



## Programs & Services Committee Report

### City of Newton In City Council

**Wednesday, July 10, 2024**

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

Absent: Councilor Farrell

Also Present: Councilors Lucas and Greenberg

City Staff: Carol Moore, City Clerk/Clerk of the Council; Hattie, Kerwin Derrick, Director of Community Engagement and Inclusion; Lisa Dady, Director of Historic Newton; Shubee Sikka, Urban Designer; 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 Committee - July 10, 2024 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

**#284-24      Appointment of Nathan Persampieri to the Commission on Disability**  
HER HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Nathan Persampieri, 108 Washington Park, Newtonville as a member of the Commission on Disability for a term of office set to expire on May 31, 2025. (60 Days: 09/06/2024)

**Action:**      **Programs & Services Approved 6-0 (Councilor Micley Not Voting)**

**Note:**      Mr. Persampieri noted his passion for advocating for people with disabilities and that a policy focus for him would be improving the accessibility of sidewalks within Newton. Councilors stated support for this appointment and asked if he knew if the City has a comprehensive plan to address sidewalk accessibility within the City. Mr. Persampieri responded that he would need to check on if the City has a comprehensive plan and described his personal experience navigating sidewalks in Newton as a person with a physical disability. Councilors voted 6-0 (Councilor Micley Not Voting) on a motion to approve from Councilor Krintzman.

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

#272-24

**Request for salary increase for City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council**

COUNCILORS LAREDO and KALIS requesting an increase in the salary of the City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council to \$139,310 effective July 1, 2024 to match the percentage increase included in the FY25 budget for H-grade employees.

**Action:****Programs & Services Approved as Amended to Change “\$139,310” to “\$138,776” 6-0 (Councilor Micley Not Voting)****Note:**

The Chair noted that the City Council needs to authorize the salary for the City Clerk/Clerk of the Council. The proposed increase is in line with the same pay increase as other H-grade employees of the City. Before the meeting the Chief Financial Officer of the City notified the Clerk that the salary amount needed to be amended to \$138,776 to reflect the fiscal year being 52.2 weeks. Councilors voted 6-0 (Councilor Micley Not Voting) on a motion to approve as amended to change “\$139,310” to “\$138,776” from Councilor Oliver.

#55-24

**Requesting Update Regarding City Seal Redesign**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting to provide the Programs & Services Committee with an update regarding the City Seal redesign.

**Programs & Services Held 8-0 on 02/21/24****Action:****Programs & Services Held 7-0****Note:**

Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Director of Community Engagement and Inclusion, described the work of the City Seal Working Group and the City Council’s prior approval of hiring a consultant to create potential designs for a new City Seal. There are three initial designs found in the attached presentation and are on display at City Hall. The Chair noted that as the City Seal is part of the City Ordinances it requires approval by the City Council to amend. Ms. Kerwin Derrick also stated that feedback is being solicited through a survey which can be filled out online [here](#), by scanning the QR code at City Hall, or by completing a paper version (attached). The survey is open until August 21st and any person that interacts with the City of Newton is welcome to respond. Ms. Kerwin Derrick added that individuals can mix and match components of the three proposed designs in the open-ended response questions. The City Council representative on the City Seal Working Group noted that the current draft designs are in black and white with a color version of the proposed seal being made once the City Seal Working Group has narrowed it down to one proposed design. Regarding the financials once the City Seal is updated it will be updated when things are naturally replaced (i.e. vehicles and trash/recycling bins) and signs put up where the existing seal cannot be removed (City Hall Rotunda).

Councilors raised concerns about the survey not containing a no-change option for individuals to rank. Ms. Kerwin Derrick noted that this allowed for the survey to be a recommendation on one of the proposed designs and not if the seal should be changed. Individuals can state that they oppose the changing of the City Seal in the open-ended responses. A Councilor also posed the question on efforts being made to prevent someone from voting in the survey multiple

times. It was noted that the City is working with the IT Department to enable fail-safes within the survey and that responses are coming in at a steady pace. Councilors also requested that the responses to the survey be made available to the Council once the survey has concluded. Councilors expressed feedback regarding the three draft designs and the City Council representative on the City Seal Working Group stated that Councilors are welcome to send him feedback. Questions were asked why the year 1630 is included on any of the draft designs. Lisa Dady, Director of Historic Newton, stated that 1630 is not the specific year in which Newton was founded but rather a vague estimate of when Europeans first inhabited the area and is not based on official action. The years 1688 and 1873 are included on the draft seals as these are the years when Newton was incorporated as a town and became a city respectively.

Councilors voted 7-0 on a motion to hold from Councilor Humphrey.

**#280-24 Reappointment of Joan Belle Isle to the Council on Aging**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing Joan Belle Isle, 295 Tremont Street as a member of the Council on Aging for a term of office set to expire on July 19, 2027. (60 Days: 09/06/2024)

**Action:** Programs & Services Approved 7-0

**Note:** Ms. Belle Isle noted the difficulties that individuals can experience while aging and stated how she would like to help with the refocusing of services within Newton as the Cooper Center for Active Living opens. Councilors asked Ms. Belle Isle if she could say any aspects that have been enlightening and what have been her favorite moments on the Council on Aging. She stated that the needs assessment currently being conducted in Newton has been enlightening and that her favorite moments pertain to mobilizing individuals to have a new Center for Active Living in Newton. Committee members voted 7-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Oliver.

**#282-24 Reappointment of Barbara Lischinsky to the Commission on Disability**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing Barbara Lischinsky, 1942 Washington Street, Newton as a member of the Commission on Disability for a term of office set to expire on July 31, 2027. (60 Days: 09/06/2024)

**Action:** Programs & Services Approved 7-0

**Note:** The Chair read item #282-24 into the record and Councilors citing no objections voted 7-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Krintzman.

**#283-24 Reappointment of Lucille Chansky to the Commission on Disability**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing Lucille Chansky, 259 Jackson Street, Newton as a member of the Commission on Disability for a term of office set to expire on July 3, 2027. (60 Days: 09/06/2024)

**Action:** Programs & Services Approved 7-0

**Note:** Ms. Chansky noted that she has served on the Commission on Disability for over 30 years along with her connection to the disabled community. A Councilor thanked her for her service and voiced support for the reappointment. Committee members voted 7-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Lobovits.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Josh Krintzman, Chair**



The City of Newton V2.1

In the following pages, you will see a series of sketches to give you a sense of three possible directions the seal could take. Each is in black and white since the color is subjective.



Option A

Simple  
Straight forward  
Flexible



Option A



This is a picture of central part of the City Hall with the fountain in front. The dates 1688 and 1873 are flanking the City Hall spire. The border at the top has the words City of Newton, Massachusetts, Liberty and Union on the left side and Thirteen villages on the right side. This design celebrates Newton's rich history. With celebratory banners featuring historical information flanking the central image of City Hall, this seal emphasizes the city's heritage. The typography at the top partially recreates elements from previous seals, preserving a sense of tradition. The overall design fits seamlessly within the broader pantheon of Massachusetts city and town seals.



Option B

Official  
Classic  
Everlasting



Option B



This is a picture of the City Hall spire. . The border at the top has the words City of Newton, Ma, 13 Villages in Liberty & Union on the bottom and 1688 on the left side and 1873 on the right side. This design offers a close-up of City Hall, showcasing one of its lower spires from a heroic angle. As one of Newton's most iconic and non-religious buildings, City Hall symbolizes the proud history of the city. The upward perspective of the spire is meant to evoke hope and dignity. The intricate details of the building emphasize Newton's historic character and tie it to the new seal.



Option C

Natural  
Pleasant  
Community  
“The Garden City”



Option C



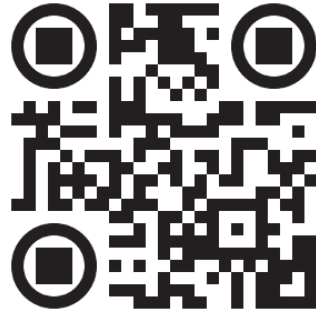
This is a picture of a tree, with roots showing and a river running along the left side. Above the tree are the words City of Newton, MA, at the bottom the words Liberty & Union. On the left side 1688 on the left side and 1873 on the right side. Although Newton does not have an official tree, the red maple would be a fitting choice. Ubiquitous throughout the city, the red maple is both colorful and iconic, symbolizing endurance and beauty—qualities synonymous with Newton. This design uses a tridecagon instead of a circle to represent the city's thirteen villages, adding a unique touch to the seal.





# Share Your Feedback!

Please Follow the QR Code below.



[sebastianebarb.com](http://sebastianebarb.com)

### City Seal Survey Questions June 2024

Once you have completed the survey you can deposit in the box below or at City Hall. All responses are due Tuesday, August 21. Please note these are in black and white as color is subjective.

Option A

Simple

Straightforward

Flexible

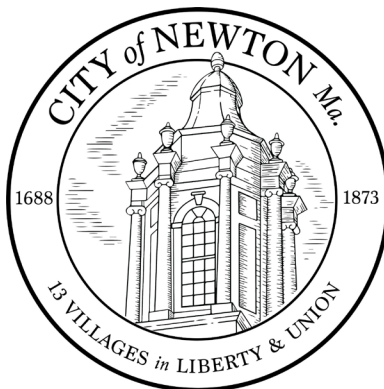


Option B

Official

Classic

Everlasting



Option C

Natural

Community

Pleasant



**City Seal Survey Questions  
June 2024**

Now we would like you to rank your first, second, and third choices. Which of the three designs is your first choice? (please choose one)

Which of the three designs is your second choice? (please choose one)

Which of the three designs is your third choice? (please choose one)

Which element(s) of any of the three designs would you like to see retained in the design? For example, I like the font in Option x, I like the central image in Option x, I like this phrase in Option x and I like the shape (outer circle) of Option x.

Which element(s) of any of the three designs would you like to not see retained in the design?

Any additional feedback?

**Tell us a little about your interest in the City Seal.**

- I am a current Newton resident.
- I work in Newton.
- I have lived in Newton in the past.

**Please place in the envelope below or return it to Customer Service at City Hall.**

