

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON CITY PROPERTY
DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2020
TIME: 7:01 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 WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY, CHAIRMAN;
NAOMI CARNEY, VICE CHAIRPERSON; IAN ABREU; DEREK
BAPTISTE; HUGH DUNN; MARIA GIESTA; JOSEPH LOPES;
LINDA MORAD

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS DEBORA COELHO; BRIAN GOMES; SCOTT
LIMA

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Councillor Markey called the City Property Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. Everyone was present except for Councillors Coelho, Gomes and Lima.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, authorizing the City to execute a Lease between the City of New Bedford and David Street, LLC for the purpose of housing furniture donations for the Department of Community Services' Fresh Start Program (Ref'd 08/20/2020) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (1, 1a)

Cynthia Wallquist, Director of Community Services was present and addressed the Committee. She explained that the Fresh Start Program, which started a few years ago with donations of furniture that could be used for those that suffer the loss of a home by fire or providing furniture to a former homeless person. The program simply took off, everyone wanted to donate furniture to this program. They need a larger location to store property; the turnover is incredible. They have seen nearly sixty (60) tons of property distributed to those in need since the program's inception.

They have secured a new site that has a loading dock and a freight elevator which makes it easier to accept and distribute property.

Councillor Morad asked why the city was looking to rent space when there are so many empty buildings that the city owns and if she reached out to Mark Champagne of DFFM to see if there was such a space. She was told that they had not, but that the goal was to have a building with easy access, with ground level access, loading dock and elevator.

Councillor Lopes asked about the terms of the lease. He was told by Attorney Tom Matthews of the City Solicitor's Office that it is a one-year lease at 2.51 square feet for approximately \$15,060 per year. It is under the 30B limit which means it did not have to go out to bid. The monthly rent is \$1,255 and they do have an option within the lease to extend it.

Councillor Markey asked if there were other tenants in the building and he was told yes, but the landlord has been amazing over the three years that they have occupied a smaller space. He asked if the lease was a standard lease and he was told yes it was.

Attorney David Gerwatowski explained to the Committee that they would have to take two votes, one to acquire the property by lease and the second to refer to the full City Council recommending approval.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee on City Property acquire the David Street LLC Property by rent under the terms of the draft lease provided by the Administration. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Dunn, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council Approval of the ORDER, authorizing the City to execute a Lease between the City of New Bedford and David Street, LLC for the purpose of housing furniture donations for the Department of Community Services' Fresh Start Program. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 7:16 p.m.

ATTEST:



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees