CITY COUNCIL

City Clerk's Office 8/14/2024

Hearings Meeting Agenda~

I hereby notify you that the following items of business have been filed with this office and can be acted upon at the meeting of the City Council **Monday August 19, 2024** at 07:00 PM.

City Clerk

Hearings

7:00 PM Meeting called to order on August 19, 2024 at Hybrid Council Chamber, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

Moment of Silence - Pledge of Allegiance

ROC

Resolutions

(1.) SNAP Restaurant Meal Plan

Orders

(2.) Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - UFCW Local 1459 (Mayor Sarno)

ATTACHMENTS:

- UFCW 1459 Ratification CAFO Cert (PDF)
- 2024-08-05 UFCW City Council Order & TA (PDF)

(3.) Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees - Local 3065 (AFSCME 3065) (Mayor Sarno)

ATTACHMENTS:

- AFSCME 3065 Ratification CAFO Cert (PDF)
- 2024-08-05 AFSCME 3065 City Council Order & TA (PDF)

Special Permits

(4.) For a Special Permit for Motor Vehicle Sales/Leasing at the Properties Known as 365 Cadwell Drive (02195-0155) and NS Cadwell Drive (02195-0158 & 0162) (Book#25377/Page#14957), as Allowed by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Article 4, Table 4-4, Section 12.1.

Request:	See Above
Owner:	6S T Springfield MA, LLC
By:	James J. Amyx
Petitioner:	6S T Springfield MA, LLC
By:	James J. Amyx

ATTACHMENTS:

- Cadwell_Dr_365_Tax_Formal (PDF)

(5.) For a Special Permit for an Accessory Wall Sign(S), Above the First Floor, at the Property Known as 35 Heywood Street (06580-0015) (Book#21986/Page#314), as Authorized by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Article 9, Section 9.8.17.

Request:	See Above
Owner:	Behavioral Heath Network
By:	Catherine Anastasia, Agent
Petitioner:	Behavioral Heath Network
By:	Catherine Anastasia, Agent

ATTACHMENTS:

- Heywood_St_35_Tax_Formal (PDF)

(6.) For a Special Permit for the Re-Use of an Existing Structure(S) (More Than 26 Dwelling Units/41 Units), at the Properties Known as 195 State Street (11110-0623) (Book#23920/Page#129) and ES Maple Street (08218-0204) (Book#23920-/Page#129), as Allowed by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Article 4, Table 4-2.

Request:	See Above
Owner:	City of Springfield
By:	Stephen Lonergan, City Collector/Treasurer
Petitioner:	Merrick Park Apartments, LP
By:	Gordon Pulsifer

ATTACHMENTS:

- State_St_195_Tax_Formal (PDF)

(7.) For a Special Permit for the Re-Use of an Existing Structure(S) (More Than 26 Dwelling Units/52 Units), at the Properties Known as 310 State Street (11110-0072) (Book#12146/Page#463), 300 State Street (11110-0070) (Book#12146/Page#463) and ES Spring Street (11040-0108) (Book#13009/Page#0444), as Allowed by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Article 4, Table 4-2.

Request:	See Above
Owner:	Residents at the Vault, LP
By:	Gordon Pulsifer
Petitioner:	Residents at the Vault, LP
By:	Gordon Pulsifer

ATTACHMENTS:

- State_St_310_Tax_Formal (PDF)

Petitions (Under Suspension)

(8.) Honorary Street Sign - Jerald " Jay" Griffin Sr.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 24-18 (PDF)

(9.) Honorary Street Sign - Rev. Juan Carde

ATTACHMENTS:

- 24-16 (2) (PDF)

(10.) Honorary Street Sign- Bishop Talbert Swan

ATTACHMENTS:

- 24-17 (PDF)

City Council
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2024-4

Meeting: 08/19/24 07:00 PM
Department: City Council
Category: Council Request
Prepared By: Kelley Mickiewicz
Initiator: Lavar Click-Bruce
Sponsors:
DOC ID: 8175

SNAP Restaurant Meal Plan

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
August 19, 2024

WHEREAS, The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that 27 restaurants and food trucks have been selected to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) pilot in 2023, eligible businesses in this pilot phase of the program include restaurants and food trucks that are local and privately-owned and provide counter-based service and payment. Of the selected local businesses, 77% are women-owned and 90% have owners who identify as Black, Asian and/or Hispanic/Latinx. The average meal price is $11, and

WHEREAS, the City of Springfield must be pro-active and work with State & Government officials in finding ways to spur long-term economic growth for Massachusetts's families and economy, and

WHEREAS, under federal rules, the RMP allows individuals with disabilities, households with older adults aged 60 and up, and individuals experiencing homelessness to use their SNAP benefits at select, participating restaurants and food trucks that offer reduced-price meal options. This program will expand food choice options and food access points for populations that may encounter barriers and challenges with purchasing and storing groceries, as well as cooking and preparing meals for themselves, and

WHEREAS, in addition to promoting food security, SNAP also plays an important role in supporting our local economy and communities, and

WHEREAS, the Healey-Driscoll Administration is taking the lead in introducing these programs to help our community and businesses, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Springfield City Council enthusiastically supports the Healey-Driscoll Administration and we strongly urge the Administration to re-open up the process so more restaurants in the City of Springfield can benefit from this program.

City Council

ADOPTED

Meeting: 08/19/24 07:00 PM
Initiator: Gianna Berardi
Sponsors: Mayor Domenic J. Sarno
DOC ID: 8177 A

Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - UFCW Local 1459 (Mayor Sarno)

WHEREAS, the City's Labor Relations Director has received confirmation from the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1459 (UFCW 1459), that this bargaining unit has ratified new collective bargaining agreements for the time period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 and July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028 with the City of Springfield; and

WHEREAS, the Labor Relations Department is requesting that the City Council approve the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, which are described in a letter from the Labor Relations Director and Memorandum from the Chief Administrative and Financial Officer, which are attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement includes wage increases effective and retroactive July 1, 2024 of one dollar per hour ($1.00) and three dollars per hour for repairmen ($3.00); and

WHEREAS, the Agreement includes wage increases effective July 1, 2025 of two percent (2%); and

WHEREAS, the Agreement includes wage increases effective July 1, 2026 of two percent (2%); and

WHEREAS, the Agreement includes wage increases effective July 1, 2027 of two percent (2%); and

WHEREAS, the Chief Administrative and Financial Officer has certified that after an evaluation of all pertinent financial information reasonably available, that the City's financial resources and revenues are and will continue to be adequate to support the proposed expenditures and obligations involved in this City Council Order, without a detrimental impact on the continuous provision of the existing level of municipal services, in accordance with Section 2(f) of Chapter 656 of the Acts of 1989, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 468 of the Acts of 2008;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council hereby approves the report of the Labor Relations Director regarding the ratification of the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Springfield and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1459 (UFCW 1459), and the terms thereof, as described in the attached documents, for the time period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028.

City of Springfield
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Division of Administration and Finance

To: **Springfield City Council**

From: **Cathy Buono, Chief Administrative & Financial Officer**

Date: **August 19th, 2024**

Re: **Order for Council Meeting – 08/19/2024**

Cc: **Mayor Sarno**

Purpose: The purpose of this memo is to provide an explanation of the order sponsored by the Mayor for the August 19, 2024 City Council meeting, which requests the ratification of the current agreement between the City of Springfield and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) Local 1459 professionals.

Background: The new agreement includes an extension of the bargaining agreement that expired June 30, 2024, and contains the following wage increases:

FY25 (7-1-24 to 6-30-25)	One Dollar Per Hour ($1.00) ($3.00/Hr. for Repairmen)
FY26 (7-1-25 to 6-30-26)	2.0%
FY27 (7-1-26 to 6-30-27)	2.0%
FY28 (7-1-27 to 6-30-28)	2.0%

In addition, bargaining unit members will receive a one-time signing bonus of $1,500 for employees to be paid in 2024. This one time signing bonus is to be paid to each member of the bargaining unit employed by the City on the date of ratification by the City Council.

CAFO Certification: This memorandum will confirm that in my professional opinion, as the Chief Administrative and Financial Officer, after an evaluation of all pertinent financial information reasonably available, that the City's financial resources and revenues are and will continue to be adequate to support the proposed expenditures and obligations involved in this City Council Order, without a detrimental impact on the continuous provision of the existing level of municipal services, in accordance with Section 2(f) of Chapter 656 of the Acts of 1989, as added by Section 1 of Chapter 468 of the Acts of 2008.

This certification is made in accordance with Section 2(f) of Chapter 656 of the Acts of 1989, as added by Section 1 of Chapter 468 of the Acts of 2008.

Attachment: UFCW 1459 Ratification CAFO Cert (8177 : Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - UFCW Local 1459)

Human Resources
&
Labor Relations
36 Court Street, Room 005
Springfield, MA 01103
413-787-6068 (phone)
413-787-6572 (fax)

THE CITY OF
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

August 5, 2024

To the Springfield City Council

Please be advised that this department has received confirmation from the representative of **United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1459 (UFCW 1459)**, that this bargaining unit has ratified new collective bargaining agreements for the time period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 and July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028 with the City of Springfield.

We hereby submit to you this report for approval by the City Council which reflects the following wage increases in **UFCW 1459's wage scale**.

Wage Increases: Effective July 1, 2024 increase wages for all bargaining unit employees by one dollar ($1.00) per hour, except for employees in the motor equipment repairman classifications who shall receive an increase of three dollars ($3.00) per hour.

