

July 16, 2021
Residents of Clark's Point
City of New Bedford

Dear City of New Bedford Officials,

We, the residents of Clark's Point, peacefully and respectfully petition our city officials, namely the Honorable Mayor Jon Mitchell, Police Chief Paul Oliveira, Traffic Commissioner Laurie Alfonso, Ward 6 City Councillor Joseph Lopes and all City Council Members, to support and aid us in creating a safer, more pleasant living environment for us as well as for those who visit this scenic beach area. Many of us have lived here our entire lives and have enjoyed its notable tranquility and beauty. We pay higher taxes to live here. These past few years countless illegal and offensive behaviors have had a negative impact on us. Witnessing these behaviors also has had a detrimental influence on our children which has and will continue to be consequential. Additionally, these behaviors have created a poor image of our city as seen by those who visit here, some vowing to never return. We therefore hold our city officials accountable for timely and reasonable resolutions of our grievances.

The Clark's Point areas affected include East, South and West Rodney French Boulevards, Fort Taber, Hazelwood Park, East and West Beaches, South End Little League Fields and the boat ramp on East Rodney French Boulevard. Our grievances are as follows:

- 1)** Violation of the city's noise ordinances by excessively loud levels of noise caused by cars, motorcycles, mopeds and dirt bikes travelling at unreasonably high rates of speed as well as the playing of blaring music with profanities and indecent subject matter robbing us of being able to enjoy our properties, beaches and parks.
- 2)** Drag racing which often starts at the boat ramp on East Rodney French Boulevard with no regard for pedestrians crossing, even in crosswalks. Speeding along the southernmost part of Brock Avenue by the South End Little League Fields endangering the safety of crossing pedestrians, especially children.
- 3)** Dirt bikes and mopeds riding along the bike path inside Fort Taber placing walkers, bicyclists and runners at risk.
- 4)** Disorderly conduct by gangs congregating at the boat ramp on East Rodney French Boulevard with inappropriate and lewd behaviors including public urination.
- 5)** Illegal consumption of alcohol and drugs openly in public places.
- 6)** Careless littering so out of control in our parks, beaches, and little league fields, despite the tireless efforts of our city workers to keep up with it, ultimately posing health risks to people, wildlife and marine life, attracting rodents and insects that can spread diseases as well as contributing to an unsightly image of this community to visitors.

7) Illegal possession and lighting of dangerous, professional grade fireworks during July 4th holidays {mainly July 3rd through July 5th}. Setting them off continuously from evening into the night subsequently violating city noise ordinances in residential areas, causing severe stress and heightened anxiety to people suffering with PTSD, especially our Veterans, the elderly population with dementia, terrified young children and frightened pets. Setting off fireworks close to our homes and cars is of great worry and concern for property damage. Who pays for damages incurred? The city for not enforcing the laws banning illegal possession of fireworks? More importantly is the concern for the personal safety risk they pose to innocent people.

8) Parking of cars by restaurant and beach goers at the bottom of Clara, Norman and Frederick Streets thereby taking parking availability away from residents in that area.

We plead with Police Chief Paul Oliveira to create new policies for officers, admonishing them to better monitor said behaviors and to enforce the pertinent laws that apply. There should be zero tolerance for breaking these laws and those who do should be given citations or if applicable arrested. We plead with Traffic Commissioner Laurie Alfonso for the temporary installment of speed bumps along East, South and West Rodney French Boulevard with proper signage to safely alert motorists. These temporary speed bumps can be removed during the winter months for the use of plows in removing snow. We also ask for "Resident Only Parking" on the bottom of Frederick, Norman and Clara Streets so residents there will deal with less foot traffic and have available parking for themselves.

In closing, by addressing our concerns, many positive outcomes can be accomplished. Clark's Point can once again be the quiet, peaceful, and safe living community it once was for the well being of its residents. Our children will be positively impacted by creating lasting memories of growing up in this beautiful area of the city without the exposure to countless bad behaviors and negative influences. Visitors will be able to enjoy scenic, relaxing times away at our beaches, parks and bike paths and will want to keep coming back. Wildlife and marine life will be better protected and health concerns to humans caused by littering will be eliminated. Serious safety concerns will no longer be safety concerns.

We thank you in advance for your consideration on this matter and look forward to working together with you for the reasonable resolutions we desire.

Much Appreciated,
The Residents of Clark's Point