

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: MAY 18, 2021
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 NAOMI CARNEY, CHAIRPERSON (REMOTELY); WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY, VICE CHAIRMAN (REMOTELY); IAN ABREU (REMOTELY); DEREK BAPTISTE (REMOTELY); DEBORA COELHO (REMOTELY); HUGH DUNN (REMOTELY); MARIA GIESTA (REMOTELY); BRIAN GOMES (REMOTELY); SCOTT LIMA (REMOTELY); JOSEPH LOPES (REMOTELY); LINDA MORAD (REMOTELY)

ABSENT: NO ONE

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Councillor Carney 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 APPOINTMENT of JODY GONSALVES SEIVERT, New Bedford, MA to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; replacing Sylvia Gomes who has resigned; this term will expire April 2021 (Ref'd 03/25/2021) was received and placed on file by Councillor Giesta and seconded by Councillor Lopes. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 11, Nays 0, Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes. (1)

The Clerk announced there was a typo on the date this term will expire it should be April 2024 not April 2021; there was no objection, so the date will be changed.

Jody Seivert, New Bedford, MA was present (remotely) and addressed the Committee. She told the Committee she was born and raised in New Bedford, left in 1979 and returned in 2009. She works in the field of Historic Preservation, has numerous degrees in her area of expertise. She is a business owner in the City and has restored two historical homes, one in which she currently lives. She has always enjoyed public service and feels that this is a perfect fit for her giving back to her community.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of JODY GONSALVES SEIVERT, New Bedford, MA to the COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE; replacing Sylvia Gomes who has

resigned; this term will expire April 2024. This motion passed on a Roll Call vote of Yeas 11, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell to the City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of AUDRA DEPINA, New Bedford, MA, to the COMMISSION FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES, replacing Susan J. Brewster who has resigned. This term will expire in May 2022 (Ref'd 04/22/2021) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Giesta. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 11, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes. (2)

Audra DePina, New Bedford, MA, gave an overview of her qualifications that would allow her to serve on this Commission. She is a life-long resident of New Bedford, who has, overtime, lost her sight. So, she is very familiar with those born with and or who became disabled. She is active with the National Association for The Blind and the American Association for The Blind. She is looking forward to the challenges the Board may have to offer. She was asked if there was anything she would immediately bring to the table of the Commission. She explained there were many issues that she would champion, for example, sidewalk issues, crossing area issues and beach area access for the sight impaired.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of AUDRA DEPINA, New Bedford, MA, to the COMMISSION FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES, replacing Susan J. Brewster who has resigned. This term will expire in May 2022. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes and Councillor Baptiste not present for the vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell to the City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of ROMEO DEMETRIUS BRITTO, New Bedford, MA, 02744, as a CONSTABLE (Ref'd 04/22/2021) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Markey. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 11, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes. (3)

Romeo Demetrius Britto, New Bedford, MA was present (remotely) to answer questions from the Committee. He explained he was a life-long resident of the City, who was previously a Constable but let his appointment lapse; he is now reapplying for the appointment. Currently, he is employed by Meals on Wheels but hopes someday to take on enough business that he can start his own constable business. He currently has a few lawyers that he will be working for.

Councillor Baptiste spoke in favor of his appointment and stated that he would do a great job as a Constable.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of ROMEO DEMETRIUS BRITTO, New Bedford, MA, 02744, as a CONSTABLE. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 11, Nays 0, with Councillor Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a PETITION, Michael Goldstein, Boston, MA 02118, d/b/a EMPIRE LOAN OF NEW BEDFORD, 1304 Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02746, requesting that he be granted a Waiver of Residency in accordance with Section 15-38 of the City Code, to obtain a LICENSE TO DEAL IN JUNK, OLD METALS OR ANY OTHER SECOND HAND ARTICLES & PAWNBROKER. (Ref'd 04/08/2021) (4)

Michael Goldstein, Boston, MA was not present to address the Committee.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Councillor Morad not present for the vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Abreu and Baptiste, requesting that Marco Li Mandri, President of "New City America, Inc.," appear before the Committee on Appointments & Briefings, to discuss the New Bedford Business Improvement District (Community Benefit District) proposal for 2021, which would be formed under the regulations set forth in Section 6 of Chapter 400 of the General Laws of Massachusetts (To be Referred to the Committee on Appointments & Briefings, Marco Li Mandri of "New City America, Inc.," James DeMello of the DeMello International Center, Kevin Carter of Carter's Clothing & Footwear and Jeff Pontiff of E.J. Pontiff Real Estate.) (Ref'd 03/25/2021) and a COMMUNICATION, Councillor Abreu, submitting a copy of the "New City America, Inc.'s New Bedford Business Improvement District (Community Benefit District) proposal for 2021 (To be Referred to the Committee on Appointments & Briefings.) (Ref'd 03/25/2021) were received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Gomes. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes, with Councillors Coelho, Gomes and Morad not present for the vote. (5, 5a)

Marco Li Mandri, New City America, Inc., Kevin Carter, Carter's Clothing, James DeMello, DeMello International Center, Jeff Pontiff, E.J. Pontiff Real Estate were present (remotely) to address the Committee.

Mr. Li Mandri explained that this company New City America, works with business improvement districts to change state legislation in allowing city business districts to create their own market organizations. Currently there are only 7 such organizations in MA.

Kevin Carter of Carter's Clothing stated he was in favor of establishing such a district in New Bedford.

Jim DeMello of the DeMello International Center expressed his support of the district as did Jeff Pontiff of Pontiff Realty.

Mr. Li Mandri explained to the Committee that it would take approximately \$260,000 annually to operate such a project, which would encompass marketing, maintenance, and improvement of the downtown business district. The City would contribute \$46,000 per year from the Parking Enterprise Fund. The Administration, through Christina Connelly, who was present (remotely) stated the Mayor is in support of this project.

Mr. Li Mandri told the Committee the budget breakdown would be \$66,000 for cleaning and beautification, \$133,000 in marketing and \$48,000 in administration advocacy. He went on to explain that the City Council would need to approve/endorse the project. The proponents of the program would need to secure 51% of the downtown businesses to pay into the district, this would be done by having them sign a petition. If successful, the proposal would be sent off to the State Legislature for approval. Once approved they would begin generating revenue with a start-up date of 2022.

Several questions were asked by Councillors Lopes, Markey, and Lima on how other programs like the one proposed have been successful. Mr. Li Mandri gave several successes. He explained that the financial contribution depends on the size of the business in the downtown area and the number of businesses that sign on. The average would be \$700 and \$2,000 per year. The maximum cap would be \$10,000.

Councillor Dunn mentioned how he met with Mr. Li Mandri in San Diego, CA and explored a similar district in their Little Italy section. He voiced his support of this initiative and was impressed with the way it is operated. He also made mention that the initiative took the idea of the large Adirondack chair from the Black Whale and incorporated it in the Little Italy schematic, and it has been a success.

Councillor Baptiste, expressed his support of the project and that it was his hope that this initiative would attract all cultures and be inviting to people of color to establish businesses in the Downtown area. Mr. Li Mandri stated that this is one of the major goals of the New City America platform.

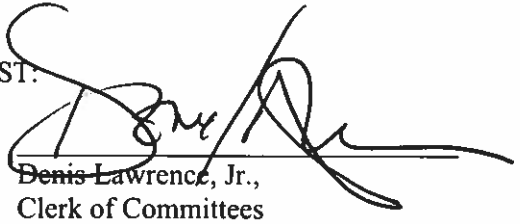
On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Lima, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council that the New Bedford City Council go on record in support of the formation of the Downtown Community Benefits District presented by the New City America, Inc. Massachusetts Office. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; and Councillors Coelho, Gomes and Morad not present for vote.

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Councillor Lopes made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Abreu. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Councillors Coelho, Gomes and Morad not present for the vote.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:18 p.m.

ATTEST:



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees