

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: AUGUST 31, 2020
TIME: 7:12 P.M.
PLACE: HELD REMOTELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS' MARCH 12, 2020 ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW G. L. C. 30A, SECTION 20 AND THE CITY COUNCIL'S VOTE TO WAIVE RULE 21A

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

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR IAN ABREU

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Councillor Carney called the Appointments & Briefings Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read a Communication from Councillor Abreu explaining his absence from this meeting. This Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Coelho.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a PUBLIC HEARING on an APPLICATION, Melissa El Ghobry, d/b/a Enzo Auto Sales, for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicles Sales & Rentals, at 297 Belleville Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02746 (Application rec'd 7/20/2020) (Duly advertised in the Standard-Times on August 17, 2020 and August 24, 2020.) was received and placed on file and the hearing opened by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Markey. (1)

Melissa El Ghobry, 152 Naples Avenue, Warwick, RI was present and addressed the Committee. She explained she has worked in the used car business for the past five years and wanted to open and run her own business. When she heard that New Bedford Auto Sales was shutting down she visited the location and thought this would be a good location to start her business; so, she made the move to purchase the business from the previous owners.

Councillor Gomes thanked her for taking the time to meet with him when she was looking at the location. He asked Ms. Ghobry if she intended to rent vehicles from this location and she said no, she was going to focus on selling cars as she starts out on her own.

Councillor Morad asked her how many employees there would be, and she was told just two to start, one to handle the financing part of the business and herself. Her hours of operation would be Monday through Saturday from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm; with no Sunday hours. She told the Committee that she would not have any repairs done at this location.

Councillor Morad asked Commissioner Romanowicz if he visited the site and he stated he had. She asked him if there is room for twelve cars to be sold at the location and he said yes, with two additional spots for employee vehicles to be parked on site. He informed the Committee that the building is brand new and built to code.

Ms. Luci Bizarro of 225 Gaffney Road, Dartmouth, MA, owner of the property spoke in favor of the property, and, also spoke very highly of Ms. El Ghobry and believed she would be successful in this business.

Councillor Carney asked if there was anyone who wished to speak or be recorded in favor of this petition and Ms. Bizarro said she wanted to be recorded in favor of this petition.

Councillor Carney asked if there was anyone who wished to speak or be recorded in opposition of this petition; there was none. The hearing was closed.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPLICATION, Melissa El Ghobry, d/b/a Enzo Auto Sales, for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Sales, and striking the words "& Rentals" at 297 Belleville Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02746. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 7:30 p.m.

ATTEST:



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees