



Programs & Services Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Present: Councilors Krintzman (Chair), Noel, Humphrey, Wright, Greenberg, and Ryan

Absent: Councilors Albright and Baker

Also Present: Councilors Malakie, Norton, and Danberg

City Staff: Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer; and Jaclyn Norton, Committee Clerk

For more information regarding this meeting, a video recording can be found at the following link: [Programs and Services Committee - July 12, 2023 \(newtv.org\)](https://www.newtv.org/Programs-and-Services-Committee-July-12-2023)

#235-23 **Appointment of Maruta Vitols as a Jackson Homestead Trustee**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Maruta Vitols, 161 Homer Street, Newton Centre as a Trustee of the Jackson Homestead for a term of office to expire on July 10, 2026. (60 Days: 08/19/23)

Action: **Programs & Services Approved 6-0**

Note: Maura Vitols joined the Committee and described her experience working in a museum setting along with having a PhD in media history. When asked for more clarification on what a media historian is, she stated that it looks at how visual media interacts with culture. In serving as a Trustee, Ms. Vitols hopes to utilize her experience to usher the Jackson Homestead into a revitalized future. She also spoke against book bans and attacks on curriculum as a whole. Multiple Councilors supported the appointment and Councilors voted 6-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Noel.

#66-23 **Discussion and possible amendment to Sec. 12-72**
COUNCILORS DANBERG, LEARY, GREENBERG, ALBRIGHT, NORTON, KELLEY, MALAKIE, WRIGHT, MARKIEWICZ, CROSSLEY, DOWNS, NOEL, BOWMAN, RYAN, KALIS, LIPOF, OLIVER, HUMPHREY, AND LUCAS requesting discussion and possible amendment to Section 12-72 "Sustainable Containers, Packaging and Single Use Ordinance" to further reduce the amount of single use plastic in Newton.

Action: **Programs & Services Held 6-0**

Note: Councilor Danberg joined the Committee as the docketing Councilor and described changes to the ordinance since the previous discussion on April 19th. The major change in this ordinance is separating the single-use water bottle ban to be studied further. She

noted that multiple meetings have happened with the plastic reduction working group, local businesses, and the Charles River Chamber of Commerce and that these meetings have been productive. In meeting with Newton Wellesley Hospital, Newton Public Schools, and senior facilities, the docketing Councilor noted that they all were in support of the proposed ordinance. However, senior facilities and Newton Wellesley Hospital noted that they would still need to provide water in single-use plastic bottles to medically compromised patients.

The docketing Councilor introduced Alan Gordon who outlined the updated ordinance provided in advance of the meeting along with a summary document that outlines the changes. Changes to the proposed ordinance include separating the single-use plastic water bottle ban to be discussed at a later date, adding a definition of accessories, adding exceptions for the ordinance, and amending the effective date to accommodate passage in September. Restaurants will also be able to request a waiver on the black plastic takeout container ban to use existing inventory.

The Chair sought clarification on if any changes were made to the provision about the sale and intentional release of helium balloons and the new effective date. The Committee had previously received a letter advocating for only prohibiting the intentional release but not the sale of helium balloons. Mr. Gordon stated that no changes had been made to that provision at the moment and the docketing Councilor stated that the new effective date would be January 1, 2024.

A Councilor asked how this ordinance will be communicated to business owners once adopted. Mr. Gordon and Sunwoo Kahng noted the sample graphic provided in the backup material along with a commitment to work with the Charles River Chamber of Commerce and Green Newton to make sure all businesses are informed along with information being distributed in the Mayor's newsletter.

Multiple Councilors expressed concern that this ordinance is trying to do too much at once. It was recommended that this ordinance be split into parts to ensure that proper enforcement mechanisms are in place. One of these Councilors especially noted the ban on plastic glitter in cosmetics that is present in this ordinance and potential issues related to the enforcement of this provision.

Committee members voted 6-0 on a motion to hold from Councilor Ryan.

#248-23 Reappointment of Michael Flaherty to the Health and Human Services Advisory Council

HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing Michael Flaherty, 17 Glastonbury Oval, Waban as a member of the Health and Human Services Advisory Council for a term of office to expire on January 1, 2026. (60 Days: 09/08/23)

Action: Programs & Services Approved 6-0

Note: Item #248-23 was read into the record. Councilors expressing no concern relative to the reappointment and voted 6-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Humphrey.

#249-23 Reappointment of Matthew Stafford to the Health and Human Services Advisory Council

HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing Matthew Stafford, 40 Belmore Park, Newton as a member of the Health and Human Services Advisory Council for a term of office to expire on January 1, 2025. (60 Days: 09/08/23)

Action: Programs & Services Approved 6-0

Note: Item #249-23 was read into the record. Councilors expressing no concern relative to the reappointment and voted 6-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Krintzman.

#250-23 Reappointment of Asa Fanelli to the Health and Human Services Advisory Council

HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing Asa Fanelli, 8 Kerry Court, Newton as a member of the Health and Human Services Advisory Council for a term of office to expire on January 1, 2025. (60 Days: 09/08/23)

Action: Programs & Services Approved 6-0

Note: Item #250-23 was read into the record. Councilors expressing no concern relative to the reappointment and voted 6-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Noel.

#251-23 Reappointment of Joanna Josephson as a Newton Library Trustee

HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing Joanna Josephson, 141 Blake Street, Newton as a Newton Library Trustee for a term of office to expire on January 1, 2025. (60 Days: 09/08/23)

Action: Programs & Services Approved 6-0

Note: Item #251-23 was read into the record. Councilors expressing no concern relative to the reappointment and voted 6-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Noel.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Josh Krintzman, Chair