security cannot control what is going on at this facility, that the City request a Police Detail during business hours. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings in conjunction with the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, along with the Police Chief Provencher, meet with the Gloucester Police Chief Len Campanello, or a Representative of the Gloucester Police Department to discuss their “Angel Program” which brings together Drug Treatment Agencies and Hospital Officials to allow active addicts to walk in, hand in their drugs and get immediate treatment instead of a jail cell, due to the numbers of this newly implemented plan being so far positive in Gloucester. (Ref’d 10/22/15) (7)

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take “No Further Action” on the WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings in conjunction with the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, along with the Police Chief Provencher, meet with the Gloucester Police Chief Len Campanello, or a Representative of the Gloucester Police Department to discuss their “Angel Program” which brings together Drug Treatment Agencies and Hospital Officials to allow active addicts to walk in, hand in their drugs and get immediate treatment instead of jail cell, due to the numbers of this newly implemented plan being so far positive in Gloucester. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Abreu, Winterson, Gomes, Lopes and Martins, requesting that Representatives from both Eversource Energy and Spectra Energy come before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss both the potential economic and social impact the Acushnet LNG Proposal would have on not only New Bedford, but on the surrounding communities as well, since Representatives of the “Southcoast Neighbors United” came before this body and the local media recently to voice their opposition of this project, it is only fair, in the spirit of full transparency, that the Committee invite the proponents of the project as well. (To be Referred to the Committee on Appointments & Briefings, Dennis D. Galvam, Manager of Community Relations & Economic Development for Eversource Energy and Representatives from Spectra Energy) (Ref’d 4/28/16) (5/22/17-tabled 30 days) (6/15/17-tabled) (8)

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take “No Further Action” on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Abreu, Winterson, Gomes, Lopes and Martins, requesting that Representatives from both Eversource Energy and Spectra Energy come before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss both the potential economic and social impact the Acushnet LNG Proposal would have on not only New Bedford, but on the surrounding communities as well, since Representatives of the “Southcoast Neighbors United” came before this body and the local media recently to voice their opposition of this project, it is only fair, in the spirit of full transparency, that the Committee invite the proponents of the project as well. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gomes, Winterson and Martins, requesting, that once more a letter be sent to the Triple A Pawtucket Red Sox ownership and management informing them of the City's interest in locating the Triple A team here in New Bedford; and further, that an invitation be sent to the ownership and management of the team to visit and tour possible sites like the Logan Hicks Street and the Washburn Street area of the City and also to meet with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, the Economic Development Council and a representative from the Mayor's office. (Ref'd 7/20/17) (9)

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gomes, Winterson and Martins, requesting, that once more a letter be sent to the Triple A Pawtucket Red Sox ownership and management informing them of the City's interest in locating the Triple A team here in New Bedford; and further, that an invitation be sent to the ownership and management of the team to visit and tour possible sites like the Logan/Hicks Street and the Washburn Street area of the City and also to meet with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, the Economic Development Council and a representative from the Mayor's Office. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 7:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees