AGENDA FOR THE CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

[IGNORE_INDENT]

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC COMMENT

REGULAR AND PENDING EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

1. June 11, 2024, September 4, 2024, and April 15, 2025 Executive Session Minutes - Reviewed and ready for partial release as of September 17, 2025

2. December 9, 2024 Finance Committee Executive Session Minutes - Reviewed and withheld in entirety as of September 17, 2025

3. From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos- meeting minutes from September 2, 2026

LAID ON THE TABLE

4. Vacon- Greaney- ORDER: that city council go to the first ballot to elect a treasurer at the April 21, 2026 city council meeting in accordance with our current charter. Our city council appointed Collector has indicated interest in the Treasurer/Collector position. A majority of the city council has had the opportunity to interview our Collector. This appointment would legally establish the Treasurer position & for practical purposes combines the positions, while waiting for further charter changes that will be sent to the state legislature in a home rule petition. Transition changes can happen in coordination with other ordinance changes.

COMMUNICATIONS

5. From Mayor Joshua Garcia-letter appointing Ms. Susan Brouillette of 179 Morgan St. to serve on the new Historical Commission. Term will expire on December 1, 2026.

6. From Mayor Joshua Garcia-letter appointing Mr. Stephan Fay of 218 Pleasant St. to serve on the new Historical Commission. Term will expire on July 1, 2029.

7. From Mayor Joshua Garcia-letter appointing Ms. Amelia Mosley of 140 Lincoln St. to serve on the new Historical Commission Term will expire May 1, 2027.

8. From Mayor Joshua Garcia-letter appointing Ms. Kate Hopkinson of 87 Pearl St. to serve on the new Historical Commission. Term will expire July 1, 2029.

9. From Mayor Joshua Garcia-letter appointing Mr. Kevin Rice of 52 Fairfield Ave. to serve on the new Historical Commission. Term will expire April 16, 2027.

10. From Mayor Joshua Garcia-letter appointing Ms. Fleur Kuhta of 124 Chestnut St.to serve on the new Historical Commission. Term will expire October 1, 2027.

11. From Holyoke Conservation Commission- Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2026

12. From Board of Fire Commission-meeting minutes from August 19, 2026

PETITIONS

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

13. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the amount of **FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO AND 55/100 DOLLARS ($462.55)** be authorized from the **DPW** Department's **R & M-CITY HALL** (14222-52502) appropriation in fiscal year 2027 for goods/services received in fiscal year 2026 which were unencumbered at the 2026 fiscal year end.
Recommended that the order be adopted.

14. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the City of Holyoke accepts the **$352,020.27 FY2026 WRAP** formula allocation from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and authorizes its use and accounting in accordance with applicable MassDOT requirements and DLS Bulletin BUL-2026-04, including use of the special revenue fund treatment for WRAP reimbursements applied to the City's FY2026 snow and ice deficit.
Recommended that the order be adopted.

15. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the **"MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, $10,000.00",** stipend and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said stipend.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.
Recommended that the order be adopted.

16. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the **"MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (MEMA), $8,550.00, NO MATCH"** gran**t,** and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city

council's next agenda.
Recommended that the order be adopted.

17. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the **"FY2027 MASS GAMING COMMISSION COMMUNITY MITIGATION, $75,000.00, NO MATCH"** gran**t,** and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.
Recommended that the order be adopted.

18. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred a Mackenzie Stadium License Agreement for Valley Blue Sox 2026
Awaiting disposition

19. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred a Mackenzie Field License Agreement for Elms College 2026
Awaiting disposition

20. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred a Special permit application for home occupation of John Barbagallo for a dog training and pet sitting business at 43 King Street (123-00-061) per 4.8.2.
Awaiting disposition

21. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred a Special permit application for home occupation of Reynaldo Guzman for a barber shop at 113 Sargeant Street (010-02-012) per 4.8.2.
Awaiting disposition

MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS

22. Sullivan-To invite the Registrar and Board of Voters in to discuss education and engagement initiatives to help increase voter particiipation. Voter turnout has been abysmal and we need to become more pro-active in a non partisan effort to improve that participation

23. Thalheimer, Panitch -- Ordered, that the City Council (1) perform a comprehensive review of the Council Rules, in order to identify internal inconsistencies and redundancies, ambiguous provisions, archaic language, and areas where further information is necessary or desirable to construe said Rules; and (2) draft and adopt such amendments to the Rules as are found to be appropriate or necessary in light of said review. This order is intended to allow the Council's committees to examine and recommend, and the Council to vote upon, technical corrections packages on an

ongoing basis, rather than requiring the preparation of a single, comprehensive package of corrections or multiple single and specific orders for changes. In the event that the Law Department finds that more specificity is needed to conform to the Open Meetings Law, the makers of the order shall work with the Law Department to amend it to satisfy those additional requirements, and this Order shall be deemed to be so amended. Send to Charter and Rules.

24. Devine- ORDERED: That the Law Department render an opinion as to whether a ban on Data Centers by the City Council is preferable to a moratorium on Data Centers for a specific amount of time before banning Data Centers or will a ban without a moratorium open up the city to possible legal actions by a developer.

25. Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the **"MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATIVE, $75,000.98, NO MATCH"** grant and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said stipend.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

26. Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the **"MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, $3,260.00, IN-KIND MATCH"** gran**t,** and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

27. DEVINE - Ordered, that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2027, **SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND 00/100 Dollars ($750,000.00)** as follows:

FROM

8815-10400 CANNABIS STABILIZATION		$750,000.00
	TOTAL	$750,000.00

TO:

19442-57087 EZEKIEL'S PLAN 2.0	$750,000.00
TOTAL	$750,000.00

28. Magrath-Smith - ordered, that the Joint City Council and School Committee consider whether it is appropriate to have a teacher PD day on all election days where schools are used as polling places rather than regularly scheduled school days.

29. Purcell, Anderson-Burgos- ORDER that the City Council Adopt, Approve the attached Clean Slate resolution and forward to the State Delegation of the Legislature and Senate for Adoption.

LATE FILED ORDERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Addendum:
Per City Council rule 2B, meeting shall end by 10 PM unless an extension is approved by a two-thirds majority of those present. If any items remain, those items will be added to the beginning of the next regular meeting.
The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the chair which may be discussed at the meeting.
Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law

City Clerk

[IGNORE_INDENT]

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

September 2, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Murphy-Romboletti at 6:34 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll. Absent Members: 1 (J. Rivera) Present Members in person: 12 (Anderson-Burgos, Devine, Greaney, Magrath-Smith, Maisonet, Murphy-Romboletti, Panitch, Purcell, I. Rivera, Sullivan, Thalheimer, Vacon).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The name of Councilor Sullivan pulled to head the roll call voting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Murphy-Romboletti commended the City Clerk for the Election Day work the day before. She then noted that there would be proclamations presented later in the meeting. She then stated that an executive session would take place at 6 p.m. prior to the next City Council meeting on September 15th. She also stated that City Council members were transitioning their email addresses to Holyoke email addresses.
She then stated that Holyoke Day at the Big E would be on September 22nd. She then asked that councilors planning to attend to confirm with the administrative assistant.
She also stated that the Springfield Puerto Rican Parade would take place on September 13th. She asked councilors planning to attend to also confirm with the administrative assistant.
She then stated that a home rule petition from the previous term was finally approved and signed over the summer which would make the default notification of special meetings to councilors would be by email unless a request was made to continue getting them by mail.

Councilor Thalheimer stated that the Massachusetts Cultural Council opened their annual grant application to fund cultural projects in the city. She added that information could be found on their website.

PUBLIC HEARING

(6:40)

Motion was made and seconded to open the public hearing.

1. Petition for Pole and Wire Location
The GAS AND ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT requests permission to locate a line of wires, cables, poles and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way or ways:
One (1) 40’ Class III pole in front of 607 S Bridge St, Holyoke MA
One (1) 40’ Class II poles on between 67 & 69 Cleveland St, Holyoke MA

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Marcel Guzik, Junior Electrical Engineer for Holyoke Gas & Electric, stated that they were petitioning to install 2 poles to improve access and support maintenance of the existing electric system. He then stated that the pole on Cleveland Street would provide access to several customers from the public way. He also stated that the pole on Bridge Street would provide additional support for an existing span of overhead wires. He added that abutting customers had been notified of the installation and the HG&E did not receive feedback or concerns from them.

Councilor Magrath-Smith noted that she heard from a resident who had concerns but then is was understood that they were referencing a proposed pole installation in a different location.

Motion was made and seconded to close the public hearing.
---> Received and Adopted.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that early meeting time requests were approved for the Parking Advisory Committee on Thursday, September 3rd and for the Local Historic District Commission on Friday, August 21st.

Councilor Magrath-Smith raised a point of order, nothing that there were two orders on the agenda that would disband both of those committees. She then explained that one was being disbanded while the other was being combined. She then asked how the requests would work with those orders.

President Murphy-Romboletti stated that the meetings had been posted already, and this announcement was following local ordinance. She then stated they could still have the meetings.

Councilor Magrath-Smith suggested bringing up the question with the City Solicitor when those orders come up. She added that Solicitor Ball advised that there would need to be new letters of appointment to the combined committee as it would be a new group with new terms.

President Murphy-Romboletti clarified that the LHDC meeting had already taken place while the one for the PAC was happening the next day.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(13:10)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the rules to allow residents from outside of Holyoke to speak.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to allow residents from outside of Holyoke to participate in public comment.

Alex Tracy-D'Unger, Easthampton, expressed concern with automated license plate readers (ALPRs), such as Flock cameras. He then explained that these devices scan and record license plates of every vehicle that passes by, along with distinguishing characteristics of the vehicles, and store the information to be available to law enforcement. He then noted that there were multiple ALPRs in downtown Holyoke as well as several at the Holyoke Mall. He then expressed an issue with being tracked just by using public

ways. He added that there had been numerous cases of police using the technology to stalk people. He added that the data had also been made available to federal agencies such as ICE. He also expressed concern with mistakes that had been made using the technology, including a family in Aurora, Colorado that was stopped by police and held at gunpoint because their vehicle had been identified as stolen. He emphasized that the incident led to a settlement with the family of $1.9 million. He added that a woman in Florida spent 13 days in jail because her vehicle was identified near the scene of a fatal hit and run accident that was caused by a similar vehicle. He then suggested that using these cameras in the face of these concerns undermined public trust and confidence in city government and law enforcement.

AJ Beatty, 40 Columbus Avenue, spoke in favor of item 54, an item to prohibit use of shock glove devices, emphasizing that their use would inflict cruel and unusual punishment without someone needing to be convicted of a crime. She added that there was not enough information on how harmful they were. She added that she was also in support of item 55, an item to review the use of ALPRs in Holyoke, adding that she believed they were a violation of privacy by tracking and movements of everyone who drives through the city regardless of whether they have ever been convicted of a crime. She added that there were no regulations on the inappropriate use of the devices, such as use against political opponents, victims of violent crime, or personal usage. She further suggested that the Holyoke Police continue to engage in expending use of community policing.

Nathan Albright, Springfield, stated that the issue of ALPRs was not just a local issue, adding that the data could be shared with anyone who pays for a subscription. He added that anyone who lives near a Flock camera was affected by this. He further suggested that an investigation would turn up plenty of abuses from the company. He recalled that there were compromises made by the public with the Patriot Act during the Bush Administration, and there needed to be a line drawn given the abuses of ICE and the spread of this kind of technology consolidating power into a few hands.

Matti Weisberg, Ward 4, emphasized the need to consider what type of community people wanted to have, whether it was rooted in compassion and trust or in fear and cruelty. He then expressed concern with the shock glove technology, emphasizing their ease of use to inflict pain. He then emphasized that the website for Flock cameras described an intention to not just take pictures of license plates but to continuously film people. He then suggested that the Council should use their imaginations to consider what kind of future the company was attempting to sell. He then questioned the process around the City Council needing to pass a resolution to do research.

James Lewis, Ward 3A, noted that items 36 and 37 on the agenda focused on addressing doors and windows at two of the schools. He then suggested that while capital planning was important, he sought to see more energy planning that focused on sustainability planning. He also noted that the city had not successfully gotten Green Communities funding in 2 years, and he would like to see more focus on things such as heat pumps and air conditioning as a resilience issue. He recalled that during some of the recent heat waves, some of the warmer temperatures were after 5 p.m., after city buildings were closed that could have been cooling centers. He then suggested that there needed to be research to understand the appropriate use of surveillance technologies, emphasizing that nobody wanted to live in a surveillance state. He added that there wasn't enough regulation to put guardrails on them and was essentially privatizing policing by allowing private companies to collect the data. He added that shock gloves should not be necessary for Holyoke police to do their job well.

Elya Lerner, Ward 4, expressed support for item 55, adding that she supported a ban on Flock and automated license plate technology. She then expressed hope that the research could be done promptly and lead to a ban. She then expressed concern about the privacy implications of the technology. She then expressed further concern that those who had access to the data did not appear to care about the

wellbeing of the public and did not have the best interests of the people at heart. She also expressed concern for the shock gloves as it allowed the use of violence by those such as ICE agents who have not shown they have the wellbeing of the public in mind.

Dan Dougherty, Ward 7B, expressed his support for items 54 and 55. He then expressed concern that the School Committee had recently tried to cut the hours of paras without negotiation. He then suggested that if the city was so hard up it couldn't pay people, it shouldn't be spending money on shock gloves or police state surveillance. He then referenced a quote from Benjamin Franklin regarding trading liberty for safety and suggested that enough liberties had already been surrendered and it didn't need to go further. He then suggested that those who were pushing this technology would likely act in violation of the Constitution.

Claire, Ward 6, suggested that the issues addressed in items 54 and 55 highlighted a lack of oversight and a lack of research and regulation. She then stated that there was no formal way to hold anyone accountable for the misuse of these technologies. She then stated that New Bedford, Massachusetts had recently suspended use of the ALPR technologies after an officer was found to have been using it to stalk his ex. She also emphasized that a former officer in Holyoke was found to have run unwarranted background checks on a man associated with his estranged wife. She added that the city had a documented history of a lack of training and compliance risk. She also expressed concern that police were getting access to Ring cameras.

Brenna Levitin, Ward 2, echoed many of the sentiments with items 54 and 55, expressing concern with Flock and related cameras. She then commended the makers of the order for specifically referencing any other ALPR devices in addition to Flock. She emphasized that there were many privacy, civil rights, and safety concerns related to their use. She then recalled that following a 'shots fired' incident in her neighborhood, a sniper rifle was brought to the neighborhood and into a house, questioning the appropriateness of the use of that kind of tool inside a house.

Clara Wagner, Ward 4, also agreed with many of the sentiments already expressed about items 54 and 55. She then suggested that there likely many more people who had strong feelings about the use of ALPRs and had a range of fears with their use. She then suggested that there were other better uses for the funds that would be used to purchase those technologies.

President Murphy-Romboletti invited Councilor I. Rivera to the podium to present proclamations.

Councilor I. Rivera invited Ricardo Rodriguez into chambers. He then stated that Mr. Rodriguez used to be his daughter's karate teacher. He added that Mr. Rodriguez, along with the other recipients that would be acknowledged later, did a lot of work in the community and provided important connections and mentorship for the city's youth. He then stated that Mr. Rodriguez was being recognized for 42 years in the martial arts field, 15 of those years as a teacher, and was recently inducted into the Ocean State Martial Arts Hall of Fame. He added that Mr. Rodriguez's business, Holyoke Kenpo and Fitness, had produced over 80 state championships, 50 national championships, and over 30 triple crown winners in karate.

R. Rodriguez thanked the Council for the proclamation. He then recalled that he was a troubled youth and did what he was doing now because he wanted to help kids avoid getting into the same trouble he did. He added that he did not do it for the recognition but for the kids of Holyoke.

Councilor I. Rivera presented Mr. Rodriguez with proclamations from both the City Council and from Mayor Garcia.
He then invited Ronaldo Rivera into chambers. He then stated that he had known Mr. Rivera since he was 10 years old. He then stated that the proclamation was to honor Mr. Rivera and his family for their work with the Stop the Violence basketball tournament. He added that they had just hosted their 19th year of the event. He also commended the tenacity it took to organize the event on a yearly basis.

R. Rivera thanked the Council for the recognition. He then explained that he did this after losing his mother 19 years ago to gun violence. He added that he wanted to use the tragedy to help people, starting with just trying to help stop violence without knowing how the first year would go. He added that he did this for the kids. He also emphasized to the youth that they should never let anyone tell them that they do not matter. He also emphasized that the recognition also belonged to everyone who had been by his side over the years.

Councilor I. Rivera asked Mr. Rivera who his first mayor was.

R. Rivera stated that his first mayor was Michael J. Councilor Sullivan, who was the first person to open the door for him and sat down for a meeting.

Councilor I. Rivera presented Mr. Rivera with proclamations from both the City Council and from Mayor Garcia.
He then invited Harry and Kim Melendez into chambers. He then thanked them for coming to Holyoke, emphasizing that they had grown something great and could have chosen anywhere to go. He then explained that the official launch of Train 42 was in March through an investment of around $150,000 on High Street. He then emphasized the importance of supporting people investing in their dreams. He also emphasized the difficulty in the kind of community engagement the Melendez family did. He also noted that Ms. Melendez used to work in the schools, acknowledging the leap it took to pursue starting a business. He then stated that Mr. Melendez was a graduate of local schools, tried out for the NFL, and had many accolades to be recognized for.

H. Melendez thanked the Council for the proclamation. He then recognized Councilor Sullivan for getting him started by first putting weights in his hand, emphasizing that recognition Councilor Sullivan deserved for being the reason he was there that night. He then stated that he met his future wife at Holyoke High 21 years ago, the same year he met Councilor Sullivan, and now could celebrate one of the most impactful businesses to call downtown Holyoke its home. He then explained that Train 42 started in his garage during Covid with one kid, leading to a vision that became the Train 42 brand. He then highlighted the progress that many of the youth they supported were now seeing in their lives. He added that Train 42 represented strength, belief, and consistency, turning small wins into big wins. He added that he had just celebrated his 493rd day in a row running one mile or more. He also highlighted the goals of Train 42 in helping youth not just train but develop and grow. He then thanked his wife, Kim, for being with him during the journey.

Councilor I. Rivera presented Mr. and Mrs. Melendez with proclamations from both the City Council and from Mayor Garcia.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up item 62 out of order.

62. DEVINE – Ordered, that the amount of SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT AND 27/100 DOLLARS ($728.27) be authorized from the WAR MEMORIAL Department’s WATER & SEWER (16932-52300)

appropriation in fiscal year 2027 for goods/services received in fiscal year 2026 which were unencumbered at the 2026 fiscal year end.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that this was a simple bill with funds that were unencumbered from the last fiscal year.

Laddy Rua, Chair of War Memorial Commission, stated that they attempted to exhaust all of their funds at the end of the 2026 fiscal year and ensure all bills were up to date, but they didn't anticipate the higher cost for water and sewer, adding that the invoice did not come until it was too late to encumber the funds.
---> Passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 11--Nays 0--Absent 2 (I. Rivera, J. Rivera).

REGULAR AND PENDING EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

(1:04:00)

2. June 11, 2024, September 4, 2024, and April 15, 2025 Executive Session Minutes - Reviewed and ready for partial release as of September 17, 2025
---> Laid on the table.

3. December 9, 2024 Finance Committee Executive Session Minutes - Reviewed and withheld in entirety as of September 17, 2025
---> Laid on the table.

4. From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos, meeting minutes from August 4, 2026.

Councilor Vacon noted that the vote on hiring the CAFO was missing on item 20 from the meeting minutes. She also noted there was supposed to be an update from the CAFO related to the bonds.

Councilor Devine stated that she spoke with the CAFO, TJ Plante, and they were planning to have him come into a Finance Committee meeting in October.
---> Received and adopted.

LAID ON THE TABLE

(1:06:20)

Motion was made and seconded to remove item 5 from the table.

5. From City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary and Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos - October 7, 2025 meeting minutes.

Councilor Vacon stated that the answer on the OML complaint was finally received.
---> Received and Adopted.

6. Vacon, Greaney- ORDER: that city council go to the first ballot to elect a treasurer at the April 21, 2026 city council meeting in accordance with our current charter. Our city council appointed Collector has indicated interest in the Treasurer/Collector position. A majority of the city council has had the opportunity to interview our Collector. This appointment would legally establish the Treasurer position & for practical purposes combines the positions, while waiting for further charter changes that will be sent to the state legislature in a home rule petition. Transition changes can happen in coordination with other ordinance changes.
---> Laid on the table.

Motion was made and seconded to remove item 7 from the table.

7. Thalheimer: Revise measurements listed in Sec. 86-321. - Schedule I: Parking in the. City Ordinance from Northampton St. easterly side from a Point 25 feet southerly of Myrtle Ave to a Point 75 feet southerly, type of parking: 30 minute parking, TO Northampton St. easterly side from a Point 35 feet southerly of Myrtle Ave to a Point 40 feet southerly, type of parking: 30 minute parking. The requested change is administrative and will correct the location dimensions listed in the existing schedule. The revised dimensions correspond to the current location of the parking spaces and will not relocate or eliminate any existing parking. The correction is being made in connection with the installation of RRFB systems on Northampton Street at Myrtle Avenue. Due to utility conflicts and sight-distance concerns, the Myrtle Avenue RRFB will be installed in front of the Dam Café, with a new crosswalk and accessible ramps. The existing Myrtle Avenue crosswalk will remain.

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Thalheimer stated that this was a straightforward administrative update that was just waiting on the legal form from the last meeting.
---> Received and the Ordinance passed its first reading.
The Ordinance passed its second reading.
The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.
The Committee has considered the same and find that it is truly and properly enrolled.
Report of Enrollment received.
The Ordinance was passed to be Ordained and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera)

COMMUNICATIONS

(1:10:00)

8. From Mayor Joshua Garcia-letter appointing Ms. Amelia Mosley of 140 Lincoln St. to serve on the Historical Commission. Ms. Mosley will replace Mr. Christopher Gauthier and will serve the remainder of

his term expiring May 1, 2027.
---> Received and referred to the Public Service Committee.

9. From Mayor Joshua Garcia-letter appointing Ms. Amelia Mosley of 140 Lincoln St. to serve on the Local Historic District. Ms. Mosely will replace Joseph Mazzola and will serve a three-year term expiring July 1, 2029.
---> Received and referred to the Public Service Committee.

10. From Mayor Joshua Garcia-letter reappointing Ms. Katie Hopkinson to serve on the Local Historical District. Ms. Hopkinson will serve a three-year term expiring July 1, 2029

Councilor Magrath-Smith suggested referring this to the Public Service Committee instead of approving the appointment given that this group won't exist after a vote later in the agenda. She also suggested that the letter should clarify what these appointments mean given the transition. She then expressed her understanding that there would need to be new appointment letters with new terms to the merged commission, and asked if these letters should be considered defunct or if they could be modified.

Atty Bissonnette suggested that these were likely putting the cart before the horse. He then expressed his understanding that the mayor would be submitting new appointment letters to the newly formed combined commission at the next meeting.
---> Received and referred to the Public Service Committee.

11. From Mayor Joshua Garcia-letter reappointing Mr. Samuel Mateo, Jr. to serve on the Licensing Board. Mr. Mateo will serve a six-year term expiring October 1, 2032.
---> Received and appointment confirmed.

12. From Mayor Joshua Garcia- communication regarding reviewing Marijuana Ordinance operating time
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

13. Office of the Attorney General-Open Meeting Law Complaint
---> Received.

14. From CPA Committee- meeting minutes from April, 8, 2026, February 11, 2026, January 21, 2026 and January 13, 2026
---> Received.

15. From City Comptroller Sharon Bittner-Willis, FY2027 General Fund Expense YTD Report.
---> Received.

16. From City Comptroller Sharon Bittner-Willis, FY2027 Sewer Enterprise Expense YTD Report.

Councilor Vacon asked if these reports could be provided in more of a summary form rather than using a lot of paper for printing them.

Sharon Bittner-Willis, City Comptroller, stated that they could summarize these reports in a better format.
---> Received.

17. From Board of Fire Commission- meeting minutes from July 27, 2026
---> Received.

18. Planning Board Notice of Decision, Key Foods at 235 South St for sign size increase
---> Received.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up item 53 out of order.

53. Sullivan-The Honorable City Council receive and review the attached video titled; CITY OF HOLYOKE WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: Wastewater, Stormwater, and Flood Protection

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Sullivan stated that the video represented the public outreach component of the Municipal Vulnerabiity Program grant, which was part of the sustainability program to protect the city's municipal assets and protect the public. He then explained that the EPA required the city to create this video. He then expressed hope that engaging the full Council would help expedite the process of obtaining over $15 million in future grants. He noted that a shortened 15 minute version of the video would be presented here, noting that the full version was over 25 minutes. He also stated that there would be a premier of the video at Holyoke Media on September 16th.

Admin's note: 15 minute version of the video can be found here:
https://youtu.be/yf6POTJKD_o?si=BwHnlcqgo6kW8gUl
25 minute version of the video can be found here:
https://vimeo.com/1200888864?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci

Councilor Sullivan suggested that the video be sent to DGR to be available for comments and discussion at any time.
---> Received and referred to the Development and Governmental Relations Committee.

PETITIONS

(1:36:20)

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 19 and 20 as a package.

19. Petition from Red Barn Growers LLC for a Marijuana Manufacturing Establishment (MME) at 1 Cabot St. (relocation)
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

20. Petition from Diablo Man, LLC of 73 Sargeant St., Unit 1-2, a Special Permit Application for a Marijuana Establishment (Microbusiness, product manufacturing of pre-rolls) within existing rooms at 73 Sargeant Street, Unit 1-2, in the IG (General Industry) district.
---> Received and referred to the Ordinance Committee.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(1:37:00)

21. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the city ordinance be amended to combine the historical commission and the local district commission into one commission as voted by both commissions.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda Vacon
Israel Rivera
Mimi Panitch
Anne Thalheimer

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that this would combine the Holyoke Historical Commission and the Local Historic District Commission into one board. She then explained that the HHC was initially adopted through state statute, and this would move away from that statute while also deleting the section of the local ordinances for the LHDC to create this new Holyoke Historical Commission to combine the roles of both committees. She added that both current commissions worked with a consultant to figure out how best to combine them. She then stated that they reviewed sample ordinances from Springfield and Falmouth, choosing to go with the template from Springfield but made changes that would be more appropriate for Holyoke, including having 5 regular members and 2 alternates, as well as loosely defining the eligibility criteria/background of the members in order to make it easier to find members. She also noted that the city's current Demolition Delay ordinance was included in the language as well.

Noting that Councilor I. Rivera was now attending via Zoom, motion was made and seconded to take a roll call vote that for the purposes of this meeting would be applicable to all motions to receive, to refer items to committee, remove from or place items on the table, comply with or adopt items not requiring a roll call, or suspend the rules, unless there is an objection.

Councilor Vacon stated that both commissions had struggled with attendance for years, likely causing issues with accessing funding for initiatives the city would benefit from. She then commended both boards for already voting to support the merger before the City Council took this up. She added that the committee took feedback from members of the commissions when developing this new ordinance.
---> Report of Committee received and the Ordinance passed its first reading.
The Ordinance passed its second reading.
The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.
The Committee has considered the same and find that it is truly and properly enrolled.
Report of Enrollment received.
The Ordinance was passed to be Ordained and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera).

22. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the Council review and revise the ordinance on the Parking Advisory Board based on the recommendations of their committee.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted by deleting the relevant ordinance.

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda Vacon
Israel Rivera
Mimi Panitch
Anne Thalheimer

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that members of the PAC expressed that they were struggling to understand their purpose and meet quorum given the requirements of their membership. She then stated that there was discussion of it becoming a working group of city employees, but it became clear that it would then be under the purview of the mayor. She then emphasized that they did a lot of good work on the parking study, but it now appeared their purpose was fulfilled and it made sense to disband the committee.

Councilor I. Rivera emphasized that this did not mean parking wasn't important to the city, but it made sense to take this step right now. He added that if it could be done the right way in the future and a volunteer board had the capacity, this could be revisited.
---> Report of Committee received and the Ordinance passed its first reading.
The Ordinance passed its second reading.
The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.
The Committee has considered the same and find that it is truly and properly enrolled.
Report of Enrollment received.
The Ordinance was passed to be Ordained and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera).

23. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order Winter parking in Holyoke could be simplified by the following ordinance change – Ordered that during the winter months between November and March no parking will be allowed in odd-numbered years on the side of the street with odd numbers; in even-numbered years, no parking will be allowed on street sides with even numbers.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda Vacon
Israel Rivera
Mimi Panitch
Anne Thalheimer

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that this pro of this proposal would be that it would be easier to message to the public, but there were concerns the harms to people living in apartments given the density of

apartments and the limited ability to park in driveways.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

24. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order The City Engineer review parking and visual obstruction where West Glen St. meets Northampton St. When cars are parked on both sides of the street it is too narrow for more than one car to pass and is dangerous to navigate. There are also limited sight lines when turning on to Northampton St from West Glen. Please evaluate and determine whether the 20 foot limit is enough. If not, please recommend any amendments.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda Vacon
Israel Rivera
Mimi Panitch
Anne Thalheimer

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Magrath-Smith referred to Councilor Thalheimer who was more familiar with the specifics of the project.

Councilor Thalheimer stated that this had been an ongoing issue due to the street being very narrow. She added that line of sight issue was improved with the cutting of a hedge. She then stated that the residents felt that access could be improved by limiting parking to one side of the street.

Councilor Greaney stated that the ordinance would make it more conducive for emergency vehicles to access the street.
---> Report of Committee received and the Ordinance passed its first reading.
The Ordinance passed its second reading.
The Ordinance was passed to be enrolled.
The Committee has considered the same and find that it is truly and properly enrolled.
Report of Enrollment received.
The Ordinance was passed to be Ordained and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera).

25. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the fine for violating the ordinance on parking in front of driveways be increased. The amount of increase can be discussed based on what is reasonable and what is allowable.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda Vacon
Israel Rivera

Mimi Panitch
Anne Thalheimer

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that there was a companion order still in the committee jacket that would address this issue through a wider lens.

Councilor I. Rivera stated that there were also concerns that raising the fees wouldn't have the desired impact without there being more enforcement of parking violations.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 26 through 32 as a package.

26. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the DPW install a Handicap sign at 76 Maple St. for Barbara McCarter #PL9210193

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be denied.

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda Vacon
Israel Rivera
Mimi Panitch
Anne Thalheimer

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

27. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the DPW install a handicap sign at 216 Appleton St. Apt 218 for Vicente Padilla #PL3250370

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be denied.

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda Vacon
Israel Rivera
Mimi Panitch
Anne Thalheimer

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

28. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that a request for a designated handicap parking space for Maria A. Cruz, located at 91 North East Street, Holyoke, MA 01040, be referred to the Disabilities Commission for review and approval.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be denied.

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda Vacon
Israel Rivera
Mimi Panitch
Anne Thalheimer

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

29. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the DPW install a Handicap Parking Sign for Maria Cruz at 91 North East St. #PL8620282

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be denied.

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda Vacon
Israel Rivera
Mimi Panitch
Anne Thalheimer

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

30. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that Handicap Parking sign located at 14-16 School St be relocated closer to the Driveway switching it to where the no parking and speed limit sign is.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be denied.

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda Vacon
Israel Rivera
Mimi Panitch
Anne Thalheimer

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

31. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that a handicap sign be installed at 186 Pine St. for Chicki Masciola. Handicap placard #PL9760684.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be denied.

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda Vacon
Israel Rivera
Mimi Panitch
Anne Thalheimer

---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

32. The Committee on Ordinance to whom was referred an order that the DPW install a Handicap Parking Sign for Yaritz Garcia or 122 Leary Dr. #PL9650718

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be denied.

Committee Members:

Meg Magrath-Smith
Linda Vacon
Israel Rivera
Mimi Panitch
Anne Thalheimer

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Magrath-Smith stated that the Commission on Disabilities provided detailed information advising that each of these needed to be denied on various grounds, such as residents having off street parking access, that the locations were on private property that the city did not manage, or that additional paperwork was necessary. She added that the COD encouraged submitted new paperwork if there was additional information to provide.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

(1:56:50)

33. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the amount of THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN AND 26/100 DOLLARS ($337.26) be authorized from the HEALTH Department's SUPPLIES-OTHER (15102-54220) appropriation in fiscal year 2027 for goods/services received in fiscal year 2026 which were unencumbered at the 2026 fiscal year end.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Michael Sullivan
Meg Magrath-Smith
Juan Anderson-Burgos
Nicole Maisonet

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that this was for the Health Department to pay an expense from the previous fiscal year from funds that were unencumbered at the end of the year.
---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 11--Nays 0--Absent 2 (Magrath-Smith, J. Rivera).

34. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the “ARSON WATCH REWARD PROGRAM, $1,500.00, NO MATCH” grant, and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Michael Sullivan
Meg Magrath-Smith
Juan Anderson-Burgos
Nicole Maisonet

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that a student from Blessed Sacrament came in second in the state poster contest program. She added that the funding would be used for fire education programming.
---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera).

35. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2027, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars ($150,000.00) as follows:

FROM		
12101-51103	PAY-POLICE CAPTAIN	$ 50,000.00
12101-51105	PAY-POLICE SERGEANT	50,000.00
12101-51107	PAY-PATROL OFFICERS	50,000.00
TOTAL	150,000.00	
TO:		
12101-51300	PAY-OVERTIME	$150,000.00
TOTAL	$150,000.00	

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Michael Sullivan
Meg Magrath-Smith
Juan Anderson-Burgos
Nicole Maisonet

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that the overtime budget was underfunded in the Police Department budget. She added that the chief expected that once the collective bargaining agreement was settled, it would help address paying out so much overtime. She also stated that 3 new patrolmen had been hired but still needed to go through in-service training. She added that there were also unfunded state mandates the department had to pay for.

Councilor Sullivan emphasized this was only 6 weeks into the fiscal year. He then recalled the concerns expressed when the budget was presented which didn't allow councilors to see the salary line items, such as the $50,000 that wasn't needed in the captains line.

Councilor I. Rivera questioned if the overtime rate was near the same as the previous year. He added that would be a good question to ask the chief each time he comes in with an overtime funding request.
---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera).

36. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand ($125,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Maurice A Donahue Elementary School located at 210 Whiting Farms Road Holyoke MA 01040 for the potential of new windows and doors, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of mayor Joshua Garcia.
To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.
FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.
FURTHER ORDERED: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Michael Sullivan
Meg Magrath-Smith
Juan Anderson-Burgos
Nicole Maisonet

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that this would cover the cost of a schematic design study to update the windows and doors at Maurice A Donahue Elementary School.

Magath-Smith stated that this was all part of the capital planning the School Department was doing. She added that the funding that will allow them to update the doors and windows will then allow them to be eligible for larger energy efficiency projects. She them explained that the building envelope needed to be considered secure before it would be worth the state funding to make sustainability updates.

Councilor Devine stated that the HPS had a good working relationship with the MSBA.
---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera).

37. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order That the City of Holyoke appropriates the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand ($75,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of conducting a Schematic Design Study at Lt. Elmer J. McMahon Elementary School located at 75 Kane Road Holyoke MA 01040 for the potential of new windows and doors, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the “Project”), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of Holyoke has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended under the direction of mayor Joshua Garcia.
To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The City of Holyoke acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA’s Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City of Holyoke incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Holyoke; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of Holyoke and the MSBA.
FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all of the bonds or notes authorized to be issued pursuant to this Order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as may be required for such purposes.
FURTHER ORDERED: That there shall be no change in the purpose of this bond authorization without prior vote of approval by the Holyoke City Council.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Michael Sullivan

Meg Magrath-Smith
Juan Anderson-Burgos
Nicole Maisonet

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that this would cover the cost of the schematic design study at McMahon Elementary School, which would be 80% reimbursable.
---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera).

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 38 through 43 as a package.

38. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the amount of ONE THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE AND 17/100 DOLLARS ($1,021.17) be authorized from the DPW-REFUSE Department's OTHER SERVICES (14302-53100) appropriation in fiscal year 2027 for goods/services received in fiscal year 2026 which were unencumbered at the 2026 fiscal year end.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Michael Sullivan
Meg Magrath-Smith
Juan Anderson-Burgos
Nicole Maisonet

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera).

39. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the amount of FORTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($40.00) be authorized from the DPW-HIGHWAY Department's SUPPLIES-SMALL TOOLS/EQUIP (14252-54900) appropriation in fiscal year 2027 for goods/services received in fiscal year 2026 which were unencumbered at the 2026 fiscal year end.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Michael Sullivan
Meg Magrath-Smith
Juan Anderson-Burgos
Nicole Maisonet

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera).

40. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the amount of EIGHTY-NINE AND 26/100 DOLLARS ($89.26) be authorized from the DPW-REFUSE Department's SUPPLIES-SMALL TOOLS/EQUIP (14302-54900) appropriation in fiscal year 2027 for goods/services received in fiscal year 2026 which were unencumbered at the 2026 fiscal year end.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Michael Sullivan
Meg Magrath-Smith
Juan Anderson-Burgos
Nicole Maisonet

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera).

41. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the amount of ONE HUNDRED ONE AND 76/100 DOLLARS ($101.76) be authorized from the DPW-HIGHWAY Department's SUPPLIES-SMALL TOOLS/EQUIP (14252-54900) appropriation in fiscal year 2027 for goods/services received in fiscal year 2026 which were unencumbered at the 2026 fiscal year end.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Michael Sullivan
Meg Magrath-Smith
Juan Anderson-Burgos
Nicole Maisonet

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera).

42. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the amount of FORTY-NINE AND 98/100 DOLLARS ($49.98) be authorized from the DPW-PROPERTY Department's R & M-CITY HALL (14222-52502) appropriation in fiscal year 2027 for goods/services received in fiscal year 2026 which were unencumbered at the 2026 fiscal year end.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Michael Sullivan
Meg Magrath-Smith

Juan Anderson-Burgos
Nicole Maisonet

---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera).

43. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that the amount of TWO HUNDRED FORTY-THREE AND 50/100 DOLLARS ($243.50) be authorized from the DPW-PROPERTY Department's R & M-CITY HALL (14222-52502) appropriation in fiscal year 2027 for goods/services received in fiscal year 2026 which were unencumbered at the 2026 fiscal year end.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Michael Sullivan
Meg Magrath-Smith
Juan Anderson-Burgos
Nicole Maisonet

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that items 38 through 43 were for expenses in the DPW budget that hadn't been paid or the bills hadn't yet been received by the end of the previous fiscal year.
---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera).

44. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2027, ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE AND 40/100 Dollars ($125,969.40) as follows:

FROM		
11351-51107	PAY-ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT	$ 49,097.40
11351-51103	PAY-PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT	76,472.00
11351-51400	PAY-LONGEVITY	400.00
TOTAL	$125,969.40	
TO:		
11321-51107	PAY-ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT	$ 49,097.40
11321-51103	PAY-PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT	76,472.00
11321-51400	PAY-LONGEVITY	400.00
TOTAL	$125,969.40	

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Michael Sullivan
Meg Magrath-Smith

Juan Anderson-Burgos
Nicole Maisonet

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that following the modernization act, nothing was finalized in time, and this was now falling under the Comptroller's department.

S. Bittner-Willis stated that when the FY27 budget was completed, the modernization act was not yet completed organizes, and these positions were still listed under the Auditor's department.
---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera).

45. The Committee on Finance to whom was referred an order that there be and is hereby appropriated by transfer in the fiscal year 2027, EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND 00/100 Dollars ($8,100.00) as follows:

FROM		
11351-51103	PAY-PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT	$8,100.00
TOTAL	$8,100.00	
TO:		
11311-51101	PAY-CAFO	$8,100.00
TOTAL	$8,100.00	

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Patricia Devine
Michael Sullivan
Meg Magrath-Smith
Juan Anderson-Burgos
Nicole Maisonet

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Devine stated that this was to fund the budget line for the CAFO, which would pay it through June 30, 2027.
---> Report of Committee passed two readings and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 10--Nays 2 (Greaney, Vacon)--Absent 1 (J. Rivera)

(2:19:05)

46. The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order DPW, Emergency Management, HPD and Mayor's office determine a safety plan to better warn truckers traveling on Main St. of the iron R/R bridge at Lyman St. Yet another collision occurred last week. Consider checking out the flashing beacons and warning signs on East Mountain Rd, Westfield.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order has been complied with.

Committee Members:

Anne Thalheimer
Patricia Devine
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Thalheimer stated that the DPW was working to locate where to put the signage. She noted that Councilor Panitch had an idea of using public art to help address this issue.

Councilor Sullivan noted that he had a similar idea as Councilor Panitch several years ago and was attacked by the arts community as being condescending toward murals around town.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

47. The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order that HPD and DPW develop a list of 10-15 points across the city which would benefit from permanent speed limit reminders to the public and present a plan for installing permanent speed radar signs at those points.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order has been complied with.

Committee Members:

Anne Thalheimer
Patricia Devine
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Thalheimer stated that they discussed a list of locations around the city. She then emphasized that the signs had a cost of around $2,000 each before the cost of installation. She added that the chief and the mayor were planning to discuss putting something out to bid. She added that they were also more in favor of mobile speed boards that had been used to some advantage already.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

48. The Committee on Public Safety to whom was referred an order That the Holyoke City Council request the Holyoke Police Department to appear before the appropriate committee to explain the policies, procedures, and enforcement practices related to complaints against property owners who fail to clear snow and ice from sidewalks in accordance with City ordinance.
FURTHER ORDERED: That this matter be referred to the Public Safety Committee for review and discussion, including how repeated complaints are handled when properties have been reported multiple times without compliance.
FURTHER ORDERED: That this information be provided to increase transparency, inform residents, and better prepare the City Council, the City, and the public for future snow events.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order has been complied with.

Committee Members:

Anne Thalheimer

Patricia Devine
Jenny Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Thalheimer stated that the police chief explained that officers write out violations and will try to talk to property owners but try not to overly ticket people who may have special situations such as being disabled and unable to clear sidewalks as easily. She added that city owned or abandoned properties may be handled differently.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

(2:23:50)

49. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that the Honorable City Council, in accordance with the Holyoke Redevelopment Authority's urban renewal plan entitled, "Connect. Construct. Create. - A Plan for the Revitalization of Center City Holyoke" which was approved by the Holyoke City Council, vote to approve the transfer of ownership of 31 Newton Street (Assessors Map 011, Block 04, Parcel 004), 43 Newton Street (Assessors Map 011, Block 04, Parcel 005), and 61 Newton Street (Assessors Map 011, Block 04, Parcel 006) to the Holyoke Redevelopment Authority for consideration of $1.00. All said parcels were previously declared by the City Council as surplus property available for disposition.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be adopted.

Committee Members:

Richard P. Purcell
Michael Sullivan
Mimi Panitch
Nicole Maisonet
Israel Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Purcell stated that this was the upper block of Newton Street. He added that this was part of HRA's Urban Renewal Plan and Wayfinders owned two-thirds of the Newton Street area. He then stated that this would create up to 115 units of affordable housing, nothing this was the first of many steps in that process. He also stated that there was a possibility of parks and other amenities being developed in that area as well. He also stated that there were plans to improve the infrastructure in that area. He added that this was expected to be a 3 year plan.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J. Rivera)

50. The Committee on Development and Governmental Relations to whom was referred an order that Ward 4 polling location switch to YMCA from St. Paul's Church Parish, 485 Appleton St to improve accessibility.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order be given a leave to withdraw.

Committee Members:

Richard P. Purcell
Michael Sullivan
Mimi Panitch
Nicole Maisonet
Israel Rivera

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Purcell stated that the maker of the order gave permission to take this out of the jacket since nothing was currently happening with this order.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

(2:28:40)

51. The Committee on Charter and Rules to whom was referred an order that a standing agenda item be added to the Council agenda to allow for tracking the progress of ordinances being changed in Municode. This will allow us to ensure that our ordinance changes are being accurately recorded.

have considered the same and Recommended that the order has been complied with.

Committee Members:

Mimi Panitch
Linda Vacon
Richard P. Purcell

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Panitch stated that the order was filed to address a problem where it was becoming hard to keep track of ordinance changes that had not been getting recorded into municode in a timely fashion, making compliance difficult. She added that after some methods to address this were discussed, they determined it would be too cumbersome. She also stated that municode was now updating their system to show updates on the front of the page when they haven't yet been added to the code in their proper places.
---> Report of Committee received and recommendation Adopted.

ORDERS AND TRANSFERS

(2:30:40)

52. Purcell-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30B and the Holyoke Code of Ordinances procurement ordinance, the City Council declare 87 Newton Street as surplus property available for disposition. Said parcel is identified by the Holyoke Board of Assessors records as Map 011, Block 05, Parcel 008, consisting of an attached, vacant, single-family house on an approximate 960 square foot lot. The property is more particularly described at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 18864, Page 117. On July 5, 2019, the property was awarded to the City via a Land Court Decree with a Final Judgment recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book 22751, Page 492 . The property is zoned Downtown Residential (DR) and has an assessed value of $64,900.

UNDER DISCUSSION:
Councilor Sullivan stated that this was just declaring the property as surplus and it would come back to the Council when it comes time to review a proposal. He then emphasized that the area had been a hot spot for fires, vandalism, and blight, and voting on it now would speed up the process.
---> Received and Adopted on a call of the roll of the yeas and nays--Yeas 12--Nays 0--Absent 1 (J Rivera).

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 54 and 55 as a package.

54. Thalheimer, Panitch, Purcell, Devine, Anderson-Burgos, Magrath-Smith, Maisonet -- ORDERED: The City of Holyoke prohibit the use of GLOVE (Generated Low Output Voltage Emitter) gloves. Classified as a CD3 (conductive distraction and de-escalation device), these devices work differently from other incapacitation devices (stun guns, tasers) by shocking the skin to cause neuro-peripheral disruption rather than using probe projectiles or higher voltage neuro-muscular disruption. In other words, it inflicts localized pain on subjects in order to enforce compliance rather than muscular disruption provided by other devices. Send to Public Safety.

Councilor Purcell, Councilor Devine, Councilor Anderson-Burgos, Councilor Magrath-Smith, and Councilor Maisonet asked to be added to the order.
---> Received and referred to the Public Safety Committee.

55. Thalheimer, Panitch, Murphy-Romboletti, Purcell, Devine, Anderson-Burgos, Magrath-Smith, I. Rivera, Maisonet -- ORDERED that the City Council review the history, authorization, and all aspects of the use of Flock cameras in Holyoke, and of any other automated license plate technology (ALPR) that may be deployed or under consideration for deployment, in order to determine whether legislation is necessary to address any civil rights and privacy issues that may be implicated by the presence of this technology and to enact such legislation should it prove to be needed. The information needed for this review shall include but not be limited to the city's contract with Flock, including details of any amendments thereto; information showing who authorized the installation and when, for what reasons; how much the contract costs the city and where it is in the budget; where the data from these ALPRs is or may be shared or queried; for how long it is preserved; how it is safeguarded from abuse and access for improper purposes or by unauthorized persons; and whether Holyoke's and Flock's terms and practices are in compliance with Massachusetts law regarding the sharing of data, particularly with federal agencies. The Holyoke Police Department and the Law Department are requested to provide all relevant data to the City Council to assist in this review. Send to Public Safety.

Councilor Devine stated that she received an email from a resident several weeks earlier, leading to her looking into it with the Police Department. She then stated that she had information about the cameras that would be provided for the committee.

Councilor Purcell, Councilor Devine, Councilor Anderson-Burgos, Councilor Magrath-Smith, Councilor I. Rivera, and Councilor Maisonet asked to be added to the order.
---> Received and referred to the Public Safety Committee. Copy to Chief Keenan, Mayor Garcia, Law Department.

56. Vacon- ORDER: DPW & engineer evaluate the conditions at Homestead & Mayer & make recommendations for needed infrastructure improvements and provide a cost estimate. Flooding has been occurring there for years and has worsened with recent storms, causing a safety hazard.

Refer to DPW, Engineer & Public Safety Committee
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW, City Engineer, Public Safety Committee.

57. Vacon- ORDER: that a sign indicating no truck outlet be placed at the end of Rhode Island St (similar to McGrady & Franks). Tractor Trailer drivers are damaging the road/utilities when entering the area by mistake.
---> Received and Adopted. Copy to DPW, City Engineer, Public Safety Committee.

58. Vacon- ORDER: Add to rule 9h: when an order has been deemed tabled after the chair has not taken it up for 45 business days, upon request of the maker, the chair shall place the order on the next agenda to ensure compliance with the open meeting law.

Councilor Vacon stated that there have been instances when items within the tabled sections have been taken up and acted on, and she believed they should really be placed on the active agenda.
---> Received and referred to the Charter and Rules Committee.

59. Vacon- ORDER: Based on a review of the public record, the order filed on Feb 17, 2026 (item #37), is not supported by any vote documented in minutes of the Planning Board of 2/10/26 to recommend amendments to the zoning ordinance and send them to the city council. (see Planning Board minutes from 2/10/26 posted on holyoke.org -dated 3/26/26 below).#37. Councilor Panitch- Ordered: that the City Council amend the Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board by a vote of February 10, 2026, and fully described in the attached package dated February 12, 2026. These are for the most part technical amendments designed to rationalize and streamline processes for special permits under the Zoning Ordinance, to clarify and add definitions where necessary, and to simplify and rationalize our zoning districts. Receive and refer to Ordinance. Therefore, the proposed zoning amendments were not properly on the 2/17/26 agenda of the city council as a recommendation voted by the Planning Board in accordance with MGL Chapter 40A Section 5. The public hearing needs to be closed, in light of no documented vote by the Planning Board on 2/10/26. The final master plan needs to be approved by the Planning Board (as requested by petition by over 100 residents), prior to considering & voting to recommend zone change proposals to the city council. Of note, the Planning Board is a public body & is obligated to comply with the Open Meeting Law. (M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25) Minutes of the Planning Board pertaining to the proposed zone changes have been requested during the two public hearings (April 14, 2026 & May 7, 2026). Only minutes from October 14, 2025 (dated 3/26/26) have been provided to the City Council that pertain to the proposed zone changes at this time.
*Note: Minutes were provided after the May 2026 city council meeting. They show no substantive discussion of or rationale for the proposed zone changes.

Councilor Vacon requested a legal opinion from the Law Department on this, noting a previous request was made and there was no feedback provided.

Atty Bissonnette asked for clarification of what the request was.

Councilor Vacon asked if the original zoning order from February 2026 was in order because there had not been supporting documentation for the order when it was filed.

Councilor Panitch stated that she was also interested in a legal opinion regarding this order. She then explained that the Planning Board had the authority to initiate zone change procedures regardless of any comprehensive plan process and questioned if the comprehensive plan had any relevance. She then stated that a vote of the Planning Board did take place and questioned if it mattered how it was

documented, noting it was recorded in a video. She also asked what the mechanism would be to halt the existing 40A public hearing process, emphasizing that the Planning Board was an independent entity that did not answer to the City Council.

Atty Bissonnette stated that the power to enact zoning ordinances was the purview of the City Council with approval of the mayor. He also expressed his understanding that the Planning Board had recently approved some minutes with some still to be reviewed.

Councilor Sullivan asked Atty Bissonnette to review the votes, noting that there appeared to be votes taken by a member that was no longer on the Planning Board.
---> Received and Adopted.

60. Vacon- ORDER: in the interest of transparency & to show compliance with MGL 41 Section 81D that the draft comprehensive plan currently being reviewed/edited by the planning board, be released to the public for feedback before a final vote is taken by the planning board.
---> Received and Complied with.

61. Devine- ORDERED: That a new City Council rule be enacted as follows: During a City Council meeting if a councilor wants to take up an agenda item out of order that whenever possible let the President know PRIOR to the item being taken out of order.
---> Received and referred to the Charter and Rules Committee.

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the necessary rules to take up items 63 through 67 as a package.

63. DEVINE – Ordered, that the amount of FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO AND 55/100 DOLLARS ($462.55) be authorized from the DPW Department's R & M-CITY HALL (14222-52502) appropriation in fiscal year 2027 for goods/services received in fiscal year 2026 which were unencumbered at the 2026 fiscal year end.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

64. Devine-Ordered, that the City of Holyoke accepts the $352,020.27 FY2026 WRAP formula allocation from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and authorizes its use and accounting in accordance with applicable MassDOT requirements and DLS Bulletin BUL-2026-04, including use of the special revenue fund treatment for WRAP reimbursements applied to the City's FY2026 snow and ice deficit.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

65. Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the “MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, $10,000.00”, stipend and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said stipend.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

66. Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the “MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (MEMA), $8,550.00, NO MATCH” grant, and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

67. Devine-Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A, the City Council hereby accepts the provisions of the “FY2027 MASS GAMING COMMISSION COMMUNITY MITIGATION, $75,000.00, NO MATCH” grant, and authorizes the establishment of a Fund or other method appropriate for the accounting of the receipts and expenditures of all resources associated with the administration of said grant.
Sec 2-509 - Grant Reporting
Any city department, of which has received grant funding by approval of the city council pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, or any other authorizing criteria, shall within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 60 days from the conclusion of said grant, generate a detailed report which outlines the planned outcomes with the documented actual results. Said report shall be submitted to the city clerk for addition to the city council's next agenda.

To the City Council:

I hereby recommend the passage of the above order at the meeting of your Council to be held Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

Joshua A Garcia, Mayor

---> Received and referred to the Finance Committee.

LATE FILED ORDERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

68. From Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, communication to councilors regarding coming priorities.
---> Received.

69. 2026 Holyoke Comprehensive Plan.
---> Received.

Brenna Murphy Leary
Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

September 10, 2026

The Honorable City Councilors
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040

Honorable Council Members:

I hereby appoint the following individual to serve as a member of the new Historical Commission for the City of Holyoke:

Ms. Susan Brouillette
179 Morgan Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Ms. Brouillette's term will expire on December 1, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor
JAG/nmo

CC: Susan Brouillette
Eric Nakajima

September 10, 2026

The Honorable City Councilors
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040

Honorable Council Members:

I hereby appoint the following individual to serve as a member of the new Historical Commission for the City of Holyoke:

Mr. Stephen C. Fay
218 Pleasant Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Mr. Fay's term will expire on July 1, 2029.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor
JAG/nmo

CC: Stephen C Fay
Eric Nakajima

September 10, 2026

Honorable City Councilors
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Councilors,

I hereby appoint the following individual to serve as member of the new Historical Commission for the City of Holyoke:

Ms. Amelia Mosley
140 Lincoln Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Ms. Mosley's term will expire on May 1, 2027.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor
JAG/nmo

CC: Amelia Mosley
Eric Nakajima

MAYOR JOSHUA A. GARCIA

CITY OF HOLYOKE

September 10, 2026

The Honorable City Councilors
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040

Honorable Council Members:

I hereby appoint the following individual to serve as a member of the new Historical Commission for the City of Holyoke:

Ms. Kate Hopkinson
87 Pearl Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Ms. Hopkinson's term will expire on July 1, 2029.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor
JAG/nmo

CC: Kate Hopkinson
Eric Nakajima

536 DWIGHT STREET • MAYOR'S OFFICE • HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS 01040
PHONE: (413) 561-1600 • FAX: (413) 322-5521 • E-MAIL: garciaj@holyoke.org

September 10, 2026

The Honorable City Councilors
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040

Honorable Council Members:

I hereby appoint the following individual to serve as a member of the new Historical Commission for the City of Holyoke:

Mr. Kevin A. Rice
52 Fairfield Avenue
Holyoke, MA 01040

Mr. Rice's term will expire on April 16, 2027.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor
JAG/nmo

CC: Kevin A. Rice
Eric Nakajima

September 10, 2026

The Honorable City Councilors
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Councilors,

I hereby appoint the following individual to serve as member of the new Historical Commission for the City of Holyoke:

Fleur L. Kuhta
124 Chestnut Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Ms. Kuhta's term will expire on October 1, 2027.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor
JAG/nmo

CC: Fleur Kuhta
Eric Nakajima

Holyoke Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes 5/14/26 (Remote via Zoom)

Conservation Commission Members Present: Jeffery Horan (Chairperson), Mary Moriarty (Vice Chairperson), Bernice Bowler, Michael Dodge, John Perdrizet

Conservation Commission Members Absent: Rosemary Arnold, Patricia Normand

Staff Present: Maggie Herlihy (Interim Director of Conservation and Sustainability)

Members of the Public Present: Victoria Houle (City of Holyoke Assistant Engineer), Tom Lewis (Tech Associates), John Furman (VHB), Cesar Ruiz Lopez, Randy Reynolds (American Environmental)

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Horan called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m., explained the protocols of remote meetings, and requested that visitors sign in via the chat.

2. Request for Determination of Applicability – Race Street

- Location: Race Street right-of-way between Cabot Street and Sargeant Street
- Description: Reconstruction of the existing roadway within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bank and 50-foot Buffer Zone to Bank associated with the Second Level Canal and Land Under Water Bodies and Waterways

Victoria Houle attended the meeting on behalf of the Applicant. She explained that the primary purpose of the project is to rehabilitate the pavement along Race Street between Sargeant Street and Cabot Street. The project is outside of the Center City project and includes streetscape improvements such as designated parallel parking, crosswalks, shared bicycle lanes that will merge into the Center City project's bicycle pattern, and a new sidewalk along the canal. Ms. Houle screen shared the proposed site plans to show locations such as where gravel will be and where an existing fence stands. She explained how drainage would work differently.

Ms. Herlihy then spoke about the site visit. She screen shared photos from the visit and explained further about the proposed new drainage system. During the visit, concerns were raised regarding trash and other material observed in an existing catch basin and the possibility of pollutants entering the canal. Ms. Houle suggested incorporating a hooded catch basin to provide additional treatment before stormwater enters the proposed drainage system.

Ms. Herlihy also discussed the project's proximity to Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) jurisdiction. While no work is proposed directly within the canal, the Commission was unsure whether the project would need an application to

Natural Heritage and affirmed that approval should be contingent upon an affirmative response from Natural Heritage.

The Commission discussed the appropriate Determination of Applicability categories and determined that a Negative 3 and Negative 6 determination would address the proposed work under the Wetlands Protection Act and Holyoke Wetlands Protection Ordinance.

Vice Chairperson Moriarty moved to issue a Negative 3 and Negative 6 determination, contingent upon approval from NHESP and that a hooded catch basin be incorporated into the project. Commissioner Bowler seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

3. Request for Determination of Applicability – Pioneer Valley Railroad Right-of-Way
    - Location: Pioneer Valley Railroad Right-of-Way
    - Description: Request for confirmation of wetland boundaries under Pioneer Valley Railroad's Vegetation Management Plan

Tom Lewis from Tech Associates spoke on behalf of Applicant, Pioneer Valley Railroad. Mr. Lewis explained that the railroad's Vegetation Management Plan recently expired and that a new one is in the process of being approved. As part of the renewal, the company must get a determination of the boundaries of the resource areas.

Mr. Lewis shared maps detailing wetland resource areas, associated Buffer Zones, priority habitat, certified vernal pools, and no-spray zones. He explained that herbicide use within sensitive areas is heavily restricted.

Ms. Herlihy discussed MassDEP guidance regarding the scale and level of detail shown on vegetation management maps. Mr. Lewis clarified that the data layers came from MassGIS. He mentioned issues caused by inconsistencies with the guidance received and regulations to be followed.

Vice Chairperson Moriarty asked for confirmation on whether the recent delineation for Holyoke Gas and Electric project DEP WE# 186-0307 delineated the proposed vegetation area, but Mr. Lewis was unable to confirm as he had not seen the delineation before. Ms. Herlihy was able to locate the delineation, and screen shared the site plans, noting that there was overlap between the areas. Vice Chairperson Moriarty also asked for clarification on what is represented on the proposed Vegetation Maintenance Plan map, and Mr. Lewis indicated on the proposed Plan which areas would receive herbicide use. Chairperson Horan requested that Mr. Lewis add any additional wetland areas found to the no-spray areas, and Mr. Lewis agreed to do so.

Vice Chairperson Moriarty also asked about the yearly operational plan. Mr. Lewis explained the process that it follows. Ms. Herlihy clarified that she will receive a paper copy, and that she will provide it to the Commission.

Vice Chairperson Moriarty moved to issue a Positive 2A Determination, allowing approval of the Vegetation Management Plan. Commissioner Dodge seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

4. Enforcement Order – Issued 3/13/26
    - Location: 233 Easthampton Road – Wyckoff
    - Description: Soil grading, mounding, and rutting from heavy equipment usage across approximately 25,000 square feet of undeveloped land within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of Banks and Bordering Vegetated Wetlands

John Furman from VHB attended the meeting with property owner Cesar Ruiz. Mr. Furman explained that VHB had been retained to assist with stabilization and development of a longer-term mitigation plan for the site.

Mr. Furman shared photos showing the condition of the area in question. He explained that the erosion control barriers had been repositioned, woodchips had been removed from the impacted area, and temporary barriers remained in place to prevent additional vehicle activity. He showed an outline of the mitigation area, pointing out where the boundaries are and where there is currently gravel. He gave his opinion that simply hydroseeding the existing gravel surface would not provide successful long-term stabilization. He expressed intent to scarify the gravel, bring in topsoil, and then hydroseed to allow the area to return to natural vegetation. He offered a proposed mitigation plan for consideration, which included erecting a permanent barrier. He showed overhead photos of the area from years past to show how the area has changed. He specified a spot that could hold approximately 21 future parking spaces on gravel.

Commissioner Bowler asked questions about the fence and railing, and Mr. Furman gave further explanation about them. Vice Chairperson Moriarty asked how the pump house would be maintained and how a person would get there, and Mr. Furman explained what part of the site would be mowed to provide a path. Vice Chairperson Moriarty also inquired whether immediate actions were necessary regarding seeding, and Mr. Furman clarified that the answer was yes, but they had not taken any action because they were told not to use topsoil. Chairperson Horan asked if the proposed parking was enough or whether more parking would need to be added in the future, and Mr. Ruiz affirmed that more parking will be requested down the road. Mr. Furman did not think that an additional request for parking spaces would come this year. Chairperson Horan noted that the golf course is pumping water from the pond, which there is currently not an issued permit for and that it ought to be addressed.

Commissioner Bowler moved to allow stabilization of the impacted area by scarifying the surface, placing two to three inches of clean topsoil, and hydroseeding the area, while excluding the area proposed for the approximately 21 future parking spaces which would remain gravel, leaving the temporary barrier in place. A formal mitigation plan

would be to come later. Vice Chairperson Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

Mr. Furman requested that the matter be continued to the Commission's first meeting in June and stated that VHB would provide the mitigation plan to Ms. Herlihy in advance. Vice Chairperson Moriarty moved to continue the Enforcement Order to June 11, 2026. Commissioner Dodge seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously, 5-0.

5. Enforcement Order – Issued 4/13/26
    - Location: 5 Appleton Street
    - Description: Grading and fill deposition along approximately 470 lineal feet of banks within Riverfront, Banks, and Priority and Estimated Habitats of Rare Species associated with the Connecticut River. Fill sediments and associated debris were observed eroding down the steep bank towards the water.

Randy Reynolds attended the meeting on behalf of American Environmental. Ms. Herlihy confirmed that American Environmental had retained VHB, satisfying the portion of the Enforcement Order requiring the property owner to nominate an environmental consultant.

Chairperson Horan explained that the immediate priority under the Enforcement Order is stabilization and restoration of the impacted riverbank and not the building on the property, and that future redevelopment of the building or property would require separate permitting and would likely involve a Notice of Intent.

Ms. Herlihy screen shared photos from a 4/29/26 site visit, showing that erosion controls had been installed. She suggested that a site visit might be appropriate so more Commissioners may see it. She discussed a previous restoration plan from 2018 prepared for the property that could potentially prove helpful in developing a new one. The Commission expressed relief that the photos show great improvement on the site. They made tentative plans for a site visit on May 27th.

Commissioner Perdrizet moved to continue the Enforcement Order to May 28th, 2026, with the expectation that a site visit will occur before the meeting. Vice Chairperson Moriarty seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously, 5-0.

6. Update – DEP WE #186-0269 2025 Work Summary and 2026 Work Plan
    - Location: Mount Tom State Reservation
    - Description: 2025 Work Summary Report describing all invasive plant management activities performed during the 2025 growing season at the Mount Tom State Reservation. 2026 Work Plan includes proposed invasive plant management activities.

Ms. Herlihy stated that the office was contacted by Naomi Valentine from SWCA Environmental Consultants, contracted through Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), in regard to DEP WE # 186-0269, an NOI for invasive plant activities at Mount Tom which is at the limit of continuation and cannot be continued further. Ms. Valentine contacted the Conservation and Sustainability Department to determine the expiration date of the permit. The permit is active through 8/13/2027 and cannot be extended. No SWCA or DCR representative was present at the meeting, but Ms. Herlihy offered to collect questions to be forwarded to DCR.

Vice Chairperson Moriarty expressed concerns that she hasn't seen marks that spraying will occur, according to the Order of Conditions. Ms. Herlihy stated that she would pass this comment on to Ms. Valentine and added that a new NOI would be submitted at least two months before the current one expires. Vice Chairperson Moriarty also expressed concern that she didn't think the report was thorough enough. Commissioner Dodge asked if the Commission had given guidance to the Applicant on what the report ought to contain. Ms. Herlihy will review earlier meeting minutes and special conditions and communicate the Commission's request for additional details to Ms. Valentine.

7. Discussion – Director of Conservation and Sustainability Job Description

Chairperson Horan stated that Ms. Herlihy is currently serving as Interim Director while the City proceeds with the process of hiring a permanent Director. He shared that the job description had been slightly updated with more action-oriented language and prioritizes the items more than before. He emphasized that the new director must report directly to the Commission. He clarified that the Commission could pick the best applicant even if they don't quite meet the requirement of five years of experience. He says that the hope is to approve the job description tonight for the job opening to be posted the following Monday.

Vice Chairperson Moriarty requested to change a minor wording error in the job description. Commissioner Dodge asked whether the Commission would receive a list of all applicants from Human Resources or just a curated list, and about how the process would unfold, and Chairperson Horan answered that the process to be used has not yet been determined. Chairperson Horan suggested forming a three-person subcommittee.

Vice Chairperson Moriarty moved to approve the Director of Conservation and Sustainability job description with the proposed revision. Commissioner Dodge seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0. Chairperson Horan stated that he would make the requested revision and return the approved job description to Human Resources.

The Commission discussed the formation of the proposed subcommittee, and Ms. Herlihy suggested emailing commissioner members soon to start the process. The Commission also discussed communication with Human Resources, wanting to ensure,

that they have access to all applicants rather than only those curated by Human Resources, and deciding whether it will be posted internally first or not.

8. Formal Vote – Minutes from 4/23/26 Meeting

Ms. Herlihy stated that the minutes of the previous meeting were not yet complete due to the length of that meeting and would be available for the Commission's next meeting.

9. Discussion – Upcoming Items for 5/28/26 Meeting

The 5 Appleton Street Enforcement Order was continued to the Commission's 5/28/26.

10. Mail/other items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

Ms. Herlihy discussed ongoing ATV activity at Gloutak Park where it is not allowed. Signs prohibiting motorized vehicles have previously been knocked down or moved. Recent rainfall has made the rutting and ATV tracks more visible. She mentioned that relations with the adjacent property owner have been positive and they ought to communicate with him so that he prevents ATV users from going off his property to the wetlands. Ms. Herlihy requested that a Commissioner accompany her on a site walk with the adjacent property owner to observe the affected area and discuss the ongoing ATV activity. Vice Chairperson Moriarty indicated that she may be available on May 20th at approximately 8:30 a.m. Ms. Herlihy will confirm availability with the property owner and coordinate the site visit.

11. Adjourn

Following a motion by Vice Chairperson Moriarty, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Referenced documents: Race Street Construction Plans, Diagram of Hooded Catch Basin, Photos from 5/14/26 Race Street Site Visit, Pioneer Valley Railroad RDA Maps, Holyoke Gas and Electric project DEP WE# 186-0307 Approved Delineation Maps, Wyckoff Enforcement Order Restoration Work Photos, Wyckoff Enforcement Order Proposed Mitigation Plan Layout, Wyckoff Golf Course Google Earth Imagery, Photos from 4/29/26 5 Appleton Street Site Visit, Holyoke MapGeo

Board of Fire Commission Meeting Minutes		Date: August 19, 2026 Time: 5:00 p.m. Location: Fire Department Headquarters	
Meeting called by:	Chairman Trask	Note taker: D. Glenn	
Type of meeting:	Regular Monthly	Timekeeper: D. Glenn	
Facilitator:	Chief Kadlewicz		**Approved**
Attendees:	Jeffrey Trask Via Zoom, George Mettey, Nelson Lopez		
Absent:			
Staff in Attendance:	Chief John Kadlewicz and Dale Glenn		
Also:			
A. Opening of Meeting		Chairman Mettey	Time: 5:00 p.m.

#1 – Call to Order

Commissioner Mettey opened the meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners with a verbal roll call of those present, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Commissioner Lopez.

RECEIVED
SEP 10 2026
Holyoke City Clerk's
Holyoke, MA

#2 – Minutes

The Board of Fire Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the July 27, 2026 meeting.

#3 – Fire Chief's Report

Fire Chief Kadlewicz provided the Board with updates regarding:

- Injured on Duty (IOD), Light Duty, Administrative Duty, Administrative Leave, Overtime Expenditures

#4 – Old Business

Recruitment/Medical Examinations:
The Board reviewed the progress of the newest recruits who have been offered positions and are currently completing the hiring process. Two recruits have successfully passed their medical examinations, while the Department is awaiting the results for three additional candidates. Fire Chief Kadlewicz explained the Local Registry process to the Board, including the criteria and requirements for hiring candidates from the Local Registry.

Headquarters Roof Project:
No contractors submitted bids for the roof project at Headquarters, Station 1. Fire Chief Kadlewicz explained that he is uncertain what the next steps will be, as there appears to be no current interest from contractors in performing the work.

Station 3 Waterproofing Project:
The Department is working with Purchasing to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the coating and waterproofing project at Station 3. Fire Chief Kadlewicz stated that he is confident there will be contractor interest in this project.

Capital Outlay:
The Capital Outlay request is currently before the Mayor and is awaiting presentation to the City Council. The Fire Department has identified several items and equipment that require upgrades and replacement.

Turnout Gear:
The Department is in the process of ordering and upgrading turnout gear.

#5 – New Business

There was no new business discussed at this meeting.

The Board discussed moving next month's meeting to **September 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**

#6 – Executive Session

An Executive Session was not needed for this meeting.

#7 – Adjournment

The meeting was closed

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Injured on Duty
3 Firefighters

Light Duty

FMLA

Overtime Budget	$506,356.00
Transfers In	$
Revised Budget	$
Currently Expended	$152,284.47
Available Balance	$354,071.53

Average Expended Per Pay Period	$38,071.11
Last Pay Period	$60,180.77

Amendment 3
To Agreement 22809 Between
Massachusetts Technology Collaborative and
City of Holyoke

This Amendment 3 ("Amendment") modifies Agreement 22809 (the "Agreement") between Massachusetts Technology Collaborative ("MassTech") and City of Holyoke ("Participant" or "City"). Capitalized terms used and not otherwise defined in this Amendment shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Agreement. In the event of any conflict between this Amendment and the Agreement, this Amendment shall govern.

Now, therefore, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Agreement and this Amendment, MassTech and Participant agree as follows:

1. Payment. Section 3(I)(a) of Exhibit 1 (Statement of Work) of Amendment 1 to the Agreement is deleted in its entirety and is replaced by the following:

   a) In consideration of Participant's performance of Grant Activities and delivery of reports in the form of Deliverables in compliance with the Agreement, MassTech shall pay Participant up to **Seventy-Five Thousand and 98/100 Dollars ($75,000.98)** for allowable cost reimbursements, as further set forth in Exhibit 2 (Approved Budget). Said amount shall be the sole and complete payment to Participant under this SOW. This is a cost reimbursement agreement, and all costs incurred must be in line with the budget set forth in the Approved Budget.

2. Budget. Exhibit 2 (Approved Budget) and Exhibit 2A (Budget Spreadsheet) of Amendment 1 to the Agreement are deleted in their entirety and are replaced by Exhibit 2 (Approved Budget) and Exhibit 2A (Budget Spreadsheet) attached hereto.

3. No other changes. Notwithstanding anything stated in this Amendment to the contrary, all terms and conditions in the Agreement shall remain unchanged unless specifically amended by this Amendment or subsequent amendments.

The Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation d/b/a Massachusetts Technology Collaborative

By: _____ Digitally signed by Jennifer Saubermann DN: cn=Jennifer Saubermann, o=Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, ou, email=jsaubermann@masstech.org, c=US Date: 2026.07.30 16:53:35 -04'00'

Name: Jennifer Saubermann

Title: General Counsel

Date: July 30, 2026

City of Holyoke

By: _____

Name: Joshua A. Garcia

Title: Mayor

Date: 7/27/2026

Exhibit 2

Approved Budget*

Initiative	Budget Category	Budget Line Item & Description	SUM of Line Item Budget
Public Space Internet	Direct Labor	Direct Labor:	$3,675.00
		Fringe Benefits Rate:	$1,029.00
	Direct Labor Total		$4,704.00
	Subcontractors/Consultants		
	Subcontractors/Consultants Total		$15,569.00
	Direct Materials		
	Direct Materials Total		$0.00
	Travel		
	Travel Total		$0.00
	Other Direct Costs		
	Other Direct Costs Total		$0.00
	Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs	
	Indirect Costs Total		$470.40
Public Space Internet Total			**$20,743.40**
WI-FI Access	Direct Labor	Direct Labor:	$0.00
		Fringe Benefits Rate:	$0.00
	Direct Labor Total		$0.00
	Subcontractors/Consultants		
	Subcontractors/Consultants Total		$0.00
	Direct Materials		
	Direct Materials Total		$0.00
	Travel		
	Travel Total		$0.00
	Other Direct Costs		
	Other Direct Costs Total		$0.00
	Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs	
	Indirect Costs Total		$0.00
WI-FI Access Total			**$0.00**
Connectivity for Economic Hardship	Direct Labor	Direct Labor:	$0.00
		Fringe Benefits Rate:	$0.00
	Direct Labor Total		$0.00
	Subcontractors/Consultants		
	Subcontractors/Consultants Total		$0.00
	Direct Materials		
	Direct Materials Total		$0.00
	Travel		
	Travel Total		$0.00
	Other Direct Costs		
	Other Direct Costs Total		$0.00
	Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs	
	Indirect Costs Total		$0.00

Connectivity for Economic Hardship Total			$0.00
Digital Literacy	Direct Labor	Direct Labor:	$7,871.68
		Fringe Benefits Rate:	$2,204.07
	Direct Labor Total		$10,075.75
	Subcontractors/Consultants		
	Subcontractors/Consultants Total		$1,100.00
	Direct Materials		
	Direct Materials Total		$0.00
	Travel		
	Travel Total		$0.00
	Other Direct Costs		
	Other Direct Costs Total		$0.00
	Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs	
	Indirect Costs Total		$1,007.58
Digital Literacy Total			$12,183.33
Device Distribution	Direct Labor	Direct Labor:	$2,316.20
		Fringe Benefits Rate:	$648.26
	Direct Labor Total		$2,963.46
	Subcontractors/Consultants		
	Subcontractors/Consultants Total		$1,100.00
	Direct Materials		
	Direct Materials Total		$9,500.00
	Travel		
	Travel Total		$0.00
	Other Direct Costs		
	Other Direct Costs Total		$0.00
	Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs	
	Indirect Costs Total		$1,246.35
Device Distribution Total			$14,809.80
Education Outreach Adoption	Direct Labor	Direct Labor:	$6,366.80
		Fringe Benefits Rate:	$1,782.70
	Direct Labor Total		$8,149.50
	Subcontractors/Consultants		
	Subcontractors/Consultants Total		$18,300.00
	Direct Materials		
	Direct Materials Total		$0.00
	Travel		
	Travel Total		$0.00
	Other Direct Costs		
	Other Direct Costs Total		$0.00
	Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs	
	Indirect Costs Total		$814.95
Education Outreach Adoption Total			$27,264.45
Grand Total			$75,000.98

*Expenses must be in line with the detailed Excel budget in Exhibit 2A.

Exhibit 2A

Budget Spreadsheet

SEE ATTACHED EXCEL SPREADSHEET

Agreement 22809

MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATIVE

Digital Equity Implementation Funding Agreement
Between Massachusetts Technology Collaborative and
City of Holyoke

This Digital Equity Implementation Funding Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and between Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation d/b/a Massachusetts Technology Collaborative ("MassTech"), an independent public instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with a principal office and place of business at 75 North Drive, Westborough, Massachusetts, 01581, and the City of Holyoke with a principal place of business at 536 Dwight Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts, 01040 ("Participant").

Whereas, MassTech has been awarded a subaward from the Executive Office of Economic Development ("EOED") from the American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, funded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Federal Award Identification Number SLFRP1025; and

Whereas, MassTech established the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program (the "Program") under which MassTech provides direct grants to municipalities to implement recommendations in their local digital equity plans in one or more of the following focus areas: Staff Capacity for Digital Equity; Wi-Fi Access and Innovative Connectivity Technology; Public Space Modernization; Connectivity for Economic Hardship; Digital Literacy; Device Distribution and Refurbishment; and Education, Outreach, and Adoption ("Digital Equity Implementation Activities"); and

Whereas, MassTech and Participant desire to enter into an agreement under which Participant is eligible to receive funds to perform certain work in support of the Program and in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement; and

Whereas, Participant understands that a) this Agreement does not guarantee receipt of any funds by Participant; and b) determination of funding awards will be solely at the discretion of MassTech and agreed on projects may be added via written amendment signed by both parties.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the premises, mutual covenants and representations set forth herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. MassTech will reserve Fifty Six Thousand Six Hundred Three and 77/100 Dollars ($56,603.77) in Municipal Digital Equity Implementation funding for Participant to perform approved Digital Equity Implementation Activities ("Reserved Implementation Funds"). This funding amount is subject to increase (not to exceed $100,000.00 total) or decrease in a subsequent amendment based on MassTech's review and approval of Participant's funding application, proposed budget, and availability of funding for this Program.

2. In order to be eligible to receive the Reserved Implementation Funds, Participant must complete the following sequential steps:

   a. Participant must sign and return this Digital Equity Implementation Funding Agreement **no later than June 21, 2024**.

   b. Participant must complete a Digital Equity Plan or Charrette process with a planning consultant pre-qualified by MassTech **no later than June 30, 2025**.

   c. Participant must select which strategies or recommendations identified in its final Digital Equity Plan or Charrette Report it seeks to be funded by MassTech's Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program.

   d. Participant must develop a project proposal that falls within the eligible uses of funding under MassTech's Digital Equity Implementation Program and submit a complete funding application via MassTech's online form **no later than July 31, 2025**.

e. *Optional: Participant may, but is not required to, use the same planning consultant prequalified by MassTech in step b. above to provide assistance with formally applying to MassTech's Digital Equity Implementation Program.*

f. Following MassTech's review and approval of Participant's funding proposal, Participant and MassTech must enter into an amendment to this Agreement that contains state and federal funding terms and conditions, payment terms, Participant's approved budget, and approved implementation project proposal **no later than October 10, 2025**.

g. Participant must complete all approved Digital Equity Implementation Activities **no later than October 31, 2026**.

3. Unless otherwise approved in advance by MassTech, should Participant not complete the above steps within the timeframes specified, the Reserved Implementation Funds will not be disbursed.

The Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation d/b/a Massachusetts Technology Collaborative

By: Digitally signed by Carolyn A Kirk DN: cn=Carolyn A Kirk, o=Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, ou, email=kirk@masstech.org, c=US Date: 2024.06.18 10:49:27 -04'00'

Name: Carolyn A. Kirk

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Date: 6/18/24

City of Holyoke

By:

Name: Joshua A. Garcia

Title: MAYOR

Date: 6/17/2024

Amendment 1
To Agreement 22809 Between
Massachusetts Technology Collaborative and
City of Holyoke

This Amendment 1 ("Amendment") modifies Agreement 22809 (the "Agreement") between Massachusetts Technology Collaborative ("MassTech") and City of Holyoke ("Participant" or "City"). Capitalized terms used and not otherwise defined in this Amendment shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Agreement. In the event of any conflict between this Amendment and the Agreement, this Amendment shall govern.

Now, therefore, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Agreement and this Amendment, MassTech and Participant agree as follows:

1. Section 2(f) of the Agreement is deleted in its entirety and is replaced by the following:

   f. Following MassTech's review and approval of Participant's funding proposal, Participant and MassTech must enter into an amendment to this Agreement that contains state and federal funding terms and conditions, payment terms, Participant's approved budget, and approved implementation project proposal **no later than October 24, 2025**.

2. **Compliance with Award and Commonwealth Terms**

   Participant shall perform all activities funded by this Amendment in accordance with: (i) the Statement of Work attached hereto as Exhibit 1 ("Grant Activities"); (ii) the Approved Budget and Budget Spreadsheet, attached hereto as Exhibit 2 and Exhibit 2A, (iii) the Invoice Certification Form attached hereto as Exhibit 3; and (iv) the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds Terms and Conditions as Exhibit 4. Participant agrees that upon the request of MassTech it will negotiate in good faith with MassTech to incorporate additional provisions to the Exhibits herein or to change provisions hereof, as MassTech may reasonably deem necessary, in order to comply with the terms of this Amendment and any amendments thereto. If any such amendment causes an increase or decrease in the estimated cost of, or the time required for, performance of any part of the work under this Amendment, an equitable adjustment shall be negotiated between the parties. Participant reserves the right to return any unused funds granted under the Amendment within a reasonable time and terminate the Amendment.

3. **Period of Grant Activities and Termination**

   a) This Amendment shall take effect on the date of last signature (the "Effective Date") and shall remain in effect until October 30, 2026 (the "Term" or "Period of Performance").

   b) MassTech may terminate this Amendment or any part hereof by written notice to the Participant, should 1) the Executive Office of Economic Development ("EOED") terminate funding for the Project, as defined in the SOW, or any part thereof; or 2) Participant breaches the terms of this Amendment. The Parties will negotiate in good faith a reasonable and timely adjustment of all outstanding issues between the Parties as a result of termination. MassTech may terminate this Amendment in the event of an unforeseen public emergency or other change of law mandating immediate MassTech action inconsistent with performing its obligations.

   c) Award Closeout. Upon termination or expiration of this Amendment, Participant shall deliver the Deliverables defined in the SOW that shall be the form and content of a report of Grant Activities for which funds are granted. MassTech shall make payments for cost reimbursement for grant expenditures of the Participant compliant with the Amendment. Final payment request(s) under this Amendment must be received by MassTech no later than thirty (30) days from the earlier of the expiration date or

termination date of this Amendment. No payment request will be accepted by MassTech after this date without authorization from MassTech. In consideration of the execution of this Amendment by MassTech, Participant agrees that acceptance of final payment from MassTech will constitute an agreement by Participant to release and forever discharge MassTech, its agents, employees, representatives, affiliates, successors and assigns from any and all claims, demands, damages, liabilities, actions, causes of action or suits of any nature whatsoever, which Participant has at the time of acceptance of final payment or may thereafter have, arising out of or in any way relating to any and all injuries and damages of any kind as a result of or in any way relating to this Amendment. Participant's obligations to MassTech under this Amendment shall not terminate until all closeout requirements are completed to the satisfaction of MassTech. Such requirements shall include, without limitation, submitting final reports to MassTech and providing any closeout-related information requested by MassTech by the deadlines specified by MassTech.

d) Sections 3(c), 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, and 16 of this Amendment shall survive termination.

4. **Notices**

a) All communications to MassTech regarding legal issues shall be emailed to MassTech General Counsel Jennifer Saubermann at saubermann@masstech.org.

b) All communications regarding any other issues shall be emailed or delivered to the personnel specified in Section 2 of Exhibit 1 (the SOW), **Project Personnel**. Any notice hereunder shall be in writing and shall be effective (i) if dispatched by email and delivery is electronically confirmed by said media, the day such electronic confirmation is received, (ii) if sent by courier, one business day after dispatch, (iii) if sent by first class mail, five business days after its date of posting.

5. **Timely Completion of Grant Activities**

Participant acknowledges the timely completion of the Grant Activities and delivery of the Deliverables as provided under this Amendment is of the utmost importance to MassTech and its Program goals.

6. **Participant's Representations, Warranties and Certifications**

As of the Effective Date, Participant hereby represents, warrants and certifies as follows:

a) Participant is duly authorized to enter into this Amendment, and the execution, delivery and performance of this Amendment will not conflict with any other agreement or instrument to which it is a party or by which it is bound and will not violate any law, regulation, order or other legal requirement by which Participant or any of its assets is bound.

b) Participant and all Project Personnel of Participant are fully capable and qualified to perform the Grant Activities and Participant's other obligations hereunder, and have obtained all requisite licenses and permits to perform such obligations.

c) Participant and its Project Personnel are familiar with, and are and will remain in compliance with, and will not take any actions contrary to the provisions of, any laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, orders or requirements of the Commonwealth and other local, state or federal governmental authorities applicable to or implicated by the subject matter hereunder without limitation.

d) Participant and its employees are not employees, partners or joint-venturers of MassTech. Participant will be solely responsible for withholding and paying all

applicable payroll taxes of any nature including social security and other social welfare taxes or contributions that may be due on amounts paid to its employees. Participant has filed and will continue to file all necessary state tax returns and reports, and has paid and will continue to pay all taxes and has complied and will continue to comply with all laws of the Commonwealth relating to contributions and payment in lieu of contributions to the Employment Security System, and with all laws of the Commonwealth relating to Worker's Compensation, Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 152.

e) Participant shall not discriminate against any qualified employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, religion, physical or mental handicap, or sexual orientation. Participant agrees to comply with all applicable Federal and State statutes, rules and regulations prohibiting discrimination in employment including but not limited to: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 151B.

f) Participant represents and warrants that all personnel performing work hereunder are eligible to work in the United States at the time of execution of this Amendment and that Participant has a continuing obligation to ensure such status during the term of the Amendment.

g) Participant is in compliance with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387).

h) Additional representations, warranties and certifications may be set forth in the SOW.

7. **Ownership of Intellectual Property, Data Rights, and Title**

Participant retains all legal rights in any property, including but not limited to intellectual, tangible, intangible, or data, that may be acquired with the funds granted under the Amendment. MassTech retains ownership of all Deliverables as set forth in Section 1 of the Scope of Work.

8. **Insurance**

To the extent the Participant does not participate in a self-insurance program, Participant shall obtain and maintain in effect through the term of this Amendment appropriate insurance coverage for its activities hereunder including, but not limited to, comprehensive general liability insurance (bodily injury and property damage), workers' compensation, and liability insurance. At MassTech's request, Participant will provide MassTech with copies of the certificates of insurance evidencing such coverage. Additional insurance requirements may be specified under the SOW.

9. **Reserved**.

10. **Damages Waiver**

Excluding damages caused by negligence, intentional misconduct or breach of this Amendment, neither Party will be liable to the other or to any third party for loss of profits, or special, indirect, incidental, consequential or exemplary damages, including costs, in connection with the performance of any obligations under this Amendment, even if it is aware of the possibility of the occurrence of such damages.

11. **Assignment and Subcontracting**

Participant shall not assign or in any way transfer any interest in this Amendment without the prior

written consent of MassTech, including subcontracting any services except as otherwise included in the SOW attached hereto.

12. **Conflicts of Interest**

Participant acknowledges that all MassTech employees are subject to the Massachusetts Conflict of Interest statute, located at Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 268A.

13. **Record Keeping, Audit, and Inspection of Records**

Participant's relevant financial records specific to this Amendment are subject to examination or audit by MassTech, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or the Federal Government for a period not to exceed three (3) years after payment of the final payment. MassTech, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or the Federal Government shall have direct access to sufficient records and information of Participant, to ensure full accountability for all funding under this Amendment. Such audit, examination, or access will be performed during business hours on business days upon prior written notice and shall be subject to the security requirements of the audited party.

14. **Publicity**

Concerning work hereunder, Participant shall get written consent from MassTech prior to issuing press releases, announcing events, or posting any signs or media directly related to this specific grant, and shall coordinate with MassTech to plan for any news conferences regarding this specific grant. In any media produced by Participant, Participant will not represent that positions taken or advanced by it represent the opinion or position of MassTech.

15. **Public Records**

As a public entities, MassTech and Participant are subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law (set forth at Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 66) and thus all documents and other materials made or received by either Party and/or its employees are subject to public disclosure. Participant should not submit any information to MassTech that it does not want publicly disclosed, and should assume that all submissions are subject to public disclosure without any prior notice, even if marked confidential. If Participant wishes to have MassTech treat certain information or documentation as confidential, Participant must submit a written request to MassTech's General Counsel specifying the type of information that the Participant wishes to be treated as confidential along with a detailed explanation of the statutory exemption(s) from the Public Records Law. MassTech's General Counsel is the sole authority within MassTech for making determinations on the applicability and/or assertion of an exemption to the Public Records Law.

16. **Choice of Law**

This Amendment shall be governed by and construed according to the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts without regard to choice of law principles. Venue for all disputes arising from this Amendment, including but not limited to any mediation or arbitration commenced, shall be in Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

17. **Force Majeure**

Neither Party shall be liable for any failure to perform due to any cause beyond their reasonable control and without their fault or negligence. Such causes may include, but are not limited to, acts of God or of a public enemy, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, freight embargoes, or unusually severe weather. Dates or times of performance including the Term may be extended to account for delays excused by this Section, provided that the party whose performance is affected notifies the other promptly of

the existence and nature of such delay. This Amendment shall be completed with such adjustments as are reasonably required by the existence of Force Majeure or this Amendment may be terminated for convenience.

18. **Minority and Women Owned Businesses**

Participant shall take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible.

19. **Debarment and Suspension**

Participant shall not contract with any parties listed on the government-wide exclusions in the System for Award Management (SAM).

20. **Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 U.S.C. 1352)**

Participants that are awarded an amount exceeding $100,000 under this Amendment must complete the required certification. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. 1352. Each tier must also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award.

21. **Monitoring**

Participant shall be subject to monitoring by MassTech to ensure compliance with all state and federal requirements that are flowed down under this Amendment, as well as any other provisions identified under the federal requirements or other state requirements. Participant shall be responsible for monitoring any subcontract it enters into with this federal funding. Participant understands and agrees that MassTech staff and authorized representatives may evaluate Participant's ability to complete the activities funded under this Amendment, through ongoing monitoring. As deemed appropriate by MassTech, their staff and authorized representatives may also conduct further reviews and site-visits during the Amendment term, which may include fiscal reviews. MassTech staff shall use interviews, inspection of files, site visits and direct observation to identify program areas of concern so that Participant can improve their productivity, efficiency, quality, and management capacity.

22. **American Made**

Participant should, to the greatest extent practicable, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States. The requirements of this section must be included in all contracts and sub awards hereunder.

23. **Fraud, Waste and Abuse**

Participant shall maintain and utilize systems and procedures to prevent, detect, and correct fraud, waste, and abuse in activities funded under this Amendment.

24. **Use of Funds**

Pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.303, Participant shall establish effective control over, and accountability for, all funds, property, and other assets funded under this Amendment and assure that they are used solely for authorized purposes in alignment with this Amendment and

applicable federal guidelines.

25. **Subcontractors**

MassTech expects Participant to adhere to 2 C.F.R. § 200.321(a)and require its subcontractors to do the same.

26. **Accounting System**

Participant shall maintain an accounting system and supporting fiscal records that adequately identify the source and application of funds for federally-funded activities that are subject to audit and verification that all costs meet federal and state requirements.

27. **Prohibited Telecommunications Equipment or Services**

Participant shall use its best efforts to ensure that it will not knowingly use contract funds to purchase, or enter into contracts to purchase, any equipment, services, or systems that use prohibited telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of a system subject to 2 CFR § 200.216.

28. **Amendments and Waivers**

The terms of this Amendment and any attachments thereto can be amended only through a written document executed by both Parties. Conditions, covenants, duties and obligations contained herein may be waived only by written agreement between the parties. Forbearance or indulgence in any form or manner by a party shall not be construed as a waiver, nor in any way limit the remedies available to that party.

29. **Severability**

Each provision of this Amendment shall be treated as a separate and independent clause and any decision from a court of competent jurisdiction to the effect that any clause or provision of this Amendment is null or unenforceable shall in no way impair the validity, power or enforceability of any other clause or provision of this Amendment.

30. **Headings**

The headings and captions of the various subdivisions of this Amendment are for convenience of reference only and will in no way modify or affect the meaning or construction of any of the terms or provisions hereof.

31. **Counterparts**

This Amendment may be executed in two or more counterparts, and by different parties hereto on separate counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original, but all of which together will constitute one and the same instrument.

32. **Attachments, Exhibits, Amendments and Order of Precedence**

The parties understand and agree that this Amendment and its exhibits and attachments supersede all other verbal and written agreements and negotiations by the parties regarding the matters set forth herein, are fully incorporated by reference, and can only be amended by written agreement of the parties. The following, including without limitation any schedules, milestones, deliverables, budgets, and other terms relative to the nature of the work to be

performed, are attached and incorporated into this Amendment without precedence:

- Exhibit 1 - Statement of Work
- Exhibit 2 - Approved Budget
- Exhibit 3 - Invoice Certification Form
- Exhibit 4 - Commonwealth of Massachusetts Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund Terms and Conditions

33. No other changes. Notwithstanding anything stated in this Amendment to the contrary, all terms and conditions in the Agreement shall remain unchanged unless specifically amended by this Amendment or subsequent amendments.

The Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation d/b/a Massachusetts Technology Collaborative	**City of Holyoke**
By: _____	**By:** _____
Name: _____	**Name:** Joshua A. Garcia
Title: _____	**Title:** MAYOR
Date: _____	**Date:** 10/24/2025

Exhibit 1

Statement of Work
Describing Grant Activities

Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Amendment and this SOW, MassTech and Participant, agree as follows:

1. **Performance of Grant Activities, Deliverables, and Schedule**

Participant shall perform the agreed upon work in accordance with the specifications and Budget set forth below.

Scope of Work

The City of Holyoke completed a Digital Equity Plan and will focus funds on the Public Space Modernization, Digital Literacy, Device Distribution, and Education, Outreach, Adoption focus areas. Specifically, the City will improve access to public Wi-Fi, devices, and digital skills support.

City of Holyoke staff will conduct the following activities:

Public Space Modernization

- Engage Holyoke Gas & Electric to provide services and materials to expand public Wi-Fi in the downtown neighborhood and at one city park
- Contract with PVPC to support grant administration and project oversight

Digital Literacy

- Library and Council on Aging staff will provide structured digital skills support via expansion of existing programming

Device Distribution

- Purchase 20 tablets and 25 hotspots with one year of service for lending through the library and council on aging
  Education, Outreach, Adoption
- Engage Tech Foundry and Wayfinders as consultants to expand digital navigation services in the City

The City of Holyoke will report on metrics aligned to the Public Space Modernization, Device Distribution, Digital Literacy, and Education, Outreach, Adoption focus areas, in accordance with grant requirements.

Deliverables

Participant shall submit:

- A Mid-point Report which must include all Project activities the Participant and any subcontractors/subrecipients are engaged in, as well as Project progress, updates to project milestones, and impact as well as other information as set forth in the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation report template.

  DUE: Six (6) months from the Agreement Effective Date, or as to be agreed to by the parties

- Metrics in accordance with the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program metrics reporting template.

  DUE: With the Mid-point Report

- A Final Report which must include:
  - a comprehensive report on all status, outcomes, lessons learned for all Project activities funded under this agreement, as well as any other information requested by MassTech
  - final metrics in accordance with the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program metrics reporting template.
  - documented success stories

  DUE: Upon completion of the Project or Period of Performance end date

2. **Project Personnel**

Both MassTech and Participant have designated the following persons to serve as Project Manager to support effective communication between MassTech and the Participant and to report on the work's progress. Each party will endeavor to maintain the continuity of its respective project personnel.

For MassTech: Ariana Fielding (fielding@masstech.org) (508-870-0312)
MassTech contact for invoicing: Julie Parenteau (parenteau@masstech.org) (508-870-0312)

For Participant: Stephen Fay (fays@holyoke.org)

Written notice shall be provided to personnel at the email addresses set forth in this Section 2 in the event of any change in Project Personnel.

3. **Payments and Invoices**

I. Payment

a) In consideration of Participant's performance of Grant Activities and delivery of reports in the form of Deliverables in compliance with the Amendment MassTech shall pay Participant up to **Seventy-Five Thousand and 76/100 Dollars ($75,000.76)** for allowable cost reimbursements, as further set forth in Exhibit 2 (Approved Budget). Said amount shall be the sole and complete payment to the Participant under this SOW. This is a cost reimbursement agreement, and all costs incurred must be in line with the budget set forth in the Approved Budget.

b) Participant shall be compensated on a cost-reimbursement basis for the performance of the Project. Notwithstanding the foregoing, MassTech expects that the costs invoiced will be proportional to the work completed by Participant as of the date of the invoice.

c) MassTech will not reimburse for sales tax, interest, or other costs out of scope of this Amendment. In no case will MassTech reimburse the Participant in excess of the amount of funds obligated and allotted for payment by MassTech under this Amendment or by modification to this Amendment.

d) All payments shall be considered provisional and subject to adjustment within the total not to exceed anticipated amount, in the event such adjustment is necessary as a result of a future audit finding.

e) Budget Adjustments. Any variance between budget categories or other budget amounts and the invoiced amounts will be reviewed in accordance with MassTech's Budget Guidelines in effect at the time and must be approved by MassTech project personnel.

f) MassTech shall have the right to recover from any payment previously made for amounts on

preceding or pending invoices found by EOED not to be properly supported as payable to MassTech or not allowable in accordance with the Cost Principles contained in 2 CFR 200, Subpart E. Payments shall also be subject to reduction or setoff for overpayments made by MassTech to Participant.

g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Amendment, MassTech shall be obligated to make payments to the Participant only to the extent that MassTech is legally entitled to recover the items for which payment is made as allowable costs under MassTech's Agreement with EOED. This clause in no way obligates MassTech to provide payment for services not performed in accordance with the applicable SOW. Participant's total invoiced amount shall not exceed the Amendment obligated amount indicated herein.

II. Invoices

a) Participant shall invoice MassTech at two milestones: (i) upon submission of the Mid-Point Report; and (ii) upon submission of the Final Report; for amounts incurred to date as of completion of those items and in accordance with the rates set forth in Exhibit 2.

b) Invoices shall be addressed to MassTech personnel identified in Section 2, Project Personnel, of this SOW.

c) Invoices must specify the billing period and must list costs by each budget line item and category for the invoice period. The invoice should be submitted along with the Budget and Invoice Spreadsheet template to show the cumulative amount billed to date against the approved budget.

d) Participant's invoice shall be in a format consistent with the tasks set forth in Section 1 of this SOW. Invoices shall provide reasonable supporting documentation, including:
   i. Invoice period of performance
   ii. Description of the services provided
   iii. Staff charges: for each employee, the name, title, number of hours worked and hourly rate by budget line item/task; and
   iv. Direct charges: all direct costs shall be itemized on the invoice and supported by documentation such as vendor invoices, travel vouchers, expense receipts or other documentation as requested by MassTech. Mileage shall be reimbursed at no more than then applicable rates published by the Internal Revenue Service. Any and all claims for meal expenses shall represent actual, reasonable and necessary expenses and shall be supported by detailed, itemized receipts. MassTech will not be responsible for the payment or reimbursement of any alcoholic beverages.

4. **Access and Use**

Participant agrees that MassTech shall have the right to make use of and disseminate, in whole or in part the Deliverables defined in the SOW, and to use the information therein contained to produce summaries, case studies or similar information resources.

5. **Additional Requirements**

a) A credit line and the MBI logo must appear in all published materials and announcements regarding the funded activity as follows: "This project was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds."

b) Participant shall use forms and materials established and provided by MassTech.

6. **Ownership of Intellectual Property**

a) Definitions

Deliverables: The term "Deliverables" shall mean deliverables as set forth in Section 1 of this

SOW. Participant shall ensure that Deliverables do not contain any Custom Work Product or Participant Property.

Participant Property: The term "Participant Property" shall mean all pre-existing material and material created as Grant Activities that are not Deliverables or with funds received under the Amendment, including, but not limited to, any intellectual, tangible, and intangible property, data, products, software, materials and methodologies proprietary to Participant or provided by Participant and any trade secrets, know-how, methodologies and processes related to Participant's products or services.

Custom Work Product: The term "Custom Work Product", for purposes of the Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101-1332, shall mean all work items newly created on a "work made for hire" basis by Participant expressly on behalf of MassTech under this SOW. There will be no Custom Work Product created under this SOW.

b) Ownership and Licensing

MassTech shall own all right, title and interest in the Deliverables in their entirety, provided under this SOW. Participant shall retain ownership in all Participant Property as defined above. Participant understands that all Participant Property provided under this Amendment is subject to disclosure as set forth above in Section 11, Public Records.

7. Amendments, Exhibits and Attachments

All conditions, covenants, duties and obligations contained in this SOW and its exhibits and attachments may be amended only through a written amendment signed by both Parties.

Exhibit 2

Approved Budget*

Initiative	Budget Category	Budget Line Item & Description	SUM of Line Item Budget
Public Space Internet	Direct Labor	Direct Labor:	$3,675.00
		Fringe Benefits Rate:	$1,029.00
	Direct Labor Total		$4,704.00
	Subcontractors/Consultants		
	Subcontractors/Consultants Total		$17,069.00
	Direct Materials		
	Direct Materials Total		$0.00
	Travel		
	Travel Total		$0.00
	Other Direct Costs		
	Other Direct Costs Total		$0.00
	Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs	
	Indirect Costs Total		$470.40
Public Space Internet Total			**$22,243.40**
Wi-Fi Access	Direct Labor	Direct Labor:	$0.00
		Fringe Benefits Rate:	$0.00
	Direct Labor Total		$0.00
	Subcontractors/Consultants		
	Subcontractors/Consultants Total		$0.00
	Direct Materials		
	Direct Materials Total		$0.00
	Travel		
	Travel Total		$0.00
	Other Direct Costs		
	Other Direct Costs Total		$0.00
	Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs	
	Indirect Costs Total		$0.00
Wi-Fi Access Total			**$0.00**
Connectivity for Economic Hardship	Direct Labor	Direct Labor:	$0.00
		Fringe Benefits Rate:	$0.00
	Direct Labor Total		$0.00
	Subcontractors/Consultants		

	Subcontractors/Consultants Total		$0.00
	Direct Materials		
	Direct Materials Total		$0.00
	Travel		
	Travel Total		$0.00
	Other Direct Costs		
	Other Direct Costs Total		$0.00
	Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs	
	Indirect Costs Total		$0.00
Connectivity for Economic Hardship Total			**$0.00**
Digital Literacy	Direct Labor	Direct Labor:	$7,871.68
		Fringe Benefits Rate:	$2,204.07
	Direct Labor Total		$10,075.75
	Subcontractors/Consultants		
	Subcontractors/Consultants Total		$0.00
	Direct Materials		
	Direct Materials Total		$0.00
	Travel		
	Travel Total		$0.00
	Other Direct Costs		
	Other Direct Costs Total		$0.00
	Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs	
	Indirect Costs Total		$1,007.58
Digital Literacy Total			**$11,083.33**
Device Distribution	Direct Labor	Direct Labor:	$2,315.20
		Fringe Benefits Rate:	$648.26
	Direct Labor Total		$2,963.46
	Subcontractors/Consultants		
	Subcontractors/Consultants Total		$0.00
	Direct Materials		
	Direct Materials Total		$9,499.80
	Travel		
	Travel Total		$0.00
	Other Direct Costs		
	Other Direct Costs Total		$0.00
	Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs	
	Indirect Costs Total		$1,246.33

Device Distribution Total			**$13,709.58**
Education Outreach Adoption	Direct Labor	Direct Labor:	$6,366.80
		Fringe Benefits Rate:	$1,782.70
	Direct Labor Total		$8,149.50
	Subcontractors/Consultants		
	Subcontractors/Consultants Total		$19,000.00
	Direct Materials		
	Direct Materials Total		$0.00
	Travel		
	Travel Total		$0.00
	Other Direct Costs		
	Other Direct Costs Total		$0.00
	Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs	
	Indirect Costs Total		$814.95
Education Outreach Adoption Total			**$27,964.45**
Grand Total			**$75,000.76**

* Expenditures must be in line with the detailed Excel budget in Exhibit 2A.

Exhibit 2A

Budget Spreadsheet

SEE EXCEL ATTACHMENT

Exhibit 3
Invoice Certification Form

Requisition Number:

Statement of Work Number:

I hereby attest that the amounts for which we are seeking funding for:

- Will be recognized on Participant's books;
- Will be used to cover expenditures for project costs that are allowable under, and consistent with, the terms and conditions of the agreement including all applicable state and federal guidelines;
- Will be for costs that are reasonable and appropriately allocated to the project; and
- Are for costs that will not be reimbursed by any other funding source

To the best of my knowledge, Participant's subcontractors are complying with all terms of this agreement that are required to be flowed down through a Participants' grant agreement and are carrying out the Project scope in accordance with the terms of their agreement with Participant.

