



# Committee on Finance

January 25, 2017 – 7:00 PM – **Minutes**  
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

**MEETING:** COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
**DATE:** JANUARY 25, 2017  
**TIME:** 7:00 P.M.  
**PLACE:** CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

**PRESENT:** COUNCILLORS LINDA MORAD, CHAIRPERSON; JAMES OLIVEIRA, VICE CHAIRMAN; IAN ABREU; HENRY BOUSQUET; NAOMI CARNEY; BRIAN GOMES (7:02); JOSEPH LOPES; STEVEN MARTINS; DANA REBEIRO; KERRY WINTERSON

**ABSENT:** COUNCILLOR DEBORA COELHO

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Councillor Morad called the Finance Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read a Communication from Councillor Coelho explaining her absence. This Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Carney.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Derek Santos, Executive Director, New Bedford Economic Development Council, to Members of the City Council, submitting STA application and Resolution approved by the Tax Increment Financing Board for a five (5) year STA Agreement for **Quality Custom Packing, Inc.**, 25 Wright Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 (Ref'd 1/12/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Martins. (1, 1a)

Derek Santos, Executive Director of Economic Development, informed the Committee that the Resolution has changed and submitted a new Resolution to the Committee. He pointed out that paragraph six (6) changed from 32 permanent full time jobs to 5 permanent full time jobs. The Committee VOTED on motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Carney to adopt the Resolution as proposed. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Michael St. Ours, 18 Wright Street, New Bedford, MA, owner of Quality Custom Packing, was present to address the Committee and answer any questions the Committee might have. Mr. Santos and Mr. St. Ours discussed the following:

Quality Custom Packing has been in business in New Bedford at South Terminal since 2000, over the years they have expanded to 32 employees. They are currently looking to expand their business to a location across the street from their present location and look to add approximately 21 new jobs. All of the current employees on the existing site will be retained. They expect to begin hiring within the next 1 to 1-1/2 months. The jobs will pay between \$13 and \$15 per hour and include benefits.

Councillor Lopes expressed his pleasure with the STA that it was ideal for the city.

Councillor Carney asked if the additional 21 new jobs would happen over the five years of the STA. She was told they would, but Mr. St. Ours hopes to add the positions sooner than 5 years and of the 21 positions 2-3 would be management and the remainder of the positions would be non-managerial positions.

Councillor Oliveira asked if the company intends to work with the WIB and New Directions to fill the positions and he was told they were.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To received and place on file the new language submitted by Mr. Santos. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the STA application and Resolution, AS AMENDED, and approved by the Tax Increment Financing Board for a five (5) year STA Agreement for **Quality Custom Packing, Inc.**, 25 Wright Street, New Bedford, MA 02740. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Derek Santos, Executive Director, New Bedford Economic Development Council, to Members of the City Council, submitting STA application and Resolution approved by the Tax Increment Financing Board for a five (5) year STA Agreement for **Freedom Restoration and Cleaning**, 1440 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 (Ref'd 1/12/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Winterson. (2, 2a)

Derek Santos, Executive Director of Economic Development gave an overview of the proposal along with Mr. Randy Santerre, 1440 Purchase Street, and owner of the company. They informed the Committee that this is a new business coming to New Bedford from Rhode Island. The location near the Serve Pro Restoration Company on Purchase Street is the old Morencey Carpet building. Six employees will be coming over to the new business from Rhode Island, and they will be adding an additional six new jobs under the agreement.

Councillor Lopes expressed his pleasure that the owner is putting in \$310,000 in restorations to the building. Currently the owner has invested \$210,000 in renovations and can see it topping out at \$350,000.

Mr. Santerre informed the Committee that the starting salary is \$16.00 per hour and includes benefits. The business will deal in primarily carpet cleaning, high end and fine carpet cleaning as well. He has a non-compete clause with Serve Pro and will not do things like fire restoration and Serve Pro will pay them for referrals. He wants to work well with the businesses in the area. He was looking to branch into the area and was introduced to the Morencey family who were selling their business by his realtor. He took a liking to them bought the building and convinced the Morencey's who were to retire to stay on a few more years to help establish the business. New hires will be New Bedford residents and he is working with WIB and New Directions to fill the positions. He is looking to grow the company and hopes to have more than 12 employees as the business grows in the area.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the STA application and Resolution approved by the Tax Increment Financing Board for a five (5) year STA Agreement for **Freedom Restoration and Cleaning**, 1440 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA 02740. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 7:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Denis Lawrence, Jr.,  
Clerk of Committees