



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: MAY 20, 2025
TIME: 7:05 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS NAOMI CARNEY, CHAIR; IAN ABREU; DEREK BAPTISTE; SHANE BURGO (7:20); LEO CHOQUETTE; JOSEPH LOPES; LINDA MORAD; RYAN PEREIRA

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS MARIA GUESTA; BRIAN GOMES; SHAWN OLIVER

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Councillor Carney called the Appointments & Briefings Committee meeting to order, took attendance, and explained that the meeting was being recorded and live-streamed. The Clerk read three Communications into the record from Councillors Giesta, Gomes and Oliver explaining their absences. The Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Choquette.

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1. CITIZEN'S INPUT TIME – Not to exceed the first thirty (30) minutes of the meeting.

1a. Chris Medeiros, South Coast Towing, 847 Church Street, New Bedford, 02745, speaking on "Business Owners Unfairly Ticketed with Parking Violations". (Referred – April 18, 2025.)

The Chair recognized Chris Medeiros, owner of South Coast Towing, 847 Church Street, New Bedford. Mr. Medeiros spoke about "Business Owners Unfairly Ticketed with Parking Violations" and referenced a current Ordinance which prohibits tow trucks from parking on City Streets. Mr. Medeiros provided a letter to the Committee requesting that the current Ordinance be modified

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Choquette, the Committee VOTED: To refer to the Committee on Ordinances the letter submitted by Christopher Medeiros, owner and CEO, South Coast Towing, regarding the current Ordinance allowing overnight parking for tow trucks.

Citizen's Input Time was concluded.

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The following matters were taken up together without objection:

COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, submitting an Application for a **NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE**, on behalf of Stephania Zenon Pierre and Jean Fleurant Pierre, 50 New Plainville Road, New Bedford, MA d/b/a **PATHWAY PARTNERS TRANSPORTATION & PLUS**, 127 West Rodney French Boulevard, New Bedford, MA. (**License to expire – June 30, 2025.**) (Matter ID #0488) (Referred – March 27, 2025.) (April 15, 2025 – tabled.)

COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, submitting an Application for a **RENEWAL of a PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE**, on behalf of Stephania Zenon Pierre and Jean Fleurant Pierre, 50 New Plainville Road, New Bedford, MA d/b/a **PATHWAY PARTNERS TRANSPORTATION & PLUS**, 127 West Rodney French Boulevard, New Bedford, MA. **(Term of License – July 01, 2025 – June 30, 2026.)** (Matter ID #0489) (Referred – March 27, 2025.) (April 15, 2025 – tabled.)

The Chair recognized the applicants, Stephania Zenon Pierre and Jean Fleurant Pierre, 50 New Plainville Road, New Bedford, MA, who explained they wanted to open their own livery business and were requesting the necessary license to do so. Councillor Abreu asked how many people their company would employ and how many vehicles would they use? Councillor Abreu was told that there are five employees and five vehicles for use. Councillor Abreu asked if the business has off-street parking for their vehicles. Councillor Abreu was told, yes.

Councillor Morad asked if the applicants had ever had a livery business elsewhere. Councillor Morad was told they had not, this was their first independent venture into this type of business. The applicants stated that they had been through a training program which has allowed them to move forward with their request. Councillor Morad asked them if they had established any business contracts yet. She was told no they had not, if approved, they would begin to secure contracts.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Baptiste, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPLICATION for a **NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE**, on behalf of Stephania Zenon Pierre and Jean Fleurant Pierre, 50 New Plainville Road, New Bedford, MA d/b/a **PATHWAY PARTNERS TRANSPORTATION & PLUS**, 127 West Rodney French Boulevard, New Bedford, MA. **(License to expire – June 30, 2025.)**

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Baptiste, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPLICATION for a **RENEWAL** of a **PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE**, on behalf of Stephania Zenon Pierre and Jean Fleurant Pierre, 50 New Plainville Road, New Bedford, MA d/b/a **PATHWAY PARTNERS TRANSPORTATION & PLUS**, 127 West Rodney French Boulevard, New Bedford, MA. **(Term of License – July 01, 2025 – June 30, 2026.)**

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COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, submitting a PETITION, **Dionne R. Reyes, Fall River, MA d/b/a SAVER'S THRIFT DEPT. STORE, 1014 King's Highway, New Bedford, MA**, requesting 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 SECONDHAND ARTICLES**. (Matter ID #0540) (Referred – April 10, 2025.)

It was confirmed that the applicant was not present at this time.

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On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Pereira, the Committee VOTED: To table the matter at this time.

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COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of ANGELA CLARKE, New Bedford, MA, to the COMMISSION FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES; Ms. Clarke will be replacing Heather Sylvia Chew, who has resigned; this term will expire in May 2026. (Matter ID #0527) (Referred – April 10, 2025.)

