



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Agenda

City of Newton **In City Council**

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

7:00 PM

The Public Safety & Transportation Committee will hold this meeting as a virtual meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link <https://newtonma.gov.zoom.us/j/87229897138> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: **872 2989 7138**

Items Scheduled for Discussion:

- #379-24 Requesting a presentation and discussion with MAPC on residential parking programs and research**
COUNCILORS DOWNS, GROSSMAN, BIXBY, WRIGHT, KRINTZMAN, MICLEY AND DANGERG requesting a presentation and discussion with MAPC as part of Public Safety & Transportation Committee examination of residential parking management, learn about programs and research from around the country from regional planners.
- #454-24 Appointment of Police Chief**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting the appointment of George R. McMains as the Chief of the Newton Police Department.

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

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#454-24

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November 15, 2024

City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Honorable City Councilors,

I am grateful to have the opportunity to appoint Acting Police Chief George R. McMains to be the next Chief of the Newton Police Department.

George McMains has just the right skills, experience, temperament, judgment and work ethic that our community and our police department need at this time ... and he is a man of integrity and a proven leader.

After serving as a United States Marine overseas during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, Acting Chief McMains returned to the United States, graduated from the Police Academy, and began his career stateside as a Newton Police Officer in 1997. He brought the Marine Corps core values to his work in our community – honor, courage and commitment. For the past 28 years, he served in many roles and at every rank in the Newton Police Department. Two years ago, I swore him in as Superintendent of Police, the department's second in command. When former Chief Carmichael needed a leave of absence both last year and again this year before stepping down, George McMains admirably led our department.

George is dedicated to fostering a community-oriented police department that prioritizes the quality of life for all residents. He believes in delivering policing that is fair, just, respectful, safe, and effective.

I know him well as a strong, quiet leader. I admire his listening skills, genuine curiosity, and ability to work well with community members from all walks of life. He is open and respectful of different viewpoints and opinions. I have seen firsthand that in times of crisis, confusion and controversy, he is calm, decisive and thoughtful. He has good judgment. He is mature. He is respected and liked by the officers and staff within the Newton Police Department. He cares deeply about his team and their wellness and effectiveness. He is not only a good leader but also a good person.

I am grateful for the help of so many as we did our due diligence in searching for a new permanent Chief of the Newton Police Department. I want to thank our Police Selection Committee for their careful consideration, which included City Councilor Tarik Lucas, Hon. Judge Nancy Holtz (Ret.), Chief Kevin O'Connell of the Waltham Police Department, former Police Reform Task Force member Attorney Derege Demissie, former member of the 2021 Police Chief Selection Committee Attorney Michelle Leung, a Newton resident and President and CEO of the May Institute Dr. Lauren Solotar, Rabbi Keith Stern of Temple Beth Avodah, Newton business owner of O'Hara's Food and Sprits and Paddy's Public House Karl O'Hara, Officer John Panica of the Newton Patrol Association, and Sgt. John Claflin of the Newton Superior Officers Association. When the Committee met with me on Wednesday night, they made a "full throated and unanimous" recommendation that Acting Chief McMains be my choice.

In making their recommendation, the Committee members cited Acting Chief McMains' ability to command and to lead. They spoke of his ability, knowledge, talent, capability, trustworthiness, genuineness, dedication, reliability, institutional knowledge and collaborative nature. As one of the members of the Committee said, George even raises puppies to be service dogs.

I look forward to Acting Chief McMains speaking with the Newton City Council later this month as they undertake their approval process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruthanne Fuller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller