



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN COMMITTEE

November 08, 2018

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

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

The Committee on Public Safety and Neighbors at a Meeting held on Tuesday, October 30, 2018, considered a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Abreu, Bousquet, Oliveira, Martins, Winterson, Coelho and Rebeiro, requesting, that in light of the recent discarded needle epidemic on our City streets, public parks and playgrounds, that the City of New Bedford engage the New Bedford Police Department, New Bedford Health Department, Neighborhoods United, Operation Clean Sweep representatives and representatives of both Southcoast Health System and Hawthorn Medical Associates about forming a "Neighborhood Needle Recovery" program similar to what is currently being instituted in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, the "Neighborhood Needle Recovery" Program recovers needles quickly and safely in a number of ways, including, supplying needle drop boxes throughout our Downtown and other high-traffic areas in the City, conducting regular needle sweeps on school grounds and parks and in locations affected by high volumes of discarded needles, recording where and how many needles are discarded in public places, and coordinating needle pick-up with community groups, the purpose of this program is to not only insure that our streets, public parks and playgrounds are safe and secure from potentially dangerous discarded needles, but that we also will have created a system which encourages intravenous drug users to discard needles appropriately. (To be Referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, the Mayor's Office, New Bedford Police Chief, Joseph Cordeiro, New Bedford Health Director, Dr. Brenda Weis, Mr. Keith Hovan of Southcoast Health System, James Gularek, CEO, Hawthorn Medical Associates, Mr. Jerry Pinto, President, Neighborhoods United and Ms. Lynn Coish, Operation Clean Sweep.) (Ref'd 9/8/16) (10/3/16-returned unsigned by the Mayor)

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Abreu, Bousquet, Oliveira, Martins, Winterson, Coelho and Rebeiro, requesting, that in light of the recent discarded needle epidemic on our City streets, public parks and playgrounds, that the City of New Bedford engage the New Bedford Police Department, New Bedford Health Department, Neighborhoods United, Operation Clean Sweep representatives and representatives of both Southcoast Health System and Hawthorn Medical Associates about forming a "Neighborhood Needle Recovery" program similar to what is currently being instituted in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, the "Neighborhood Needle Recovery" Program recovers needles quickly and safely in a number of ways, including, supplying needle drop boxes throughout our Downtown and other high-traffic areas in the City, conducting regular needle sweeps on school grounds and parks and in locations affected by high volumes of discarded needles, recording where and how many needles are discarded in public places, and coordinating needle pick-up with community groups, the purpose of this program is to not only insure that our streets, public parks and playgrounds are safe and secure from potentially dangerous discarded needles, but that we also will have created a system which encourages intravenous drug users to discard needles appropriately.

IN COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND
NEIGHBORHOODS

Councillor Brian K. Gomes, Chairman

BKG: dmb



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

CITY COUNCIL

September 08, 2016

WRITTEN MOTION

Requesting, that in light of the recent discarded needle epidemic on our City streets, public parks and playgrounds, that the City of New Bedford engage the New Bedford Police Department, New Bedford Health Department, Neighborhoods United, Operation Clean Sweep representatives and representatives of both Southcoast Health System and Hawthorn Medical Associates about forming a "Neighborhood Needle Recovery" program similar to what is currently being instituted in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, the "Neighborhood Needle Recovery" Program recovers needles quickly and safely in a number of ways, including, supplying needle drop boxes throughout our Downtown and other high-traffic areas in the City, conducting regular needle sweeps on school grounds and parks and in locations affected by high volumes of discarded needles, recording where and how many needles are discarded in public places, and coordinating needle pick-up with community groups, the purpose of this program is to not only insure that our streets, public parks and playgrounds are safe and secure from potentially dangerous discarded needles, but that we also will have created a system which encourages intravenous drug users to discard needles appropriately. (To be Referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, the Mayor's Office, New Bedford Police Chief, Joseph Cordeiro, New Bedford Health Director, Dr. Brenda Weis, Mr. Keith Hovan of Southcoast Health System, James Gularek, CEO, Hawthorn Medical Associates, Mr. Jerry Pinto, President, Neighborhoods United and Ms. Lynn Coish, Operation Clean Sweep.)

Ian Abreu, Councillor at Large

Henry G. Bousquet, Councillor Ward Three

James D. Oliveira, Councillor Ward One

Steven Martins, Councillor Ward Two

Kerry Winterson, Councillor Ward Five

Debora Coelho, Councillor at Large

Dana Rebeiro, Councillor Ward Four