



Residency Commission

Regular

~ Minutes ~

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01107
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Gladys Oyola-Lopez
413-787-6096

Thursday, February 24, 2022

10:00 AM

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Call to Order

10:00 AM Meeting called to order on February 24, 2022 at Virtual Meeting (Zoom) and Room 205 in City Hall.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Gladys Oyola-Lopez	City Clerk	Present	
Michael A. Fenton	Ward 2 Councilor	Absent	
Melanie Acobe	Budget Director	Absent	
Lavar Click	Administrative Aide City Council	Present	
Alexander Sherman	Resident	Absent	
Drew Piemonte	Captain - Springfield Fire Department	Present	
Talia Gee	Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer	Present	

I. Introductions

Brief introductions of Commission members present

II. Law Department Presentation

City Solicitor Ed Pikula met with members to review the role of the Residency Commission.

Brief explanation was given on Residency Unit vs. Residency Commission

Residency Commission will be the hearing body. Attorney Alesia Days has been assigned to serve as the Chief Hearings Officer/Legal Support.

Attorney Breck will serve as a back up to Attorney Days.

Attorney Pikula informed the members that complaints have already been brought forward. The complaint process should comply with open meeting law.

He also stated that residency provisions exist in all city unions. However, teachers are exempt by state law.

Lavar Click asked if there were any surrounding towns who have residency requirements that we can mirror.

Attorney Pikula suggested that the HR Residency Unit do a study on other cities and towns in Massachusetts for comparison.

III. Elect Co-Chair

Lavar Click made a motion to elect Attorney Talia Gee as co-chair to Residency Commission.

Gladys Oyola-Lopez seconded the motion.

The members in attendance voted unanimously to elect Attorney Gee Co-Chair.

Attorney Gee accepted the nomination lest any member not in attendance expresses interest in serving as Co-Chair.

IV. Annual Residency Certificates

Discussion regarding the annual residency certificates that City employees are required to sign.

The legality of the residency certificates being considered public information was discussed.

Gladys Oyola-Lopez asked whether residency certificates are considered public information if the employee's residential address is redacted.

Attorney Gee stated that a process for residency certificates needs to be developed. Possibility of Human Resources collecting the ARCs and report out to the Residency Commission.

Motion made by Talia Gee to formalize the process as follows;

The City of Springfield Residency Unit will collect and review the Annual Residency Certificates. The Residency Unit will report their findings to the Residency Commission.

Motion seconded by Lavar Click and unanimously passed.

The open meeting law materials will be shared with the Deputy Director of Human Resources as well as notice of this vote.

V. Minutes

The City Clerk will be responsible for posting the meetings and recording minutes.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:01am. Next meeting of the commission was not scheduled at close of meeting.