



# City of New Bedford

IN COMMITTEE

July 21, 2022

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

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

The Committee on City Property at a Meeting held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, considered a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Giesta, Abreu, Council President Lopes, Councillors Lima, Carney and Coelho, requesting that City Solicitor Mikaela McDermott, DPI Commissioner Jamie Ponte, Director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches Mary Rapoza, and the Director of Purchasing Molly Gilfeather, be invited to a Committee on City Property meeting to discuss the possibility of the City selling the two pocket parks in the North End, the Nye Street Pocket Park and the Phillips Avenue Pocket Park, these parks were first created as an idea that the neighborhood would take advantage of the green space that these parks provided; unfortunately, these pocket parks have had the opposite effect, they are being used by drug dealers and users and for prostitution, the residents and business owners in the surrounding areas deserve better and should not have to live with the ongoing crime that is being perpetrated in these pocket parks; further requesting that the City please sell these pocket parks to interested buyers who will utilize their use for the betterment of the neighborhood, i.e., possible business or residential parking. (To be Referred to the Committee on City Property.) (Ref'd 02/25/2021) (03/23/2021 – tabled)

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council take "No Further Action" on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Giesta, Abreu, Council President Lopes, Councillors Lima, Carney and Coelho, requesting that City Solicitor Mikaela McDermott, DPI Commissioner Jamie Ponte, Director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches Mary Rapoza, and the Director of Purchasing Molly Gilfeather, be invited to a Committee on City Property meeting to discuss the possibility of the City selling the two pocket parks in the North End, the Nye Street Pocket Park and the Phillips Avenue Pocket Park, these parks were first created as an idea that the neighborhood would take advantage of the green space that these parks provided; unfortunately, these pocket parks have had the opposite effect, they are being used by drug dealers and users and for prostitution, the residents and business owners in the surrounding areas deserve better and should not have to live with the ongoing crime that is being perpetrated in these pocket parks; further requesting that the City please sell these pocket parks to interested buyers who will utilize their use for the betterment of the neighborhood, i.e., possible business or residential parking. This motion passed on a voice vote.

IN COMMITTEE ON CITY PROPERTY

*Maria E. Giesta*

Councillor Maria E. Giesta, Chairperson

MEG/at