



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Agenda

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

7:00 PM
Room 205

Items Scheduled for Discussion:

- #45-19** **Requesting ordinance amendments that will expand the availability of Police details**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR, requesting the following ordinances be amended by adding into ***Chapter 24, Sec. 24-11 Supplemental Traffic Control Detail*** and amend ***Sec. 19-46 to include the new Supplemental Traffic Control Detail appointees.***
- #554-18** **Proposal to end winter parking ban on select streets in Wards 2 and 3.**
COUNCILORS ALBRIGHT, NORTON, COTE, BROUSAL-GLASER AND KELLEY, proposing to end the winter parking ban on select streets in Wards 2 and 3.
HELD 6-0, Councilors Lipof and Noel not voting on 11/07/18
HELD 8-0 on 12/05/18

All other items before the Committee will be held without discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. 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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Office of the Mayor

#45-19,

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January 14, 2019

RECEIVED
Newton City Clerk
2019 JAN 31 PM 2:45
DAVID A. O'NEIL, CIVIL
NEWTON, MA 02459

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

Honorable City Councilors:

The City of Newton is experiencing delays in both municipal and utility work due to a shortage of police details needed for construction projects. I write to ask the Honorable Council to consider the following two amendments to the City Ordinances that will expand the availability of details:

1. To amend Chapter 24 of the Ordinances by adding a new Sec. 24-11 *Supplemental Traffic Control Detail* which will enable the Chief of Police to hire part time personnel on an as-needed basis to assist in directing traffic at construction sites in the public way when no sworn police officers or police retiree detail patrol appointees are available.
2. To amend Sec. 19-46 of the Ordinances to include the new Supplemental Traffic Control Detail appointees as persons authorized to direct traffic on construction details within and about the public ways in Newton.

The Departments of Public Works, Parks & Recreation and Public Buildings, as well as the Police Department, are in full support of this docket item to increase the pool of available construction details. The addition of more people available to do details is necessary due to the volume of road work in Newton. This includes road/sidewalk improvements, utility work, tree plantings and removal, and building construction/maintenance and repairs.

Construction details are necessary to ensure the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and workers when any work is performed in or near the City right-of-way. Due to the volume of work being performed throughout the City, there has been an extreme shortage of available police details. This shortage is creating a significant impact to project timelines and operational budgets. Quite often when police details cannot be filled, the work must be postponed, delaying a project and adding costs to reschedule. Since last February, when DPW began tracking the number of unfilled construction details, an average of 24% of the requested details went unfilled. The number of unfilled detail requests is anticipated to increase significantly this year due to two major village center enhancement projects (West Newton and Newtonville) along with the end of the NGRID lockout which has been in effect since June 2018.

The City of Newton will hire people with experience in law enforcement or people who are pursuing a

career in law enforcement who are working with the Newton Police Department. This includes the following:


- Retired Massachusetts Police Officers based on superannuation;
- Newton Auxiliary Officers;
- Retired Massachusetts Sheriffs based on superannuation;
- Retired Massachusetts State Police based on superannuation;
- People with prior law enforcement experience or training acceptable to the Chief of Police.
- In addition, if additional personnel are required then college seniors that have an intern relationship with NPD (currently Pine Manor or Lasell College) can be hired. Selection criteria will be established and agreed upon by the respective college(s) and the Police Department.

The Supplemental Traffic Control Program within the Police Department will allow it to add additional supplemental personnel to meet their construction detail demands at peak times during the construction season. Like many other communities, Newton is dealing with an increase of construction with a limited number of police officers to meet those demands.

The Police Department has discussed the parameters of these changes with the affected unions. The Police Department will create a General Order, a Standard Operating Procedure and internal detail rules to govern the anticipated changes for the supplemental personnel.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruthanne Fuller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor

Attachments:

1. Ordinance language for Supplemental Traffic Control Detail

SUPPLEMENTAL TRAFFIC DETAIL ORDINANCE

AMEND Sec. 19-46. Police to direct traffic; construction sites; direction in event of fire or emergency.

It shall be the duty of officers designated by the chief of police to enforce the provisions of this chapter. Only sworn police officers, retired special police officers appointed pursuant to Sec. 24-6, and, when neither is available, supplemental traffic detail personnel appointed pursuant to Sec. 24-11, are hereby authorized to direct all traffic either in person or by means of visible or audible signals in conformance with the provisions of this chapter, including at construction sites in the public way. However, in the event of a fire or other emergency, to expedite traffic or safeguard pedestrians, officers of the police or fire department may direct traffic as conditions may require, notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter.

ADD a new Section 24-11 as follows: Sec. 24-11 Supplemental Traffic Detail

The chief of police may appoint, subject to the approval of the mayor, persons to be known as the Newton Supplemental Traffic Detail to direct traffic at construction sites as needed within and about the public way, and who shall be paid when actually employed by the order of the chief of police. Such Supplemental Traffic Detail personnel shall obey all lawful orders of the chief of police and be subject to all the rules and regulations of the police department not inconsistent with their authority and duties. Appointment to the Supplemental Traffic Detail under this section does not entitle that person to assignment to any detail. Persons appointed under this section shall not work more than 19.5 hours in a seven-day work week.