



## **Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report**

### **City of Newton** **In City Council**

**Wednesday, January 20, 2021**

**Present:** Councilors Downs (Chair), Malakie, Grossman, Markiewicz, Bowman and two vacancies.

**Absent:** Councilor Lipof

**City Staff Present:** Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Yeo, Assistant City Clerk Nadia Khan

**#20-21      Request to extend the appointment of Newton Retired Police Chief Howard L. Mintz**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR in accordance with Section 3-6 of the City of Newton Charter, requesting authorization to extend the appointment of Newton Police Department Retired Police Chief Howard L. Mintz as Interim Chief of Police until such time as a permanent Chief of Police has been named and is in place.

**Action:**      **Public Safety & Transportation Approved 5-0**

**Note:**      Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Yeo presented the request to extend the appointment of interim Chief of Police Howard Mintz until a new Police Chief has been hired and is in place. Mr. Yeo stated that that Police Chief position has been posted as of January 19, 2021. It is the expectation that a new police chief can be recruited and hired by the end of March 2021. The Committee expressed no concerns relative to the request and voted 5-0 in favor of a motion to approve from Councilor Grossman.

### **Referred to Public Facilities Committees**

**#22-21      Request for approval of Commonwealth Ave/Auburn Street Concept Design**  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS requesting, on behalf of Mass DOT, approval of the concept redesign plan for the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Auburn Street.

**Referred to Public Safety & Transportation, Zoning & Planning Committees and  
Public Facilities Committees**

**#506-20**      **Discussion with Police, DPW and Inspectional Services on sidewalk obstructions**  
**COUNCILORS DOWNS, LEARY, ALBRIGHT & BOWMAN** requesting a discussion  
with Police, Public Works and Inspectional Services regarding  
sidewalk obstruction, enforcement, regulation, and operating procedures during  
construction used to ensure safety for nonmotorized road users.

**Action:**      **Public Safety & Transportation Held 5-0**

**Referred to Public Facilities and Public Safety & Transportation Committees**

**#533-20**      **Requesting a discussion regarding snow clearing, operations and enforcement**  
**COUNCILORS DANBERG, MARKIEWICZ, BOWMAN, DOWNS AND NOEL** requesting  
a discussion with the Department of Public Works and the Police Department  
regarding residential and commercial sidewalk snow clearing, operations and  
enforcement.

**Action:**      **Public Safety & Transportation Held 5-0**

**Note:**      The Committee joined the Public Facilities Committee to discuss items #22-21,  
#506-20 and #533-20. Please see the Public Facilities Report to view the discussion relative to  
these items.

The Committee adjourned at 9:30 pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Andreae Downs, Chair**