



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: APRIL 21, 2026
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS NAOMI CARNEY, CHAIR; IAN ABREU; LEO CHOQUETTE; BRIAN GOMES; JOSEPH LOPES; SHAWN OLIVER; SCOTT PEMBERTON; JAMES ROY

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS DEREK BAPTISTE; SHANE BURGO; RYAN PEREIRA

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 Communications into the record from Councillors Baptiste, Burgo and Pereira explaining their absence. The Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes.

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

Chris Lamontagne, 236 Hemlock Street, #2S, 02740, speaking on the "manufactured crises that led us here". (Referred – March 09, 2026.)

Mr. Lamontagne was recognized and spoke on opioid, housing and migrant issues in the City.

Citizen's Input Time was concluded.

COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, submitting an Application for **RENEWAL of a PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE** on behalf of Camille Taylor, d/b/a **CT LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE TRANSPORTATION, INC.**, 14 Beetle Street, Apt. 1, New Bedford, MA. **(Term of License July 01, 2026 - June 30, 2027.)** (Matter ID #0293) (Referred – March 12, 2026.)

The Chair recognized the applicant, Camille Taylor.

Councillor Oliver asked how many vehicles she had in operation. He was told six. He asked where the vehicles were being parked. He was told 14 Beetle Street, which is also her residence. The Councillor asked if they were parked off-street. He was told no, that they are parked on the street with the exception of two which are parked on her property. The Councillor stressed his concern that the additional business vehicles being parked on the street are taking up much needed spots in an area that already has a parking issue.

Ms. Taylor stated that she owns the 4-family unit that she parks her cars in front of, to which the Councillor replied that in his opinion, the number of business vehicles on the street is excessive. He asked if the property had enough space off-street to accommodate these vehicles. He was told that it did. The Councillor asked the applicant to consider parking the business vehicles off-street.

On motion by Councillor Oliver and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPLICATION for **RENEWAL of a PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE**, on behalf of Camille Taylor, d/b/a **CT LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE TRANSPORTATION, INC.**, 14 Beetle Street, Apt. 1, New Bedford, MA.

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of CRISTOBAL JOSE ESCOBAR, New Bedford, MA to the VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD, replacing Christopher Holkamp who has resigned; this term will expire December 2026. (Matter ID #1925) (Referred – December 11, 2025.) (February 17, 2026 – tabled) (March 17, 2026 – tabled)

The Clerk explained that the office had received a phone call from the applicant stating that he was unable to attend this meeting.

Matter remains on the table.

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of RENEE LEDBETTER, New Bedford, MA, to the ELECTION COMMISSION, replacing Donald Gaudette, Jr., who has resigned; this term will expire April 2027. (Matter ID #0286) (Referred – March 12, 2026.)

The Chair recognized Ms. Ledbetter, who explained that she is excited to take on this new responsibility and will look to collaborate with the other Commissioners in working toward greater voter engagement.

Councillor Abreu asked if she had heard of voters being disenfranchised, which results in low voter participation. She stated that she was and that voter education is important, stressing that every vote is important be it a federal, state or municipal election.

Councillor Oliver was recognized and stated that Ms. Ledbetter would be a good fit on the Commission.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of RENEE LEDBETTER, New Bedford, MA, to the ELECTION COMMISSION, replacing Donald Gaudette, Jr., who has resigned; this term will expire April 2027.

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of GEORGE BOLGER, New Bedford, MA, to the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, replacing Zoe Hansen-Dibello whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2028. (Matter ID #0341) (Referred – March 26, 2026.)

The Chair recognized Mr. Bolger, who stated he has been a resident of New Bedford for 20 years. He is retired and looking for a way to give back to the City. He became aware of this vacant position and sought it out.

Councillor Abreu asked if he had any new ideas on how he could improve the responsibilities of the Commission. Mr. Bolger admitted that at the start there would be a learning curve in understanding all that the Commission does but felt once he became comfortable, he would be able to contribute immensely to the Commission's mission.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Pemberton, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of GEORGE BOLGER, New Bedford, MA, to the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, replacing Zoe Hansen-Dibello whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2028.

COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of ZACHARY NIEDER, New Bedford, MA, to the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, replacing Chad Freitas whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2028. (Matter ID #0342) (Referred – March 26, 2026.)

The Chair recognized Mr. Nieder, who stated he was excited to serve on this Commission. He is a firm believer of human rights and believes that this Commission has the ability to strengthen community involvement.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of ZACHARY NIEDER, New Bedford, MA, to the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, replacing Chad Freitas whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2028.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Oliver, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council take “**NO FURTHER ACTION**” on the following matters:

COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, submitting an Application for a **NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE**, on behalf of Celestin Wilkend, d/b/a **CRIS TRANSPORTATION**, 1 Warwick Street, New Bedford, MA. (**License to expire – June 30, 2026.**) (Matter ID #0033) (Referred – January 08, 2026.) (February 17, 2026 – tabled) (March 17, 2026 – Remain in Committee)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Pereira, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings explore the possibility of creating a Special Committee on Automation and Artificial Intelligence. (Matter ID #0487) (Referred – April 11, 2024.) (May 13, 2024 – tabled)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Abreu, Pereira and Choquette, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with Michele Paul, Director of Environmental Stewardship, to discuss New Bedford's Floodplain Management and explore the possibility of joining FEMA's Community Rating System. (Matter ID #1217) (Referred – July 18, 2024.) (September 30, 2024 – RELATED MOTION requesting that the Administration take immediate action to participate in FEMA's Flood Insurance Community Rating System; tabled for 90 days)

Councillor Lopes made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councillor Pemberton.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence Jr.
Clerk of Committees