

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: MARCH 09, 2020
TIME: 7:01 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS DEBORA COELHO, CHAIRPERSON; NAOMI CARNEY, VICE CHAIRPERSON; IAN ABREU; DEREK BAPTISTE; HUGH DUNN; MARIA GIESTA; BRIAN GOMES; SCOTT LIMA; JOSEPH LOPES; WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY; LINDA MORAD

ABSENT: NO ONE

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Councillor Coelho called the Appointments & Briefings Meeting to order and took attendance; no one was absent.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, on behalf of *Jose Manuel Cabral, 56 Cottage Street, Chelsea, MA 02150 d/b/a LEONARDO'S SYSTEM CORP d/b/a PUERTA A PUERTA EXPRESS, 265 Rivet Street, New Bedford, MA 02744*, hereby submitting a copy of the Application requesting a NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford (License will expire June 30, 2020.) (Ref'd 11/26/19) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (1)

Mr. Jose Manuel Cabral, the applicant, was not present for the second time. The Clerk informed the Committee that several attempts were made to call the applicant, all were unsuccessful. They also sent letters to both addresses on file but did not receive any response.

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 COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, on behalf of *Jose Manuel Cabral, 56 Cottage Street, Chelsea, MA 02150 d/b/a LEONARDO'S SYSTEM CORP d/b/a PUERTA A PUERTA EXPRESS, 265 Rivet Street, New Bedford, MA 02744*, hereby submitting a copy of the Application requesting a NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford. (*License will expire June 30, 2020.*) 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 LEO E. CHOQUETTE, JR., New Bedford, MA to the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, as an ALTERNATE MEMBER replacing John Walsh; this term will expire December 2021 (Ref'd 2/13/20) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Carney. (2)

Leo E. Choquette, Jr. was present and answered questions from the Committee. Councillor Abreu asked about his experience and he was told he is an Attorney who is employed as a financial advisor. He is looking forward to serving the city. He can bring his love for the city and his knowledge of current events to the job. He has not attended any meetings to date. He is committed to attending all meetings and his work schedule would not conflict with the position.

Councillor Gomes asked why he was not currently practicing law and he was told the pay was not very good and he fell into financial planning.

Councillor Morad reminded him to be cognoscente that he would be making decisions that would end up affecting neighborhoods and he should keep that in mind while in the position.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Dunn, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of LEO E. CHOQUETTE, JR., New Bedford, MA to the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, as an ALTERNATE MEMBER replacing John Walsh; this term will expire December 2021. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, requesting that the salary for Ms. Judith Perkins, nominee for Director of Personnel, be established at Salary Step 3 (\$102,132.00) on the Unit C Salary Schedule (Ref'd 01/23/2020) Ms. Perkins appointment was confirmed by Council on 2/12/2020) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Lima. (3)

Councillor Gomes asked Acting Director of Human Resources Sarah Fidelix why the move from Step one to Step three. Ms. Fidelix hold him it was based on the applicant's years of experience and what she brings to the table. She has been involved with the Union bargaining process, reclassification statuses, has worked with Retirement Boards and for Cities comparable to the size of New Bedford, has twenty years of experience and she is a member of Massachusetts Municipal Association.

There were salaries reviewed from cities comparable to New Bedford for this position and they are as follows: Barnstable at \$112,000, Lowell at \$107,000 and Springfield at \$115,000.

Councillor Carney informed the Committee that she was not in support of the \$102,000 requested and that \$96,000 is a great salary and noted that not all twenty years of the applicant's service was as a Human Resources Director.

Councillor Giesta echoed the same sentiments as Councillor Carney.

Councillor Abreu asked the applicant if she had moved into the city and she told him she has not yet. She does have a place picked out and was waiting on the process to be completed.

On motion by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the salary for Ms. Judith Perkins, nominee for Director of Personnel, be established at Salary Step 3 (\$102,132) on the Unit C Salary Schedule. Tis motion PASSED on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 3, with Councillors Carney, Giesta and Morad opposed.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Abreu, Council President Lopes, Councillors Giesta, Lima, Baptiste and Carney, requesting, that the City of New Bedford look into establishing a Government Academy, similar to the program in Framingham, a six-week program where Citizens learn about the functions of City government; and further, these classes would be taught by City leaders at no cost, also requesting, that a representative from the Administration be invited to attend a Committee on Appointments and Briefings meeting to collaborate on how to move this process forward. (To be Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings.) (Ref'd 1/9/20) (4)

Councillor Abreu asked that this matter be tabled, since no one from the Mayor's Office was present at this meeting.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Markey made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Giesta.

This meeting adjourned @ 7:22 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees