

**NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**DATE: AUGUST 09, 2017**  
**TIME: 7:00 P.M.**  
**PLACE: COUNCILLOR WILLIAM SALTZMAN ANTECHAMBER,**  
**ROOM 213, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS DANA REBEIRO, CHAIRPERSON; IAN**  
**ABREU; BRIAN GOMES; JOSEPH LOPES**

**ABSENT: COUNCILLOR KERRY WINTERSON, VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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Councillor Rebeiro called the Internal Affairs Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read a Communication from Councillor Winterston explaining his absence. This Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Rebeiro, requesting, that the Committee on Internal Affairs be updated on the City's construction projects, as to the status of hiring local women and minorities, included in this update should be a description of the recommended good faith outreach mechanism to be used for the hiring of New Bedford residents with a focus on minorities and women in the labor force; and further that similar data is requested for the contracting of local firms with a focus on minority and women owned businesses on City's construction projects, this update should address what are the goals of the City of New Bedford's Compliance Office; how many positions have been filled on the sites throughout the City; what are the efforts being taken to hire locally by the Compliance Office for the City; furthermore, a listing of all the City's current construction projects and a projection of all construction projects within the next fiscal year should be included (Ref'd 6/8/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (1)

John Barbosa, 266 Orchard Street, New Bedford, MA was present to answer questions from the Committee. He told the Committee that he was hired at the Hannigan School Project as the city's only minority worker under the guidelines set forth by the city on hiring minority workers, businesses and women workers and businesses. He was hired, worked for seven (7) weeks and was laid off. He reported the issue to the City's Compliance Officer who worked with him to get his job back and they gave him the run around. He was told by the Contractor if it was up to them they would not have hired him at all.

Eric Cohen, Compliance Officer for the City, explained the procurement process as it relates to city projects. What is at issue, is that by the time they look to get support from Contractors on hiring minorities and women on projects the projects are done.

Current city contracts call for 11% minority businesses and 5% women owned businesses. Waivers can be granted case by case if needed.

Richard Calderon, Assistant Procurement Officer, explained that they go to pre-bid conferences to tell companies what is required when bidding. However, there really isn't an enforcement mechanism in place.

All agreed there was a need for outreach to secure qualified people, certified by the State that contractors can reach out to locally. There are many upcoming projects that still need to be addressed, Quitticas and the Airport expansion.

Eric Cohen stated that the good faith efforts are put forth by the city and not the contractors. He has even begun to keep a folder of qualified people and provides them to the Contractors so that they know which minority and women employees and businesses are available.

It was agreed an independent Sub-Committee should be formed to work on ideas that would strengthen the current requirements. They would report their findings to the Internal Affairs Committee and they would review and take any action if applicable.

The Sub-Committee would consist of Gus Santos, Eric Cohen, Richard Calderon, Councillor Rebeiro and Councillor Abreu. Richard Calderon, Procurement Officer would organize the meeting. The Clerk of Committee's Office would reach out to Mr. Calderon and provide contact information for the members of the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Gomes expressed his frustration that this issue has been going on for so long; that the Unions know they are taking advantage of the city and the situation. He is glad that this is moving forward the way it is.

One of the ideas of enforcement discussed was perhaps placing fines for companies that do not meet requirements set forth by the City.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter for forty-five (45) days. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 8:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Denis Lawrence, Jr.,  
Clerk of Committees