

**NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MEETING: SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING & HOMELESS AFFAIRS**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2022**

**TIME: 6:32 P.M.**

**PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS SHANE BURGO, CHAIRMAN; DEREK BAPTISTE, VICE CHAIRMAN; MARIA GIESTA; SCOTT LIMA; RYAN PEREIRA**

**ABSENT: NO ONE**

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Councillor Burgo called the Special Committee on Affordable Housing & Homeless Affairs to order and took attendance, everyone was present. Also in attendance were Councillors Ian Abreu, Naomi Carney, Brian Gomes, William Brad Markey and Linda Morad, although they are not members of this Committee.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Affordable Housing & Homeless Affairs meet to discuss the present housing shortage and cost in the City, and further, that the Administration explain how it's dealing with this present housing crisis in New Bedford (Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings – November 23, 2021; To be Referred to the Committee on Affordable Housing and Homeless Affairs) (Ref'd 05/24/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Giesta. (1)

A motion was made by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Giesta, to receive and place on file an email from Marcelina Pina-Christian, Human Services Coordinator for Neighborhood Outreach and Human Relations explaining her reason for not attending this meeting.

Councillor Gomes informed the Committee of the reason he brought this issue to the Committee due to the increase of rents currently happening in the city forcing many people out of housing.

Lori Moring, Acting Director of Housing and Community Development There are several programs available through HUD and the Federal Government as well as the State and City. Programs like GAP financing to subsidize rents along with financial assistance programs to help homeowners with repairs so the residents can stay in their homes.

Councillor Pereira echoed the call for more affordable housing in the city, however, he expressed his concern that the current administration does not have the appetite for additional low- and moderate-income housing.

Councillor Lima asked Ms. Moring to give an overview of the ARPA funded housing projects currently in the city. She explained that 118 Union Street, 117 Union Street, the old Holy Family School, and Hillman Street were projects currently underway.

Councillor Gomes stated that while he was happy to hear of these projects, but his main concern is those that are in trouble now and need immediate assistance.

Ms. Moring suggested that those individuals requiring immediate assistance should contact the Department of Housing and Community Development directly and they would be in the position to determine which would be the best course of action for that individual. However, there is a very real need for additional housing in the city.

Councillor Baptiste stated that he knew of several contractors that are looking at New Bedford but are then deciding against it due to the red tape a company must go through to secure the proper permitting to build low income and affordable housing.

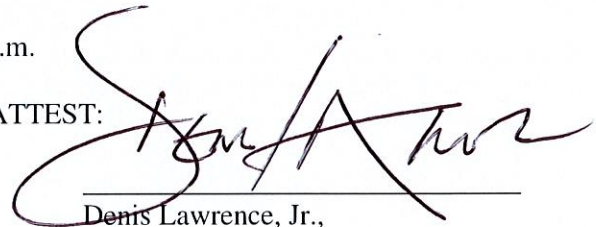
Steve Tedeschi, from State Representative Chris Hendricks' Office was present and stated that Representative Hendricks was recently able to secure a \$410,000 Economic Bill that will allow PACE and PAACA some aid to assist such people.

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Baptiste, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Giesta made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Baptiste. This motion passed on a voice vote.

This meeting adjourned @ 7:02 p.m.

ATTEST:



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,  
Clerk of Committees