The Chair recognized Ms. Clarke, who stated that she had lived in New Bedford for the past ten years. She is employed as a Social Worker dealing primarily with the homeless. Ms. Clarke said that she views serving on the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities as a way to give back to her community. Ms. Clarke is originally from Alabama, where she also worked as a Social Worker.

Councillor Morad asked Ms. Clarke how she became aware of the position on the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities. Ms. Clarke said she was made aware of an opening on the Commission and thought it would be a good fit for her and a way to become more involved in the community.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of ANGELA CLARKE to the COMMISSION FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES; Ms. Clarke will be replacing Heather Sylvia Chew, who has resigned; this term will expire in May 2026.

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COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of JAMES (JIM) MCKEAG, New Bedford, MA, to the PLANNING BOARD as an ALTERNATE; Mr. McKeag will be replacing Shayne M. Trimbell, who has been appointed as a full-time member; this term will expire in September 2027. (Matter ID #0528) (Referred – April 10, 2025.)

The Chair recognized Mr. McKeag, who stated that he had moved to New Bedford in 2017. Mr. McKeag said he has a background in Building and Historic Preservation and also has training as an Urban Planner and in Public Policy. He is currently employed through Mass Development and the State Economic Development Finance Agency and Landbank, which permits him to work with Gateway cities. Mr. McKeag said he understands the growth pressure the City is facing and is willing to address the needs and concerns of small business owners as well as City residents.

Councillor Pereira explained that in this position the applicant would be one of the first people a developer or resident would meet. Councilor Pereira stressed the importance of striking a balance between growth and oversight to allow for educated decisions as opposed to immediate denials. Mr. McKeag stated that he would balance the needs of development with the needs of the community.

Councillor Lopes spoke in favor of this appointment.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of JAMES (JIM) MCKEAG to the PLANNING BOARD as an ALTERNATE Member, Mr. McKeag will be replacing Shayne M. Trimbell, who has been appointed as a full-time member; this term will expire in September 2027.

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The following matters were taken up together without objection:

COMMUNICATION, Councillors Pereira, Abreu and Gomes, submitting a PETITION from residents of the South End of the City of New Bedford related to the sewage treatment facility located on South Rodney French Boulevard. (To be Referred to the Committee on Appointments & Briefings, the Department of Public Infrastructure, the Administration, and the State Delegation.) (Matter ID #1584) (Referred – September 26, 2024.) (October 15, 2024 – tabled)

RELATED MOTION, Councillors Pereira and Gomes, requesting the Administration and the Office of Environmental Stewardship meet with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss whether a company can be hired to conduct an odor analysis in the South End of the City; and further, to report to this Committee the amount spent on said analysis and provide a timeline of the study and data once the analysis is concluded. (Referred from Committee – October 15, 2024.)

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To remove these matters from the table.

Councillor Pereira explained that he had been in communication with Director of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship, Michele Paul and with the Department of Public Infrastructure. Councillor Pereira said he was informed that there has been an agreement reached with Veolia, the company that runs the wastewater treatment plant. Veolia has agreed to install four odor monitors in the South End of the City. Veolia has also agreed to conduct a year-long study to determine how to best address the reported odor issues in the area. Understanding this, Councillor Pereira recommended that the item be tabled until further information is obtained and received by the Committee.

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To table these matters at this time.

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WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Baptiste, requesting that P.A. Landers, Inc., be asked to come before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to explain to the Council why they are not informing businesses or the Department of Public Infrastructure why they are beginning work without proper notification. (Matter ID #0533) (Referred – April 10, 2025.)

Councillor Baptiste explained he had spoken with a representative from P.A. Landers and the Department of Public Infrastructure and determined there was a miscommunication on their behalf in informing local residents and businesses about when they were to do work in a specific area. It was understood that the plan was to wrap up work on projects that were near completion over the past year. Councillor Baptiste explained he is comfortable in moving forward, P.A. Landers will reach out prior to beginning any work.

On motion by Councillor Baptiste and seconded by Councillor Morad, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council take **“NO FURTHER ACTION”** on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Baptiste, requesting that P.A. Landers, Inc., be asked to come before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to explain to the Council why they are not informing businesses or the Department of Public Infrastructure why they are beginning work without proper notification.

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The following Communication was not read.

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the REAPPOINTMENT of LEE BLAKE, New Bedford, to the BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES; this term will expire April 2028. (Matter ID #0457) (Referred – March 27, 2025.) (April 15, 2025 – tabled.)

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council take **“NO FURTHER ACTION”** on the matter at this time.

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Councillor Burgo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councillor Abreu.

This meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence Jr.
Clerk of Committees