

Mayor's Update

Chief David MacDonald of the Newton Police Department told me this morning of his intention to retire.

In the last few weeks, the Chief and I have worked closely together as we began to consider the ways in which our Department can reimagine law enforcement and be a leader in Massachusetts for just policing. We have spent many hours contemplating what we are doing well and what we can do better. I was proud to see Chief MacDonald talk thoughtfully about the results of his hard work these past five years as the Chief and I looked forward to tackling this great task together.



Chief MacDonald had been contemplating his retirement from the City for some time. He recently recognized that with all of the work we have ahead, that his successor would be best off starting that important work from the beginning stages, rather than at the implementation stage. I understand that and appreciate that even while making this difficult decision, he again, considered the needs of the City of Newton Police Department.

Chief MacDonald shared with me that he wants to focus more on his health and his family, so it made sense to him, that this summer would be the time for him to hand over his gold badge after 27 years of service. He will now be able to spend more time with his wife and their two children.

Chief MacDonald was hired as a City of Newton Police Officer on February 21, 1993. He was promoted to Sergeant in April of 1999, then to Lieutenant in December of 2004 and Captain in August of 2015. He served as the Executive Officer for the Department beginning in 2013 where he worked side by side with former Chief Howard L. Mintz. MacDonald became Chief when he was appointed by former Mayor Setti Warren on November 30, 2015.

Chief MacDonald was also a Narcotics Investigator and Supervisor for the Middlesex County Drug Taskforce for seven years. He earned his Bachelor Degree in Political Science from UMass Amherst and his Masters of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from New England College.

Chief MacDonald has proudly served in the role of Chief for almost five years. During that time, he has worked to enhance community policing efforts in the City and to ensure the Newton Police Department lives up to its mission of guaranteeing respect and dignity for each individual while preventing crime, solving problems and enforcing the law. I am proud of his commitment to procedural justice and treating all people with dignity and giving residents a voice. I am grateful for his dedicated service to the City of Newton.

This week we will work together to decide on the date of his retirement. I will also be deciding on who should serve as Acting Chief as we undertake the search for Chief MacDonald's replacement.

Current Cases

There are 765 Newton residents who have tested positive for COVID-19, according to preliminary data through June 15, 2020. You may have noticed a decrease in total cases reported – a few have been reassigned to other cities/towns due to corrected addresses or duplication. We're pleased to see few new cases recently. Last week with data through June 9, there were 766 confirmed cases.

Free COVID-19 Tests Wednesday & Thursday

Have you recently participated in a demonstration or large gathering?

The Baker-Polito Administration announced the availability of pop-up COVID-19 testing at more than 50 sites throughout the Commonwealth for individuals who have recently participated in large gatherings. These free tests are available on Wednesday, June 17th and Thursday, June 18th.



Governor Baker is urging anyone who has attended a large gathering in the past two weeks to get tested for COVID-19 at one of these sites. Test results will be provided to each participant confidentially, and participants are encouraged to share these results with their doctors. Find more information and a full list of testing sites at mass.gov/gettested or make an appointment [here](#).

Here are some nearby sites:

- [Brigham-Health Brookside Community Health Center](#), 3297 Washington St., Jamaica Plain, Walk-in Only, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- [Waltham CVS Minute Clinic](#), 928 Riverdale St., Appointments Only, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., To make an appointment, go to minuteclinic/covid-19-testing. Where the form asks "Have you been prioritized by your state or local health department for testing? (e.g., for public health monitoring)?" select "Yes."

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. Wondering how to safely "re-emerge" back into the community now that things are opening back up? Newton's Department of Senior Services and Council on Aging is hosting Dr. Michael Mina, an epidemiologist, immunologist and physician at the Harvard School of Public Health and Medical School. He will provide some strategies, especially for older residents who are at particular risk from COVID-19. Join the Zoom program tomorrow night, Wednesday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m. Registration is required to join the program. Register [here](#).



Market opens at its new Newton South High School location, 140 Brandeis Road, this Saturday, June 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Many vendors are offering the option to place an order and pay online, and pick-up pre-purchased orders curbside at the market. Wear your mask and please leave your dog at

home. More information [here](#).

P.P.P.S Are you an artist interested in bringing the Newton community together through chalk art? Newton Community Pride, Newton Cultural Council and the Newton Commission on Disability are bringing artists together for "Saturday Sidewalk Studios." Create chalk murals on three Saturdays in July along the Carriage Lane on Commonwealth Avenue. Three professional/emerging artists and three student artists (under 18) will be selected. The application deadline is Wednesday, June 24 at midnight. More information [here](#).

