



## Programs & Services Committee Report

### City of Newton In City Council

**Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

Present: Councilors Krintzman (Chair), Humphrey, Oliver, Micley, Malakie, and Lobovits

Absent: Councilors Baker and Farrell

Also Present: Councilors Albright, and Getz

City Staff: Seth Bai, Veterans' Services Director; Linda Walsh, Commissioner of Health and Human Services; Alissa Giuliani, City Solicitor; Mignonne Murray, Senior Services Director; Jenna Bancroft, Director of Social Services; Ruth Hoshino, Director of School Health; Shin-Yi Lao, Public Health Manager; Barney Heath, Director of Planning; Perry Rosenfield, FP&A Manager; Connor Roach, Senior Financial Analyst; Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer; and Jaclyn Norton, Committee Clerk

All agendas and reports, both past and present can be found at the following link: [Programs & Services Committee | City of Newton, MA \(newtonma.gov\)](https://www.newtonma.gov/Programs-Services-Committee)

For more information regarding this meeting, a video recording can be found at the following link: [Programs and Services - May 8, 2024 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

**#226-24      Resolution to declare June 9, 2024 George Mansfield Day**  
COUNCILORS BAKER AND LAREDO requesting a resolution to declare June 9, 2024 George Mansfield Day in the City of Newton.

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

**Note:**      Former Alderman Kenneth Parker described how he served with George Mansfield and described that former Alderman Mansfield was Vice President and Chair of multiple Committees during his tenure. June 9<sup>th</sup> was selected as it is Village Day in Newton Highlands, and it was stated that a bench is also being dedicated in memory of former Alderman Mansfield. Multiple Councilors noted support for the resolution with one Councilor proposing that the council could investigate creating a precedent of honoring the longest serving Councilors. The Chair stated that this could be taken up by the Rules Subcommittee which will be conducting a review of Council Rules.

Committee members voted 6-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Oliver.

**Referred to Programs & Services and Finance Committee**

**#192-24**      **Requesting authorization to transfer \$85,000 for HHS nursing staffing**  
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of \$85,000 from Account # 0150103-511001 Health & Human Services Clinical Health, Full Time Salaries to Account # 0150103-531300 Temporary Staffing.

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

**Note:**      Linda Walsh, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, noted a prior expenditure to hire school nurses through a staffing agency due to vacancies. She added that these positions are difficult to recruit for and that there is a nationwide shortage of nurses. Councilors asked the duration that this money would cover and if the City is spending more needing to hire through a staffing agency. Commissioner Walsh stated that this would cover about two months of staffing for the three openings and that the staffing agency is more expensive than if the nurses were hired in-house.

Councilors voted 6-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Oliver.

**Referred to Programs & Services and Finance Committee**

**#197-24**      **Requesting authorization to transfer \$125,000 for Law Department legal services**  
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of \$125,000 from Account # 0110851-511001 Law Department, Full Time Salaries to Account # 0110851-530900 Legal Services.

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

**Note:**      Alissa Giuliani, City Solicitor, stated that in 2022 Jeff Honing who handled contract negotiations for the City passed away. The City has been trying to hire an experienced attorney to fill the open position but has been unsuccessful. Outside counsel has been retained to complete this work. Before Mr. Honing passed the Department hired Jennifer Kelly who is handling other labor-related cases. Councilors asked if Attorney Giuliani could speak as to why the position has not been filled. Attorney Giuliani stated that they reposted the job with an increased starting salary and that they have been reaching out to individuals along with professional organizations. In terms of cost the cost of hiring this outside counsel has been similar to the salary someone would be paid if hired in-house for this position.

Councilors voted 6-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Malakie.

**#200-24**      **Appointment of Donald Siegel to the Newton Housing Authority**  
HER HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Donald Siegel, 82 Paulson Road, Waban as a member of the Newton Housing Authority for a term of office set to expire on May 20, 2029. (60 Days: 06/15/2024)

**Action:**      **Programs & Services Approved as Amended changing “2029” to “2027” 6-0**

**Note:** Donald Siegel joined the Committee and described that he is a longtime Newton Resident and had experience being a union attorney. He said that he welcomed the opportunity and urged the importance of public housing. Councilors noted support for the appointment with one Councilor asking if the term length was correct. Barney Heath, Director of Planning, confirmed that the term should be three years instead of five years. Committee members voted 6-0 on a motion to amend “2029” to “2027” and approve the item from Councilor Humphrey.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Josh Krintzman, Chair**