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C/B

Chelsea City Council
Regular Meeting
January 22nd, 2024

ACCEPTED AND FILED

SUSPENSION

A regular meeting of the Chelsea City Council was held on Monday, January 22nd, 2024. The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers at Chelsea City Hall, located at 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150. Council President De Jesus presided over the meeting. The meeting opened at 7:00 PM.

Councilor's Name	District	Status	Arrived
Councilor Manuel Teshe	Seven	PRESENT	
Councilor Todd Taylor	One	PRESENT	
Councilor Melinda Vega	Two	PRESENT	
Councilor Tanairi Garcia	Four	PRESENT	
Councilor Lisa Santagate	Five	PRESENT	
Councilor Roberto Jimenez-Rivera	At-Large	PRESENT	
Councilor Norieliz De Jesus	Three	PRESENT	
Councilor Calvin Brown	Eight	PRESENT	
Councilor Giovanni Recupero	Six	PRESENT	
Councilor Kelly Garcia	At-Large	PRESENT	
Councilor Leo Robinson	At-Large	PRESENT	

MEMORIALS AND CELEBRATORY RESOLUTIONS:

ID#: 24R09 – The following Resolution was introduced by Councilor Robinson. A motion to adopt unanimously under suspension was made by Councilor Robinson and was approved without objection.

RESOLUTION Brenda Pena

WHEREAS, Brenda Pena is a highly respected PK-12 District Administrator for Chelsea Public Schools, known for her expertise in mental health, SEL (Social Emotional Learning) and Specialized Student Supports; and

WHEREAS, She began her career in Chelsea in 2002 as an AmeriCorps volunteer supervisor at ROCA – where she gained valuable experience in community service and support – before joining La Colaborativa, where she contributed to important work surrounding housing and immigrant rights; and

WHEREAS, While pursuing her master's degree in 2004, Brenda completed internships at HarberCOV and North Suffolk Mental Health, further solidifying her passion for mental health and socioeconomic support; and

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WHEREAS, In 2006, Brenda transitioned to Waltham Public Schools and excelled as a school adjustment counselor for eight years, providing vital socioeconomic support to students and assisting them with transitions, emotional struggles, peer difficulties and academic stressors; and

WHEREAS, Brenda took on her first leadership role as Head of Family and Community Engagement/Dean of Students at Bentley Academy in Salem, Massachusetts in 2014, where she played a key role in the school's achievement of Level 1 status; and

WHEREAS, She became an Associate Principal for the Waltham Public School District in 2017 – making history as the City's first School Administrator of Lantinx ancestry; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, Brenda made history again by becoming the first Latina and woman to serve as the principal of Waltham High School; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her administrative roles, she serves on the Healthy Families Advisory Board, Massachusetts Association of Mental Health Advisory Board, and the National Advisory Board for Alongside, in addition to serving as a consultant in the field of DEI, Mediation Programming and MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support); and

WHEREAS, Recently, Brenda recently accepted an appointment as the Essex County Commissioner for the Status of Women, where she will continue her mission of advocating for women's rights and opportunities, ensuring their continued access to resources and equality;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chelsea City Council congratulates Brenda Pena for her appointment as Essex County Commissioner for the Status of Women, and recognizes her dedication to student well-being, influential leadership, commitment to fostering inclusive communities and the lasting impact her passionate advocacy for mental health and for women's rights have had on countless individuals.

Councilor Robinson moved for a five-minute recess to present the Resolution to Brenda Pena, who was present. There were no objections. The meeting re-opened at 7:11 PM.

PUBLIC SPEAKING:

The Public Speaking portion opened at 7:12 PM.

The following members of the Public spoke: None

The Public Speaking portion closed at 7:12 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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ID#: 24M14 - The Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting dated January 2nd, 2024 were approved at the request of Councilor Brown under suspension.

ID#: 24M15 - The Minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting dated January 8th, 2024 were approved at the request of Councilor Brown under suspension.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

ID#: 24CM49 – The following communication from City Manager Fidel Maltez was read. A motion to accept and file unanimously under suspension was made by Councilor Robinson and was approved without objection.

The Honorable Chelsea City Council
Chelsea City Hall
500 Broadway
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150

Re: *Chelsea Creek Municipal Harbor Plan receives approval*

Dear Councilors:

I am pleased to inform that the City of Chelsea has received approval from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Waterways for its Chelsea Creek Municipal Harbor Plan effective January 5, 2024.

The Plan identifies strategies and guidelines to enhance public access, increase the density of quality living-wage jobs for Chelsea residents, preserve the industrial and commercial character of the waterfront and adjacent areas, and encourage water-dependent industrial uses and other opportunities that contribute to the local tax base.

A group of 13 City-appointed community members and stakeholders guided plan development as the Harbor Planning Group. The Harbor Planning Group represented a variety of interests including the environment, the local community, industry, and the City. As part of the planning process and critical source of public engagement, the City hosted three public meetings to provide information about the harbor planning process and gather public input. These meetings, which included both English and Spanish content, were announced through press releases, posted on the city's website, and listed on the project website hosted by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). The project website also provided handouts and presentations from the meetings, as well as 2 meeting summaries to provide additional mechanisms for public engagement and dissemination of information throughout the public process.

Sincerely,

Fidel Maltez
City Manager

ID#: 24CM50 – The following communication from City Manager Fidel Maltez was read. A motion to accept and file unanimously under suspension was made by Councilor Taylor and was approved without objection.

The Honorable Chelsea City Council
Chelsea City Hall
500 Broadway
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150

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Re: *Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center Grant*

Dear Councilors:

I am writing to request formal City Council acceptance of a \$150,000 grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center.

This past fall, the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center notified the City that it had been awarded a \$150,000 grant. The Grant will help launch the Chelsea Microgrid Phase II project that will build on the work of Phase I. The Chelsea Microgrid project is an innovative cloud-based microgrid approach, which is a relatively new and unexplored model possessing the potential to significantly benefit environmental justice (EJ) communities and their residents, without the limitations other microgrid models pose. The Phase II work will assess the expansion of the Phase I work by developing a list of potential facilities, selection criterion for participation, conducting IGAs, cashflow estimates for building design approaches to be net zero by 2050, and community outreach to incorporate feedback on prioritization.

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §53A, I respectfully ask that City Council formally approve the acceptance of this grant. A draft Order for that purpose is attached.

Sincerely,
Fidel Maltez
City Manager

ID#: 24CM51 – The following communication from City Manager Fidel Maltez was read. A motion to move to a Second Reading was made by Councilor Taylor and was approved without objection.

The Honorable Chelsea City Council
Chelsea City Hall
500 Broadway
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150

Re: *Appointments to Boards and Commissions*

Dear Councilors:

Pursuant to Section 4-2 of the Charter of the City of Chelsea, I am writing to recommend the following individuals to Boards and Commissions in the City.

For appointment to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Ms. Kelly Chamblee, 173 Winnisimmet Street #3, to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Michelle Diaz who resigned in September. This term expires on June 30, 2024.

I respectfully request your approval of this appointment.

Sincerely,
Fidel Maltez
City Manager

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ID#: 24CM52 – The following communication from City Manager Fidel Maltez was read. A motion to accept and file unanimously under suspension was made by Councilor Brown and was approved without objection.

The Honorable Chelsea City Council
Chelsea City Hall
500 Broadway
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150

Re: *Fire Chief Leonard Albanese retirement announcement*

Dear Councilors:

I am writing to notify the Council of the upcoming retirement of our Fire Chief Leonard Albanese. Chief Albanese has served our community and our Fire Department admirably for 8 years and we are very thankful for his time in Chelsea. With the support of our City Council and our City Manager, Chief Albanese greatly improved our Fire Stations, our Fire Apparatus, and our Fire Fighting Equipment. Most importantly, Chief Albanese has worked hard to implement policies and procedures that have set up the Chelsea Fire Department for long term success.

We have posted the position of Fire Chief and will be completing a hiring process in the near future. The posting is attached for your consideration. I will coordinate closely with the City Council, and specifically our Council President on this critical hiring process.

Please join me in congratulating Fire Chief Leonard Albanese on his upcoming retirement.

Sincerely,
Fidel Maltez
City Manager

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL

ID#: 24C18 – A copy of a Communication was received from the Assistant Parking Clerk regarding the January 9th, 2024 meeting of the Traffic and Parking Commission. A motion to accept and file unanimously under suspension was made by Councilor Brown. Councilor Recuperro objected, and

asked for a roll call to reject Agenda Item #3. Councilor Recupero withdrew the objection, and the Communication was adopted under suspension.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ID#: 24CR03 – A Committee Report was received from Council President De Jesus regarding the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Conference held on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024. A motion to accept the Report was made by Councilor Taylor and was approved without objection.

SECOND READINGS:

ID#: 24F24 - The following Order introduced by Councilor Taylor was read for the Second Time.

RESULT	11-0-0-0 (Order approved by Roll Call at request of Councilor Taylor)
YES	Teshe, Taylor, Vega, T. Garcia, Santagate, Jimenez-Rivera, De Jesus, Brown, Recupero, K. Garcia and Robinson
NO	
ABSENT	
PRESENT	

Ordered, that the Chelsea City Council authorizes the transfer of \$89,828.00 from the Salary Reserve Account #0199959-598000 to the FY2024 Salaries Account 510200 to fund the FY24 Exempt Employee Cost of Living Adjustment, such payments to be allocated by Department in the following manner:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Dept. #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Legislative	110	\$3,758.00
City Manager	123	\$2,928.00
Auditing	135	\$4,638.00
Assessor	141	\$4,638.00
Treasurer	145	\$4,638.00
Law	151	\$11,252.00
HR	152	\$13,398.00
DEI	154	\$4,638.00
IT	155	\$9,900.00
Permitting	170	\$4,638.00
Housing	180	\$4,638.00
E911	230	\$5,726.00
ISD	240	\$4,638.00
DPW Admin.	421	\$10,400.00

ID#: 24F25 – The following Order introduced by Councilor Taylor was read for the Second Time.

RESULT	11-0-0-0 (Order approved by Roll Call at request of Councilor Taylor)
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YES	Teshe, Taylor, Vega, T. Garcia, Santagate, Jimenez-Rivera, De Jesus, Brown, Recupero, K. Garcia and Robinson
NO	
ABSENT	
PRESENT	

Ordered, that the pursuant to Section 4-3(L) of the Chelsea City Charter, the Chelsea City Council approves the cost items set forth in the collective bargaining agreement negotiated with AFSCME Local 708, memorialized in the Memorandum of Agreement for Fiscal Years 2024-2026 ratified on December 15, 2023.

ID#: 24F26 – The following Order introduced by then-Council President Robinson was read for the Second Time.

RESULT	11-0-0-0 (Order approved by Roll Call at request of Councilor Taylor)
YES	Teshe, Taylor, Vega, T. Garcia, Santagate, Jimenez-Rivera, De Jesus, Brown, Recupero, K. Garcia and Robinson
NO	
ABSENT	
PRESENT	

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WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental and conservation activities, seeks to provide the City with a \$215,000 grant for the Mill Creek Restoration Program; and

WHEREAS, The City plans to develop a new park at 88 Clinton St., create a new river walk along Mill Creek, undertake ecological restoration, and carry out place making activities to engage residents as part of ongoing efforts to improve public access to Mill Creek; and

WHEREAS, The City seeks to ensure that new open space serves the needs of all residents, providing shade, cooling opportunities, and opportunities for outdoor education; and

WHEREAS, The City has completed plans for an inclusive and accessible park at 88 Clinton Street, while it is advancing plans for the Mill Creek Riverwalk Phase 2, ecological restoration, and various place making efforts, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, GreenRoots, and the Mystic River Watershed Association;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, that by this vote, the Chelsea City Council formally accepts The Nature Conservancy’s dedication of \$215,000 to the City of Chelsea and authorizes the City Manager to direct the funding to the Mill Creek Restoration Program including but not limited to the new park at 88 Clinton Street.

ID#: 24F27 – The following Order introduced by Councilor Taylor was read for the Second Time.

RESULT	11-0-0-0 (Order approved by Roll Call at request of Councilor Taylor)
YES	Teshe, Taylor, Vega, T. Garcia, Santagate, Jimenez-Rivera, De Jesus, Brown, Recupero, K. Garcia and Robinson
NO	
ABSENT	
PRESENT	

AN ORDER TRANSFERING PROCEEDS OF AN APPROPRIATION THAT ARE NO LONGER NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT FOR WHICH THEY WERE ORIGINALLY APPROPRIATED, TO PAY COSTS OF AN ALTERNATIVE CAPITAL PROJECT, AS AUTHORIZED BY CHAPTER 44, SECTION 20 OF THE GENERAL LAWS.

Ordered, that in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, the sum of \$149,837.00 representing the unexpended portion of the \$756,000.00 appropriated under the Fiscal Year 2017 Capital Improvement Plan for Early Learning Center Roof Replacement – School Stabilization - Account 55401708-583000, and which remains available after the completion of the project for which the fund was authorized and which is no longer needed to complete that project, is hereby transferred in the amount of \$149,837.00 for building improvements to the Fiscal Year 2024 CHS Cafeteria Renovation Project, Account 55402408-583000 series.

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ID#: 24F28 – The following Order introduced by Councilor Taylor was read for the Second Time.

RESULT	11-0-0-0 (Order approved by Roll Call at request of Councilor Taylor)
YES	Teshe, Taylor, Vega, T. Garcia, Santagate, Jimenez-Rivera, De Jesus, Brown, Recupero, K. Garcia and Robinson
NO	
ABSENT	
PRESENT	

AN ORDER TRANSFERING PROCEEDS OF AN APPROPRIATION THAT ARE NO LONGER NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT FOR WHICH THEY WERE ORIGINALLY APPROPRIATED, TO PAY COSTS OF AN ALTERNATIVE CAPITAL PROJECT, AS AUTHORIZED BY CHAPTER 44, SECTION 20 OF THE GENERAL LAWS.

Ordered, that in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, the sum of \$345,860.00 representing the unexpended portion of the \$ 725,000.00 appropriated under the Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Improvement Plan for building improvements – Williams Middle School Rooftop HVAC Units – Account 554402104-583000, and which remains available after the completion of the project for which the fund was authorized and which is no longer needed to complete that project, is hereby transferred in the amount of \$345,860.00 for building improvements to the Fiscal Year 2024 CHS Cafeteria Renovation Project, Account 55402408-583000 series.

ID#: 24F29 – The following Order introduced by Councilor Taylor was read for the Second Time.

RESULT	11-0-0-0 (Order approved by Roll Call at request of Councilor Taylor)
YES	Teshe, Taylor, Vega, T. Garcia, Santagate, Jimenez-Rivera, De Jesus, Brown, Recupero, K. Garcia and Robinson
NO	
ABSENT	
PRESENT	

Ordered, that in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, the sum of \$175,000 appropriated under the Fiscal Year 2018 Capital Improvement Plan for design improvements – Elementary School Expansion Project Account 55401803-530000 but which has not been undertaken is hereby abandoned/discontinued and funds transferred in the amount of \$175,000 to the Fiscal Year 2024 CHS Cafeteria Renovation Project, Account 55402408-583000 series.

ID#: 24F30 – The following Order introduced by Councilor Taylor was read for the Second Time.

RESULT	11-0-0-0 (Order approved by Roll Call at request of Councilor Taylor)
YES	Teshe, Taylor, Vega, T. Garcia, Santagate, Jimenez-Rivera, De Jesus, Brown, Recupero, K. Garcia and Robinson
NO	
ABSENT	
PRESENT	

Ordered, that in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, the sum of \$1,500,000 appropriated under the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Improvement Plan for design improvements – Early Learning Center HVAC Project 55402206-583000 but which has not been undertaken is hereby abandoned/discontinued and funds transferred in the amount of \$1,500,000 to the Fiscal Year 2024 CHS Cafeteria Renovation Project, Account 55402408-583000 series.

ID#: 24F31 – The following Order introduced by Councilor Taylor was read for the Second Time.

RESULT	11-0-0-0 (Order approved by Roll Call at request of Councilor Taylor)
YES	Teshe, Taylor, Vega, T. Garcia, Santagate, Jimenez-Rivera, De Jesus, Brown, Recupero, K. Garcia and Robinson
NO	
ABSENT	
PRESENT	

Ordered, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of \$495,000.00 from School Stabilization Account to the Fiscal Year 2024 CHS Cafeteria Renovation Project, Account 55402408-583000 series.

ID#: 24CM39 – The following Communication received from then-City Manager Ned Keefe was read for the Second Time.

RESULT	11-0-0-0 (Appointments approved by Roll Call at request of Councilor Taylor)
YES	Teshe, Taylor, Vega, T. Garcia, Santagate, Jimenez-Rivera, De Jesus, Brown, Recupero, K. Garcia and Robinson
NO	
ABSENT	
PRESENT	

The Honorable Chelsea City Council
 Chelsea City Hall
 500 Broadway
 Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150

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Re: *Appointments to Boards & Commissions*

Dear Councilors:

Pursuant to Section 4-2 of the Charter of the City of Chelsea, I am writing to recommend for appointment to the Board of Health Dr. Israel Molina, 99 Tudor Street, Chelsea, for a three-year term expiring on January 10, 2027. Dr. Molina is currently an MIT Medical Primary Care Physician and a Cambridge Health Alliance Hospitalist. He also has worked in Chelsea before as a Resident Physician Representative and has been a member of several medical committees.

I am also recommending for appointment to the Council of Elder Affairs Ms. Celeste Williams, 227 Chestnut Street, Chelsea, to complete the unexpired term of Mr. Antonio Ortega, who resigned. This term expires on February 28, 2024. Ms. Williams is a longtime Chelsea resident who has an extensive background in resident care through her professional experience as a Certified Nursing Assistant. She also has experience with activity coordination and is an active member of the Chelsea Senior Center.

I respectfully request your approval of these appointments. Copies of all the new applicants' resumes are attached.

Sincerely,
 Edward Keefe
 City Manager

ID#: 24CM43 – The following Communication received from City Manager Fidel Maltez was read for the Second Time.

RESULT	11-0-0-0 (Appointments approved by Roll Call at request of Councilor Taylor)
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YES	Teshe, Taylor, Vega, T. Garcia, Santagate, Jimenez-Rivera, De Jesus, Brown, Recupero, K. Garcia and Robinson
NO	
ABSENT	
PRESENT	

The Honorable Chelsea City Council
Chelsea City Hall
500 Broadway
Chelsea, MA 02150

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Re: *Appointments to Boards and Commissions*

Dear Councilors:

Pursuant to Section 4-2 of the Charter of the City of Chelsea, I am writing to recommend the following individuals to Boards and Commissions in the City.

For appointment to the Community Preservation Committee, Ms. Devra Sari Zobot, 375 Broadway, #202, Chelsea, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Jonathan Gomez-Pereira, who is now a School Committee member. This term expires on June 30, 2024.

I respectfully request your approval of this appointment.

Sincerely,
Fidel Maltez
City Manager

NEW BUSINESS:

ID#: 24F32 – The following Order was introduced by Councilor Taylor. A motion to move to a Second Reading and refer to Sub-Committee on Ways and Means was made by Councilor Taylor and was approved without objection.

Ordered, that in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §53A, the Chelsea City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to accept the \$150,000 grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center.

ID#: 2466 – The following Order was introduced by Councilor Recupero. A motion to adopt unanimously under suspension was made by Councilor Recupero and was approved without objection.

Ordered, that the City Manager provide an update to the City Council as to the status of ARPA funds received by the City of Chelsea –including how much the City received, how much has already been allocated and how much remains.

ID#: 2467 – The following Order was introduced by Councilor Recupero. A motion to adopt unanimously under suspension was made by Councilor Recupero and was approved without objection.

Ordered, that the City Manager provide an update to the City Council on the status of streetlights in Chelsea – specifically, if all have been converted to LEDS and if all have been raised to the highest brightness level.

ID#: 2468 – The following Order was introduced by Councilor Recupero. A motion to adopt unanimously under suspension was made by Councilor Recupero and was approved without objection.

