



City Council
Joint HHS & Public Safety Meeting
~Final~

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

Brian Santaniello (HHS Chair)
Gerry Martin (Public Safety Chair)

**September 3,
2026**

4:45 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Call To Order

4:45 PM Meeting called to order on September 3, 2026, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Gerry Martin	City Councilor — Ward 7	Present	
Maria Perez	City Councilor — Ward 1	Excused	
Malo Brown	City Councilor — Ward 4	Absent	
Zaida Govan	City Councilor — Ward 8	Absent	
Kateri Walsh	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Justin Hurst	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Victor Davila	City Councilor — Ward 6	Excused	
Michael Fenton	City Councilor — Ward 2	Excused	
Jose Delgado	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Lavar Click-Bruce	City Councilor — Ward 5	Excused	

Melvin Edwards	City Councilor — Ward 3	Absent
Tracye Whitfield	City Councilor At Large	Excused

In Person

Councilor Santaniello

Councilor Martin

Atty. Ken Shea

Atty. Downey

22 News

Commissioner Helen Caulton Harris (HHS)

Virtual

Deputy Commissioner HHS Ann Kissel

Michaels Iphone

Public Portion

1. Discussions on the Ban of Kratom.

Minutes:

On September 3, 2026, the Health and Human Services and Public Safety Committees, chaired by Councilors Brian Santaniello and Gerry Martin, met jointly to review the Commonwealth's statewide ban on Kratom and its impact on Springfield. The committee received an overview of the ban, which took effect August 28 and applies to all forms of Kratom. City officials reported that they sent about 500 letters to convenience stores and bodegas informing businesses of the ban, and Health Department staff began educational visits to support compliance.

The committee focused on enforcement, including cease-and-desist orders, store compliance, and coordination among the Health Department, Police Department, Code Enforcement, and Law Department. Officials explained that the Commonwealth advised local health departments not to confiscate Kratom products, creating a need to clarify available enforcement options. The Health Department reported that approximately 12 to 15 Springfield businesses had been identified as potentially selling Kratom or synthetic cannabinoid products.

The committees agreed that additional discussion is needed with the Police and Law Departments regarding enforcement and potential penalties for businesses that continue selling Kratom. Members also discussed preparing a local ordinance to consider if the statewide ban expires or changes. Members proposed a follow-up meeting to review enforcement options and a possible local ordinance.

Meeting adjourned: 5:08 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]