



City of New Bedford

MASSACHUSETTS

Office of City Council

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November 13, 2017

Ronald Beaty, Jr.
245 Parker Road
West Barnstable, MA 02668

Dear Mr. Beaty:

At the November 9, 2017 The New Bedford City Council referred to me, a complaint that was received by the New Bedford City Clerk alleging violations of the open meeting law. The complaint was issued by Ronald Beaty, Jr. and dated October 24, 2017.

The complaint alleges the following:

1. The postings for the October 12, 2017 meeting of the City Council “did not provide the time or location of the meeting.”
2. The postings for the October 12, 2017 meeting of the City Council “did not provide the date and time that each agenda and notice was posted.”
3. The meeting notices and agendas for the October 12, 2017 meeting of the City Council “were not drafted in an easily understandable format.”

In reply to the alleged violation of the open meeting law submitted by, the City Council of the City of New Bedford responds as follows:-

Official postings of meetings for public bodies in the City of New Bedford including the City Council are posted on the city’s website at <http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/public-meeting-notices/>.

1. The officially posted meeting notices for the October 12, 2017 meeting of the City Council all contained the time and location of the meeting.
2. The officially posted meeting notices for the October 12, 2017 meeting of the City Council all contained a date and time when said notice was posted.
3. The City Council asserts that the meeting notices and agendas for the October 12, 2017 meeting of the City Council were drafted in an objectively easily understandable format.

The City Council however acknowledges that, although not a part of Mr. Beaty’s complaint, the “Late File Agenda” for the October 12th meeting failed to be included in the official posting on the city’s website. The City Council has taken corrective action by resubmitting the 4 items from the October 12th Late File Agenda to the meeting of November 21, 2017. The 4 items are to be properly posted on the Regular Agenda for the November 21st meeting and acted upon at that time.

Truly yours,

David Gerwatowski
Legislative Counsel