

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & NEIGHBORHOODS - September 18, 2019
MEETING AT 7:15 PM, City Hall, 133 William Street, New Bedford, MA City Council Chambers -
Room 214
AGENDA

1. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting a ONE-YEAR WAIVER OF RESIDENCY for MELISSA BATCHILDER, Compliance Officer (Community Relations Specialist) for the New Bedford Police Department, who currently resides in Fairhaven, MA. (Ref'd 7/18/19)

INVITEES: Melissa Batchilder

Chair Suggests 'No Further Action' and 'Report Out to the Full City Council'

2. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, notifying the City Council that this Councillor is suspending a call at this time for a public safety summit, due to the lack of support from the Administration, along with others that feel at this time the City is a safe place to live, work, raise a family and have a business; and further, requesting that the Administration and the Police Chief provide the City Council with documentation that agencies such as the FBI, State Police, Homeland Security and any other Federal or State public safety agencies located in New Bedford are working with our public safety officials to combat gang violence, illegal guns and drug dealers on a Federal level to collectively bring safety to the entire City with a zero tolerance approach; and furthermore, that letters be sent to Third District Court Judges requesting that they take every initiative under the law to protect the people of this City from the criminal elements, and that they be prosecuted to the full extent of the law sending a clear message to offenders that the court will not tolerate criminal activity or threats to life and property in the City and Region, also that our State and Federal Delegation be sent letters asking what is being done on the State and Federal level to assist the City of New Bedford's law-enforcement with Federal monies for equipment and public safety personnel. (To be Referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, and requesting that Rule 40 be Waived.) (Ref'd 9/14/17)

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if any accommodations are needed, please contact the Clerk of Committees Office at 508-979-1482. Requests should be made as soon as possible but at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.



Item Title:

RESIDENCY WAIVER – M. Batchilder

Item Detail:

1. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting a ONE-YEAR WAIVER OF RESIDENCY for MELISSA BATCHILDER, Compliance Officer (Community Relations Specialist) for the New Bedford Police Department, who currently resides in Fairhaven, MA. (Ref'd 7/18/19)

Additional Information:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
1. RES WAIVER - M. Batchilder	Cover Memo



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

July 10, 2019

City Council President Linda M. Morad
Honorable Members of the City Council
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Council President Morad and Honorable Members of the City Council:

I would like to request a one-year **WAIVER OF RESIDENCY** for Melissa Batchilder, Compliance Officer (Community Relations Specialist), for the New Bedford Police Department who currently resides in Fairhaven, Massachusetts.

Given the exceptional circumstances detailed in the attached letter from Ms. Batchilder and Chief Cordeiro, I believe a waiver is appropriate and justified.

Ms. Batchilder and Chief Cordeiro will be available at the meeting to answer any questions.

Sincerely,


Jon Mitchell
Mayor

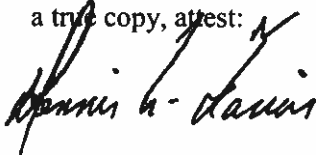
JFM/sds
Enclosures

cc: Police Department
Melissa Batchilder

IN CITY COUNCIL, July 18, 2019

Referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods – Yeas 10, Nays 1.
Dennis W. Farias, City Clerk

a true copy, attest:



City Clerk

2019 JUL 11 P 2:52

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE



New Bedford Police Department
Office of the Chief of Police

871 Rockdale Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02740
Phone: 508-991-6330 Fax: 508-961-3022

Jonathan F. Mitchell
Mayor

Joseph C. Cordeiro
Chief of Police

Paul J. Oliveira
Deputy Chief of Police

July 2, 2019

Jonathan F. Mitchell
Mayor
City of New Bedford
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Mayor Mitchell:

I am requesting a Residency Waiver for Melissa Batchilder, Compliance Officer (Community Relations Specialist), for the New Bedford Police Department. Mrs. Batchilder resides at [redacted] Fairhaven.

She submitted a letter explaining her challenges in relocating to New Bedford. I have attached it for your consideration. In summary, her husband is disabled, and their home accommodates his mobility needs. Additionally, they have guardianship of their six-year-old granddaughter who is a victim to the opioid addiction. Mrs. Batchilder is concerned with moving and impacting her stability and creating an additional hardship on her granddaughter.

Should you have any questions or require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Cordeiro", written over the printed name and title.

Joseph C. Cordeiro
Chief of Police



New Bedford Police Department Office of the Chief of Police

871 Rockdale Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02740
Phone: 508-991-6300 Fax: 508-961-3022

Jonathan F. Mitchell
Mayor

Joseph C. Cordeiro
Chief of Police

Paul J. Oliveira
Deputy Chief of Police
July 2, 2019

Police Chief Joseph Cordeiro
New Bedford Police Department
817 Rockdale Ave.
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Chief Cordeiro,

I am beyond grateful for the possible opportunity to become a part of your remarkable and visionary efforts to modernize the New Bedford Police Department.

As it relates to the residency requirement, I appreciate your willingness to make the effort to obtain the waiver. Following are some details that may help.

In 2012, I married my husband, Rob Gray. At the time he was the General Manager of the Fairhaven Shipyard. Just a few days after our wedding, he fell 15 feet from the back of a boat in dry-dock onto concrete when a ladder collapsed. He became permanently disabled and I moved to Massachusetts. While Robbie is mobile, it is to a limited degree and deteriorating. When we purchased our house in late 2012, it was to accommodate his needs in terms of wide-open concept and we continue to upgrade it as necessary for his health. We're currently in the midst of planned renovation to the bathroom to accommodate his challenges.

The day Robbie returned home from his last surgery at the end of 2013, DCF approached us to become guardians to Avery, Robbie's granddaughter. Prior to this we had very limited contact, because of her parents' condition. Avery was just an infant at the time and both parents are opioid-addicted. We have faced all the challenges that go along with opioid addiction, court appearances, balancing what's best for Avery and her parents, the roller coaster her parents ride and most significantly how this all impacts the life of the sweetest little 6-year-old who just finished kindergarten at St. Joseph's School. She was baptized at our parish, St. Joseph's in Fairhaven. We live around the corner and she has been attending St. Joseph's school since pre-school. The street, the neighbors, the parishioners and the school are very much the only community she has ever known.

What we didn't realize about children who experience these circumstances is the attachment disorder they face. When separation from the mother occurs, despite the infancy, the child

becomes psychologically impacted and struggles greatly with attachment and trust. The child (Avery) really hungers for stability/routine. It's as if she is always on a hunt to reclaim the sense of security she lost as an infant. We've had her assessed and while the psychologist, Dr. Andrea McCauley of New Bedford, praises her resilience and coping skills, the attachment issues are evident and something she will face for years to come. Having a stable and consistent environment is key to ensuring she succeeds in the years ahead.

Moving anywhere would be a significant risk to Avery's mental health, which is why I hesitate to quickly say we would just pick up and move. It is so much more than just selling our house and moving across the bridge.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Melissa Batchilder



Item Title:

WRITTEN MOTION re Public Safety Summit

Item Detail:

2. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, notifying the City Council that this Councillor is suspending a call at this time for a public safety summit, due to the lack of support from the Administration, along with others that feel at this time the City is a safe place to live, work, raise a family and have a business; and further, requesting that the Administration and the Police Chief provide the City Council with documentation that agencies such as the FBI, State Police, Homeland Security and any other Federal or State public safety agencies located in New Bedford are working with our public safety officials to combat gang violence, illegal guns and drug dealers on a Federal level to collectively bring safety to the entire City with a zero tolerance approach; and furthermore, that letters be sent to Third District Court Judges requesting that they take every initiative under the law to protect the people of this City from the criminal elements, and that they be prosecuted to the full extent of the law sending a clear message to offenders that the court will not tolerate criminal activity or threats to life and property in the City and Region, also that our State and Federal Delegation be sent letters asking what is being done on the State and Federal level to assist the City of New Bedford's law-enforcement with Federal monies for equipment and public safety personnel. (To be Referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, and requesting that Rule 40 be Waived.) (Ref'd 9/14/17)

Additional Information:



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Accessibility Statement

Item Detail:

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