



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: JANUARY 28, 2026
TIME: 7:03 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS NAOMI CARNEY, CHAIR; IAN ABREU; SHANE BURGO; LEO CHOQUETTE; JOSEPH LOPES; SHAWN OLIVER; SCOTT PEMBERTON; RYAN PEREIRA; JAMES ROY

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS DEREK BAPTISTE; BRIAN GOMES

* * *

Councillor Carney called the Appointments & Briefings Committee meeting to order, took attendance, and explained that the meeting was being recorded and live-streamed.

* * *

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Oliver, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings schedule a meeting prior to the Thursday, February 12, 2026 City Council meeting, for the purpose of allowing the residents of Illinois, Ohio, Jarry, Maryland, and Appleton Streets a forum in which they may voice any concerns regarding the proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 9, Comprehensive Zoning, specifically as it relates to parking requirements under Appendix C – Table of Parking and Loading Requirements. (Matter ID #0110) (Referred – January 22, 2026.)

The Chair recognized Councillor Oliver who explained that the reason for this motion was to hear from residents who felt they had not been included in the process when the City developed the proposed Ordinance relative to parking requirements. He stated that it was important for all residents to have the opportunity to come before the Council and share their concerns.

Councillor Abreu was recognized and agreed that the opportunity to speak should be given, and stated that the Committee should allow residents to offer suggestions to help with the enforcement of the Ordinance once approved. Councillor Choquette echoed the same sentiments.

Carol Cesolini was recognized and expressed concern about the possible development of an apartment building where an old Chinese restaurant was located on Ashley Boulevard. She claimed it would result in a change of the quality of life in the neighborhood and that parking would definitely be an issue.

John Charbonneau was recognized and shared that he has lived in New Bedford for 37 years. He also expressed concerns about an apartment building being constructed in that particular neighborhood and said that parking is an ongoing nightmare.

John Preston was recognized and also objected to an apartment building being built in the area. He stated that regarding the proposed Ordinance, he is not in favor of one parking space per home and/or unit. He expressed concern for the infrastructure in the area as well as a potential negative impact on the value of homes in the area.

Michelle Pacheco was recognized and expressed concern regarding the proposed Ordinance, stating that most single-family homes currently have two to four vehicles and when visitors arrive, it impacts parking availability as well.

Councillor Abreu stated that if there was a proposal for an apartment complex, the developers would have to have a site plan review and a parking mandate for offsite parking could be instituted.

Beth Kilanowich was recognized and explained that where she lives, most of the neighborhoods do not have sidewalks and that families and children choose to use the street to walk on. She stated that adding more vehicles to the area would not be beneficial to the neighborhoods.

Bruce Duarte Jr., former Ward Four City Councillor, was recognized. He too expressed concern as it related to the Ordinance and echoed Ms. Kilanowich's comments.

The Chair asked if there was anyone present who wished to be recorded in favor of the proposed Ordinance. There were none.

The Chair asked if there was anyone present who wished to be recorded in opposition of the proposed Ordinance. The following individuals asked to be recorded in opposition to the proposed Ordinance: Joseph Steblin, Carol Mendonca, Christine Vasquez, Joseph Machado, Laurie Preston, Pamela St. Lous, Christopher Souza, Wayne Kilanowich and Louis Trial.

Councillor Oliver made a motion, which was seconded by Councillor Abreu, recommending that the City Council take "No Further Action" on the proposed Ordinance.

On the question, Councillor Oliver explained that this matter was being referred out for "No Further Action" to clear it from Committee. He stated that the Ordinance will be addressed at the City Council meeting in February where changes to the language, if any, could possibly occur. He wanted those in attendance to understand the process.

On motion by Councillor Oliver and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council take "**NO FURTHER ACTION**" on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Oliver, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings schedule a meeting prior to the Thursday, February 12, 2026 City Council meeting, for the purpose of allowing the residents of Illinois, Ohio, Jarry, Maryland, and Appleton Streets a forum in which they may voice any concerns regarding the proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 9, Comprehensive Zoning, specifically as it relates to parking requirements under Appendix C – Table of Parking and Loading Requirements.

* * *

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence Jr.
Clerk of Committees