



City of New Bedford

IN COMMITTEE

February 27, 2020

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

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

The Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods at a Meeting held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, considered a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods convene a meeting to address what enforcement mechanisms, laws, regulations, Ordinances or government action may be devised and implemented to prevent/remedy the problem of local or national gangs occupying and/or controlling apartment buildings and houses in the City and using such buildings for purposes of conducting criminal activity; and further, that the Committee invite Attorney John Flor; the Chief of Police; the Police Gang Unit; the Landlord Association; and the Building Commissioner and others to be determined, to the meeting to provide input with regard to addressing this issue. (Ref'd 12/12/19)

On motion by Councillor Giesta and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council request that Legislative Counsel Attorney David Gerwatowski look into whether or not the City can require all landlords to conduct criminal background checks on potential tenants prior to entering into rental/lease agreements with them; and furthermore, if it is legal to do so, that he submit recommendations for amending the Problem Properties Ordinance accordingly. This motion passed on a voice vote.

IN COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND
NEIGHBORHOODS

Councillor Brian K. Gomes, Chairperson

BKG: at