



City of New Bedford

IN COMMITTEE

March 23, 2023

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

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

The Committee on Public Safety & Neighborhoods, at a meeting held on Wednesday, March 08, 2023, considered a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with Police Chief Paul Oliveira, Lt. Evan Bielski from the New Bedford Police Union, a representative from the Mitchell Administration and the Massachusetts State Police Interim Lt. Colonel John E. Mawn, Jr. or a representative from the Massachusetts State Police Dartmouth Barracks to discuss the Police Department's decreasing staffing levels, the level of staffing not only jeopardizes the Police Officers that serve the City each and every day along with constituency it protects and serves; and further, that letters be sent to the Police Chiefs of Fairhaven, Acushnet and Dartmouth, notifying them of the short staffing within our department, and further, requesting mutual aid assistance if needed in an emergency, furthermore, that the Administration explain how it's addressing this issue that has left the City in a crisis situation. (Ref'd 02/23/2023)

On motion by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Pereira, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council request that the Administration look into the possibility of an Educational Bill and incentives for current Police Officers to increase steps and hiring pay. This motion passed on a voice vote.

IN COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & NEIGHBORHOODS

Councillor Brian K. Gomes, Chairman

BKG/smh