



City of New Bedford

Office of City Council

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Ryan J. Pereira

Councillor Ward Six

March 16, 2022

New Bedford Board of Park Commissioners

Mr. Peter Boswell, Chairman

181 Hillman Street, Building 3

New Bedford, MA 02740

REFERENCE: Park Board of Commissioners Meeting on March 16, 2022 at 6PM; Agenda Item #6 -Park Board to vote on fee structure of Marine Park on Pope's Island, revised flyer.

Dear Chairman Boswell and Honorable Members of the Park Board of Commissioners:

I am writing this letter in regard to the above-mentioned reference to Agenda Item #6 on the Park Board of Commissioners Meeting scheduled for March 16, 2022. Due to prior City Council and community obligations, I am unable to attend this meeting in person. I care deeply about this issue and wanted my voice and the voice of many New Bedford residents heard.

I am strongly opposed to a pay-to-park system for marina users due to the neighboring Noah's Place Playground. This playground is a state-of-the-art handicap accessible facility that was donated to the City of New Bedford by the Team Noah Foundation. This project cost the foundation, not the city, over \$2 Million to construct. My concerns surrounding the parking situation are as follows:

1. People will be required to pay for parking (overnight or longer than 2 hours is what is being proposed to the best of my knowledge). Marina users wishing to avoid paying will park their vehicles in the spaces designated for park goers.
2. Park goers confused about if they need to pay, can't figure out how to pay, or don't have space to park will not simply go to another park, as this playground is the only one in the SouthCoast. They will park across Route 6 in the parking lot (the former site of Fairhaven True Value) and be forced to cross the highway with children and handicap individuals.

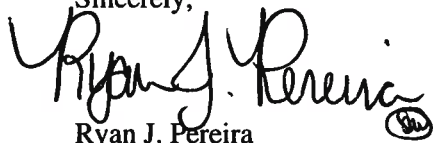
I am requesting that the Honorable Members of the Park Board vote to table or deny this request. We need more research into the parking layout of the Marina parking lot. I am confident that there are other ways to generate Marina parking revenue without the hazardous consequences of a pay-to-park system. I understand the need to create stable, break-even department budgets but not at the expense of the safety of children.

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Park Board Meeting Letter
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Kindly read this letter into the record of the Park Board of Commissioners meeting to make those in attendance and the general public aware of my opposition and concerns for the proposed Parking Fees for Popes Island Marina.

Thank you, Honorable Commissioners, for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan J. Pereira". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small circular mark at the end.

Ryan J. Pereira
Ward 6 City Councillor

cc: Mary S. Rapoza, Director of Parks, Recreation, & Beaches
Ward 4 Councillor Derek Baptiste