

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 13, 2015

7:15 pm **NOTE EARLY START TIME**
Room 205

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

#155-15 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR seeking approval to establish a Search Committee for the Chief of Police in accordance with Chapter 279, Section 5 of the Acts of 1992. [06/08/15 @ 5:41 PM]
HELD 6-0, Ald. Johnson not voting on 06/17/15

DISCUSSION ITEM: Chairman's Note: At the Chair's request, Lt. William Spalding, Newton Police Department, will discuss the Newton Police Jail Diversion Program (JDP) awarded through the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

All other items will be held without discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chairman

The location of this meeting is handicap accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you need a special accommodation, *please contact Jini Fairley, at least two days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov, or 617-796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service dial 711.*



SETTI D. WARREN
MAYOR

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Office of the Mayor

#155-15

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June 8, 2015

Honorable Board of Aldermen
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with Mass General Law Chapter 279, "An act exempting the position of Chief of Police in the City of Newton from the provisions of the Civil Service Law", Section 5 – Selection Committee, I write to request that your Honorable Board docket for consideration a request to approve the appointment of the attached list of appointees to assist in the selection of a successor to Chief Howard Mintz, who will be required to retire by November 30, 2015 after having attained the age of 65 years old.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

Setti D. Warren
Mayor

RECEIVED
Newton City Clerk
2015 JUN -8 PM 5:41
David A. Olson, CMC
Newton, MA 02459

1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

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DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

A selection committee of nine persons shall be established to assist in the selection process. The committee will be made up as follows:

- 1: Board of Alderman:** Alderman Allan Ciccone, Jr
- 2: One Newton Citizen appointed by Board:** Joanne Kazarian
- 3: Newton Superiors Police Association:** Sgt. John O'Connell
- 4: Business Executive:** Seana Gherin
- 5: Attorney:** Lei Reilly, Esq.
- 6: Judiciary:** Honorable Conrad J. Bletzer
- 7: MA Police chief's Association:** Natick Chief of Police James Hicks
- 8: Two Newton Citizen appointed by Mayor:** Rosalind Johnson, Lisa Jones

Newton Police Jail Diversion Program

Based on the Framingham Jail Diversion Program Model
By Lt William Spalding
In collaboration with Sarah Abbott Ph.D.

Over the past year Chief Mintz, Captain Berube and Lt. Spalding of the Newton Police Department have met with Sarah Abbott and Sarah Cloud of Advocates Inc. to discuss the possibility of bringing a Jail Diversion Program (JDP) program to Newton and to secure funding through the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Grant through Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). Advocates Inc. currently runs JDPs in many of the surrounding communities that they provide Psychiatric Emergency Services for, similar to what Riverside Community Care currently does for Newton. After many hours of preparation the grant proposal was submitted in late January of 2015 and in early June 2015 we received notification that the grant was awarded to the police department in the amount of \$99,633.60.

The Newton Police Department will be working with Riverside Community Care to hire and train the clinician for Newton's JDP. The clinician will be an employee of Riverside Community Care, but will work full time out of the police station.

The Newton Jail Diversion Program (NJDP) proposes to address the program priority of Improving coordinated responses to mental health. The jail diversion model is data-driven, as the data reported in the needs section show the high prevalence of people with mental illness engaged in the criminal justice system. Data collected by the Newton Police Department show the regular volume of calls received by police related to individuals with mental illness or substance abuse issues. Recent 911/call for service analysis shows that during the year of 2013, the Newton Police Department had over 51 calls for completed, attempted or threatened suicides, 38 intoxicated persons, 134 psychological evaluations, 360 domestic disturbance calls and 39 overdoses. In 2014, the Newton Police Department had over 38 calls for completed, attempted or threatened suicides, 35 intoxicated persons, 127 psychological evaluations, 277 domestic disturbance calls and 38 overdoses. Data is also used to determine the best way to implement the program model and deliver services most effectively. After evaluating our data and the data of the other successful programs in the area we will be having the clinician work the 330pm-1130pm shift Monday through Friday.

The proposed NJDP is a police-based, pre-arrest diversion program that will prevent individuals with a major mental illness from being arrested when community-based mental health treatment is more appropriate. The NJDP will pair a Master's Degree level trained social worker (clinician) with patrol officers on the 3:30pm-11:30pm shift, five nights a week. The clinician will assist the police in determining the most appropriate disposition for the mentally ill when called to respond to disturbances in the Newton community.

#142-15(2)

A four (4) hour orientation training will be provided to all the police officers. The orientation training consisted of two sections: The first section provides an overview of the different categories of mental illness, common signs and symptoms, medications used to treat mental illness and de-escalation techniques for first responders. The second section covers the genesis of the Jail Diversion Program, the operational aspects of the program, information on how to access the clinicians and scenarios under which the program clinicians could be helpful. (*Sarah Abbott*)

Another key component of the program model will be the development of an active network of stakeholders to include Riverside Community Care and the Newton Police Department, along with other social service providers in the community and appropriate representatives from the criminal justice system.

The Grant covers funding for the program for 14 months, but can be extended when the program proves to be successful.