

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2020
TIME: 7:07 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 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 Committee Meeting to order and took attendance, everyone was present.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the REAPPOINTMENT of GARY CORREIA, New Bedford, MA to the AIRPORT COMMISSION; this term will expire December 2020 (Ref'd 08/20/2020) was received and placed on file by Councillor Dunn and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (1)

Gary Correia was not present currently at this meeting.

On motion by Councillor Dunn and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. 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 REAPPOINTMENT of CARLOS DACUNHA, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the AIRPORT COMMISSION; this term will expire December 2020 (Ref'd 08/20/2020) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (2)

Carlos DaCunha, New Bedford, was present to answer questions from the Committee. He read a statement into the record, that he worked with Councillor Morad, and per advisement he was notifying the Committee that her vote may be considered a conflict of interest.

Attorney David Gerwatowski was present and after review of Mr. DaCunha's statement he informed the Committee that Councillor Morad's participation in voting for Mr. DaCunha's appointment would not be a conflict of interest.

Mr. DaCunha gave an overview of his tenure on the Airport Commission. He sited some of the projects he supported since 2013. These included, airline service to Nantucket, T-Hanger Development on property, expansion of Bridgewater State University's role at the Airport.

Councillor Lopes asked Mr. DaCunha if his business background assists him on the Board, and he said it did.

Councillor Giesta asked how many years he had served on the Commission and he stated he believed it was between six and seven years. She asked about his attendance which was at 72%. He said he attends as many meetings as possible. He attends the regularly scheduled meetings, but if the dates are changed then that may be a time he might not be able to attend.

Councillor Gomes asked Mr. DaCunha about his other involvements in the City. He said he was on the Steering Committee for the Waterfront Development Plan; he is part of the Mayor's CFO Group; and a member of the Prince Henry Society. Councillor Gomes asked about his involvement with Elite Airlines. He said he supported the initiative, but it did not turn out how he would have liked it to be.

Councillor Markey asked Mr. DaCunha about his thoughts about moving forward on the Commission. He was told he would like to see a business plan in place to guide the future of the Airport to include, aviation management, supplement commercial service, improve the image of the Airport and make the Airport self-sustaining.

Councillor Morad spoke on the question, she sated her disappointment that the candidate was advised that her vote may be considered a conflict of interest, she is not sure of the reasoning. She stated she has concerns with all the candidates that are before them.

On motion by Councillor Dunn and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the REAPPOINTMENT of CARLOS DACUNHA, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the AIRPORT COMMISSION; this term will expire December 2020. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 2, with Councillors Giesta and Morad opposed and Councillor Gomes not present for the vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the REAPPOINTMENT of GARY CORREIA, New Bedford, MA, to the AIRPORT COMMISSION; this term will expire in December 2020 (Ref'd 08/20/2020) (Tabled 9/14/2020) was removed from the table and received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Lima. (1)

Gary Correia of New Bedford, MA was present to address the Committee.

Councillor Morad expressed her concerns that the applicant has missed more than 50% of the Airport meetings.

Mr. Correia stated he did not realize it was that many meetings he missed. He did state the meetings he missed were due to flights he was making as he is professional pilot; and that he was dealing with his daughter in high school. He would attend as many meetings as possible and has attended some over the phone while traveling to the meeting.

Councillor Lima read the applicant's accomplishments.

Councillor Markey stressed that meeting attendance is important.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the REAPPOINTMENT of GARY CORREIA, New Bedford, MA to the AIRPORT COMMISSION; this term will expire December 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 REAPPOINTMENT of WILLIAM PETER GUSHUE, New Bedford, MA, to the AIRPORT COMMISSION; this term will expire in December 2022 (Ref'd 08/20/2020) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Markey. (3)

William Peter Gushue, New Bedford was present and addressed the Committee.

Councillor Markey asked the applicant about his vision for the Airport. He was told he would like to see more commercial flights in or out of the Airport. He would like to see an increase of airline base and more attention paid to the Airport as a resource. He believes the Airport is under-utilized by the public.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the REAPPOINTMENT of WILLIAM PETER GUSHUE, New Bedford, MA, to the AIRPORT COMMISSION; this term will expire in December 2022. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote Yeas 9, Nays 1, with Councillor Morad opposed and Councillor Gomes not present for the vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a REPORT, Committee on Appointments & Briefings, recommending to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of PAULA POPEO, New Bedford, MA to the AIRPORT COMMISSION, replacing Paul L. Barton; this term will expire December 2021 (Ref'd 08/20/2020) and a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of PAULA POPEO, New Bedford, MA to the AIRPORT COMMISSION, replacing Paul L. Barton; this term will expire December 2021 (Ref'd 08/20/2020) were received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (4, 4a)

Paula Popeo, New Bedford, MA was present to answer questions from the Committee.

Councillor Morad expressed her frustration that she had asked the Chair of the Committee to hold a meeting with the Director of the Airport to discuss what he would be looking for in a Commission Member; unfortunately, this did not happen. She asked the applicant if she had been to a meeting in the three months she has been waiting to be appointed and she was told she had not.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Dunn, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of PAULA POPEO, New Bedford, to the AIRPORT COMMISSION, replacing Paul L. Barton; this term will expire December 2021. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 1, with Councillor Morad opposed and Councillor Gomes not present for the vote.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 8:16 p.m.

ATTEST:



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees