



Programs & Services Committee Report

Special Meeting

City of Newton

In City Council

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Present: Councilors Rice (Chair), Krintzman, Greenberg, Brousal-Glaser and Schwartz

Absent: Councilors Albright, Kalis and Baker

#604-18 **Appointment of Norm Meltz to the Council on Aging**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR appointing NORM MELTZ, 287 Langley Road, Newton Centre, as a member of the COUNCIL ON AGING for a term to expire January 1, 2022. (60 days: 2/1/19)

Action: **Programs & Services Approved 5-0**

Note: Norm Meltz joined the Committee. The Chair asked him why he would like to join the Council on Aging. Mr. Meltz explained that he retired a year ago and would like to contribute to the City and he felt the Council on Aging would be of interest to him. Councilor Rice, who is on the Building Committee for the Newton Center for Active Living (NewCal), asked Mr. Meltz for his opinion on the project. Mr. Meltz said the project is necessary as the current Senior Center is out-of-date and in desperate need of repair. There has been some controversy as to whether the new facility will be dedicated to programming for senior residents, or if all members of the community will be welcome. He felt that the primary use of the space should be dedicated for senior programming and other programming could be scheduled for otherwise underutilized times. Providing some opportunities for multi-generational uses would be beneficial for all residents of the City.

It was noted that Mr. Meltz has been on the Council on Aging Advisory Board. A Councilor asked if he had interest in any particular issue. Mr. Meltz said he is about to be involved in a project to forecast the effects of the baby boomer generation reaching retirement in terms of what the City might be able to provide. Studies have shown that baby boomers' needs, demands and lifestyles have not been similar to previous generations. That might be true for all generations, but the concept is to look at what baby boomers might want in their retirement and try to anticipate what the City might be able to provide to meet those needs. For example, housing is one of the issues because popular thought is that baby boomers generally want to age-in-place more so than previous generations. This will affect the types of housing that might be needed. Also being considered is what the recreational desires might be and what facilities would be appealing to a generation of seniors that has been more active than those before them.

Overall, the study will include analysis of comparable cities to determine what is being done and compile that information along with what is determined in Newton, into a report or study to be shared with municipalities. Because there is a significant boost in numbers of people in this demographic, cities and towns will experience effects.

A Committee member noted that Mr. Meltz's background is in investment and finance and he wondered how this might be helpful to the work of the Council on Aging. Mr. Meltz noted that there will be data gathering and analysis work that is required for this study, with which he is very experienced.

Councilor Brousal-Glaser moved approval and the Committee voted to approve Mr. Meltz's appointment unanimously, with thanks for his willingness to serve.

Respectfully Submitted,

John B. Rice, Chair