

City of Newton, Massachusetts Office of the Mayor

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Honorable City Council Newton City Hall 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton Centre, MA 02459

Junes, 2022 RECEIVED RECEIVED

Councilors:

I respectfully docket this item to your Honorable Council requesting the transfer of \$220,000 in salary savings from 0160110-511001, Main Library – Full Time Salaries, to 01C22002-524130, Building Demolition/Other Repairs in Inspectional Services for the emergency demolition of the residential structure located at 91 Newtonville Avenue.

In the professional opinion of the Commissioner of Inspectional Services, the Newton Fire Department, and the Public Buildings Department, this structure represents an imminent public safety hazard, and as such it must be demolished as soon as possible. The structure is not safe to enter so it is not possible to assess whether it contains hazardous materials. Therefore, it will be demolished with the assumption that the structure contains hazardous materials with all appropriate precautions made in accordance with the regulations of the Department of Environmental Protection. Pest control services have already been secured, and will continue prior to, during, and upon completion of the demolition.

Under state law, the Commissioner of Inspectional Services has the authority to demolish unsafe structures and place a lien on the property for the costs and charges of the demolition. This cost of the demolition will be recoverable by the City, along with a substantial backlog of unpaid taxes, upon the sale of the property or a tax foreclosure by the City.

Please see the attached memo and photos from Public Buildings Commissioner Josh Morse.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller

Mayor



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

52 ELLIOT STREET, NEWTON HIGHLANDS, MA 02461

Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor Josh Morse, Building Commissioner Telephone (617) 796-1600 Facsimile (617) 796-1601 TDD/tty # (617) 796-1608

June 2nd, 2022

Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor Newton City Hall 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton Centre, MA 02459

Re: 91 Newtonville Avenue

Dear Mayor Fuller:

The Public Buildings Department requests \$219,775.00 for the demolition of the residential structure located at 91 Newtonville Avenue. In the professional opinion of the Commissioner of Inspectional Services, the Newton Fire Department, and the Public Buildings Department, this structure represents an imminent public safety hazard, and as such it must be demolished as soon as possible.

The structure is not safe to enter so it is not possible to assess whether it contains hazardous materials. Therefore, it will be demolished with the assumption that the structure contains hazardous materials with all appropriate precautions made in accordance with the regulations of the Department of Environmental Protection. Pest control services have already been secured, and will continue prior to, during, and upon completion of the demolition.

Sincerely,

Josh Morse

Public Buildings Commissioner

cc: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer John Lojek, Commissioner of Inspectional Services Alissa O. Giuliani, City Solicitor



