

TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 6:00p.m.
Room 314, City Hall

Chairman Scott Liberty explains the process of the Traffic Commission, announces the commissioner in attendance, and calls the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Scott Liberty, Brian Gomes, Brad Markey, Richard Simmons, Manuel Silva, Jacob Gonsalves

Absent: Michael Baker, Patrick Sullivan

Motion by Commissioner Simmons to accept and approve minutes from 06/20/18 Traffic Commission meeting; second by Commissioner Silva, the Ayes have it

PUBLIC HEARING

PH1.

Moftah El Ghadi, 32 Hillman Street, is requesting to install two curb cuts one 22' x 8' on Hillman Street and 29' x 10' on Pleasant Street. (Plot 58, Lot 300,302)

Commissioner Markey motioned to open PH1; second by Commissioner Silva the Ayes have it.

Chris Saunders spoke on behalf of PH1, Mr. Saunders states that Moftah El Ghadi property owner 899 Pleasant Street is renovating to use as his dental office and secondary medical office on second floor. There is a existing curb cut presently on Pleasant Street that is going to be cleaned up the existing driveway is going to be opened up so you can make a safe transition in and out of Pleasant Street. Hillman Street which is a one way we are proposing 30' x 22' x 8' with a 4 ft transition curb. There are two existing curb cuts under 15' wide they we will fill in with granite curbing replacing off street parking. Chairman Liberty asked any questions for the petitioner. Commissioner Silva states that they have gone through the appropriate departments Planning; DPI and permits have been issued. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Chairman Liberty motioned to close PH1; second by Commissioner Silva; the Ayes have it. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve PH1, second by Markey; the Ayes have it.

Passed 5-0

PH2.

Bank Five, 160 County Street, is requesting to install three curb cuts one 28' x 7', one 22' x 8' and one 24' x 8' located at 160 County Street. (Plot 30, Lot 247)

Existing Bank Five on County Street and Rivet Street they presently have five separate curb cuts into the property that are very awkward coming into the parking spaces into the front. They are proposing to expand the drive through and looking to relocate two of the parking curb cuts further away from the intersection and redo the parking lot so it's easier to get in and out. Chairman Liberty asked if there are any questions for the petitioner. Commissioner Silva stated that this project has gone through site plan review and filled out the application through us pending approval. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or

anyone would like to speak in opposition. Councillor Dana Rebeiro spoke in favor of PH2. Councillor Joseph Lopes requested to be recorded in favor. Commissioner Gonsalves motioned to close PH2; second by Commissioner Markey; the Ayes have it. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve PH2, second by Markey; the Ayes have it.

Passed 5-0

PH3.

New Bedford Housing Authority, P.O. Box 2081, is requesting to install two curb cuts 14' x 81' located at Hillman Street and North Street (Plot 57, Lot 38)

Cynthia Spencer from New Bedford Housing Authority spoke on behalf of PH3, she stated that they are almost completed with six duplex fully handicap accessible for public housing which includes a driveway with off street parking for the residents. To access it we need the driveway curb cuts on North Street and Hillman Street we worked with DPI to make sure that we were compliance. Commissioner Silva requested to amend PH3 it should read two curb cuts 14' x 8'. Chairman Silva motioned to approve as amended; second by Gonsalves: the Ayes have it. Chairman Liberty asked if there are any questions for the petitioner. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Councillor Dana Rebeiro and Councillor Naomi Carney requested to be recorded in favor of PH3. Chairman Liberty motioned to close PH3; second by Commissioner Gomes; the Ayes have it. Commissioner Gomes motioned to approve PH3, second by Simmons; the Ayes have it.

Passed 5-0

PH4.

Dennis Wood of Wood NB, 23219 W 30th St north is requesting to remove 14' curb on the Cove Street side and install 4' curb cut and install 57' x 15' on the Harbor Street side located at 73-91 Cove Street. (Plot 21, Lot 53)

Steve Giosia spoke on behalf of PH4 this is a new building located at the NW corner of Cove Street and Harbor Street there is an existing curb cut on Cove Street which we are looking to widen slightly at the transition curbing and then on Harbor Street create a new curb cut 15' wide for exiting traffic. Chairman Liberty asked if there are any questions for the petitioner. Commissioner Silva wanted to amend wording 15' x 10' curb cut on Harbor Street and widen the existing curb cut on Cove Street by 28' x 10' driveway with 4' transition curb cuts on both sides. Commissioner Silva motioned to amend wording; second by Commissioner Gomes; the Ayes have it. Chairman Liberty asked any questions for the petitioner. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Councillor Joseph Lopes would like to be recorded in favor of PH4. Chairman Liberty motioned to close PH4; second by Commissioner Gomes; the Ayes have it. Commissioner Gomes motioned to approve; second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it.

Passed 5-0

PH5.

Humberto Martinez, 956-958 Brock Ave is requesting to remove 10' curb cut and install 10' x 10' curb cut located at 956-958 Brock Avenue. (Plot 15, Lot 56)

Steve Giosia from Sitec spoke on behalf of PH5 and also present was Emmanuel Martinez there is an existing curb cut on the Brock Ave side and Harmony Street which is one way street heading south intersecting Brock Ave. The petitioner is looking to reconstruct the curb cut onto Brock Ave and the second curb cut as an exit drive onto Harmony Street. This was worked out with planning board to promote a one way circulation through the building so that vehicles entering the site can only exit onto Harmony Street. Chairman Liberty asked if there are any questions for the petitioner. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Councillor Joseph Lopes would like to be recorded in favor of PH5. Serene Sariava, 146 Fern Street would like to be recorded in opposition of PH5, she is totally against this because of the traffic situation. Commissioner Gomes motioned to close PH5; second by Commissioner Silva ; the Ayes have it. Commissioner Gomes motioned to approve; second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it.

Passed 5-0

PH6.

Brian Jonas, 429 Church Street is requesting a 24' curb cut located at Flaherty Drive and Samuel Barnet (Plot 133, Lot 61)

Richard from Field Engineering spoke on behalf of PH6. The purpose of this curb cut is to access the facility at the end of Samuel Barnet 24' driveway at the end of existing cul de sac. Chairman Liberty asked if there are any questions for the petitioner. Commissioner Silva stated that it has gone through it's course, planning and DPI. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Commissioner Gomes motioned to close PH6; second by Commissioner Silva; the Ayes have it Commissioner Gomes motioned to approve; second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it.

Passed 5-0

PETITION

1. PETITION

Maria Karayan, 193 Court Street, is requesting **FOUR WAY STOP** sign on Court Street at Park Street currently there is a stop on Park Street at Court Street. (Angular Accident Report 2015=2, 2016=2, 2017=2, 2018=6)

Dennis Houtman, 167 Chancery Street is requesting for a stop sign due to the numerous accidents and near misses he is requesting on behalf of the neighborhood. Chairman Liberty asked if there were any questions for the petitioner. Commissioner Markey asked if they were blowing the stop signs on Court Street, the petitioner stated that yes and that there is a blind side. Commissioner Silva stated that he was there for a little while the speed a little too much but that's an enforcement issue. The two stop signs work fine on Park Street and compared to the other corners in the city it is pretty much what we have and it's a three way stop sign. Commissioner Silva does not believe you need the stop sign there. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Councillor Naomi Carney and Dana Rebeiro requested to be recorded in favor. Councillor Abreu sent letter that he was also in favor of P1. Councillor Gomes motioned to place letter on file; second by Commissioner Silva. Commissioner motioned to approve P1; second by Gonsalves. Roll Call Vote (Gomes=yes, Markey=yes, Simmons=yes, Silva=no, Gonsalves=yes)

Failed 4-1

2. PETITION

Raquel D. Frometa De Guzman, 69 Myrtle Street, is requesting to install **NO PARKING 6:00am-6:00pm Mon-Fri** signs in the front and back of the building.

Raquel D Frometa De Guzman, 69 Myrtle Street is requesting for No Parking signs she has a child care business. Chairman Liberty asked if there were any questions for the petitioner. Commissioner Silva asked what street was in the back of the building, petitioner advised Ashland Terrace. Commissioner Markey asked you are asking for two signs is this a residence or a business. He asked why he needed two signs, petitioner states we need the space to take the children out and the one in the back for the bus is for the snow. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve; second by Commissioner Gomes. Roll Call Vote(Gomes=yes, Markey=yes, Simmons=yes, Silva=no, Gonsalves=yes)

Failed 4-1

Commissioner Gomes motioned to table P6 & P7 and take P5 out of order; second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it

5. PETITION

Councillor Joseph Lopes is requesting to change the existing **STOP** sign on Sidney Street at Hemlock Street stopping east and westbound drivers on Sidney Street to Hemlock Street at Sidney Street stopping all north and southbound drivers on Hemlock Street.

Councillor Joseph Lopes stated that he sat with Traffic Commissioner Scott Downing as it was originally for a four way stop sign but after sitting down and discussing what possibilities we have the alternative was to switch them around. Switching the signs is relevant and can be a deterrent to get people to slow down. Chairman Liberty asked if there were any questions for the petitioner. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Councillor Gomes motioned to approve; the Ayes have it.

Passed 5-0

3. PETITION

Khalil Arsanios, 308 Mill Street, is requesting to install two **NO PARKING** signs at each of the driveways located at 308 Mill Street one sign on the corner of Mill Street and Liberty Street and the second sign to be installed Liberty Street and Mill Street. (Letter from property owner is on file)

Khalil Arsanios, 308 Mill Street is requesting no parking signs because he can't in and he can't get out. Chairman Liberty asked if there were any questions for petitioner. Commissioner Silva asked which driveways he was speaking of, petitioner stated both driveways he has a problem with. Commissioner Silva stated that both driveways are within 20ft from a corner so according to the law you can't park. So Commissioner Silva states they should be calling the police and have the cars tagged, a sign is not going to fix that. Commissioner Silva advised that they can pay to have the curbs painted. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve, second by Commissioner Gonsalves. Roll Call Vote (Gomes=yes, Markey=yes, Simmons=yes, Silva=no, Gonsalves=no)

Failed 2-2

Councillor Markey motioned to take P13 out of order, second by Commissioner Silva;the Ayes have it.

13. PETITION

Councillor Carney on behalf of Pauline Garcelon, 209 Maple Street , is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is a driveway).

Councillor Carney spoke on behalf of Pauline Garcelon, Councillor Carney stated that she is requesting a handicap space outside of her home she uses her front door as her primary access. The back door where her driveway is is all the way around the back of the house which is three times the distance for her to walk. Pauline Garcelon also spoke on her request for the space, she states that the front is more convenient and she allows her neighbors to park in her driveway. Commissioner Silva asked if parking in the front or parking in the driveway is the same distance. Pauline Garcelon states that it's not the same and it's more convenient from the front. Chairman Liberty asked if there were any questions for the petitioner. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Pat Garcelon, 87 Madison Street spoke in favor for P13. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve P13, second by Commissioner Simmons; the Ayes have it.

Passed 5-0

4. PETITION

Councillor Lima and Councillor Abreu on behalf of the residents of Ward 5, request for a **NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER** sign to be installed on the southeast corner of Reed Street and Arnold Street.

Councillor Lima stated that between 05/18-07/18 there have been three angular accidents at that corner. The common theme seems to be that accidents are occurring when cars are traveling on Reed Street and they are heading north. I believe if there was a No Parking Here To Corner sign may help alleviate the problem. Commissioner Silva asked where he wanted to the sign, he stated just on Reed Street. Commissioner Silva stated that there is a driveway and the rule is for 20ft you really don't need a sign, you may want to amend it for 25ft. Commissioner Silva motioned to amend P4 to 25ft on the southwest corner of Reed Street and Arnold Street, second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it. Chairman Liberty also stated he had a letter from Councillor Abreu stating he was in favor of P4. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve P4, second by Commissioner Simmons; the Ayes have it.

Passed 5-0

6. PETITION

Councillor Joseph Lopes and Councillor Brian Gomes are requesting to install two **NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER** signs at the intersection of Transit Street and Rockdale Ave and that the signs are placed on Transit Street

Commissioner Gomes motioned to table P6; second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it

Tabled 5-0

7. PETITION

Councillor Brian Gomes and Councillor Joseph Lopes are requesting to install **NO PARKING ANYTIME** sign to be installed on Transit Street west side on Pole 698-1 to the southwest corner of Frank Street.

Commissioner Gomes motioned to table P7; second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it

Tabled 5-0

8. PETITON

Sara and Bill King, 30 Centre Street, is requesting for the current **1 HOUR PARKING 8am-6pm** located on Centre Street and North Water Street to be increased to **2 HOUR PARKING 8am-6pm** signs.

Commissioner Silva motioned to withdraw P8, second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it.

9. PETITION

Md Abdul Mannan, 305 Ashley Blvd, is requesting to install two **15 MINUTE PARKING 7am-10pm everyday** signs in front of the Green Mile Convenience Store located at 305 Ashley Blvd. (Letter from property owner is on file)

Abdul Mannan requesting to install two 15 minute signs due to people parking there all day. Commissioner Silva asked if he was open 7am in the morning and stays open til 10pm and everday of the week. Petitioner stated yes he does. Commissioner Silva stated there is already a 30 minute parking sign in front of the other store. Commissioner Silva states that we should amend to change to 30 minute having different timeframe side by side would be confusing. Commissioner Silva motioned to amend P9 to one 30 minute parking from here to the corner, second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it. Chairman Liberty asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or anyone would like to speak in opposition. Chairman Liberty asked if there were any questions for the petitioner. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve the amended P9, second by Commissioner Simmons; the Ayes have it.

Passed 5-0

10. PETITION

Abraham Cruz, 652 Summer Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is a driveway).

Commissioner Silva motioned to table P10, second by Commissioner Simmons; the Ayes have it.

Tabled 5-0

11. PETITION

Herman Couto, 37 West Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is a driveway).

Commissioner Silva motioned to table P10, second by Commissioner Simmons; the Ayes have it.

Tabled 5-0

12. PETITION

Kathleen Morrell, 96 Nye Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is a driveway).

Commissioner Gonsalves motioned to table P12, second by Commissioner Simmons; the Ayes have it.

Tabled 5-0

Commissioner Silva motioned to approve HP1-HP11, second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve rescinded HP signs, second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it.

NO PARKING EXCEPT HP OR V PLATES REQUESTS

HP1.

Pauline Racine, 90 James Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front said residence, for 22 ft. (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is no driveway).

HP2.

Rosalinda V. Maher, 349 Earle Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is no access to driveway).

HP3.

Jose Rivera, 440 Kempton Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed on the Emerson Street side, for 22 ft. (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from Housing Authority on file, there is no driveway).

HP4.

Dana DeBrosse, 483 Brock Ave, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed on the Lucas Street side of said residence, for 22 ft. (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, no driveway).

HP5.

Teofila Torres, 333 Highland Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence, for 22 ft. (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from Housing Authority on file, there is no driveway).

HP6.

Jessica Starkie, 42 Glennon Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, there is no access to driveway).

HP7.

Maria Ferreira, 152 David Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is no driveway).

HP8.

Carlos Benevides, 168 Hathaway Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, there is no driveway).

HP9.

Brian Horta, 328 Cedar Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, there is no access to driveway).

HP10.

Cidalia Hennessey, 22 Jean Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of 19 Jean Street (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, there is no access to driveway).

HP11.

Councillor Brian Gomes on behalf Mary D. Santos, 21 Columbia Street is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, no driveway).

RESCINDED HP SIGNS

239 Ash Street
167 Wood Street
13 Pope Street

33 Crapo Street
213 Mt Pleasant Street
185 Ash Street

82 Eugenia Street
23 Malden Street
510 Ashley Blvd

TABLED ITEMS

T1.

David Stone, 32 Felton Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence, for 22 ft. (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is a driveway).

Petitioned taken off table 09/26/18 TC Meeting

LATE FILE

Manuel Silva is requesting to install a STOP sign on Johnny Cake Hill at Union Street.

Commissioner Silva states that this is part of the ongoing project on Union Street as part of this project there is a proposed STOP sign at Johnny Cake Hill at Union Street. Chairman Liberty motioned to approve, second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it.

Passed 5-0

Commissioner Silva motioned to adjourn, second by Commissioner Gomes; the Ayes have it

"In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if any accommodations are needed, please contact **(Laurie Alfonso at 508-961-3153 (Laurie.Alfonso@newbedford-ma.gov) or MassRelay 711.)** Requests should be made as soon as possible but at least **48 hours** prior to the scheduled meeting."