



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

August 8, 2022

Council President Ian Abreu
Members of the City Council
City Hall
133 William Street, Room 215
New Bedford, MA 02740

RE: Polling Place Police Details

Dear Council President Abreu and Honorable Members:

At the request of the Board of Election Commissioners, I am submitting for your consideration a proposed Order authorizing the Chief of Police or his designee to assign police details to polling locations for all future elections starting with the State Primary on September 6, 2022.

The proposed order is a delegation of authority under M.G.L. c.54 § 72, which was amended on June 22, 2022 by the Election Reform Law (the "VOTES Act", Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022) to give such authority to City Council. In New Bedford, the Election Chairperson has historically and successfully worked in conjunction with the Police Department to ensure the necessary coverage required by state law. This proposed order would allow the City to continue the same, successful process of securing its polling locations as it has in previous elections.

Very truly yours,


Jonathan F. Mitchell
Mayor

Enclosures (3)

cc: Board of Election Commissioners



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

August 18, 2022

Ordered, that the Chief of Police or his or her designee, in consultation with New Bedford's election commissioners, is hereby authorized on behalf of the New Bedford City Council, at every election hereafter, to detail a sufficient number of police officers or constables for each building that contains the polling place for one (1) or more precincts to preserve order and to protect the election officers and supervisors from any interference with their duties, and to aid in enforcing the laws relating to elections.



City of New Bedford

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

August 4, 2022

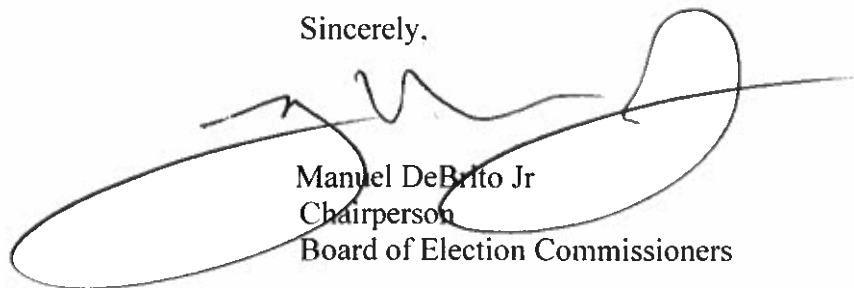
Honorable Jon Mitchell
Mayor
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Mayor Mitchell:

On June 22, 2022, the Election Reform Law (the "VOTES Act", Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022) was signed by the Governor. The VOTES Act makes many of the changes from the pandemic permanent (e.g., vote by mail, early voting). In addition, the VOTES Act changed M.G.L. c.54 §72 so that the City Council, instead of the Chief of Police, is responsible for assignment of police details at polling locations. In New Bedford, the Election Chairperson has historically and successfully worked in conjunction with the Police Department to ensure the necessary coverage required by State Law. As such, please see attached Board of Election Commissioners' request to Council for Council to delegate authority and order the Chief of Police, or his designee, to assign police details at each city polling location for all Elections and to maintain that responsibility in collaboration with the Election Commission.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Manuel DeBrito Jr
Chairperson
Board of Election Commissioners

cc: Dennis Farias, City Clerk
Ian Abreu, Councillor-At-Large
Elizabeth McNamara, First Assistant City Solicitor



City of New Bedford

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

August 4, 2022

Dear Councillors:

On June 22, 2022, the Election Reform Law (the "VOTES Act", Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022) was signed into law by the Governor. The VOTES Act makes many of the changes from the pandemic permanent (i.e., vote by mail, early voting). In addition, the responsibility for the assignment of police officers at polling places was given to the City Council. M.G.L. c.54 § 72 now reads:

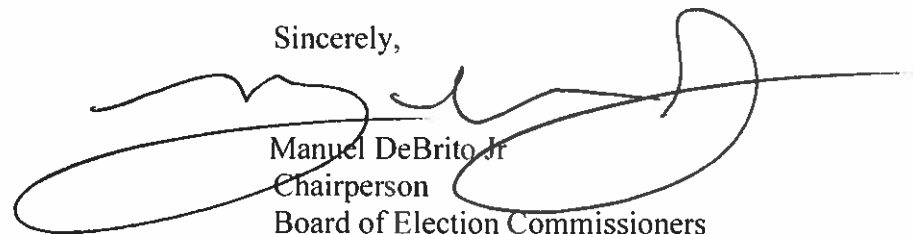
Section 72. The select board, board of selectmen, town council or city council of each city and town, in consultation with its election officers and registrars, shall detail a sufficient number of police officers or constables for each building that contains the polling place for 1 or more precincts at every election therein to preserve order and to protect the election officers and supervisors from any interference with their duties and to aid in enforcing the laws relating to elections.

Previously, assignment of police details to polling locations was the responsibility of the Chief of Police or his/her designee in collaboration with the Election Commission. In New Bedford, the Election Chairperson has always worked in conjunction with the Police Department to ensure the necessary coverage required by State Law. That process worked extremely well and can be continued by a delegation of authority.

On behalf of the Board, I request that the City Council delegate the authority given to them in M.G.L. c.54 §72, to detail, in consultation with New Bedford's election commissioners, a sufficient number of police officers or constables for each building that contains the polling place for one (1) or more precincts to preserve order and to protect the election officers and supervisors from any interference with their duties, and to aid in enforcing the laws relating to elections for all future Elections starting with the State Primary September 6, 2022.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Manuel DeBrito Jr.
Chairperson
Board of Election Commissioners

cc: Dennis Farias, City Clerk
Ian Abreu, Councillor-At-Large
Elizabeth McNamara, First Assistant City Solicitor