



City Council
General Government
Meeting

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

Councilor Justin Hurst (Chair)

~Final~

June 11, 2026

4:30 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Roll Call

In Person

Councilor Hurst

Councilor Martin

Commissioner Helen Caulton Harris (HHS)

Zoom

Councilor Lavar Click-Bruce

Councilor Walsh

Council President Tracye Whitfield

Atty Ken Shea

Atty Thomas Moore

Shenell Ford, H&HS

Erica Cruz

Deputy Comm. Ann Kissel (SDHHS)

Councilor Victor Davila *L

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Gerry Martin	City Councilor — Ward 7	Present	
Maria Perez	City Councilor — Ward 1	Excused	
Malo Brown	City Councilor — Ward 4	Excused	
Zaida Govan	City Councilor — Ward 8	Excused	
Kateri Walsh	City Councilor At Large	Remote	

Justin Hurst	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Victor Davila	City Councilor — Ward 6	Remote	Late 4:43 PM
Michael Fenton	City Councilor — Ward 2	Excused	
Jose Delgado	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Lavar Click-Bruce	City Councilor — Ward 5	Remote	
Melvin Edwards	City Councilor — Ward 3	Excused	
Tracye Whitfield	City Councilor At Large	Remote	

Call To Order

4:30 PM Meeting called to order on June 11, 2026, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Public Portion

1. Amended Ordinance Chapter 16 Article V - Youth Commission

Minutes:

On June 11, 2026, the General Government Subcommittee, chaired by Councilor Justin Hurst, met to review the proposed Youth Commission ordinance. The Department of Health and Human Services presented a proposal to reactivate the Youth Commission, which had been inactive for many years, to increase youth engagement and ensure youth voices are represented in municipal discussions. Committee members reviewed proposed changes to the ordinance, including expanding membership from 11 to 17 members to provide broader geographic and school-based representation across the city.

The committee discussed the commission's composition, the role of adult members, the appointment process for youth members, and the criteria for ensuring representation from all areas of Springfield. Concerns raised by City Council members regarding the Council's involvement in the commission were addressed. The administration indicated support for replacing the Parks Director position with the City Council President or designee and expressed willingness to consider additional City Council participation in youth appointments.

Councilors expressed support for reestablishing the Youth Commission and emphasized the importance of youth civic engagement. Discussion also included support for Councilor Lavar Click-Bruce as the City Council designee, given his work with youth in the community. Representatives from the administration and community organizations expressed their commitment to supporting youth participation and civic engagement efforts.

The committee voted to forward the ordinance to the full City Council with a favorable recommendation, subject to the discussed amendments regarding appointments and representation. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]