

The Committee on Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service met on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 6pm.

Members present were Councilor Stephanie Martins, presiding, and Councilor Michael Mclaughlin.

Members absent were Councilors John Hanlon and Michael Marchese.

Communication received from Councilor Marchese that he would be out of State and unable to attend.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Peter Napolitano: That the State of Massachusetts and the City of Everett in conjunction with the ownership of the Gateway Mall and Encore Boston Harbor have their representatives meet to study and resolve the traffic issues at Santilli Circle and the exit of the Gateway Mall.

Mayor's Chief of Staff Kevin O'Donnell, Traffic Planner Jay Monty, Police Captain Paul Strong, Councilor Peter Napolitano, the Sponsor, Gateway Senior Regional Property Manager Mark Nichol and Total Wine Store Manager Andy Shirley were also present.

Communication received from Eric Kraus, Senior VP at Encore that he had a prior meeting scheduled and would be unable to attend. Communications received from State Senator Sal DiDomenico and State Representative Joe McGonagle that they would be unable to attend due to prior commitments.

No Quorum was present so an informal discussion was held with all that were attendance.

Councilor Napolitano expressed his concern with the traffic backups that have been occurring every weekend at the Gateway Mall exit into Santilli Circle. He mentioned previous attempts to correct the situation including recent modifications made to the traffic circle by Encore Boston Harbor. He remarked that none of the other attempts have resolved the problem and that he was now seeking other alternatives to come up with solutions to correcting the problem since it was having a severe impact on business, employees and customers. Mr. Monty noted that he had reached out to the State about this matter especially to see if they would be sending a representative to this meeting. Councilor Napolitano asked if Encore could be asked to finance any improvements since the original modifications they made didn't improve traffic flow around the traffic circle. Mr. Monty responded that they couldn't go after Encore to finance any changes unless it could be determined that the work they had performed created more of a problem at the Santilli circle. Councilor Mclaughlin stated that this had been a long standing issue for more than 20 years and was an issue that former Councilor Anthony Ranieri tried to get corrected. He uttered his disappointment that no one from the State was present to listen to the concerns of the community. Mr. O'Donnell mentioned that this was an Everett problem that we can't control but acknowledged that both the City and State will need to work together collectively if the matter is to be resolved. Captain Strong suggested that the only way to correct the traffic problem at Santilli circle was to construct a flyover bridge to the traffic circle or have

four lanes constructed exiting the mall. He concurred that this was a serious public safety issue. Councilor Napolitano acknowledged that he did speak to State Representative McGonagle earlier in the day and was assured that the State Representative would work on it. Mr. Shirley informed all that he use to work at Target 20 years ago and had recently returned to the area to manage Total Wine and felt that the recent modifications to the traffic circle only made matters worse and on an average weekend it could take 20 minutes or more to exit. Mr. Nichol stated that hears complaints from tenants and customers alike about the traffic backups. Councilor Napolitano asked if the Mall Management Company could build a second exit out of mall and Mr. Nichol explained that they had tried to do so but was turned down since it would have been over protected wetlands. Mr. Nichol concurred that the way to solve the problem was to completely redesign the traffic circle. Mr. Monty agreed to reach out to State highway officials so further discussions could be had on addressing this problem.

The informal discussion concluded at approximately 7:15pm .

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees