

The Committee on Public Safety met on Tuesday, March 23, 2010.

The meeting was audio and video taped for the record.

Members present were Aldermen Michael Marchese, presiding, Alderman Sal Sachetta, Councilors John McKinnon, Adam Ragucci, Peter Napolitano and Eloy Sierra. Non members present were Councilors Ken Gianelli, Cynthia Sarnie and Rosemary Miller.

Members absent were Alderman Joseph McGonagle and Councilor William Cardello.

Communication received from Alderman Joseph McGonagle that he would be at work and unable to attend.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor John McKinnon: That the City form a plan to deal with off loading of ships at the LNG and Natural Gas Facilities in Everett to make sure that they are safe and pose no threat to Everett and the surrounding cities and towns.

Mayors Chief of Staff Melissa Murphy, Police Chief Steve Mazzie, Policeman Pat Johnson, Al Richman of Homeland Security, Frank Katulak, Carol Churchill and Joe Dalton of Distrigas/GDF Suez and Captain Healy of the Coast Guard were also present.

Communication received from Fire Chief David Butler that he would be on vacation and unable to attend.

Mr. Katulak introduced himself to the Committee as the President and Chief Operating Officer at Distrigas/GDF Suez. He provided the Committee with a slide show presentation on the operation of the Distrigas facility as well as on the production and use of LNG throughout New England and the World. Mr. Katulak also discussed Distrigas's commitment to safety and explained the safety/ security drills and inspections that are performed at the Everett facility. He stated that the company had invested over \$200 million dollars into operation upgrades at Distrigas. Mr. Katulak discussed the new supply source from the Country of Yemen as well as the shipping companies that ship the product to the Everett facility. He reviewed the security measures that took place upon the arrival process including the involvement of local and State Public Safety Officials including the US Coast Guard. He assured the Committee that Yemen Nationals were not part of the crew on the ships entering the Everett port. Mr. Katulak noted the company's community involvement and announced that Distrigas pays approximately \$4.9 million in taxes annually to the City of Everett as well as reimburses the City for public safety details in addition to donating \$1 million annually to local organizations.

Alderman Marchese asked if Distrigas had more storage capacity at the Everett site would it result in less ships entering the Everett port. Mr. Katulak responded that it would not. Councilor Napolitano questioned if Distrigas had plans to unload offshore. Mr. Katulak responded that they would upon commissioning of new ships, but indicated that it had a limited capacity and would only feed the Algonquin pipeline. He remarked that this was not a replacement for the Everett facility but a good supplement. Upon further questioning from Councilor Napolitano, Mr. Katulak provided the Committee with an overview on the selection of the Everett site some 39 years ago. Councilor McKinnon questioned the security presence during the LNG offloading and Mr. Katulak discussed the contingent of Public Safety Officials on site. Councilor McKinnon asked if there had been any incidents in the 39 year history of the Distrigas operation and Mr. Katulak explained that there were a few minor issues related to mechanical problems only. Councilor McKinnon questioned if more lighting was needed at the port and Mr. Katulak stated that the lighting at the facility met Federal requirements. Councilor McKinnon

pointed out that the Ads that Distrigas had placed in the local newspapers were very informative and asked if Distrigas planned to do the same in other communities. Mr. Katulak answered that it was most important for Distrigas to place the Ads

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in the City of Everett since the facility was located in Everett and at this time they had made no decision on placing Ads in other communities. Alderman Sachetta applauded Mr. Katulak for a wonderful job he did on his presentation noting that there was a lot of fear in the community with LNG and that he did a great job explaining to those viewing at home.

Mr. Richman informed the Committee that he had been involved with Homeland Security since 2005 and that they had conducted several assessments and extensive reviews on Distrigas, but informed the Committee that these reports were classified. Captain Healy explained that the Coast Guard had quite a bit of interaction with the City of Everett especially in the working relationship with Officer Pat Johnson. Councilor McKinnon asked Captain Healy that based on a recent Admiral's report did he feel staffing at the port was sufficient. Captain Healy assured him that he had enough manpower and resources and noted that the Coast Guard would be obtaining new boats. The Captain provided an overview of the safety and security that was undertaken upon the arrival of an LNG tanker and he remarked that he feels very comfortable with the process otherwise he wouldn't let the ships into port. Councilor McKinnon asked Ms. Murphy if the Mayor had any new update on contracting with an independent assessment company. Ms. Murphy stated that the City had received a proposal but at a cost of \$146,000. Councilor McKinnon asked Chief Mazzie if the City had any evacuation routes and the Chief responded that the routes were posted on the City's website. Councilor McKinnon questioned if the City had an evacuation plan. Chief Mazzie stated that yes the City did have an evacuation plan and that a number of exercises have been performed and that they were constantly training and planning, but pointed out that the evacuation would be dependent on the actual incident. Officer Johnson provided an overview of the training received and commented that the City of Everett was way ahead of the curve on emergency preparedness.

Councilor Napolitano informed the Committee that the reason he opposed this matter going into Committee was due to the fact that there has always been an emergency preparedness plan with regards to Distrigas, which is not as the resolution indicated. He thanked the invited guests for attending. Councilor McKinnon countered that the reason the matter was in Committee was to get the information out to the public. The Committee recommended that the resolution be amended by striking out the reference "form a plan" and that the matter be referred to the Mayor with a request that he report back to City Government on his plans to contract and conduct a risk assessment at the Distrigas Facility.

The Committee voted: To report back to the Common Council with a recommendation that the resolution be amended by striking out the reference "form a plan" and that the matter be referred to the Mayor with a request that he report back to City Government on his plans to contract and conduct a risk assessment at the Distrigas Facility.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees