



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

**MEETING: SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL PERMITS
& LICENSING**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS IAN ABREU, CHAIR; NAOMI
CARNEY (6:33); LEO CHOQUETTE; JOSEPH
LOPES**

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR SCOTT PEMBERTON

Councillor Abreu called the Special Committee on Special Permits & Licensing meeting to order, took attendance, and explained that the meeting was being recorded and live streamed. The Clerk a Communication into the record, from Councillor Carney explaining her tardiness. The Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Choquette.

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of GERALD L. RIBEIRO, New Bedford, as a CONSTABLE. (Matter ID #1191) (Referred – July 16, 2026.)

AN APPLICATION, (Matter ID #1192) (Referred – July 16, 2026.)

The Chair recognized the applicant, Gerald L. Ribeiro, New Bedford, MA. Mr. Ribeiro explained that he had worked as a Constable in the past but let his license lapse due to a serious motor vehicle accident. The accident was years ago, and Mr. Ribeiro now wished to resume working as a Constable.

Councillor Lopes asked Mr. Ribeiro if he was going to work on his own or would work for or with another Constable entity. Councillor Lopes stated that the way Constables now operate has changed since he was last one. Mr. Ribeiro stated his goal was to work on his own but knew enough colleagues in the business that he could work with should he choose.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Choquette, the Committee VOTED: to recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of GERALD L. RIBEIRO, New Bedford, as a CONSTABLE.

COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, submitting a PETITION, **Marc DeCambra, Somerset, MA d/b/a Side Quest Complete, 127 West Rodney French Boulevard, New Bedford, MA**, requesting a Waiver of Residency in accordance with Section 15-38 of the City Code, to obtain a **LICENSE TO DEAL IN JUNK, OLD METALS OR ANY OTHER SECONDHAND ARTICLES**. (Matter ID #1321) (Referred – August 25, 2026.)

The Chair recognized the applicant, Mr. Marc DeCambra, Somerset, MA. Mr. DeCambra explained that he co-owns a vintage toy store in the Kilburn Mill. He has recently moved from Taunton, MA, to Somerset MA, and is required to re-submit his Waiver of Residency to the City for approval.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Choquette, the Committee VOTED: to recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the PETITION, **Marc DeCambra, Somerset, MA d/b/a Side Quest Complete, 127 West Rodney French Boulevard, New Bedford, MA**, requesting a Waiver of Residency in accordance with Section 15-38 of the City Code, to obtain a **LICENSE TO DEAL IN JUNK, OLD METALS OR ANY OTHER SECONDHAND ARTICLES**.

This motion was not read.

RELATED MOTION, Councillor Lopes, requesting, that the City Council engage the appropriate City department heads to explore the feasibility of permitting onsite tobacco consumption, commonly referred to as Cigar Lounges. (To be Referred to the Special Committee on Special Permits and Licensing, Health Department Director Stephanie Sloan, Police Chief Jason Thody, Planning Department Director Jennifer Carloni, City Solicitor Eric Jaikes and a Representative from the Mayor's Office.) (Matter ID # 0179) (Referred – February 12, 2026.) (March 19, 2026 – tabled.)

The Chair asked the Clerk to read a letter from Police Chief Jason Thody explaining that a Representative from the Police Department will be unable to attend said meeting.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Choquette, the Committee VOTED: to receive and place on file the letter submitted by Chief Thody.

Councillor Lopes explained that since there is no pending motion to allow cannabis consumption indoors, he would ask that the item remain on the table. Councillor Lopes commented that there are multitude of establishments that allow for the indoor usage of tobacco and believes cigar bars should be allowed in the City.

The item remained on the table.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.
Clerk of Committees