Certified by: City of Holyoke
Organization

Signature of Authorized Signing Authority

Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor
Name and Title of Authorized Signing Authority

10/24/2025
Date

garciaj@holyoke.org, (413)561-1600
Contact email and phone number

EXHIBIT 4

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds Terms and Conditions

a) Use of Funds.
   I. The Awarded Respondent will determine prior to engaging in any project using this assistance that it has the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of such project.

b) Period of Performance. The period of performance for this award will not extend beyond December 31, 2026.

c) Maintenance of and Access to Records.
   I. The Awarded Respondent shall maintain records and financial documents sufficient to evidence compliance with any guidance provided by the Commonwealth.
   II. The U.S. Treasury Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office, the Executive Office of Administration and Finance, or their authorized representatives, shall have the right of access to records (electronic and otherwise) of Awarded Respondent related to the RFQ in order to conduct audits or other investigations.
   III. Records shall be maintained by Awarded Respondent for a period of five (5) years after all funds have been expended or returned to the Commonwealth, whichever is later.

d) Conflicts of Interest. The Awarded Respondent understands and agrees it must maintain a conflict of interest policy consistent with 2 C.F.R. § 200.318(c) and that such conflict of interest policy is applicable to each activity funded under this award. Awarded Respondent must disclose in writing to the Commonwealth, any potential conflict of interest affecting the awarded funds in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.112.

e) Compliance with Applicable Law and Regulations.
   I. Federal regulations applicable to this award include, without limitation, the following:
      i. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, other than such provisions as Treasury may determine are inapplicable to this Award and subject to such exceptions as may be otherwise provided by Treasury.
      ii. OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement), 2 C.F.R. Part 180, including the requirement to include a term or condition in all lower tier covered transactions (contracts and subcontracts described in 2 C.F.R. Part 180, subpart B) that the award is subject to 2 C.F.R. Part 180 and Treasury's implementing regulation at 31 C.F.R. Part 19.
      iii. Awarded Respondent Integrity and Performance Matters, pursuant to which the award term set forth in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix XII to Part 200 is hereby incorporated by reference.
      iv. Generally applicable federal environmental laws and regulations.
   II. Statutes and regulations prohibiting discrimination applicable to this award include, without limitation, the following:
      i. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.) and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 22, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance;
      ii. The Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§ 3601 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability;
      iii. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance;
      iv. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq.), and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 23, which prohibit

discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance; and

v. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under programs, activities, and services provided or made available by state and local governments or instrumentalities or agencies thereto.

f) False Statements. The Awarded Respondent understands that making false statements or claims in connection with this award is a violation of federal law and may result in criminal, civil, or administrative sanctions, including fines, imprisonment, civil damages and penalties, debarment from participating in federal awards or contracts, and/or any other remedy available by law.

g) Protections for Whistleblowers.

I. In accordance with 41 U.S.C. § 4712, the Awarded Respondent may not discharge, demote, or otherwise discriminate against an employee in reprisal for disclosing to any of the list of persons or entities provided below, information that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of gross mismanagement of a federal contract or grant, a gross waste of federal funds, an abuse of authority relating to a federal contract or grant, a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or a violation of law, rule, or regulation related to a federal contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract) or grant.

II. The list of persons and entities referenced in the paragraph above includes the following:

i. A member of Congress or a representative of a committee of Congress;
ii. An Inspector General;
iii. The Government Accountability Office;
iv. A Treasury employee responsible for contract or grant oversight or management;
v. An authorized official of the Department of Justice or other law enforcement agency;
vi. A court or grand jury; or
vii. A management official or other employee of Awarded Respondent, contractor, or subcontractor who has the responsibility to investigate, discover, or address misconduct.

III. The Awarded Respondent shall inform its employees in writing of the rights and remedies provided under this section, in the predominant native language of the workforce.

h) Increasing Seat Belt Use in the United States. Pursuant to Executive Order 13043, 62 FR 19217 (Apr. 18, 1997), Awarded Respondent should encourage its contractors to adopt and enforce on-the-job seat belt policies and programs for their employees when operating company-owned, rented or personally owned vehicles.

i) Reducing Text Messaging While Driving. Pursuant to Executive Order 13513, 74 FR 51225 (Oct. 6, 2009), Awarded Respondent should encourage its employees, subrespondents, and contractors to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving, and Awarded Respondent should establish workplace safety policies to decrease accidents caused by distracted drivers.

Amendment 2
To Agreement 22809 Between
Massachusetts Technology Collaborative and
City of Holyoke

This Amendment 2 ("Amendment") modifies Agreement 22809 (the "Agreement") between Massachusetts Technology Collaborative ("MassTech") and City of Holyoke ("Participant" or "City"). Capitalized terms used and not otherwise defined in this Amendment shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Agreement. In the event of any conflict between this Amendment and the Agreement, this Amendment shall govern.

Now, therefore, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Agreement and this Amendment, MassTech and Participant agree as follows:

1. Period of Performance. Section 3(a) of Amendment 1 to the Agreement is deleted in its entirety and is replaced by the following:

   a) This Amendment shall take effect on the date of last signature (the "Effective Date") and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2026 (the "Term" or "Period of Performance").

2. No other changes. Notwithstanding anything stated in this Amendment to the contrary, all terms and conditions in the Agreement shall remain unchanged unless specifically amended by this Amendment or subsequent amendments.

The Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation d/b/a Massachusetts Technology Collaborative	**City of Holyoke**
By: _____	**By:** _____
Name: _____	**Name:** Joshua A. Gardin
Title: _____	**Title:** Mayor
Date: _____	**Date:** 6/16/2026

Amendment 3
To Agreement 22809 Between
Massachusetts Technology Collaborative and
City of Holyoke

This Amendment 3 ("Amendment") modifies Agreement 22809 (the "Agreement") between Massachusetts Technology Collaborative ("MassTech") and City of Holyoke ("Participant" or "City"). Capitalized terms used and not otherwise defined in this Amendment shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Agreement. In the event of any conflict between this Amendment and the Agreement, this Amendment shall govern.

Now, therefore, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Agreement and this Amendment, MassTech and Participant agree as follows:

1. Payment. Section 3(I)(a) of Exhibit 1 (Statement of Work) of Amendment 1 to the Agreement is deleted in its entirety and is replaced by the following:

   a) In consideration of Participant's performance of Grant Activities and delivery of reports in the form of Deliverables in compliance with the Agreement, MassTech shall pay Participant up to **Seventy-Five Thousand and 98/100 Dollars ($75,000.98)** for allowable cost reimbursements, as further set forth in Exhibit 2 (Approved Budget). Said amount shall be the sole and complete payment to Participant under this SOW. This is a cost reimbursement agreement, and all costs incurred must be in line with the budget set forth in the Approved Budget.

2. Budget. Exhibit 2 (Approved Budget) and Exhibit 2A (Budget Spreadsheet) of Amendment 1 to the Agreement are deleted in their entirety and are replaced by Exhibit 2 (Approved Budget) and Exhibit 2A (Budget Spreadsheet) attached hereto.

3. No other changes. Notwithstanding anything stated in this Amendment to the contrary, all terms and conditions in the Agreement shall remain unchanged unless specifically amended by this Amendment or subsequent amendments.

The Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation d/b/a Massachusetts Technology Collaborative	**City of Holyoke**
By: _____	**By:** _____
Name: _____	**Name:** Joshua A. Garcia
Title: _____	**Title:** MAYOR
Date: _____	**Date:** 7/27/2026

Mayor Joshua A. Garcia

Matthew Sokop, P.E.
City Engineer

City of Holyoke

Department of Public Works

August 28, 2026

Holyoke City Council
Holyoke City Hall
536 Dwight Street, Room 10
Holyoke, MA 01040

Subject: Acceptance of MassDOT LED-Enhanced Stop Sign Materials
Jackson Street at Commercial Street/I-391 Ramp

Dear Councilors:

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has offered the City an in-kind grant of LED-enhanced stop sign and post materials for the Jackson Street approaches to Commercial Street and the I-391 off-ramp. The proposed work will retain the existing two-way stop control and replace the two existing standard STOP signs with LED-enhanced STOP signs. Each sign will also include a CROSS TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP plaque.

MassDOT will provide the signage and post materials at no cost to the City. Under the attached Memorandum of Agreement, the City will provide the labor, equipment, pavement markings, traffic control, and other incidental materials needed for installation. The City will also be responsible for the signs' ongoing operation and maintenance.

The Department of Public Works respectfully requests that the City Council accept this in-kind grant of traffic sign materials and authorize the City to carry out the work described in the attached agreement. No amendment to Chapter 86 of the Code of Ordinances is required because the existing stop-controlled approaches and traffic patterns will remain unchanged.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Matthew Sokop, P.E.
City Engineer

ecc: Mayor Joshua A. Garcia
Daniel Glanville, Law Department
Michael Gallagher, Department of Public Works
Jeffrey Anderson-Burgos, Administrative Assistant to the City Council

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
LED-ENHANCED STOP SIGNS

This Memorandum of Agreement ("**Agreement**") is made and entered into by and between the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, established pursuant to Chapter 6C of the General Laws, as amended, having its principal place of business at Ten Park Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts, 02116 ("**MassDOT**)", and the CITY of Holyoke, Massachusetts, a municipal corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts located in Hampden County ("**Municipality**"). The Municipality and MassDOT are each sometimes referred to individually herein as a "Party", and collectively as the "Parties."

RECITALS

WHEREAS, to enhance pedestrian and driver safety in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassDOT intends to procure LED enhanced stop sign materials to replace standard stop signs, which has been shown to reduce the frequency of angular vehicle crashes, at certain intersections within municipally owned roadways; and

WHEREAS, Municipality desires to install LED enhanced stop signs at the intersections(s) identified in Exhibit A (the "**Locations**"), which are within the geographical jurisdiction of Municipality, and has requested that MassDOT provide Municipality with the sign materials identified in Exhibit B (the "**Sign Materials**"); and

WHEREAS, MassDOT has approved Municipality's request, and Municipality has agreed to install the Sign Materials at the Locations at Municipality's own expense; and

WHEREAS, MassDOT and Municipality seek to confirm their respective rights and obligations in connection with the Sign Materials as set forth in this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. **Recitals.** The recitals in this Agreement are true and correct, and are incorporated herein by reference and made part of this Agreement.

2. **Sign Materials.** MassDOT agrees to provide Municipality with the Sign Materials identified in Exhibit B. MassDOT will fund the entire cost of the Sign Materials, including the cost of delivery to Municipality. Upon delivery, ownership of the Sign Materials will transfer to Municipality.

   It is understood and agreed that MassDOT's procurement of the Sign Materials is contingent upon availability and continued appropriation of federal funds, and if for any reason whatsoever, such funds are terminated or reduced or otherwise become unavailable, MassDOT may terminate this Agreement immediately.

3. **Installation**. Municipality, at its sole expense, shall remove the existing stop signs and

replace them with the Sign Materials at each Location identified in Exhibit A. Aside from the Sign Materials, Municipality shall provide all necessary labor, materials, equipment, and other services to install the Sign Materials in accordance with (1) vendor specifications and (2) the applicable provisions of the most recent edition of the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) and the Massachusetts Amendments to the MUTCD published by MassDOT. Municipality shall also be solely responsible for evaluating the specific site constraints for each Location and providing all necessary temporary traffic control devices and/or police details necessary to safely complete the installations. Traffic control plans, signs, devices, and police details shall conform to the Official Standards of MassDOT. Prior to installation, Municipality shall obtain, at its sole cost and expense, any and all applicable permits, approvals, including local approvals, and/or clearances required by local and state agencies, commissions, or bodies necessary for the installation of the Sign Materials. Municipality's failure to comply with any requirement of this paragraph shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement and MassDOT may require Municipality to correct the deficiency at its own expense.

Municipality shall install the Sign Materials within ninety (90) days of their delivery to Municipality. Within a week of installing the Sign Materials, Municipality shall provide written notice to MassDOT that the installation has been completed. The notice shall include a photograph depicting each LED enhanced stop sign installed by Municipality pursuant to this Agreement ("**Sign**") and documentation, in a form acceptable to MassDOT, evidencing each Sign's location and date of its installation.

4. **Operation and Maintenance.** Municipality, at its own expense, shall be solely responsible for the proper operation, maintenance, and repair of the Signs for the duration of the Signs' useful life. The Signs shall be operated and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of the most recent edition of the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) and the Massachusetts Amendments to the MUTCD published by MassDOT. In addition to annual preventative maintenance, Municipality's maintenance obligation also includes the replacement of major components and miscellaneous parts due to damage or wear and any tree trimming that may be necessary for the proper functioning of the solar-powered Sign. Municipality shall not remove or relocate any Sign without receiving prior written approval from MassDOT. Failure on the part of Municipality to fulfill its responsibilities for the proper maintenance and operation of the Signs may disqualify Municipality from participation in future Federal Aid Projects in which Municipality has maintenance responsibility. Municipality's obligations under this Section 4 shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

5. **Term**. This Agreement shall be effective as of the date of full execution by Municipality and MassDOT and, unless terminated earlier as provided herein or otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties, shall remain in full force and effect for a period of two (2) years after Municipality's

receipt of the Sign Materials. This Agreement may be terminated by mutual agreement of the Parties, upon such terms and conditions as the Parties may mutually agree upon. Such termination shall be effective in accordance with a written agreement by the Parties.

In addition, MassDOT may, by written notice to Municipality, terminate this Agreement in any one of the following circumstances:

(a) The Municipality neglects or fails to comply with any provision of this Agreement in accordance with its terms or within the time specified for performance herein, and Municipality fails to cure any such failure within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of notice specifying such failure. In the event this Agreement is terminated pursuant to this provision, MassDOT shall not be liable to the Municipality for any costs incurred or burdens assumed upon or subsequent to, and associated with, such termination.

(b) The applicable Federal funding source fails to appropriate or otherwise make available funds for the Agreement. In the event this Agreement is terminated pursuant to this provision, MassDOT shall not be liable to Municipality for any costs.

In the event that MassDOT terminates this MOA subsequent to the delivery of the Sign Materials to Municipality but prior to their installation, Municipality shall, at its expense, return the Sign Materials to the applicable MassDOT District Office.

6. **Compliance with Laws**. Municipality, in meeting its obligations hereunder, shall comply with all applicable federal, state, county, municipal and other governmental statues, laws, rules, orders, regulations and ordinances. Municipality's obligations under this Section 6 shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

7. **Indemnification**. To the extent permitted by the laws of the Commonwealth, Municipality shall indemnify, defend (at Municipality's sole expense and with counsel reasonably acceptable to MassDOT), and hold harmless MassDOT and all of MassDOT's officers, agents, and employees, from and against any and all suits, claims, proceedings, liabilities, losses damages, penalties, charges and expenses (including attorneys' fees and experts' fees) of every name and nature, based on or arising out of any actual or alleged loss or injury (including death) to persons or damage to real or tangible property that are caused or alleged to be caused, in whole or in part, by, or to arise out of the acts or omissions of, Municipality, or its employees, contractors, subcontractors, or agents, in its performance of the obligations set forth herein. Municipality's obligations under this Section 7 shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

8. **Notices.** Any notices required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be given in writing and shall be delivered (a) in person, (b) by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, return

receipt requested, or (c) by a commercial overnight courier that guarantees next day delivery and provides a receipt. Such notices shall be addressed as follows:

If to MassDOT: Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Highway Division of Traffic & Safety Engineering
10 Park Plaza, Suite 7520
Boston, MA 02116
Attention: Neil Boudreau

If to Municipality:
City of Holyoke
536 Dwight Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
Attention: City Engineer

or to such other address as either Party may from time to time specify in writing to the other Party. Any notice shall be effective only upon delivery.

9. **Authority**. The individuals executing this MOA represent that they are empowered and duly authorized to so execute this MOA on behalf of the Parties they represent.

10. **Miscellaneous**. This MOA represents the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, superseding any prior oral or written agreements or understandings regarding the same, and any modification amendment or change to the terms and conditions hereof shall be binding only when expressed in writing and signed by both Parties hereto. This MOA may be signed in multiple counterparts each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which when taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument. This MOA shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, without regard to its choice of law rules. If any provision or condition of this MOA shall be deemed invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions and conditions shall remain in full force and effect and shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Municipality and MassDOT have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized officers or representatives on the dates indicated below.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

MUNICIPALITY

By: _____

Name:Joshua A .Garcia

Title: Mayor

Date: 8/27/2026

August 10, 2026

Mr. Matthew Sokop, P.E.
City Engineer
City of Holyoke
63 Canal Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

RE: City of Holyoke – Jackson St at Commercial St
Link to Site in Google Maps: Jackson St at Commercial St/I391 Ramp
Alternative Sign Plan
MassDOT District 2

Mr. Sokop:

In response to the on-site meeting on July 29, 2026, please see included an alternative sign proposal for the subject intersection. The proposed maintains two-way stop control, while upgrading the existing static 'STOP' signs to LED enhanced. In addition, 'Cross Traffic Does Not Stop' plaques are proposed to highlight the stop condition only on the minor approaches.

Should you have any questions, please contact stephen.simoglou@dot.state.ma.us.

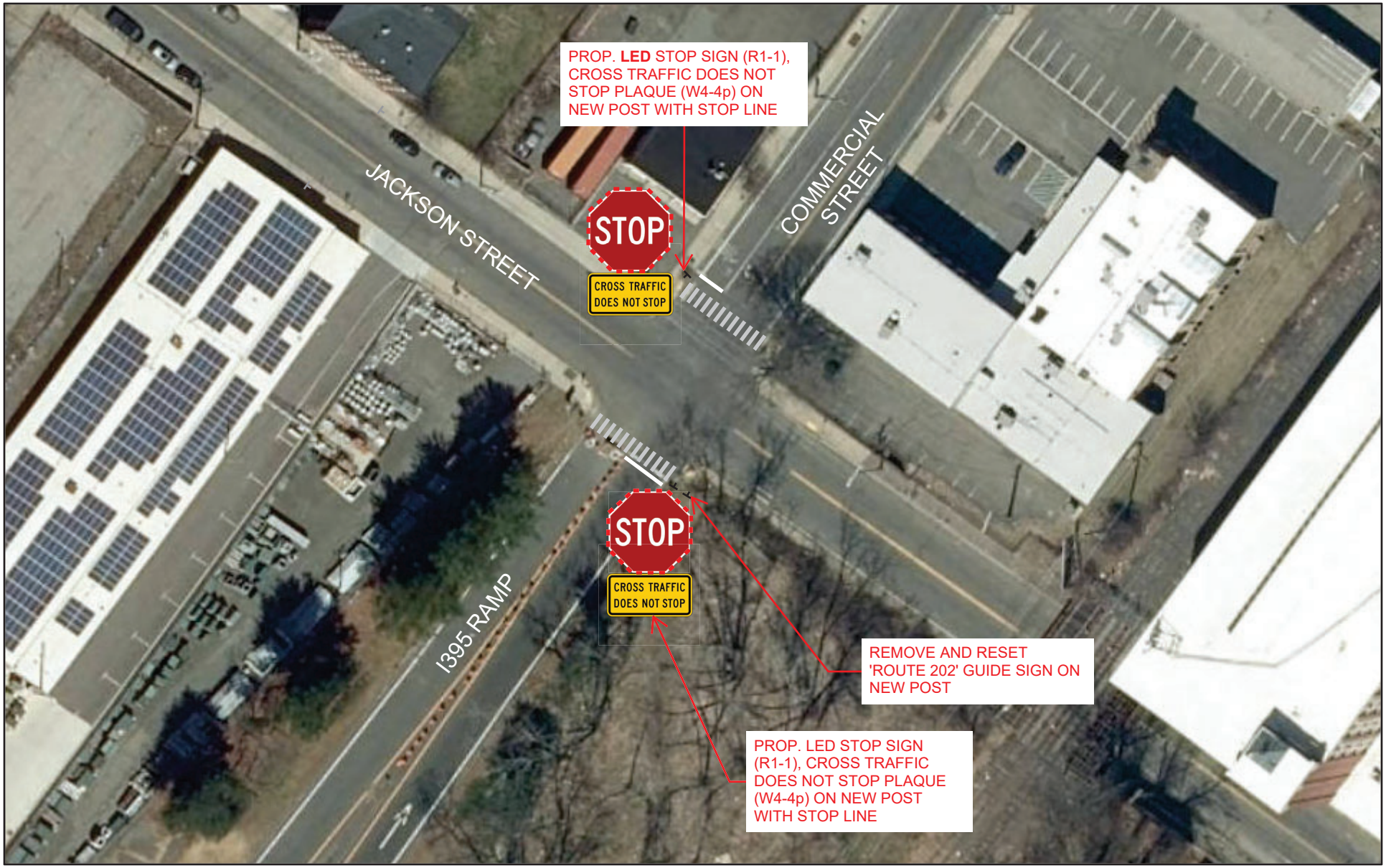
Regards,

Stephen Simoglou, P.E., PTOE
MassDOT – Traffic & Safety

cc: Bonnie Polin
Dakota DelSignore

Jackson St at Commercial St/I395 Ramp

EXHIBIT A



GENERAL NOTES:

1) THE EXACT LOCATION OF SIGNAGE SHOULD BE DETERMINED IN THE FIELD BASED ON SITE CONDITIONS.
2) EXISTING SIGNS THAT ARE IN CONFLICT WITH THE PROPOSED SIGNS SHALL BE REMOVED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
3) REPAINT EXISTING STOP LINES OR PAVEMENT MARKINGS AS NOTED AND REMOVE CONFLICTING PAVEMENT MARKINGS (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CITY).
4) THE CITY SHALL CONFIRM ADEQUATE SOLAR EXPOSURE TO SUPPORT LED BORDER STOP SIGNS. SITE PREPARATION TO SUPPORT SOLAR SHALL BE COMPLETE PRIOR TO INSTALLATION.
5) PROPOSED STOP BARS SHALL BE PLACED 4' IN ADVANCE OF CROSSWALK MARKINGS (WHERE APPLICABLE).
6) RETRO REFLECTIVE STRIP MATERIAL SHALL BE MOUNTED TO THE SIDE OF THE POST FACING ONCOMING TRAFFIC AND ITS COLOR SHALL MATCH THE COLOR OF THE SIGN.
7) NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN AHEAD SIGNS ARE TEMPORARY AND SHOULD BE REMOVED WHEN THE TRAFFIC PATTERN RETURN TO NORMAL, WHEN THE CHANGED PATTERN IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED TO BE NEW, OR WITHIN 12 MONTHS.
8) WHERE NEW SIGNAGE IS PROPOSED, A CLEAR PATH WIDTH OF 48 INCHES SHALL BE MAINTAINED, AND THE BOTTOM OF ANY SIGNAGE SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF 7 FEET ABOVE FINSIHED GRADE.

1:1,000

0 0.01 0.01 0.02 mi

0 0.01 0.02 0.04 km

MassGIS, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Sources: Esri,

EXHIBIT B - Installation Summary

(Jackson Street at Commercial Street/I395 Ramp – Holyoke, MA)

MassDOT *Shall*:

- Provide signage and post materials necessary for signing upgrades
- Provide site specific sketch of proposed condition with sign summary

Municipality *Shall*:

- Remove conflicting signage
- Confirm adequate solar exposure for all proposed LED Stop Signs. Countermeasures, such as tree trimming, shall be completed prior to installation. Notify MassDOT immediately where proposed LED signage is not feasible
- Provide all necessary labor, materials (including pavement marking materials, if applicable), equipment, and other services necessary to complete the Project

TRAFFIC SIGN SUMMARY

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	SIZE OF SIGN (in)			TEXT DIMENSIONS (in)			NUMBER OF SIGNS REQUIRED	COLOR			SIZE AND NUMBER OF POSTS REQUIRED	UNIT AREA (SF)	TOTAL AREA (SF)
	WIDTH	HEIGHT	LEGEND	LETTER HEIGHT	VERTICAL SPACING	ARROW RTE. MKR		BACK-GROUND	LEGEND	BORDER			
R1-1 (LED ENHANCED)	30	30		MUTCD STANDARD			2	RED	WHITE	WHITE	P5 (2)	6.25	12.50
W4-4p	24	12		MUTCD STANDARD			2	YELLOW	BLACK	BLACK	MOUNT WITH R1-1	2.00	4.00

Ezekiel's Plan 2.0
Holyoke Care for Community Safety

City of Holyoke collaboration between departments and partner organizations to improve public safety and the quality-of-life of residents, business owners, and visitors

2026 / 2027

Proposal
From the Office of the Mayor

Executive Summary and Proposal

Holyoke is a compassionate city, grounded in the principles of social justice, while recognizing that we also have a responsibility to protect the safety, quality of life, and well-being of every resident. As Mayor, I have an obligation to address issues such as violence, illegal activity, and health and safety disparities that have a negative impact on neighborhoods. The challenge we face, from a local government standpoint, is the inability to adequately fund departments in order to maintain and enhance the services the community expects. Over the years, we have been creative with limited resources, relying on cross-departmental collaboration, initiatives, and sharing resources as well as partnerships involving state, local, and federal departments and institutions. Our city and community partners have adopted non-traditional methods and best practices to serve the public, but the number and magnitude of the issues don't allow our city to do more than scratch the surface.

On October 4th, 2023, an altercation between several men which escalated into gunfire resulted in a bullet striking a passing PVTA bus, hitting an eight-month-pregnant woman who was riding the bus. She was critically injured, transported to the hospital, and delivered her baby, Ezekiel Ramon Garcia. Despite efforts to save him, Ezekiel died. The shooting generated significant outrage and grief in our community and became one of the most tragic examples of the consequences of gun violence and people's feelings about neighborhood safety in general. The tragedy at that time underscored the city's challenges around public safety, accountability, and prevention and residents demanded that their local government do more to stop the rising tide of violence in Holyoke. To that end, a proposal was presented to the City Council, known as Ezekiel's Plan, for $1 million to launch a comprehensive approach that focuses on several key factors: proactive police enforcement strategies, enhanced surveillance, hiring additional officers, increasing inspection capacity, engaging in community response efforts, implementing tenant and neighborhood protection strategies, and strengthening efforts for neighborhood outreach and engagement. In December of 2023, the proposal was not approved.

Today, although we are encouraged by recent announcements regarding crime reduction of 7.5%, public safety continues to be a concern of the community. Therefore this comprehensive proposal, Ezekiel's Plan 2.0, is an attempt to respond to those concerns in a way that will make a meaningful impact.

NOTE: The anticipated dollar amount, strategies, and funding sources vary.

STRATEGIC ACTION	FUNDING SOURCE
Ongoing city-wide camera system and technology installation and upgrades for community safety.	Marijuana Impact Fee Stabilization

Overtime and expenses for community policing, criminal enforcement, code enforcement, and ordinance compliance; including support for Property Preservation Group and Flex Squad.	Marijuana Impact Fee Stabilization, local appropriation
Education and Training for municipal employees focused on compliance and enforcement.	Marijuana Impact Fee Stabilization, CDBG, and possibly local appropriation
Enhancing local support and partnership to assist those impacted homelessness, housing insecurity, mental health, and substance use disorder (SUD).	Marijuana Impact Fee Stabilization, CDBG, HOME-ARP, OPIOID
Partnership with local organization/s for tenant protections (Homeless Liaison / Housing Navigator, landlord registry, housing legal counsel for tenants, landlord education).	Marijuana Impact Fee Stabilization and CDBG
Outside legal counsel for the city legal department to address ongoing problem properties.	Marijuana Impact Fee Stabilization, possibly local appropriation
Demolition of unsafe buildings.	Marijuana Impact Fee Stabilization, CDBG, Bond Authorization, possibly local appropriation
Neighborhood Outreach and Engagement, youth programming, and education, possible funding for programming at parks and recreation.	Marijuana Impact Fee Stabilization, CDBG, Shannon Grant, and possibly local appropriation

Comprehensive Approach

Ezekiel's Plan 2.0 includes City departments and multiple local and state agencies working together to reduce and prevent violent crime and improve the well-being of residents, business owners, and visitors to Holyoke. This plan supports proactive strategies that help with prevention. These strategies include strengthening enforcement and supporting community response efforts to help residents navigate disparities and proactively address quality-of-life concerns.

Ezekiel's Plan objectives:

- To reduce violence, criminal activity, and disturbances of the peace.
- To seek out and arrest individuals illegally possessing firearms and narcotics.
- To provide a safe atmosphere and enhance the quality-of-life for citizens and visitors in all areas of the city.
- To enhance the business environment by cultivating a safe and secure city.
- To enforce municipal ordinances and state and federal laws.
- To enforce trespassing violations.
- To improve maintenance and supervision of vacant properties and city-owned properties including parks.
- To ensure safe and decent rental housing.
- To reduce blight.
- To improve landlord awareness of responsibility.

This operation is not aimed at, nor is it intended to, abridge the Constitutional rights of any citizen:

- It is undertaken based on complaints received by the Mayor and City Councilors from citizens residing in areas throughout the city.
- It is to protect citizens from being victimized by drug dealers and other criminal activity and violence.
- It is to enforce laws and basic codes designed to protect the public and improve the quality of life.
- It is to help prevent displacement.
- It is to enforce laws and strengthen accountability.

This operation is designed to address the problems associated with criminal activity, violence, and code infractions taking place throughout the city as well as to improve housing and neighborhood conditions and prevent displacement.

Identified strategies include, but not limited to:

- Installing additional citywide surveillance camera systems and other technology.
- Continue to affect court-ordered corrections at problem properties.
- Consistent traffic patrolling and enforcement.
- Neighborhood community policing and code enforcement.
- Foot and bike patrol downtown.
- Task Force at HPD to focus on rooting out illegal activity in identified blocks.
- Flex Squad doing block-by-block sweeps to address quality-of-life code infractions and other issues creating blight.
- Reinvigorate the Holyoke Property Preservation Group as a proactive, cross-departmental effort focused on identifying, addressing, and preventing neglected, abandoned, and problem properties throughout the City of Holyoke.
- Neighborhood Outreach and engagement including youth programming and education.

- Partnership with local organizations for tenant protections (Homeless Liaison / Housing Navigator, landlord registry, housing legal counsel for tenants, landlord education).
- Strengthening our legal department to better tackle housing and blight issues and other code enforcement infractions enforceable by local government as brought forward by city departments.

Expectation:

- Enforce traffic and municipal ordinance infractions.
- Reduce violence and other criminal activity.
- Cross-collaborate with partner organizations and city departments to improve community health and safety.
- Reduce and eliminate blight in neighborhoods.
- Improve rental housing conditions for residents.
- Restore residents' confidence in their neighborhoods.
- Reduce the burden of homelessness on downtown and community.

Partners:

The following agencies and city departments will be working together to execute Ezekie's Plan 2.0:

- Mayor's Office
- Office of the Governor and the Lt. Governor
- Office of Community Development
- Office of Planning and Economic Development
- Holyoke Police Department
- Mass State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Task Force
- Mass State Police Gang Task Force
- Hampden County Sheriff's Department and the Safe Neighborhood Initiative
- Office of the Attorney General
- Office of the Holyoke City Solicitor
- Holyoke Board of Health
- Holyoke Building Department
- Holyoke Fire Department
- Holyoke C.E.R.T.
- Various community-level organizations

City of Holyoke Request for Appropriation Transfer Between Classifications

Dept. Name Mayor's office 9/11/2026

Use as a basis for preparing a financial order to be placed in front of City Council.

I hereby respectfully request that the following amounts be transferred between two or more of the following indicated (X) appropriation classifications and as further detailed below:

Personal Services ___ Expenditures ___ Capital Outlay ___

Account No.		Account Name	$ Amount	
Organization	Object		From	To
8815	10400	Cannabis Stabilization	$ 750,000.00	
19442	57807	Ezekiel's Plan 2.0		$ 750,000.00

Reason for request:

To fund Ezekiel's Plan 2.0.

Head of Department
Date

Mayor
Date 9/11/2026

Comptroller 9/11/2026
Date

C.A.F.O.
Date

City of Holyoke,
Massachusetts
Birthplace of Volleyball

Sharon Bittner-Willis <bittners@holyoke.org>

Transfer for Ezekiel's Plan 2.0

2 messages

Sharon Bittner-Willis <bittners@holyoke.org> Fri, Sep 11, 2026 at 11:14 AM
To: TJ Plante <plantet@holyoke.org>

Hi, TJ

Please respond with your approval for this transfer.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: <no-reply@ysoft.cloud>
Date: Fri, Sep 11, 2026 at 11:13 AM
Subject: Your scanned document
To: <bittners@holyoke.org>

The document scanned by Sharon Bittner-Willis on 2026-09-11 is attached in this email.

Scan_Sharon Bittner-Willis_2026-09-11.pdf
201K

TJ Plante <plantet@holyoke.org> Fri, Sep 11, 2026 at 11:25 AM
To: Sharon Bittner-Willis <bittners@holyoke.org>

I approve via email and will sign next week.

TJ
[Quoted text hidden]

CLEAN SLATE

City of Holyoke Resolution:

Raising Up Holyoke Residents Through Clean Slate Record Sealing

WHEREAS, criminal records—regardless of age or outcome—create significant barriers to employment, housing, and community participation;

WHEREAS, an estimated 1 in 5 Massachusetts residents has a criminal record, yet the complex and underutilized sealing process leaves many—including low-income Holyoke residents—unable to access relief even when eligible;

WHEREAS, racial disparities in the criminal legal system have especially impacted Black and Latinx individuals, who make up over 50% of Holyoke's population;

WHEREAS, backlogs and delays in sealing petitions further exacerbate these barriers, often resulting in missed opportunities for those who deserve a second chance;

WHEREAS, every Holyoke resident deserves the opportunity to support themselves and their families, regardless of past involvement in the criminal legal system;

WHEREAS, the Clean Slate legislation (S.1114/H.1811) would automate record sealing and remove collateral consequences, providing long-overdue relief;

WHEREAS, Clean Slate Massachusetts—a statewide coalition supported by local organizations including Neighbor to Neighbor Massachusetts—is working to modernize and expand access to sealing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Holyoke supports passage of **S.1114/H.1811** to expand opportunities for employment, housing, and full community participation by removing barriers to sealing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Holyoke urges the Massachusetts Legislature to enact automated record sealing and related reforms, whether as standalone bills, or through the Senate version of the Economic Development Bill currently in Conference Committee- **"An Act Relative to Economic Development in the Commonwealth" (S.3228)** or through the Senate version of **"An Act Significantly Alleviating Poverty (S. 3095)** both of which incorporate the Clean Slate legislation language, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to Holyoke's state legislative delegation and the Chairs of the Joint Committees on the Judiciary and Ways and Means, as well as to the conference committees finalizing the aforementioned omnibus bills.

TOPA

City of Holyoke Resolution: Advancing Housing Stability Through Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (TOPA)

WHEREAS, Holyoke residents are facing rising housing costs, displacement pressures, and limited access to affordable homeownership opportunities;

WHEREAS, tenants—particularly low and moderate-income residents—often have no opportunity to remain in their homes when rental properties are sold, contributing to housing instability and community displacement;

WHEREAS, Holyoke is a majority Hispanic and working-class city, and historic and ongoing inequities in housing access have disproportionately impacted these communities;

WHEREAS, Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) policies provide tenants with the first right to purchase their building when it is put up for sale, helping to preserve affordability and prevent displacement;

WHEREAS, TOPA has been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions, including Washington, D.C., where it has supported tenant associations in purchasing their buildings and maintaining long-term housing stability;

WHEREAS, TOPA creates pathways for collective ownership models, including limited equity cooperatives, which allow residents to build stability while preserving affordability for future generations;

WHEREAS, statewide TOPA legislation in Massachusetts would equip tenants with tools to remain in their homes, strengthen community control of housing, and advance housing justice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Holyoke supports the passage of statewide Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) legislation, **An Act to Guarantee a Tenant's First Right of Refusal (S.998)**, to promote housing stability, prevent displacement, and expand pathways to tenant ownership;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Holyoke supports the passage of TOPA legislation by the State Legislature as quickly as possible, whether through the standalone bill **(S.998)** or through the inclusion of TOPA legislation in the final version of the economic development omnibus bill- **"An Act Relative to Economic Development in the Commonwealth" (S.3228/H.5576).**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Holyoke urges the Massachusetts Legislature to enact TOPA policies that ensure tenants have a meaningful opportunity to purchase their homes when properties are sold;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Holyoke's state legislative delegation and the Chairs of the Joint Committees on Housing and Community Development and Ways and Means, as well as the conference committee finalizing **S.3228/H.5576**.