



City Council

Health and Human Services

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

~ Minutes ~

Anthony I. Wilson
413-787-6170

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

5:00 PM

City Hall -- Room 200

I. Call to Order

5:00 PM Meeting called to order on February 5, 2019 at City Hall -- Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tracye Whitfield	Councilwoman	Absent	
Jesse Lederman		Present	
Timothy C. Allen	Ward 7 Councilor	Present	
Justin Hurst	President	Present	

II. Public Portion

1. Update from Health and Human Services Department Directors on Current Initiatives.

Councilor Lederman called the meeting to order. Tom Belton, Director of Veteran Services told the sub-committee that his department needs upgrades in their positions. The Springfield staff is highly trained making them sought after by many Veteran Affairs Office. Many times employees of this department have left for increased compensation in the existing field. Mr. Belton is very proud of his department and all that they provide to Veteran Services.

Pam Peebles, Director of the Thomas J. O'Conner Animal Control Center stated that she needs more staff. The Shelter has 4 staff persons. Although the shelter is only open certain times, they have to be available 7 days a week for emergencies. TJO works with the police department on animal cruelty and violence to humans. It would be beneficial if at some point the Police department can support an academy for a dog officer of their own. Pam also praised her employees for their work and dedication.

Molly Fogarty, Director of the Libraries also stated they need additional employees, she has had some retirements recently. The Library holds many programs, to name just a few, After school programs for teens, Adult Literacy, Early Childhood resource center, Workforce Development, Voter Registration and many, many more. 616,301 visitors were at the Springfield libraries last year.

Sandy Federico, Elder Affairs Director spoke on the many challenges she would like to accomplish. She would like to expand programs, staff and hours. They are also in need of a New transportation bus. The current one is in bad condition and has had many repairs already. PVTA cost \$3.00 per ride, which is \$6.00 per day to go back in for to the Senior Centers. She also stated that there are very few grants for senior citizens. She has between 100-200 visitors a day at the Raymond Jordan Center and 75-100 at the satellite senior centers.

Helen Caulton-Harris stated that her department will be in need of staffing in her department with regards to the new marijuana legalization, a Gaming coordinator for gambling addiction and a Family Health Supervisor.

Councilor Lederman closed the meeting thanking everyone in attendance.