Ordered, that the City Manager instruct the Department of Public Works Commissioner to ensure the public bag dispensers used by residents to remove dog waste are filled on a regular basis.

ID#: 2469 – The following Order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. A motion to adopt unanimously under suspension was made by Councilor Robinson and was approved without objection.

Ordered, that a meeting of the Sub-Committee on Elder Services, Veterans’ Affairs and Community Advancement be held to discuss the City’s planned programs for Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day.

ID#: 2470 – The following Order was introduced by Councilor Robinson.

RESULT	11-0-0-0 (Order approved by Roll Call at request of Councilor Taylor)
YES	Teshe, Taylor, Vega, T. Garcia, Santagate, Jimenez-Rivera, De Jesus, Brown, Recupero, K. Garcia and Robinson
NO	
ABSENT	
PRESENT	

Ordered, that a Sub-Committee on Conference be held with the City Manager to provide an update to the City Council as to the administration’s plan for the first 100 days.

ID#: 2471 – The following Order was introduced by Councilor T. Garcia. A motion to adopt unanimously under suspension was made by Councilor T. Garcia and was approved without objection.

Ordered, that a Sub-Committee on Inspectional Services be held with the Director of Inspectional Services to discuss enforcement concerns in the City of Chelsea.

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ID#: 2472 – The following Order was introduced by Councilor Brown. A motion to adopt unanimously under suspension was made by Councilor Brown and was approved without objection.

Ordered, that the City Manager provide an update on the sound study requested by the City Council related to noise from airplanes passing over Chelsea from Boston's Logan International Airport.

ID#: 24R10 – The following Resolution introduced by Council President De Jesus, Robinson Taylor, Santagate and Brown was received late. Councilor Jimenez-Rivera objected to the late Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Requesting the Boston City Council Approve the Department of Homeland Security Grant for the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Homeland Security provides an annual public safety and counterterrorism grant to the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region, comprised of the City of Chelsea along with Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Everett, Quincy, Revere, Somerville and Winthrop; and

WHEREAS, The grant proposed for 2024 totals \$13.3 million, with Chelsea typically receiving approximately \$400,000 per year in funding, which in the past has helped fund the purchase of ballistic shields, cameras, maritime equipment, radios, trainings and a firearm trailer; and

WHEREAS, According to Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, the grant would fund “planning, exercises, trainings, and operational needs, that will help prevent, respond to and recover from threats or acts of terrorism, including chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive incidents;” and

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council, as chair of the regional committee, acts as fiduciary and thus is responsible for accepting funds on behalf of the entire region; and

WHEREAS, On December 13, 2023, the Boston City Council voted 6-6 (with one member absent) and fell one vote short of passing the annual funding allocation for the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region; and

WHEREAS, The decision to block the funding drew widespread criticism, including from then-Boston City Council President Ed Flynn, the Boston Police Patrolman’s Association, Boston Firefighters IAFF Local 718, the Professional Firefighters Association of Massachusetts, Representative Jake Auchincloss (who represents Brookline), the Boston Globe Editorial Board, the Boston Chamber of Commerce, and the Massachusetts Catholic Conference; and

WHEREAS, The decision also drew criticism from the Massachusetts Legislature, with State Senators Nick Collins (D-Boston) and Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) introducing bipartisan legislation to strip local elected bodies of their authority to approve public safety grants; and

WHEREAS, Given increased geopolitical tensions domestically and internationally, the FBI has warned of an increased risk of terrorism and a dramatic rise in anti-Semitism here in the United States; and


WHEREAS, The funds offered through the grant are necessary to ensure municipalities in the metro Boston area have the equipment and training necessary to prevent, mitigate and respond to natural disasters and acts of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Wu has reintroduced the grant before the Boston City Council, where it is expected to be considered at their next meeting on Wednesday, January 24th, 2024;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chelsea City Council calls on the Boston City Council to approve the proposed Grant from the Department of Homeland Security for the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region as soon as possible, ensuring the communities of metro Boston have all available funding, resources and training to prevent, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism, and to ensure that the safety and security of the residents of Chelsea – and all those who reside in metro Boston - remain our top priority.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Clifford Cunningham
Clerk, Chelsea City Council

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