

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & NEIGHBORHOODS
DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2017
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS DEBORA COELHO, CHAIRPERSON; BRIAN GOMES, VICE CHAIRMAN; NAOMI CARNEY; HUGH DUNN (7:09); DANA REBEIRO

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS IAN ABREU; JOSEPH LOPES; STEVEN MARTINS; LINDA MORAD; JAMES OLIVEIRA; KERRY WINTERSON

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DUE TO A LACK OF A QUORUM A FORMAL MEETING WAS NOT HELD. THEY DID HAVE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BUT NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON ANY MATTERS.

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The Clerk read item one as it pertains to the Committee meeting with the residents of King Village to discuss maintenance and security issues at the apartment building since the takeover by new management. (1)

Councillor Rebeiro gave an overview of her concerns and why the residents were invited to the meeting. She then asked if the residents could come to the podium and state their concerns.

Frieda Waterman of King Village apartment A109 expressed issues with windows not being able to open.

Roxanne Mendoza representing her mother Nancy Bilodeau of King Village apartment B103, gave a description of persistent mildew smells and evidence of mold. She explained she had personally approached the management company but they had not responded to her concerns. She stated the Health Department came out and believed the staining in her mother's apartment to be mold. There are issues with the air condition units; the building is constantly at 85% humidity.

Mildred Romanowicz, apartment 303 said the building needed to be cleaned up. She said there was a meeting with management in July, but nothing has come of it since they last met.

Stephanie Pulsifer of apartment B303 is handicapped and the accessibility in her apartment was supposed to be addressed 3-1/2 years ago when she moved in, to date it has not been addressed.

Linda Daigle of apartment B110 reported her side of the building is sinking; apparently there was the same issue on that side of the building years ago that had to be addressed.

Susan Framosky of apartment B210 stated that no one is in the management office, there is no security in the building, people are sleeping in the hallways, and the residents are forced to police themselves. The security cameras in the building do not work. They are required to pay their rent every month, if they are late they hear about it, but if they reach out to management on issues they receive no response.

Ruth Coleman of apartment A106 stressed that since the former management company left which was Peabody, it has been downhill ever since.

Councillors Carney and Gomes expressed their concerns on what they had heard from the tenants and offered to have the Building Department and Health Department get involved. They had hoped they would be able to revisit the item in thirty (30) days with a full Committee.

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A discussion took place on item number two as it related to a motion asking the Fire Department and DFFM to explain the issues of a shortage of fire apparatus in the city. (2)

Fire Chief Gomes explained to the Committee that they had to take some engines off line because of safety issues, but that as of this discussion, Ladder One was repaired and ready to go on line, Reserve Ladder Three was on line, two new engines were to go on line within the next few weeks allowing them to retire some very old apparatus, dating back to the early ninety's.

Commissioner Blanchard of DFFM explained that fire apparatus repair receive top priority from his repair staff, but they are beholden to the fire apparatus vendor they use when they have to ship out a unit, for the vendor is the only one local and all the other Fire Departments use them as well.

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Councillor Coelho announced that there would be no discussion on item number four (4).

Items three (3), five (5) and six (6) discussions took place as it related to welcoming Captain Amos Melo on his promotion as the new Commander at Station 3. Five (5) was a discussion on the misuse of recreational vehicles, e.g. scooters in the city and Six (6) was a discussion on the vagrant issue at the Post Office at 282 Coffin Avenue.

Captain Melo thanked the Committee for their congratulations and he spoke to his belief in a companywide community policing program, where all officers are out in the communities they serve and that they are actually getting out of their vehicles and interacting in the neighborhoods they're appointed to. He cited an increase in arrests and citations since he took command, not to show they are penalizing people, but that they are involved in the communities they serve and let those in the area know that they are involved. He addressed that the police cannot arrest people for simply loitering, that

there has to be a criminal activity taking place. He explained he meets bi-weekly with the COMSTAT Team and reviews trends and upticks in certain neighborhoods, so they know where a deeper concentration of officers may be needed. He informed those present that the NBPd has a zero tolerance towards the misuse of recreational vehicles in the city. As far as the vagrant in front of the Post Office, they are working on this issue with the CCIT, (Community Crisis Intervention Team) and are working on an action plan to address this issue. He explained there is a meeting planned at St. Andrews Church on the 25th of October to discuss this very issue.

This completed the discussion for the evening; this informal meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees