



**City Council**  
**Women's Meeting**

36 Court Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

~Final~

**Councilor Kateri Walsh (Chair)**

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**September 10,  
2025**

**4:30 PM**

**City Hall - Room 200**

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**Call To Order**

4:30 PM Meeting called to order on September 10, 2025, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

**Roll Call**

|         |                                                            |  |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Remote  | Tracye Whitfield                                           |  |
| Late    | Margrete Foster-Franklin                                   |  |
| Absent  |                                                            |  |
| Present | Kateri Walsh<br>Suehaley Acres (SPD)<br>Milta Vargas (SPD) |  |

**Public Portion**

1. Discussion on Planning for the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Program and Flag Raising, Scheduled for October 1, 2025

**Minutes:**

**Meeting Overview:**

The Springfield Women's Commission discussed planning events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. Key topics included the October 1st City Hall program, honoring domestic violence advocates, promoting healthy relationships among youth, and improving community awareness and resources. The group also addressed coordination with law enforcement on cold cases and bystander intervention initiatives.

## **Key Decisions and Discussions:**

- **October 1st Event:** Confirmed event at City Hall, Room 220 at 11:30 AM. Speakers include the District Attorney and Elizabeth Deneen (YWCA). Honorees include Brenda Lopez and Jillian Hinkson. Attendees encouraged to wear purple; domestic violence hotline numbers to be included on invitations.
- **Program Content:** Focus on domestic violence awareness, bystander intervention, healthy teen relationships, and community resources. Presentations will highlight victim-witness programs and prosecution processes.
- **Community Engagement:** Invitations to be sent to community organizations, police detectives, and local officials. Plans to include youth-focused programs from the YWCA and outreach units.
- **Promotion and Resources:** Information to be shared via the commission's website and social media. Efforts to identify and display a domestic violence awareness flag.
- **Recognition and Data:** Discussion of Brenda Lopez's advocacy contributions and historical domestic violence data. Consideration of unsolved murders and collaboration with law enforcement to raise awareness of cold cases.

## **Action Items:**

- Denise Stewart to send program email addresses to Councilor Walsh.
- Councilor Walsh to contact the YWCA regarding a domestic violence awareness flag.
- Daisy and Councilor Walsh to send event invitations by Thursday/Friday.
- Milta Vargas to provide Councilor Walsh with contact information for local domestic violence programs.
- Councilor Walsh to compile program details and coordinate with speakers, the mayor, and the superintendent.
- Councilor Whitfield to provide youth program information from YWCA.
- Councilor Walsh to invite police detectives and include resource information in the invitations.
- Milta Vargas to coordinate with Ryan Walsh to post domestic violence resources online.

## **Next Steps:**

Finalize invitations, program content, and speaker confirmations; continue outreach to community partners; ensure event logistics and promotional materials are prepared.

[MIN\_SIGNATURES]