Effective July 1, 2025 Two Percent (2.0%)

Effective July 1, 2026 Two Percent (2.0%)

Effective July 1, 2027 Two Percent (2.0%)

Additionally:

Each member of the bargaining unit employed by the City upon ratification of this agreement by the City Council shall receive a one-time signing bonus of one thousand five hundred ($1,500.00) in a separate check in August 2024.

The City has agreed to increases in various shift differentials, as well as increases to the tool allowance, and premium pay for holding a CDL or hoisting license.

Upon ratification of this agreement by the Springfield City Council, in Appendix-A, change the grade of the Waste Compliance Specialist to a grade 8.8.

A financial order reflecting the cost of the wage increase is attached.

In accordance with the Acts of 656 of 1989, the Chief Financial Officer must give in writing her opinion relative to the financial impact of the agreement on the existing level of municipal services.

Attachment: 2024-08-05 UFCW City Council Order & TA (8177 : Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - UFCW Local 1459)

Sincerely,

William E. Mahoney,
Director of Human Resources & Labor Relations
cc: Mayor Domenic J. Sarno
cc: Cathy Buono, CAFO
cc: File

Attachment: 2024-08-05 UFCW City Council Order & TA (8177 : Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - UFCW Local 1459)

City of Springfield
and
UFCW Local 1459

July 11, 2024
Tentative Agreement

The above named parties agree the following tentative agreement resolves all collective bargaining for successor contracts 7-1-24 to 6-30-25 and 7-1-25 to 6-30-28. The Union will present this tentative agreement to the Union body for a ratification vote. Once the Union body has approved same it will be presented to the Springfield City Council for a ratification vote.

All changes are Contract 1 changes unless noted otherwise.

Art. 3 correct spelling of ARTICLE

Art. 12.01 Contract 1 amend to read:

> Effective July 1, 2024 increase wage schedule by $1.00 per hour for each classification, except for Motor Equipment Repairman, Senior Motor Equipment Repairman, Master Mechanic, Motor Equipment Repairman Welder, Tire Repairman, and Auto/Truck Body Repairman which will increase by $3.00/hour.

Art. 12.01 Contract 2 amend to read:

> Effective July 1, 2025 increase wage schedule two percent (2%). Effective July 1, 2026 increase wage schedule two percent (2%). Effective July 1, 2027 increase wage schedule two percent (2%).

Art. 12.02 Contract 1 amend to read:

A. Effective July 1, 2014 all employees working on the second shift shall be paid one dollar and ten cents ($1.10) per hour in addition to their regular rate. Effective January 1, 2022 increase second shift differential to $1.25 per hour. Effective July 1, 2024 increase second shift differential to $1.50 per hour.

Attachment: 2024-08-05 UFCW City Council Order & TA (8177 : Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - UFCW Local 1459)

All employees working on the third shift shall be paid one dollar and fifteen cents ($1.15) per hour in addition to their regular rate. Effective January 1, 2022 increase third shift differential to $1.40 per hour. Effective July 1, 2024 increase third shift differential to $1.65 per hour.

For purposes of determining the shift differentials, the second shift hours of employment shall be from 4:00 p.m. to 12 midnight and the third shift hours of employment shall be from 12 midnight to 8:00 a.m. In order for an employee to qualify for the shift differential, an employee must actually work a minimum of two (2) hours into the above established 4:00 p.m. to midnight second shift, or the above established 12 midnight to 8:00 a.m. third shift.

Art. 12.03 Contract 1 to read:

Effective July 1, 2014 employees who are scheduled to work at a straight time hourly rate on a Saturday or Sunday shall be paid the weekend premium of one dollar and fifteen cents ($1.15) per hour. Effective July 1, 2024 increase the weekend premium in the previous sentence to one dollar and forty cents ($1.40) per hour."

Art. 12.06 Contract 1 to read:

1. **Tool Allowance:** An annual tool allowance of two hundred ($200.00) dollars will be made for employees in the following classifications who have to purchase their tools:

   Motor Equipment Repairman
   Motor Equipment Serviceman

Effective July 1, 2017 the annual tool allowance will be two hundred and fifty ($250.00) dollars. Effective July 1, 2021 increase annual tool allowance to three hundred dollars ($300.00). Effective July 1, 2024 increase annual tool allowance to three hundred and fifty dollars ($350.00).

Art. 12.11.E. Contract 1 to read:

Attachment: 2024-08-05 UFCW City Council Order & TA (8177 : Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - UFCW Local 1459)

"1. Motor Equipment Operators, Heavy Motor Equipment Operators and Special Heavy Motor Equipment Operators must as a condition of employment:

a) Hold a valid C.D.L.,

b) Be in the Department of Transportation drug and alcohol random testing pool, and

c) Be subject to assignment to CDL equipment.

In consideration of the conditions listed above, these classifications have had an additional twenty-five ($.25) cents per hour incorporated into their respective wage schedules. Effective July 1, 2024 the above rate shall be increased to one dollar ($1.00) per hour.

2. Employees in other classifications other than MEO, HMO, SHMEO who;

a) Hold a valid C.D.L.,

b) Are in the Department of Transportation drug and alcohol random testing pool, and

c) Are subject to assignment to CDL equipment shall receive twenty-five ($.25) cents per hour in addition to their regular pay. This is to be applied in the same manner as the shift differential. Effective July 1, 2024 the above rate shall be increased to one dollar ($1.00) per hour.

Art. 12.11.G Contract 1 to read:

" Effective July 1, 2021 the City will compensate employees of the Department of Public Works or PBRM Department who maintain a Massachusetts hoisting license twenty five cents ($.25) per hour for all hours actually worked. Effective July 1, 2024 the above rate shall be increased to fifty ($.50) cents per hour."

Art. 12.11.G Contract 2 to read:

Attachment: 2024-08-05 UFCW City Council Order & TA (8177 : Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - UFCW Local 1459)

" Effective July 1, 2021 the City will compensate employees of the Department of Public Works or PBRM Department who maintain a Massachusetts hoisting license twenty five cents ($.25) per hour for all hours actually worked. Effective July 1, 2024 the above rate shall be increased to fifty ($.50) cents per hour. Effective July 1, 2025 the above rate shall be increased to seventy-five ($.75) cents per hour. Effective July 1, 2026 the above rate shall be increased to one dollar ($1.00) per hour."

Art. 23.08 change "within" in first paragraph to "at least"

Art. 23.14 amend to read "**23.14 Sick Leave – DPW Solid Waste**: For DPW solid waste employees only, sick leave usage policy will be amended to require employees with more than six (6) sick days of sick leave absences in any calendar year, to produce to the employer within 48 hours, a physician's note documenting such successive absence. Any sick leave absence covered by a doctor's note shall not count toward the six day sick leave threshold. "

Art. 28.05 NEW Add "Solid Waste Division employees on a Tuesday-Friday work schedule who receive a cancer screening on their regularly scheduled day off will receive four (4) hours of pay at their regular rate in lieu of any other benefit under this article."

Art. 43.02 delete

Art. 44.02 Add "Employees in the following classifications will be issued a pair of winter coveralls: Motor Equipment Repairman, Senior Motor Equipment Repairman, Master Mechanic, Motor Equipment Repairman Welder, Tire Repairman, and Auto/Truck Body Repairman"

Contract 1

One time signing bonus of one thousand five hundred dollars ($1,500.00) paid to each member of the bargaining unit employed by the City on the date of ratification by the Springfield City Council. This one-time bonus will be paid in a separate check in August 2024.

Contract 1

Attachment: 2024-08-05 UFCW City Council Order & TA (8177 : Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - UFCW Local 1459)

Appendix A-Change the grade of the Waste Compliance Specialist to a Grade 8.8 effective upon ratification of this agreement by the Springfield City Council.

Contract 1

ARTICLE 46 DURATION:

46.01 This Agreement shall become effective on the first day of July 2024 and shall continue in full force and effect to and including the 30th day of June 2025, and shall continue in full force and effect from year to year thereafter, unless either party to this Agreement desires to terminate this Agreement or amend any terms or provisions of the Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City of Springfield has caused its corporate seal to be affixed hereto and these presents to be signed in its name and behalf by Domenic J. Sarno, its Mayor and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 1459 have caused these presents to be signed in its name and behalf by its officers duly authorized this _____ day of _____ 2024.

Contract 2

ARTICLE 46 DURATION:

46.01 This Agreement shall become effective on the first day of July 2025 and shall continue in full force and effect to and including the 30th day of June 2028, and shall continue in full force and effect from year to year thereafter, unless either party to this Agreement desires to terminate this Agreement or amend any terms or provisions of the Agreement. The party desiring to terminate or amend this Agreement must notify the other party to this Agreement in writing on or before October 1, 2027. Should either party desiring to terminate or amend this Agreement serve such notice upon the other party as provided herein of a desire to amend this Agreement, the notice should be accompanied by a statement of the Agreement desired. In such event, the parties will confer at least forty-five (45) days following the receipt of such notice. During

Attachment: 2024-08-05 UFCW City Council Order & TA (8177 : Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - UFCW Local 1459)

negotiation for amendments or for a new Agreement, this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City of Springfield has caused its corporate seal to be affixed hereto and these presents to be signed in its name and behalf by Domenic J. Sarno, its Mayor and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 1459 have caused these presents to be signed in its name and behalf by its officers duly authorized this _____ day of _____ 2024.

For the City

7-16-24
Date

For the Union

7/16/24
Date

Attachment: 2024-08-05 UFCW City Council Order & TA (8177 : Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - UFCW Local 1459)

City Council

ADOPTED

Meeting: 08/19/24 07:00 PM
Initiator: Gianna Berardi
Sponsors: Mayor Domenic J. Sarno
DOC ID: 8176

Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees - Local 3065 (AFSCME 3065) (Mayor Sarno)

WHEREAS, the City's Labor Relations Director has received confirmation from the representative(s) of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees - Local 3065 (AFSCME 3065), that this bargaining unit has ratified new collective bargaining agreements for the time period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, and July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028 with the City of Springfield; and

WHEREAS, the Labor Relations Department is requesting that the City Council approve the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, which are described in a letter from the Labor Relations Director and Memorandum from the Chief Administrative and Financial Officer, which are attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement includes wage increases effective and retroactive July 1, 2024 of one dollar per hour ($1.00); and

WHEREAS, the Agreement includes wage increases effective July 1, 2025 of two percent (2%); and

WHEREAS, the Agreement includes wage increases effective July 1, 2026 of two percent (2%); and

WHEREAS, the Agreement includes wage increases effective July 1, 2027 of two percent (2%); and

WHEREAS, the Chief Administrative and Financial Officer has certified that, after an evaluation of all pertinent financial information reasonably available, that the City's financial resources and revenues are and will continue to be adequate to support the proposed expenditures and obligations involved in this City Council Order, without a detrimental impact on the continuous provision of the existing level of municipal services, in accordance with Section 2(f) of Chapter 656 of the Acts of 1989, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 468 of the Acts of 2008;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council hereby approves the report of the Labor Relations Director regarding the ratification of the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Springfield and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees - Local 3065 (AFSCME 3065) and the terms thereof, as described in the attached documents, for the time period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028.

City of Springfield
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Division of Administration and Finance

To: **Springfield City Council**

From: **Cathy Buono, Chief Administrative & Financial Officer**

Date: **August 19th, 2024**

Re: **Order for Council Meeting – 08/19/2024**

Cc: **Mayor Sarno**

Purpose: The purpose of this memo is to provide an explanation of the order sponsored by the Mayor for the August 19, 2024 City Council meeting, which requests the ratification of the current agreement between the City of Springfield and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 3065 professionals.

Background: The new agreement includes an extension of the bargaining agreement that expired June 30, 2024, and contains the following wage increases:

FY25 (7-1-24 to 6-30-25)	One Dollar Per Hour ($1.00)
FY26 (7-1-25 to 6-30-26)	2.0%
FY27 (7-1-26 to 6-30-27)	2.0%
FY28 (7-1-27 to 6-30-28)	2.0%

In addition, bargaining unit members will receive a one-time signing bonus of $1,500 for employees to be paid in 2024. In order to be eligible for retroactive pay, employees must be on the payroll on the effective date (July 1, 2024) and the date of ratification by the City Council.

CAFO Certification: This memorandum will confirm that in my professional opinion, as the Chief Administrative and Financial Officer, after an evaluation of all pertinent financial information reasonably available, that the City's financial resources and revenues are and will continue to be adequate to support the proposed expenditures and obligations involved in this City Council Order, without a detrimental impact on the continuous provision of the existing level of municipal services, in accordance with Section 2(f) of Chapter 656 of the Acts of 1989, as added by Section 1 of Chapter 468 of the Acts of 2008.

This certification is made in accordance with Section 2(f) of Chapter 656 of the Acts of 1989, as added by Section 1 of Chapter 468 of the Acts of 2008.

Attachment: AFSCME 3065 Ratification CAFO Cert (8176 : Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - AFSCME Local 3065)

Human Resources
&
Labor Relations
36 Court Street, Room 005
Springfield, MA 01103
413-787-6068 (phone)
413-787-6572 (fax)

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

August 5, 2024

To the Springfield City Council

Please be advised that this department has received confirmation from the representative of **American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 3065,** that this bargaining unit has ratified new collective bargaining agreements for the time periods of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 and July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028 with the City of Springfield. We hereby submit to you this report for approval by the City Council which reflects the following wage increases in **AFSCME Local 3065's wage scale.**

Wage Increases:

Contract One:

Effective and retroactive July 1, 2024	One Dollar Per Hour ($1.00)

Contract Two:

Effective July 1, 2025	Two Percent (2.0%)
Effective July 1, 2026	Two Percent (2.0%)
Effective July 1, 2027	Two Percent (2.0%)

Effective July 01, 2024:

- Additionally, unit members will receive a one-time Signing Bonus of $1,500 for employees to be paid in 2024. In order to be eligible for retroactive pay employees must be on the payroll on the effective date (July 1, 2024) and the date of ratification by the City Council.

- Increase the boot allowance to $150 effective July 1, 2024.

- Employees who are required by the Employer in writing to get IMSA certified I and/or II and maintain said certification will be paid .50 cents per hour for each hour worked for holding and maintaining each certification.

Attachment: 2024-08-05 AFSCME 3065 City Council Order & TA (8176 : Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - AFSCME Local 3065)

- Employees who are required by the Employer, in writing, to hold a pesticide application license, a CDL, a Hoisting License, MCA/ISA(Arborist) License, a TRAQ(Arborist) License, and/or HazMat certification will be paid .50 cents per hour for each hour worked for holding and maintaining each certification/license.

- Unit Members of the bargaining unit may use four (4) hours of paid time on an annual basis for the purpose of undergoing pre-cancer screening. Such time will not be charged to sick, personal or any other accrued time.

A financial order reflecting the cost of the wage increase is attached.

In accordance with the Acts of 656 of 1989, the Chief Financial Officer must give in writing her opinion relative to the financial impact of the agreement on the existing level of municipal services.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

William E. Mahoney
Director of Human Resources & Labor Relations
cc: Mayor Domenic J. Sarno
cc: Cathy Buono, CAFO
cc: File

Attachment: 2024-08-05 AFSCME 3065 City Council Order & TA (8176 : Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - AFSCME Local 3065)

City of Springfield, MA
And
AFSCME Local 3065

Tentative Agreement

July 24, 2024

The above named parties agree that the below represents a tentative agreement and concludes all negotiations for successor agreements to the 2021-2024 contract. The Union agrees that it will submit this tentative agreement for a ratification vote by the Union body. Upon a successful vote, the Employer agrees to submit this agreement to the Springfield City Council.

Contract One

1. All previous tentative agreements.

2. Art. 2.03 change "the" to "that" in the third instance

3. Art. 8.05 delete and replace with "If at the end of 12 days next following either the occurrence of any grievance or the date of first knowledge of its occurrence by any employee affected by it, whichever is later, the grievance shall not have been presented at Step 1 of the procedure set forth herein it shall be deemed to have been waived. The grievance in process under such procedure shall also be deemed to have been waived if the action required to process the said grievance within a Step or to present it to the next Step in the procedure shall not have been taken within the time periods specified above."

4. Art. 10.01 Add "The employer reserves the right to appoint a candidate from outside the bargaining unit in the event that the external candidate is better qualified than the internal candidates. The determination of qualifications is solely the responsibility of the employer."

5. Art. 11.01 amend to read "**Rates of Pay:** There is hereby incorporated and made a part hereof by reference, an Appendix marked "A" (Scheduled 03) which contains a schedule of salaries of the members of the bargaining unit during the term of this Agreement.

   Wages-effective and retroactive to July 1, 2024 $1.00 per hour wage increase for all classifications. In order to be eligible for retroactive pay employees must be on payroll on the effective date (July 1, 2024) and the date of ratification by the Springfield City Council.

Attachment: 2024-08-05 AFSCME 3065 City Council Order & TA (8176 : Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - AFSCME Local 3065)

One time Signing Bonus of $1,500 for employees to be paid in 2024. In order to be eligible for retroactive pay employees must be on payroll on the effective date (July 1, 2024) and the date of ratification by the Springfield City Council.

6. Art. 11.11. delete first sentence. Re-write last sentence "A valid copy of all licenses and certifications will be provided to each respective Department Head annually and held on file."

7. Art. 11.12 Increase boot allowance from $100.00 to $150.00 effective 7-1-24.

8. 11.13 delete the last sentence. Add "Employees who are required by the Employer, in writing, to get IMSA certified I and/or II and maintain said certification(s) will be paid .50 cents per hour for each hour worked for holding and maintaining each certification."

9. 11.14 New add "Employees who are required by the Employer, in writing, to hold a pesticide application license, a Commercial Drivers License (CDL), a Hoisting License, MCA/ISA (Arborist) License, a TRAQ (Arborist) License, and/or HazMat certification will be paid .50 cents per hour for each hour worked for holding and maintaining each certification/license."

10. Art. 14.01 add "as scheduled by the Department Head or the employee's immediate supervisor" at end of second sentence.

11. Art. 17.01 add Juneteenth to list of holidays

12. Art. 18.01 add "notice" after "hours" in 3d paragraph

13. Art. 21.04 change "maternity" to "parental"

14. Art. 27.01 delete current language and replace with "Employees who are reserve members of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be eligible for benefits pursuant to City ordinance 2020-08."

15. Art. 37.15 delete "as of the date of this contract ratification" and replace with "July 1, 2016" in last sentence.

16. Art. 37.17 New add ".01 Members of the bargaining unit may use four (4) hours of paid time on an annual basis for the purpose of undergoing pre-cancer screening. Such time will not be charged to sick, personal or any other accrued time.

02 Types of cancer screening permitted under this order are: Lung, Colon, Breast, Prostate, Skin, Thyroid, Lymph Nodes, Oral Cavity, Reproductive organs or any other form of cancer deemed appropriate by the Springfield Health and Human Services Department for screening.

.03 Employees may be required to submit medical documents verifying the employee's screening.

Attachment: 2024-08-05 AFSCME 3065 City Council Order & TA (8176 : Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - AFSCME Local 3065)

.04 This four (4) hour screening cannot be taken in blocks of time, but rather must be taken at one instance."

Signature page-update signatory titles/names and dates

17. Appendix A add Solid Waste Foreman Grade 17.0 and Boom Mower Foreman Grade 18.5

18. Contract 1 Duration July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 All Tentative Agreements to date and the above are Contract 1 changes

Contract Two

19. Duration July 1, 2025-June 30, 2028

20. Art. 11.01 amend to read "**Rates of Pay:** There is hereby incorporated and made a part hereof by reference, an Appendix marked "A" (Scheduled 03) which contains a schedule of salaries of the members of the bargaining unit during the term of this Agreement.

Effective July 1, 2025 2% annual wage increase

Effective July 1, 2026 2% annual wage increase

Effective July 1, 2027 2% annual wage increase

In order to be eligible for retroactive pay employees must be on payroll on the effective date and the date of ratification by the Springfield City Council."

Signature page-update signatory titles/names and dates

FOR THE CITY

7-25-24
DATE

FOR THE UNION

7/25/2024
DATE

7/25/24

Attachment: 2024-08-05 AFSCME 3065 City Council Order & TA (8176 : Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification - AFSCME Local 3065)

City Council

SCHEDULED

Meeting: 08/19/24 07:00 PM
Initiator: Phil Dromey
Sponsors:
DOC ID: 8160

Special Permit

For a Special Permit for Motor Vehicle Sales/Leasing at the Properties Known as 365 Cadwell Drive (02195-0155) and NS Cadwell Drive (02195-0158 & 0162) (Book#25377/Page#14957), as Allowed by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Article 4, Table 4-4, Section 12.1.

Request:	See Above
Owner:	6S T Springfield MA, LLC
By:	James J. Amyx
Petitioner:	6S T Springfield MA, LLC
By:	James J. Amyx

To The City Council of the City of Springfield:

The undersigned respectfully petition your honorable body

for a special permit for motor vehicle sales/leasing at the properties known as 365 Cadwell Drive (02195-0155) and NS Cadwell Drive (02195-0158 & 0162) (Book#25377/Page#14957), as allowed by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Article 4, Table 4-4, Section 12.1.

Mailing Address:

18333 Preston Road, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75252

Owner & Petitioner:

6S T Springfield MA LCC

I hereby certify that I am the owner and petitioner or acting on behalf of the owner and petitioner.

By:_____
James J. Amyx

Attachment: Cadwell_Dr_365_Tax_Formal (8160 : 365 Cadwell Drive)

Stephen J. Lonergan
Collector/Treasurer

THE CITY OF
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

July 17, 2024

Special Permit
Tax Certification

I certify that all identifiable real estate, personal property and excise taxes have been paid by the petitioner and/or landlord associated with the special permit request shown below:

Special Permit:	365 Cadwell Drive – (02195-0155) NS Cadwell Drive – (02195-0158)
Petitioner:	65 T Springfield MA LLC 18333 Preston Road, Suite 500 Dallas, TX 75252
Property Owner:	Same

Stephen J. Lonergan: Treasurer/Collector

Attachment: Cadwell_Dr_365_Tax_Formal (8160 : 365 Cadwell Drive)

City Council

SCHEDULED

Meeting: 08/19/24 07:00 PM
Initiator: Phil Dromey
Sponsors:
DOC ID: 8046

Special Permit

For a Special Permit for an Accessory Wall Sign(S), Above the First Floor, at the Property Known as 35 Heywood Street (06580-0015) (Book#21986/Page#314), as Authorized by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Article 9, Section 9.8.17.

Request:	See Above
Owner:	Behavioral Heath Network
By:	Catherine Anastasia, Agent
Petitioner:	Behavioral Heath Network
By:	Catherine Anastasia, Agent

To The City Council of the City of Springfield:

The undersigned respectfully petition your honorable body

for a special permit for an accessory wall sign(s), above the first floor, at the property known as 35 Heywood Street (06580-0015) (Book#21986/Page#314), as authorized by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Article 9, Section 9.8.17.

Mailing Address

417 Liberty Street
Springfield, MA 01104

Owner & Petitioner:

Behavioral Health Network

I hereby certify that I am the owner and petitioner or that I am acting on behalf of the owner and petitioner.

BY: Catherine Anastasia
Catherine Anastasia, Agent

Attachment: Heywood_St_35_Tax_Formal (8046 : 35 Heywood Street)

Stephen J. Lonergan
Collector/Treasurer

THE CITY OF
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

May 23, 2024

Special Permit
Tax Certification

I certify that all identifiable real estate, personal property and excise taxes have been paid by the petitioner and/or landlord associated with the special permit request shown below:

Special Permit: 35 Heywood St – (06580-0015)

Petitioner: Behavioral Health Network
417 Liberty St
Springfield, MA 01104

Property Owner: same

Stephen J. Lonergan: Treasurer/Collector

Attachment: Heywood_St_35_Tax_Formal (8046 : 35 Heywood Street)

City Council

SCHEDULED

Meeting: 08/19/24 07:00 PM
Initiator: Phil Dromey
Sponsors:
DOC ID: 8162

Special Permit

For a Special Permit for the Re-Use of an Existing Structure(S) (More Than 26 Dwelling Units/41 Units), at the Properties Known as 195 State Street (11110-0623) (Book#23920/Page#129) and ES Maple Street (08218-0204) (Book#23920-/Page#129), as Allowed by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Article 4, Table 4-2.

Request:	See Above
Owner:	City of Springfield
By:	Stephen Lonergan, City Collector/Treasurer
Petitioner:	Merrick Park Apartments, LP
By:	Gordon Pulsifer

To The City Council of the City of Springfield:

The undersigned respectfully petition your honorable body

for a special permit for the re-use of an existing structure(s) (more than 26 dwelling units/41 units), at the properties known as 195 State Street (11110-0623) (Book#23920/Page#129) and ES Maple Street (08218-0204) (Book#23920-/Page#129), as allowed by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Article 4, Table 4-2.

Mailing Address:

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Owner:

City of Springfield

By: _____
Stephen Lonergan, City Collector/Treasurer

Mailing Address:

2001 Washington Street
Hanover, MA 02339

Petitioner:

Merrick Park Apartments, LP

I hereby certify that I am the petitioner or acting on behalf of the petitioner.

By: _____
Gordon Pulsifer

Attachment: State_St_195_Tax_Formal (8162 : 195 State Street)

Stephen J. Lonergan
Collector/Treasurer

THE CITY OF
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

July 17, 2024

Special Permit
Tax Certification

I certify that all identifiable real estate, personal property and excise taxes have been paid by the petitioner and/or landlord associated with the special permit request shown below:

Special Permit: 195 State Street – (11110-0623)
ES Maple Street – (08218-0204)

Petitioner: Merrick Park Apartments, LP
2001 Washington Street
Hanover, MA 02339

Property Owner: City of Springfield
36 Court Street – Room 112
Springfield MA 01103

Stephen J. Lonergan: Treasurer/Collector

Attachment: State_St_195_Tax_Formal (8162 : 195 State Street)

City Council

SCHEDULED

Meeting: 08/19/24 07:00 PM
Initiator: Phil Dromey
Sponsors:
DOC ID: 8163

Special Permit

For a Special Permit for the Re-Use of an Existing Structure(S) (More Than 26 Dwelling Units/52 Units), at the Properties Known as 310 State Street (11110-0072) (Book#12146/Page#463), 300 State Street (11110-0070) (Book#12146/Page#463) and ES Spring Street (11040-0108) (Book#13009/Page#0444), as Allowed by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Article 4, Table 4-2.

Request:	See Above
Owner:	Residents at the Vault, LP
By:	Gordon Pulsifer
Petitioner:	Residents at the Vault, LP
By:	Gordon Pulsifer

To The City Council of the City of Springfield:

The undersigned respectfully petition your honorable body

for a special permit for the re-use of an existing structure(s) (more than 26 dwelling units/52 units), at the properties known as 310 State Street (11110-0072) (Book#12146/Page#463), 300 State Street (11110-0070) (Book#12146/Page#463) and ES Spring Street (11040-0108) (Book#13009/Page#0444), as allowed by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Article 4, Table 4-2.

Mailing Address:

2001 Washington Street
Hanover, MA 02339

Owner & Petitioner:

Residents at The Vault, LP

I hereby certify that I am the owner and petitioner or acting on behalf of the owner and petitioner.

By: _____
Gordon Pulsifer

Attachment: State_St_310_Tax_Formal (8163 : 310 State Street)

Stephen J. Lonergan
Collector/Treasurer

THE CITY OF
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

July 17, 2024

Special Permit
Tax Certification

I certify that all identifiable real estate, personal property and excise taxes have been paid by the petitioner and/or landlord associated with the special permit request shown below:

Special Permit:	300 State Street – (11110-0070) 310 State Street – (11110-0072) ES Spring Street – (11040-0108)
Petitioner:	The Vault Limited Partnership Residences 2001 Washington Street Hanover, MA 02339
Property Owner:	Same

Stephen J. Lonergan: Treasurer/Collector

Attachment: State_St_310_Tax_Formal (8163 : 310 State Street)

City Council
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

SCHEDULED

PETITION (ID # 8180)

Meeting: 08/19/24 07:00 PM
Department: Department of Public Works
Category: General
Prepared By: Hector Velez
Initiator: Hector Velez
Sponsors:
DOC ID: 8180

Honorary Street Sign - Jerald " Jay" Griffin Sr.

SPRINGFIELD TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

LOCATION:

Location: **70 Tapley Street, Springfield MA (Conference Room)**

This meeting will be held utilizing remote participation technology via ZOOM.

New items:

24-18 Honorary Street Sign. For Jerald " Jay" Griffin Sr. at Quincy Street.

Other business that may lawfully come before the Traffic Commission according to the Open Meeting Law

Copies of said petition, texts, and maps may be requested by email or phone or viewed at Tapley Street by appointment.

City of Springfield
Honorary Street Sign Application

APPLICANT INFORMATION

*Please print clearly

Applicant's Name: Desi O. Jackson

Organization/Company: Old Hill Neighborhood Council

Street Address: 99 Eastern Ave.

Telephone: (413) 205-9234 E-mail: Oldhillcouncil@gmail.com

HONORARY NAME REQUEST

NAME OF HONOREE:

Jerald "Jay" Griffin Sr.
(As it would appear on the Street Name Sign)

LOCATION:

Eastern Ave & Quincy Quincy & Hancock

Criteria for NAME REQUEST

Please complete the following criteria that apply, which are used in the evaluation for each request for an honorary street sign, attach documents or use additional paper if required.

Historical and/ or Cultural Influence to the City:

See Bio

Clearly Defined Community or Public Contribution Made by the Honoree:

See Bio

Attachment: 24-18 (8180 : Honorary Street Sign - Jerald " Jay" Griffin Sr.)

Humanitarian Efforts:

See Bio

Provide Proof of Significant Lineage or Family Ties to the City:

Co-Funder of the Hramtree
Co-Funder of the Stone Soul Festival
Nephew of Rebecca Johnson

Establish clear geographical relationship of street to the area of interest of the applicant:

Childhood home and see attached article

Number of sign (s) required.

Please circle one: 1 or (2)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:

My application consists of the following items necessary for a complete application. Please check:

☑ Completed Application Form, ***plus a $250 or $370 fee*** (make checks payable to "City of Springfield")

☑ A *typed* recommendation from the Neighborhood Civic Association stating the designee and preferred location.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: 7-11-2024

Office use only:

Date Sign Installed: _____

Attachment: 24-18 (8180 : Honorary Street Sign - Jerald " Jay" Griffin Sr.)

Jerald "Jay" Griffin, LADC

Jay has a long history of community service in the Mason Square community and Greater Springfield. He is one of the original founders of the "Haramabee" and the co-founder of the Stone Soul Festival. Known as "Scallywag Hawkins" as part of Living History reenactors the Peter Brace Brigade 54th Mass Colored Troops. Jay is dedicated to the historical accomplishments of African Americans and advocating and educating of his community. On numerous committees and boards and is a Commissioner on the Springfield Park Department.

Attachment: 24-18 (8180 : Honorary Street Sign - Jerald " Jay" Griffin Sr.)

DR. ANDREW HENRY GRIFFIN, JR. "Bootsy", "Griff", "Doc" is a proud native of Springfield Massachusetts. With 15 brothers and sisters, he learned the sense of community from an early age. He recognized and valued education as his passion and is a successful graduate of the Springfield Public School system. After graduating from Springfield Technical High School he joined the Marine Corps where he was proud to serve his country during the Korean War. received an honorable discharge at the rank of staff Sargeant.

He loved football, coached and played on as many semi pro football teams in the community and was drafted by the Green Bay Packers. Football opened the doors to higher education. He played with American International College where he was inducted into the AIC Football Hall of Fame in 2006. He rounded out his education by earning Masters Degrees from Westfield State College and AIC while finishing up with a Doctorate in Education from Harvard University.

His community contributions included serving as the Executive Director for Northern Educational Services, Inc. He served as Assistant Professor at American International College and as the Assistant Director of the Human Relations Center with Dr. Robert Carkhuff. With his first wife, Dr. Juanita Browne, the fought for Civil Rights from Springfield to Selma.

He was wooed away from Springfield to serve with the National Education Association in Washington DC in the Professional Development department where he trained educational leaders throughout the nation to increase their knowledge and skills to work more effectively with hard to reach students.

Dr. Griffin was recruited to serve as the Executive Director of Georgia Association of Educators in Atlanta Georgia. After retiring from GAE, Dr. Griffin accepted a position as the Assistant Superintendent of Public Education for the State of Washington. With his wife, Dr. D'Ann Griffin, they worked hand in hand to build and enhance the Christian education platform for children in Atlanta.

After retiring for the second time, Dr. Griffin continued his community commitment through volunteer activities. He serves as the Assistant Coordinator of the Wise and Season Saints at the Berean Christian Church where he attends faithfully and lends his voice to the Men of Berean choir.

His volunteer work includes consulting for the Latin American Association in Atlanta as well as Board of Regents to establish a systems approach for the recruitment, retention and graduation rates of Latino's in higher education. He serves on the Board of Directors of Destiny Achievement Academy, a charter school for high risk students in Atlanta. He is the proud father of eight children, sixteen grandchildren and one and a half great grandchildren. Dr. Griffin looks for every opportunity to return "home" to celebrate friends and family.

JERALD "JAY" GRIFFIN, SR., LADC, is one of sixteen children, nine boys and seven girls, born to Andrew and Geraldine Griffin. He was born in Springfield, MA and attended the local public schools.

Jay is a graduate of St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas. He is a retired administrator. He supervised the HIV/AIDS counseling and testing program and a staff of case managers who provide client services for people infected with the virus.

Jay has a long history of community service dating back to 1969 as one of the founders of "Harambee," which became a major African American festival in the City of Homes. In 2006 he was the recipient of the Holy Trinity COGIC Landmark award (Proverbs 22:28), 2008, he received the African Americans Against Aids (AAA) award, 2010 the African American Community Education Community Service Award, 2010, Springfield Health and Human Services Luminary award. In addition, Jay is the 2014 Springfield Museum African American Sub-committee Ubora Award for Excellence.

Another proud accomplishment is that he is a co-founder of the Stone Soul Festival and has served as Program Chairman since its beginning, twenty-eight years ago. In addition, Jay currently serves on the Mason Square Health Task Force in collaboration with Healthy Community Collaborative. Jay is a Board member of the Old Hill Neighborhood Council and Springfield Symphony Orchestra, a Commissioner on Springfield Building Parks and Recreation Board.

Jay is known as "Scallywag Hawkins" as part of Living History re-enactors reflecting the Peter Brace Brigade of the 54th Mass Colored Troops Co. E – Ron Brace, Commander. Jay is dedicated to the historical accomplishments of African Americans.

Jay met his wife Freda in Texas and they are the proud parents of Springfield College Master Degree graduate Imani, daughter. He also has three adult children from his first marriage, Jay Jr., Timothy and Christel. Jay is a member of St. John's Congregational Church.

Attachment: 24-18 (8180 : Honorary Street Sign - Jerald " Jay" Griffin Sr.)

Gmail desi jackson <djackson1173@gmail.com>

(no subject)

1 message

desi jackson <djackson1173@gmail.com> Tue, Jun 11, 2024 at 1:55 AM
To: "J.J. Griffin" <hayjay252@msn.com>

1-9-52

The Griffin family is filled with heartfelt thankfulness now that the ordeal of being burned out of their home has ended. Settled in their four-room dwelling at Riverview Apartments, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Griffin, along with their ten children, reflect with gratitude in their hearts for the community spirit that supported them after their home at 252 Quincy Street was destroyed by fire on December 27. The Griffins received over $250 in cash as well as gifts from churches, organizations, friends, and neighbors. A former teacher from Fast Union Street School, who was very fond of the children, donated a washing machine and ironer. This is just one instance of generosity they experienced. The Red Cross provided beds and covers, and they received gifts from various sources. Notably, the Springfield Housing Authority played a significant role by securing their new residence at 8 Fuller Ct. The only items salvaged from their previous home were several chairs and a bedroom set, according to Mrs. Griffin. The noon blaze destroyed clothes, a refrigerator, stove, dryer, and bedroom sets, which had just been paid off but were not insured. The children have made many new friends at Riverview, yet they remember their old ones and plan to visit them occasionally. Here is the list of Griffin children: Thelma, 17; Joan, 16; Andrew Jr., 15; William, 13; Robert, 12; Richard, 8; Gerald, 7; Karon, 5; David, 2; and Germain, 3 months.There are 3 other children either married or living elsewhere. Mr Griffin is an employee @ FISK RUBBER CO.

Attachment: 24-18 (8180 : Honorary Street Sign - Jerald " Jay" Griffin Sr.)

Old Hill Neighborhood Council

99 Eastern Avenue, Springfield, MA 01109 ~ Office (413) 205-9234
~ Email oldhillcouncil@gmail.com

. July 8, 2024

Department of Public Works / Street and Traffic Services

70 Tapley Street

Springfield, MA 01104

Dear Director Chris Cignoli:

On behalf of The Old Hill Neighborhood Council Board, we would like to extend our support of Ward 4 City Councilor Malo Brown and Ward 5 City Councilor Lavar Click-Bruce's petition for the naming of Quincy Street from Eastern Avenue to Hancock Street as "Jerald Jay Griffin Way". After consulting with neighborhood residents and business owners, we have determined this to be a feasible and necessary project. Jay was a long time member of The Old Hill Neighborhood Council and we would like to be added as a co-sponsor of this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gresham

Barbara Gresham, President

Attachment: 24-18 (8180 : Honorary Street Sign - Jerald " Jay" Griffin Sr.)

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

ENGINEERING DIVISION

70 TAPLEY STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01104

413-787-6210 413-787-6029 FAX

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
MASSACHUSETTS

Honorary Street Sign Policy and Application

PURPOSE OF PROGRAM

The Honorary Street Sign Program provides citizens of the City of Springfield with an opportunity to honor people that have made significant contributions to the City. The program is administered by the City Traffic Commission in conjunction with the Public Work Department. All supporting documentation is required at time of application submittal.

PROCEDURES

1. Applicant completes attached Honorary Street Designation Application.

2. The project proponent must first present the request to their neighborhood civic association for consideration.

3. If the neighborhood civic association is in favor of the applicant's request, they will send the Application to the Chairman of the Traffic Commission on behalf of the applicant along with all supporting documentation.

4. Traffic Commission will review the request at one of their meetings. The applicant or their representative must be present at the meeting.

5. The Traffic Commission will contact the neighborhood civic association through the Department of Public Works with their decision.

CRITERIA FOR REVIEW

- Historical and/or cultural influence of the applicant on the City.
- Proof of significant lineage to the City.
- Clear geographical relationship of street to the area of interest of applicant.
- Known to be of good moral character.
- Clearly defined community or public contribution made by the honoree.

Attachment: 24-18 (8180 : Honorary Street Sign - Jerald " Jay" Griffin Sr.)

SIGN COSTS

The total cost for one sign including installation is $250.00. The cost for two signs including installation is $370.00. This must be paid by the applicant before the sign fabrication begins. This should be submitted to the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- Applicant will be responsible for all the costs associated, if approved.
- There shall be no more than two (2) signs per person honored.
- The city is not responsible for the maintenance and replacement of sign(s) in the future.
- The sign(s) will be no larger than 12" X 12" with blue background and white lettering.
- All proposed locations must be on City public ways approved by the Department of Public Works.

The City will not be responsible for replacing stolen, vandalized or damaged signs and poles. The City reserves the right to remove any sign and post it considers in poor condition. These signs and poles will not be replaced. A petitioner will need to go back to their neighborhood civic association and repeat the process for replacements. This will include paying associated costs. This is to ensure that the community feels the person should still be honored in this fashion.

Please complete the application below and return it to the Department of Public Work:

Attachment: 24-18 (8180 : Honorary Street Sign - Jerald " Jay" Griffin Sr.)

City Council
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

SCHEDULED

PETITION (ID # 8179)

Meeting: 08/19/24 07:00 PM
Department: Department of Public Works
Category: General
Prepared By: Hector Velez
Initiator: Hector Velez
Sponsors:
DOC ID: 8179

Honorary Street Sign - Rev. Juan Carde

SPRINGFIELD TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

LOCATION:

Location: **70 Tapley Street, Springfield MA (Conference Room)**

This meeting will be held utilizing remote participation technology via ZOOM.

New items:

24-16 Honorary Street Sign. For Rev. Juan Carde at the intersection of Chestnut St. and Bancroft Street.

Other business that may lawfully come before the Traffic Commission according to the Open Meeting Law

Copies of said petition, texts, and maps may be requested by email or phone or viewed at Tapley Street by appointment.

City of Springfield
Honorary Street Sign Application

APPLICANT INFORMATION

***Please print clearly**

Applicant's Name: Norman Roldan and Jose Claudio

Organization/Company: New North Citizons Council (NNCC) / First Spanish Christion Church

Street Address: 2455 Main St. Springfield MA. 01107

Telephone: (413) 317-1700 or (413) 351-1820 **E-mail:** norman.roldan@baystatehealth.org
Jclaudio@newnorthcc.org

HONORARY NAME REQUEST

NAME OF HONOREE:

Rev. Juan Carde

(As it would appear on the Street Name Sign)

LOCATION:

The corner of Chestnut St. and Bancroft St.

Criteria for NAME REQUEST

Please complete the following criteria that apply, which are used in the evaluation for each request for an honorary street sign, attach documents or use additional paper if required.

Historical and/ or Cultural Influence to the City: "First Spanish Christian Church"

"The First Latin Church" On January 28,1967, Rev. Juan Carde was installed as official pastor by Rev, Abrahan Marsach.
At that time our church had 40 members. Over the years , the Lord continued to blessus.
In 1969 our Church was incorporated into the State of Massachusetts as a religious institution.

Clearly Defined Community or Public Contribution Made by the Honoree:

Please read the attachment. Thanks

Attachment: 24-16 (2) (8179 : Honorary Street Sign - Rev. Juan Carde)

Humanitarian Efforts:

Please read the attachment. Thanks

Provide Proof of Significant Lineage or Family Ties to the City:

Please read the attachment. Thanks

Establish clear geographical relationship of street to the area of interest of the applicant:

Please read the attachment. Thanks

Number of sign (s) required.

Please circle one: 1 or 2

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:

My application consists of the following items necessary for a complete application. Please check:

☐ Completed Application Form, ***plus a $250 or $370 fee*** (make checks payable to "City of Springfield")

☒ A ***typed*** recommendation from the Neighborhood Civic Association stating the designee and preferred location.

Signature of Applicant: Norman Roldan Date: 6/5/2024

Office use only:

Date Sign Installed: _____

Attachment: 24-16 (2) (8179 : Honorary Street Sign - Rev. Juan Carde)

Rev. Juan Carde's Bio

First Spanish Christian Church
Assembliies of God

On January 28, 1967, Rev. Juan Carde was installed as official pastor by Rev. Abraham Marsach. At that time our church had 40 members. Over the years, the Lord continued to bless us. 1969 our Church was incorporated into the State of Massachusetts as a religious institution.

Over the years, the Assemblies of God Hispanic Christian Church in Springfield was so blessed that by 1973 membership had increased and we found ourselves in need of a larger location. Rev. Carde and the church decided to purchase the location at 565 Chestnut Street, a place that we use today to praise and glorify God.

Rev. Carde assumed the position of secretary-treasurer of the Connecticut section for 7 years. He also worked for 20 years in the Connecticut Department of Education of the Assemblies of God.

In 1993 we were able to acquire 549 Chestnut Street (the building next door), which is currently the facilities of the Department of Education. Rev. Carde was the Principal of the Bible Institute for 33 years. (Springfield Branch).

During his ministry, several members emerged from this congregation who are pastors today.

Rev. Carde was able to make several missionary trips. He was able to go to Jerusalem, Greece, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Venezuela, Guatemala, Cuba, Yucatán, Chiapas, and Nicaragua. He had a special place for missionaries, that is why our Church is recognized as a missionary Church.

In his personal life, Rev. Carde was married to his beloved wife, Zoila L. Carde for 59 years. She is not a person of many words, but she was always by his side supporting him throughout his ministry. Rev. Carde was always very dedicated to his ministry, (for example) he left his house very early for church, Mami joked with him, saying "why do you rson leave so early to go to church in, he was the first person to be in the church and the last person to leave. Rev. Carde was in Church every day, even if there was no service. He always cared for his sheep.

He has four daughters, Nancy, Noemi, Janet, and Damaris. Rev. Carde's greatest pride were his 6 grandchildren: Alissa, Jonovan, Brianna, Alexander, Carlos, and Nathaniel. Rev.

Attachment: 24-16 (2) (8179 : Honorary Street Sign - Rev. Juan Carde)

Rev. Juan Carde's Bio

First Spanish Christian Church
Assembliies of God

Carde would say he was always proud to see his daughters and grandchildren severing the LORD and in church.

Many of you know some of Rev. Carde favorite sayings such as: "God is good", "Tell me who you're with and I'll tell you who you are," "Never forget where God took you from", "An extension of hands means the love that we feel for you". Some pastors refer to him as "El Alcalde" *The Mayor of Springfield.

On August 18, 2018, after 52 years as Pastor of this church, God call him to be with Him in Heaven.

Rev. Carde was a man with an impeccable testimony, dedicated to the work that God put in his hands.

Rev. Carde and his family where resident of Brookline Street in the early 1970's and resident of Bancroft Street from mid-1970's until 1980.

Attachment: 24-16 (2) (8179 : Honorary Street Sign - Rev. Juan Carde)

NNCC
NEW NORTH CITIZENS' COUNCIL

New North Citizens' Council, Inc.
2455 Main Street • Springfield, Massachusetts 01107-1907
413-747-0090 • 413-746-4885 • Fax 413-737-2321

June 12, 2024

Department of Public Works
Engineering Division
70 Tapley Street
Springfield, MA 01104

"Honorary Street Sign Policy and Application"

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great honor and excitement that we would like to inform you that on June 11, 2024, the application for the Honorary Street Sign for the Reverend Juan Carde for Bancroft Street was brought to our board. It was presented and approved unanimously by the entire board.

Reverend Juan Carde was one of the pioneers' spiritual leaders in the Latino community, that started pastoring the First Spanish Christian Church in the city of Springfield in 1967, he lived on Bancroft Street and raised all his children there. The board felt that it would be a great opportunity to have the honorary name of street after him and keep his legacy going.

On behalf of the board and myself I would like to congratulate the entire Carde family, on this amazing occasion, of honoring such an amazing man that touch so many lives in his ministry.

Sincerely,
Maria Ligus, M.Ed.
Executive Director

Attachment: 24-16 (2) (8179 : Honorary Street Sign - Rev. Juan Carde)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ENGINEERING DIVISION

70 TAPLEY STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01104

413-787-6210 413-787-6029 FAX

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
MASSACHUSETTS

Honorary Street Sign Policy and Application

PURPOSE OF PROGRAM

The Honorary Street Sign Program provides citizens of the City of Springfield with an opportunity to honor people that have made significant contributions to the City. The program is administered by the City Traffic Commission in conjunction with the Public Work Department. All supporting documentation is required at time of application submittal.

PROCEDURES

1. Applicant completes attached Honorary Street Designation Application.
2. The project proponent must first present the request to their neighborhood civic association for consideration.
3. If the neighborhood civic association is in favor of the applicant's request, they will send the Application to the Chairman of the Traffic Commission on behalf of the applicant along with all supporting documentation.
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CRITERIA FOR REVIEW

- Historical and/or cultural influence of the applicant on the City.
- Proof of significant lineage to the City.
- Clear geographical relationship of street to the area of interest of applicant.
- Known to be of good moral character.
- Clearly defined community or public contribution made by the honoree.

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SIGN COSTS

The total cost for one sign including installation is $250.00. The cost for two signs including installation is $370.00. This must be paid by the applicant before the sign fabrication begins. This should be submitted to the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- Applicant will be responsible for all the costs associated, if approved.
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Please complete the application below and return it to the Department of Public Work:

Attachment: 24-16 (2) (8179 : Honorary Street Sign - Rev. Juan Carde)

City Council
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

SCHEDULED

PETITION (ID # 8178)

Meeting: 08/19/24 07:00 PM
Department: Department of Public Works
Category: General
Prepared By: Hector Velez
Initiator: Hector Velez
Sponsors: Ward 5 City Councilor Lavar Click-Bruce
DOC ID: 8178

Honorary Street Sign- Bishop Talbert Swan

SPRINGFIELD TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

LOCATION:

Location: **70 Tapley Street, Springfield MA (Conference Room)**

This meeting will be held utilizing remote participation technology via ZOOM.

New items:

24-17 Honorary Street Sign. For Bishop Talbert Swan II at Alden Street.

Other business that may lawfully come before the Traffic Commission according to the Open Meeting Law

Copies of said petition, texts, and maps may be requested by email or phone or viewed at Tapley Street by appointment.

City of Springfield
Honorary Street Sign Application

APPLICANT INFORMATION

*Please print clearly

Applicant's Name: LaVaR Click

Organization/Company: City of Springfield

Street Address: 36 Court Street

Telephone: (413) 459-5116 E-mail: LClick@springfieldcityhall.com

HONORARY NAME REQUEST

NAME OF HONOREE:

Bishop TALbert SWAN II

(As it would appear on the Street Name Sign)

LOCATION:

Alden Street

Criteria for NAME REQUEST

Please complete the following criteria that apply, which are used in the evaluation for each request for an honorary street sign, attach documents or use additional paper if required.

Historical and/ or Cultural Influence to the City:

NAACP President Community Activist
Civil rights leader

Clearly Defined Community or Public Contribution Made by the Honoree:

Bio Attached

Attachment: 24-17 (8178 : Honorary Street Sign- Bishop Talbert Swan)

Humanitarian Efforts:

Bio Attached

Provide Proof of Significant Lineage or Family Ties to the City:

Bio Attached

Establish clear geographical relationship of street to the area of interest of the applicant:

His church is on Alden Street

Spring of Hope C.O.G.I.C.

Number of sign (s) required.

Please circle one: (1) or 2

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:

My application consists of the following items necessary for a complete application. Please check:

☐ Completed Application Form, *plus a $250 or $370 fee* (make checks payable to "City of Springfield")

☐ A *typed* recommendation from the Neighborhood Civic Association stating the designee and preferred location.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: 7/3/24

Office use only:

Date Sign Installed: _____

Attachment: 24-17 (8178 : Honorary Street Sign- Bishop Talbert Swan)

Old Hill Neighborhood Council

99 Eastern Avenue, Springfield, MA 01109 ~ Office (413) 205-9234
~ Email oldhillcouncil@gmail.com

. July 1, 2024

Department of Public Works / Street and Traffic Services
70 Tapley Street
Springfield, MA 01104

Dear Director Chris Cignoli:

On behalf of the Old Hill Neighborhood Council Board, we would like to extend our support of City Councilor Lavar Click-Bruce's petition for the naming of Alden Street as "Bishop Talbert Swan Way". After consulting with neighborhood residents and business owners, we have determined this to be a feasible and necessary project and we are in full support.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gresham

Barbara Gresham, President

Attachment: 24-17 (8178 : Honorary Street Sign- Bishop Talbert Swan)

BISHOP TALBERT W. SWAN, II

Bishop Talbert W. Swan, II is a fourth generation member of the Church Of God In Christ and follows in the steps of several generations of men and women in the Swan family serving in the ministry. A native of Springfield, MA, Bishop Swan is the son of the Fred Allen Swan, Sr. and Delois Fason Swan. Bishop Swan first acknowledged and accepted his calling into the Gospel ministry at the age of fifteen and was subsequently ordained in 1991 by Bishop L.C. Young, prelate of the Massachusetts First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

Bishop Swan attended the University of Massachusetts and subsequently graduated from Western New England College where he majored in computer science. He later attended Charter Oak State College where he received an Associate of Science and a Bachelor of Science in Religious Studies. His dedication to the art of preaching and his desire to prepare for pastoral ministry led him to Hartford Seminary where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Master of Arts in Theology and to Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Master of Divinity in Urban Ministry. He also holds graduate certificates from Hartford Seminary in Black Ministries and Harvard Divinity School in Faith Based Economic and Community Development. He has completed his coursework and is finishing his doctoral project at Clarks Summit University for his Doctorate in Ministry.

Bishop Swan is a consummate community activist and is respected for his work in the area of human rights across the region. He has served on many community boards and has received numerous awards for his work. His work has been highlighted in publications such as; the New York Times, Boston Globe, Washington Post, Emerge Magazine, Gospel Today and Sojourner's Magazine to name a few. He has also been featured on Fox News, Black Entertainment Television and New England Cable News along with local and regional news outlets.

Bishop Swan is a five-term member of the Alumni Council at Hartford Seminary, a member of the Black Alumni Council of the Harvard Divinity School and the current International Chaplain of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., the fifth largest African American fraternity in the country. He currently serves the International Church Of God In Christ as Assistant General Secretary, Clerk of the General Board, and the inaugural Director of Social Justice Ministry.

Bishop Swan is the President of the Greater Springfield NAACP, currently serving in his seventh term. He has advocated for police reform, voting rights, and community responsibility. He received the Rev. Dr. William A. Jones Award from the National Action Network, a civil rights organization founded by Rev. Al Sharpton, the NAACP James F. Hennessey Award, The Ruth B. Loving Civil Rights Award, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Social Justice Award for his work in civil rights advocacy.

Defeating his rival by a three-to-one margin in the 2011 election for president of the Greater Springfield NAACP, Swan's election reportedly created anticipation of a resurgence of social activism in the region. The *Valley Advocate* noted that this led to a revitalization of the organization and its voice on critical community issues. Swan outlined the priorities of the branch as taking a

Attachment: 24-17 (8178 : Honorary Street Sign- Bishop Talbert Swan)

renewed focus on education, health, economic empowerment, political action and social justice advocacy.

Police Reform

Swan, a longtime advocate for police reform, first came to national attention in the wake of receiving a harassing telephone call from Joseph Bradley, a Springfield, MA police officer. Bradley made the call from the Public Safety office of Western New England University and mocked the burning of black churches in the south. The call was made July 2, 1996, the day Swan was hosting a service to raise funds to assist southern churches that had been burned.[18] After confirming that the racist call was made by Bradley, Springfield Deputy Chief of Police Daniel Spellacy apologized to Swan, his congregation, and the African American community, and Mayor Michael Albano vowed that the city would not tolerate such racist acts.[19] Mayor Albano said that the call to Swan "borders on crisis" and announced the formation of a community coalition to deal with racial tensions.[20]

Although District Attorney William M. Bennett did not charge Bradley with a crime stating that it did not appear that a state law was broken,[21] Bradley was fired by the Springfield Police Commission.[22] In the wake of the Bradley's firing, Swan received another harassing call from George Eckmalian, a sergeant in the Army National Guard. Eckmalian, calling from an American Legion Post, said he spoke for the 'White Aryan Race'[23] and threatened to burn Swan's church down if he refused to drop the charges against Officer Bradley.[24] Eckmalian was charged with a civil rights violation and was sentenced to probation and community service.[25] Under an agreement with prosecutors, Eckmalian was also ordered to undergo sensitivity training in race relations and to continue alcohol treatment.[26] Deeming it the "House of Hate," the *Boston Globe* did an exposé on the Springfield Police Department stating that "its menacing tone has resonated with people of all races." In the front-page article, featuring Swan pictured at his church and detailing the racist telephone calls to Swan by Officer Bradley and Eckmalian, Swan contends that swift action in response the calls he received were only due to his high profile and the media response. He opined that appropriate action on minority complaints was not characteristic of the department.[27]

Responding to the dismissal of assault charges against white police officer, Jeffrey Asher, who was caught on video kicking a handcuffed Roy Parker in the head, Swan organized a rally attracting hundreds, that was held across from Springfield City Hall.[28] Citing the reluctance of those in leadership to condemn Asher's actions because of Parker's prior criminal history, Swan condemned the silence of elected officials and clergy. He noted that "an open condemnation of this incident is long overdue" and that "the silence of those in leadership is shameful."[29] Asher was eventually arraigned on assault charges,[30] but was eventually cleared of the criminal charges. The Police Commission suspended him for one year and ordered him to undergo "sensitivity training." Asher's suspension was reduced to six months by a labor arbitrator, with Asher receiving $20,000 in back pay.[31] More than a decade later, Asher was again caught on video repeatedly beating subdued suspect Melvin Jones with a flashlight.[32] After the conviction of Asher on assault charges, Swan urged Hampden District Court Judge Maureen Walsh to take into consideration Asher's troubled history and its effect on the public.[31]

Attachment: 24-17 (8178 : Honorary Street Sign- Bishop Talbert Swan)

Swan was the recipient of a racist fax by Springfield Police, a charge denied by the department. Swan reported that he received a fax laced with racial slurs and a warning to "leave our Police Department alone." In spite of the denial from the department, the telephone number displayed on the fax was that of a police department fax machine.[33] The Springfield police launched an investigation into Swan, accusing him of sending the faxes to himself. District Attorney William Bennett met with Swan and asked to issue an apology to the Police Department. Swan refused and viewed the actions of the department as the latest in a series of harassing acts dating back to the racist telephone call received from Officer Joseph Bradley.[34] Noting that Swan had made enemies "both among the old guard in the black community and among whites who don't appreciate his efforts to shake up a system that works pretty well for them," Valley Advocate Editor Tom Vannah opined that the rumors regarding the fax incident, although unproven, may have been "damaging enough to undercut the work" Swan's tried to do.[35]

Swan sought an independent investigation into the controversial 2011 shooting of 18-year-old Tahiem Goffe by a Springfield policeman, which was investigated by the Springfield police and ruled justified by the local district attorney.[36] Swan urged District Attorney Mark G. Mastroianni called to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the incident, "to ensure that proper police procedures were employed and that the investigation will not be compromised."[37] Swan argued the need for independent investigators in any cases involving a shooting by a police office. He noted that historically, the office of District Attorney has not been an effective instrument for insuring transparency.[38] Swan has called for police accountability and the implementation of civilian police oversight.[39] Calling police departments where civilian review boards only serve in an advisory capacity "a joke," Swan has urged for boards with statutory authority.[40] He has called for cruiser cameras and recorders to provide additional accountability.[41] Swan was critical of an arbitration ruling in 2014 that continued to block the use of body cameras in certain Massachusetts cities. Noting that video cameras in cruisers promote officer safety and public accountability, Swan said those cities were "a little behind the times in terms of the advancement of this technology."[42]

Swan weighed in on several high-profile cases involving police shootings. After George Zimmerman was acquitted of the murder of 17 year old Trayvon Martin Swan helped to organize the 'Justice for Trayvon Martin' rally, part of a 100-city vigil that was held across the country.[43] Swan met with Massachusetts legislators to rally opposition to 'Stand Your Ground' legislation in the House of Representatives. Stand Your Ground was used as Zimmerman's defense in the killing of Trayvon Martin. Swan noted that we "should be encouraging non-violence and the de-escalation of conflicts when a safe retreat can be made."[44] The legislation was not passed. After a partial mistrial was declared in a Florida murder case for the shooting death of teenager Jordan Davis Swan noted that it marked another example of failed justice involving a young black victim.[45] Swan advocated for the families of Jayland Walker, Tyre Nichols, Breonna Taylor, and other high profile cases involving police misconduct.

Swan is a former police chaplain for the Springfield Police Department. In 2005 he organized the Rev. Theodore N. Brown Anti Gang Initiative. The effort was named in honor of Rev. Theodore Brown, a school counselor who was murdered by 17 year old Corey Ramos.[46] In honor of Brown, Swan wrote a book, *Addressing Violence in Springfield Schools: We Cannot Allow the Death of Rev. Theodore N. Brown to be in Vain.*[47] The book presents Swan's analysis on school violence and several models of education.[48] The anti-gang program trained street workers who frequented

Attachment: 24-17 (8178 : Honorary Street Sign- Bishop Talbert Swan)

gang 'hot spots' trying to break through to young men and women involved in gangs, drugs, and violence or being drawn into such activity.[49] Swan has worked with police departments and coordinated meetings at his church with witnesses to crimes in efforts to foster regular communication with law enforcement.[50] Swan was appointed by Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey to her Advisory Council on Racial Justice and Equity, by Springfield City Council President Orlando Ramos to the Committee on Police and Community Relations, by Governor Charlie Baker to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Hate Crimes Task Force, and by Massachusetts Senate President Karen Spilka to the Permanent Commission on the Status of African Americans.

Voting Rights

Bishop Swan was the lead plaintiff in a 1996 federal lawsuit against the city of Springfield, MA seeking to declare the at large representation system unconstitutional on the grounds that it diluted the votes of African Americans, Latinos, and other communities of color. The lawsuit sought to change the all at-large election of the city council to one including ward representatives. It also sought an injunction against the current voting scheme. Refereeing to Springfield's at-large city council a "bastion of privilege that systematically excludes residents from Springfield's poor and nonwhite neighborhoods," the Boston Globe brought national attention to Swan's efforts to replace the voting system in a featured article picturing Swan in front of his church.

A successful signature drive placed the question for ward representation on the November 1997 ballot. On election day, 58 percent of the voters were in favor of the question, which called for eight ward seats and three at-large seats. Although the ballot question received a majority vote, it fell short by 15,000 votes of the required number to become law. Swan, on behalf of the plaintiffs, offered to drop the lawsuit if city councilors agree to honor the will of the electorate and implement the ward system.

In January 1998 Mayor Michael Albano again filed legislation with the city council to change to a ward system but it twice rejected the proposal. Swan then contacted the U.S. Department of Justice who assigned an investigator to consider if voting rights laws were being violated.

Eventually, Mayor Charles V. Ryan and City Councilor Jose Tosado proposed a home-rule amendment that would expand the council to thirteen members including eight ward and five at large seats. The home-rule petition was adopted by the City Council 7–2, and was later passed by the State Senate and House and signed by the Governor. On election day, November 6, 2007, city residents voted 72% in favor of changing the all at large election of the City Council and School Committee to one including ward representation. On November 3, 2009, Springfield held its first ward elections in 50 years.

In October 2011, Bishop Swan joined with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, the ACLU and City Councilor Zaida Luna to send an urgent request to the US Department of Justice for intervention in the City of Springfield regarding widespread voter rights violations.[59] The group cited multiple incidents and areas of noncompliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act and the Department of Justice's 2006 settlement order with the City of Springfield. Teams from the US

Attachment: 24-17 (8178 : Honorary Street Sign- Bishop Talbert Swan)

Department of Justice and the US Attorney General's office arrived in Springfield on November 8, 2011.

Unresolved Murders of Black Women

Bishop Swan challenged the Mayor and police department regarding the murders of four black women in the Western Massachusetts region. Media reports of the victims disparaged them as drug users and police seemed to have no leads regarding their assailants. Swan and other activists accused the police department of not pursuing their cases as vigorously as other victims because they were poor and black. Under pressure from the community, Mayor Michael Albano authorized unlimited funds for overtime for police to solve the murders. Swan organized an effort to erect a stone monument honoring the life of the four victims and other women of color whose murders were unsolved. After receiving approval from the Springfield, MA Parks Department, Swan was told that he would need to receive approval from the Springfield, MA Historical Society to erect the monument in the triangle of Mason Square, an historically African American neighborhood where most of the victims lived, The Historical Society required Swan to get approval from the four surrounding neighborhood councils. Failing to get the approval of one of the councils, Swan's request was denied. Swan persisted regarding the placement of the monument and challenging the city regarding their investigation of the murders. Mayor Albano, using executive authority, allowed the monument to be erected outside the Springfield District Court and Alfred Gaynor was eventually arrested, convicted, and sentenced to four consecutive life sentences.

Political Activity

In 2006, Swan was one of several clergy that endorsed Deval Patrick for Governor of Massachusetts. After his victory as the first African-American governor in the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Patrick selected Swan as one of the speakers at the Interfaith Prayer Service preceding his Inaugural.[65] Swan again endorsed Patrick in his 2010 bid for reelection and hosted Patrick at an Urban Town Hall Meeting at his church in Springfield.[66] Swan was again selected to speak during the Interfaith Prayer Service preceding Patrick's second Inaugural.

After initially refusing to meet with Swan and constituents from the NAACP,[67] Republican U.S. Senator Scott Brown agreed to meet.[68]

In August 2012, Swan met with Elizabeth Warren in a closed session with other clergy hosted at his church. Swan noted that clergy had a responsibility to meet with candidates to "ascertain their veracity, political competence, ability to effectively manage crises and inspire confidence through outstanding leadership and their ability to produce tangible results that serve the needs of our constituents."[69] Taking issue with her opponent Scott Brown's heavy focus on calling her Native American heritage into question, Swan supported Warren.[70] Swan's meeting with Warren also garnered support for her by other prominent clergy.[71]

Upon U.S. Senator John Kerry's confirmation as Secretary of State under the administration of President Barack Obama, Ed Markey sought Swan's support in his bid to win the vacated senate seat. Swan organized a meeting between Markey and area clergy and noted that the meeting was

Attachment: 24-17 (8178 : Honorary Street Sign- Bishop Talbert Swan)

"substantive and informative." Swan played a similar role in vetting the positions of candidates for Hampden County District Attorney and Hampden County Sheriff. During the 2016 presidential election, Swan reportedly joined more than two dozen national Black leaders in challenging Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's stance on issues related to so-called "religious freedom."

Other Activities

Swan was a speaker at the Massachusetts sister march to the People's Climate Movement march held in Washington DC in 2017. He noted that climate justice and racial justice are closely related and that the most vulnerable and maligned populations get hit hardest by climate change. He was a featured speaker at the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington in 2013, the 57th anniversary in 2020, the 58th anniversary in 2021, and the 60th anniversary in 2023. He was a keynote speaker for the NAACP National Convention in 2021. Bishop Swan has lectured on over 20 college campuses across America, including: University of Massachusetts, Harvard University, Yale University, University of Chicago, University of Michigan, Amherst College, Central Connecticut State University, Northeastern University, and Princeton University.

Swan is a member of the Grand Council and the National Chaplain of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., one of the largest predominantly African American fraternities in the nation, a board member of the Conference of National Black Churches, a coalition of the seven largest African American denominations, and the author of several books and numerous articles and other publications.

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