



*City of New Bedford*  
IN COMMITTEE

October 22, 2020

The Honorable City Council  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

The Committee on Appointments & Briefings at a Meeting held on Tuesday, September 29, 2017, held a PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED, on a COMMUNICATION/DEMOLITION REVIEW - 23 ROBESON STREET (Map 71/Lot 45) Circa 1903 two-story wood framed residence-partial demolition of east façade bay, the building is a contributing property (NBE.419) within the Acushnet Heights National Register District, this area is characterized by its late 19th and early 20th century residences developed on the rise of County Street overlooking the inner harbor; the building is associated with the political and social history of the City, as it was constructed in 1903 by Thomas Desmond, a local leading Attorney and a City Solicitor for several years, the Desmond Family also constructed the abutting properties at 17 and 27 Robeson Street, this house is locally known as the longtime residence of former Senator, Councillor and Mayor George Rogers; the building is architecturally significant as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Queen Anne style, the subject building is part of a group of buildings which share identical architectural features including cut shingles, arched openings, swag motifs and full bays with stained glass windows and the property owner has indicated that he will follow the Historical Commission's recommendations to mitigate the partial demolition of the façade wall; therefore, in light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that the building at 23 Robeson Street is Historically Significant but the east façade bay is not a Preferably Preserved Historic Structure. (Ref'd 04/23/2020) (Advertised in the Standard-Times on Wednesday, July 1, 2020) (07/14/2020 - Hearing Continued to September 29, 2020)

The hearing was held.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Baptiste, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL to Grant the Demolition at 23 Robeson Street. This motion passed on a voice vote.

IN COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS &  
BRIEFINGS

Councillor Debora Coelho, Chairperson

DC: dmb