



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Agenda

City of Newton **In City Council**

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

7:00 PM

The Public Safety & Transportation Committee will hold this meeting as a virtual meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link <https://newtonma-gov.zoom.us/j/85174513285> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: **851 7451 3285**

Items Scheduled for Discussion:

- #54-24 Request to change the number of Deputy Chiefs in the Fire Department**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting to amend Chapter 10-28 of Newton Ordinances to change the number of Deputy Chiefs in the Fire Department from five to six.
- #53-24 Discussion concerning PS&T Committee workplan for the new term**
COUNCILOR GROSSMAN requesting a discussion with the Public Safety & Transportation Committee concerning the work plan of the PS&T Committee for the new 2024-2025 term.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Grossman, Chair

The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

#54-24

Telephone
(617) 796-1100
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(617) 796-1113
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January 8, 2024

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

Honorable City Councilors:

I respectfully submit this docket item to this Honorable Council requesting a revision to City Ordinance Sec. 10-28 to change the number of Deputy Chiefs in the Fire Department from five to six. This change will improve departmental management and not change the overall number of FTE positions within the Fire Department.

The proposed ordinance would now read: "There is hereby established a fire department under the charge of the fire chief. The fire department shall consist of the chief of the fire department, one assistant chief of operations, six deputy chiefs...". This section currently specifies that the Fire Department shall have five Deputy Chiefs.

This Deputy Chief position would replace a current Lieutenant position and would not add to the current full-time employees. In recent years, the Lieutenant position that would be replaced by the new Deputy Chief's position has taken on a much larger administrative role within the department, a role more appropriate for a higher-ranking member. The duties of this Deputy Chief will include but are not limited to: maintenance and upkeep of the department's staffing program; leading the hiring committee; public outreach and relations; serving as the public information officer including media relations and public information requests; developing updates to, and enforcing, policies and procedures; and providing training.

The creation of this additional Deputy Chief position would also improve the department's current span of control. At this time there are up to ten individuals who report directly to the Assistant Chief. The additional Deputy Chief would allow some of these employees to report to the newly established Deputy Chief.

Attached is a memo from Fire Chief Greg Gentile with additional details.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

RECEIVED
2024 JAN - 8 PM 3:18
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA. 02459



Gregory J. Gentile
Chief

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
1164 Centre Street, Newton Center, MA 02459-1584
Chief: (617) 796-2210 Fire Prevention: (617) 796-2230
FAX: (617) 796-2211 EMERGENCY: 911

#54-24



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

December 15, 2023

Maureen Lemieux
CFO
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton, MA 02459

Maureen,

I respectfully request to docket a revision to City of Newton ordinance Sec. 10-28. I request to revise this section, changing the number of Deputy Chiefs from five to six. The ordinance would now read: "There is hereby established a fire department under the charge of the fire chief. The fire department shall consist of the chief of the fire department, one assistant chief of operations, six deputy chiefs...". This section currently specifies that the Fire Department shall have five deputy Chiefs.

I believe the Fire Department would greatly benefit from an additional Deputy Chief position. This Deputy Chief position would replace a current Lieutenants position and would not add to our current full time employees. In recent years, the Lieutenants position that would be replaced by the new Deputy Chief's position has taken on a much larger administrative role within the department which would be more appropriately completed by a higher ranking member. These duties include but are not limited to: maintenance and upkeep of our staffing program, leading our hiring committee, public outreach and relations, public information officer including media relations and public information requests, updating and enforcing policies and procedures, and training. Having an additional Deputy Chief would also improve the current span of control. At this time, we have up to ten individuals who report directly to the Assistant Chief. The additional Deputy Chief would allow some of these employees to report directly to the newly established Deputy Chief, adding a layer underneath the Assistant Chiefs level, decreasing the Assistant Chief's span of control.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Greg Gentile
Chief of Department

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO.

January , 2024

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWTON AS
FOLLOWS:

That the Revised Ordinances of Newton, Massachusetts, 2017, as amended, be and are
hereby further amended with respect to **Chapter 10 Fire Protection and Prevention** as
follows:

- I. **DELETE** the word “five” where it appears in **Section 10-28. Composition.** and
INSERT in place thereof the word “six”.

Approved as to legal form and character:

ALISSA O. GIULIANI
City Solicitor

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Adopted

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Approved:

(SGD) CAROL MOORE
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor