

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: APRIL 19, 2022
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS NAOMI CARNEY, CHAIRPERSON; IAN ABREU; SHANE BURGO; HUGH DUNN; MARIA GIESTA; BRIAN GOMES; SCOTT LIMA; WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY; LINDA MORAD; RYAN PEREIRA

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR DEREK BAPTISTE, VICE CHAIRMAN

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Councillor Carney called the Appointments & Briefings Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk announced he received a call from Councillor Baptiste stating he would not be present at tonight's meeting.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the REAPPOINTMENT of CELEINE SARAIVA, New Bedford, MA to the PROBLEM PROPERTIES APPEALS PANEL; this term will expire June 2024 (Ref'd 02/24/2022) (03/22/2022 – tabled until the Committee can meet in person) was removed from the table and received and placed on file by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (1)

Celeine Saraiva, New Bedford, was present and explained that she has been on the Panel since 2019 and they have only dealt with one issue. The Committee asked Ms. Saraiva if she had a preference of what board she would like to serve on as she was being recommended for the Council on Aging as well. She stated she would like to serve on both, but if she had to choose, she would like to serve on the Problem Properties Appeals Panel.

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the REAPPOINTMENT of CELEINE SARAIVA, New Bedford, MA to the PROBLEM PROPERTIES APPEALS PANEL; this term will expire June 2024. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of CELEINE M. SARAIVA, New Bedford, MA to the COUNCIL ON AGING, replacing the late William E. Jennings; this term will expire June 2024 (Ref'd 03/10/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Dunn. (2)

Celeine Saraiva, New Bedford, was present and explained that she felt qualified for the position and is extremely interested in serving on the Council.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of CELEINE M. SARAIVA, New Bedford, MA to the COUNCIL ON AGING, replacing the late William E. Jennings; this term will expire June 2024. 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 APPOINTMENT of RAMON SILVA, New Bedford, MA to the AIRPORT COMMISSION, Mr. Silva will be replacing William Peter Gushue, who has resigned; this term will expire December 2022 (Ref'd 03/24/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Lima. (3)

Ramon Silva, New Bedford, was present and addressed the Committee. He told the Committee that he was in favor of a helicopter pad or landing facility at the airport. He explained that he saw the airport as a major drive towards economic development specifically in the area of cargo, construction, and service. He also, stated he was in favor of commercial airlines in the city as well.

Mr. Silva was asked if he found his day position as a member of the New Bedford Economic Development Commission to conflict with this position and he stated that he did not; but that if an issue did come up, he would recuse himself from voting at either one.

Councillor Morad offered up reservations in a city and/or quasi city employee serving on Boards. She was not in favor of this appointment, though stressed it had nothing to do with the applicant.

On motion by Councillor Dunn and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of RAMON SILVA, New Bedford, MA, to the AIRPORT COMMISSION, Mr. Silva will be replacing William Peter Gushue, who has resigned; this term will expire December 2022. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 1, with Councillor Morad opposed.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of LISA DUNAWAY, New Bedford, MA to the ELECTION COMMISSION, Ms. Dunaway will be replacing Heather Heffernan, who has resigned; this term will expire April 2025 (Ref'd 03/24/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Markey. (4)

Lisa Dunaway, New Bedford, was present and explained she was a lifelong resident in the city. She worked for the city for five (5) years then moved to the School Department where she worked for thirty-one (31) years and retired as the Senior Executive Assistant to the Superintendent. She began her career with the city when she was seventeen (17) years old working for the Elections office. She had wanted to serve on a Board once retired and found it fitting to service on the Election Board.

On motion by Councillor Markey and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of LISA DUNAWAY, New Bedford, MA to the ELECTION COMMISSION, Ms. Dunaway will be replacing Heather Heffernan, who has resigned; this term will expire April 2025. 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 APPOINTMENT of JOAO GILMETE, New Bedford, MA 02744, as a CONSTABLE (Ref'd 03/10/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (5)

Joao Gilmete, New Bedford, was present and addressed the Committee. He explained that he grew up in New Bedford and was looking for an opportunity to serve as a Constable. He knows several law enforcement personnel who suggested he look into this area. He intends to start slow in the business as he is currently employed as a Barber, cutting hair. He believes the opportunity to be a Constable is the perfect place for him to start.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of JOAO GILMETE, New Bedford, MA 02744, as a CONSTABLE. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Items six (6) and seven (7) were taken up together without objection.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, on behalf of Frank Vasquez, 1049 Cove Road, New Bedford, MA 02744, d/b/a KINGDOM TRANSPORTATION, 1049 Cove Road, New Bedford, MA 02744 hereby submitting a copy of the Application requesting a NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE, to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford (License will expire June 30, 2022.) (Ref'd 03/24/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (6)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, on behalf of Frank Vasquez, 1049 Cove Road, New Bedford, MA 02744, d/b/a KINGDOM TRANSPORTATION, 1049 Cove Road, New Bedford, MA 02744 hereby submitting a copy of the Application requesting a RENEWAL of a PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE, to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford (Term of License July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.) (Ref'd 03/24/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (7)

Frank Vasquez, 1049 Cove Road, New Bedford, was present and addressed the Committee. He explained he has lived in New Bedford for thirty-five (35) years, has had a rough life, and has been granted a second chance. He has spent most of his life in the transportation business and is currently a Lyft driver. He has decided that he wanted to branch out and has recently purchased a vehicle to start a livery business. He will cater to all types of livery services, seniors, doctor office runs, airport runs, etc. Currently he will be a one-man operation but has hopes of growing his business, but he wants to start

slowly. He will have two vehicles, one that is rented through the Lift Program and a second, a Toyota Prius, which he has recently purchased. He will park the vehicles at his home he has a driveway which allows for off-street parking.

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL on behalf of Frank Vasquez, 1049 Cove Road, New Bedford, MA 02744, d/b/a KINGDOM TRANSPORTATION, 1049 Cove Road, New Bedford, MA 02744 of the Application requesting a NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE, to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford. (License will expire June 30, 2022.) This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL on behalf of Frank Vasquez, 1049 Cove Road, New Bedford, MA 02744, d/b/a KINGDOM TRANSPORTATION, 1049 Cove Road, New Bedford, MA 02744 of the Application requesting a RENEWAL of a PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE, to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford. (Term of License July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). This motion passed on a voice vote.

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On motion by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To waive the reading, follow the Chairs recommendation of "No Further Action" and refer out to the City Council on items eight (8) and nine (9). This motion passed on a voice vote. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a RELATED MOTION, Councillor Morad, that the City Clerk forward to the Administration a request for updated attendance records from July 2021 to February 24, 2022 for the reappointments of David Kennedy to the Redevelopment Authority, Paul Chasse to the Redevelopment Authority and Celeine Saraiva to the Problem Properties Appeal Panel; and that said attendance records be forwarded to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings prior to these reappointments being heard in Committee. (Ref'd 02/24/2022) (8)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of LISA P. DUNAWAY, New Bedford, MA to the ELECTION COMMISSION, replacing Henry Bousquet; this term will expire April 2025. (Ref'd 03/10/2022) (9)

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

This meeting adjourned @ 7:41 p.m.

ATTEST.



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees