

**NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & NEIGHBORHOODS**  
**DATE: MAY 22, 2019**  
**TIME: 7:14 P.M.**  
**PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS BRIAN GOMES, CHAIRMAN; DEBORA COELHO, VICE CHAIRPERSON; NAOMI CARNEY; HUGH DUNN; SCOTT LIMA; JOSEPH LOPES; DANA REBEIRO**

**ABSENT: COUNCILLORS IAN ABREU; MARIA GIESTA; WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY; LINDA MORAD**

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Councillor Gomes called the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read Communications from Councillors Abreu, Giesta and Morad explaining their absences from this meeting. These Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Lima. The Clerk received a phone message from Councillor Markey stating he was unable to attend this meeting.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with Police Chief Cordeiro and a representative from the Mayor's Office to discuss the immediate implementation of Active Threat Resolution training for all Officers, requesting also a list of all specially trained officers within the department, these Officers with the special training and certification can be used to train other Officers within the department; and further, that training immediately go into effect making our department ready for possible active shooter situations, also known as the Active Shooter Response Team; and further, that the Police Department provide the City Council's Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods with a list of schools and City public buildings that have received ALICE Training (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuation, teaching staff what their options are if there is an active threat situation. (Ref'd 2/22/18) (5/12/18-tabled; 11/29/18-tabled 90 days)

Chief Cordeiro was not present for this meeting.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Lima, the Committee VOTED: To keep this matter on the table. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods meet with a Representative of Avigilon Surveillance Camera Company, a Representative of America Security the company responsible for the installation and monitoring of City Hall surveillance cameras, Police Chief Cordeiro, Department of Facilities and Fleet Management Director Mark Champagne, and a Representative of the Mayor's Office for the purpose of discussing the break-in that occurred at City Hall, and whether all security

and camera systems were in working order; further, requesting that outside cameras be installed at the north west, north east, south east and south west corners of City Hall; and further, that a surveillance monitor system be placed in City Hall in an assigned office of the Police Officer of the day, along with a recording system that records all movements of the interior and exterior of City Hall 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and all cameras be hooked up to the Police Department's surveillance system (To be Referred to the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods.) (Ref'd 2/28/19) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Lima.

Mark Champagne, DFFM Commissioner was present to address the Committee and discuss security measures and systems being put in place in City Hall after the recent break-in.

Councillor Rebeiro asked how long it has been since City Hall was broken into and Commissioner Champagne stated he has been working for the city for five years and there have been no break-ins until recently. Many Councillors voiced the number of years they have been in office and there have been no break-ins during their time. She also asked if there are other steps that can be taken other than cameras that can be followed by departments and offices within City Hall to prevent future break-ins. She suggested a list of preventive suggestions be created and distributed.

Councillor Lopes asked if the security cameras in place live feeds and he was told no, that they record and provide back up.

Councillor Gomes asked what will be put in place. Commissioner Champagne explained there are conversations going on now on how to improve the security systems in City Hall and the Library. The system they currently use is antiquated and that they are looking to price a security system and include it in a future capital bond. Councillor Gomes said he would like to see a price for security cameras for the exterior and interior of City Hall. Commissioner Champagne stated he could come up with a price and forward it to Councillor Gomes.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: That DFFM come up with an estimate to install cameras on the exterior and interior of City Hall and to come up with a list of preventive suggestions to be distributed to department and offices within City Hall to prevent future break-ins. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter for forty-five (45) days. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Item numbers four (4) through seven (7) were taken out of order without objection and the readings were waived. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Carney, Gomes, Abreu and Markey, on behalf of the south end neighborhood groups, requesting that a traffic study be conducted on Brock Avenue at the intersection of Cove Road, to determine the best traffic flow for the new public safety building; further that this matter be referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, and that Police Chief Cordeiro, Fire Chief Gomes, EMS Director McGraw, Deputy DPI Commissioner Silva,



Executive Secretary to the Traffic Commissioner Downing and Celeine Saraiva from the south end neighborhood groups be invited to said meeting (Ref'd 10/11/18) (REQUEST A TRAFFIC STUDY) (4)

On motion by Councillor Rebeiro and seconded by Councillor Carney the Committee VOTED: To refer to the Traffic Commission for a Traffic Study. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Dunn, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on items five (5), six (6) and seven (7). This motion passed on a voice vote. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a RELATED MOTION, City Council President Morad, requesting, that the Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods tour the new Fire Department's Boat. (Ref'd 8/18/16) (5)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a RELATED MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting that Mayor Mitchell and DPI Commissioner Ponte provide the City Council with the cost of installing cobblestone architecture at all major intersections with median strips throughout the City, such as the one that has been installed at the Octopus on Route 6 entering New Bedford from Fairhaven; and further, that the City work together with the State for permission to install cobblestone architecture median strips at some of the major State intersections, such as Rt. 195 and Rt. 140 that intervene with City intersections; and further, that the City consider masonry concrete planter boxes with diamond or triangle top edging to be placed at these intersections with non-maintenance annual green perennials keeping the intersections attractive and welcoming to tourist and City residents; and further, that the City consider Community Development Block Grant monies or Community Preservation funds for the project if needed. (To be Referred to Mayor Mitchell, DPI Commissioner Ponte and the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods.) (Ref'd 5/8/18) (6/26/18-tabled) (6)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Rebeiro, Councillor President Morad, Councillors Abreu, and Carney, requesting, that the Management of King Village East be invited to attend the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meeting to explain why they are closing the community room on the weekends, specifically on Sunday, when there is a service at 10:00 a.m., as they are denying a vulnerable population the right to exercise their religious freedom. (Ref'd 10/25/18) (7)

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee Public Safety & Neighborhoods meet with Hank Turgeon, President of the New Bedford Police Union along with the Executive Board for the purpose of discussing the recent Police survey, morale, and the recent vote by the New Bedford Police Union; and further, to also discuss the recent study and assessment on the New Bedford Police Department that was done by the City as a cost of \$80,000; and further, that if needed, the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods go into Executive Session to protect the best interests of the Police Department and public safety of the City; and further, that the Police Chief release to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods the crime statistics for the years 2014 through 2018, more importantly the year 2015, that has never been submitted to the FBI, and that this

information be provided to said Committee within 14 business days (To be Referred to the Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods.) (Ref'd 4/25/19) was received and placed on file by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Coelho. (3)

Officer Hank Turgeon, President of the Police Union was present to address the Committee and to speak on issues of concern by the Union as it relates to the way the Police department is being run. Officer Turgeon informed the Committee that they had their Union Attorney Mike Feinberg present as well. Officer Turgeon began to discuss issues as they relate to the Chief of Police; he stated that each member of his Board would give examples of the Chief's way of running things and began to speak on the character of the Chief. The Chief was not present.

The Clerk recommended to the Chair that based on the conversation that he should consider going into Executive Session.

Councillor Rebeiro made a motion to go into Executive Session which was seconded by Councillor Dunn. Councillor Coelho spoke on the question and took issue that the Chief was not present, and the Union was going to talk about him. Councillor Dunn supported the motion to go into Executive Session.

The Chair called for a recess at 7:50 p.m.

The Chair called the Committee back from recess at 8:11 p.m.

The Chair explained that based on his conversation with Attorney Gerwatowski and his review with Officer Turgeon and the Unions Attorney that because the Chief, who was going to be discussed was not notified in writing about the Executive Session, that the Committee was not able to go into Executive Session.

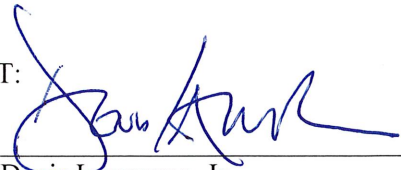
The Chair explained because of this, the discussion could not go any further and offered to re-schedule to the meeting on June 11, 2019, and a letter would be sent to the Chief in a timely manner so that he may respond.

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

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

This meeting adjourned @ 8:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
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Denis Lawrence, Jr.,  
Clerk of Committees