



CITY OF WORCESTER

CITY COUNCIL

WEEKLY SUMMARY

11/26/2024 - 12/2/2024



CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 11/26/2024

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REQUEST FOR CITY MANAGER TO BEGIN DRAFTING ORDINANCES TO ADVANCE TWO WORCESTER NOW|NEXT RECOMMENDATIONS

Worcester Now | Next

ITEM 10B

REQUEST CITY MANAGER BEGIN DRAFTING ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO ADVANCING TWO (2) WORCESTER NOW|NEXT RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING: A) ELIMINATING OR REDUCING MINIMUM PARKING REQUIREMENTS; AND B) REFORMING TREE PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL DEVELOPMENTS (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FOR A COPY OF THE WORCESTER NOW|NEXT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT WHERE THESE TWO RECOMMENDATIONS ARE LISTED). (HAXHIAJ)

THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL HAS VOTED TO REQUEST CITY MANAGER ERIC BATISTA TO DRAFT ORDINANCES ADVANCING TWO KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORCESTER NOW | NEXT PLAN: REDUCING OR ELIMINATING MINIMUM PARKING REQUIREMENTS AND REFORMING TREE PROTECTION POLICIES FOR DEVELOPMENTS. THESE MEASURES STEM FROM A TWO-YEAR CITYWIDE PLANNING INITIATIVE DESIGNED TO ADDRESS HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND LAND USE CHALLENGES WHILE SETTING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE CITY'S FUTURE GROWTH. COUNCILOR GEORGE RUSSELL CALLED FOR A DETAILED REPORT WITH MULTIPLE OPTIONS, FROM FULL ELIMINATION TO SCALED-BACK PARKING REQUIREMENTS. COUNCILOR KHRYSTIAN KING UNDERScoreD THE NEED FOR ZONING REFORM TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING CRISIS AND SUPPORT MORE EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.



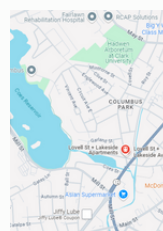
RESOLUTION READ BEFORE CITY COUNCIL DECLARING NOVEMBER 28, 2024 AS ALBANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY IN WORCESTER

ITEM 11A

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER DOES HEREBY SUPPORT AND RECOGNIZE NOVEMBER 28TH, 2024, AS ALBANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY, COMMEMORATING THE ALBANIAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE ON NOVEMBER 28, 1912. (HAXHIAJ)

THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL RECOGNIZED THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ALBANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO THE CITY AND CELEBRATED THEIR RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE WITH A RESOLUTION HEARD AT COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL COMMEMORATED ALBANIA'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE ON NOVEMBER 28, 1912, LED BY ISMAIL QEMALI AND THEY OFFICIALLY DECLARED NOVEMBER 28, 2024, AS ALBANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY IN WORCESTER.

SEE ALSO PAGE 4 FOR ALBANIAN FLAG RAISING PHOTOS!



ITEM 13A

CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE AN URBAN CENTER HOUSING TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) PLAN FOR THE WEBSTER SQUARE AREA

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPON THE COMMUNICATION OF THE CITY MANAGER RECOMMEND ADOPTION OF THE DESIGNATION OF AN URBAN CENTER HOUSING TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (UCH-TIF) PROGRAM ZONE AND APPROVAL OF A UCH-TIF PLAN FOR 34-46 LAKESIDE AVENUE: RECOMMEND ADOPTION OF THE TWO (2) ACCOMPANYING RESOLUTIONS.

AT THE NOVEMBER 26TH WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING, A KEY FOCUS WAS ON ADVOCATING FOR TAX RELIEF AS A STRATEGY TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH. THE COUNCIL DELIBERATED ON ADOPTING AN URBAN CENTER HOUSING TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) PLAN FOR THE WEBSTER SQUARE AREA, DESIGNED TO INCENTIVIZE REDEVELOPMENT AND STIMULATE INVESTMENT. THIS TIF PLAN COVERS 125 ACRES, INCLUDING KEY AREAS LIKE MILL STREET PLAZA, EDDY'S PLAZA, AND THE WEBSTER SQUARE MANUFACTURING DISTRICT, OFFERING PARTIAL REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTIONS TO ATTRACT DEVELOPERS. A CENTRAL ELEMENT OF THE PLAN IS THE WORCESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY'S INITIATIVE TO RAZE AND REBUILD LAKESIDE APARTMENTS AT 30 LAKESIDE AVENUE, REPLACING 202 UNITS AND ADDING 172 NEW ONES, TOTALING 374 UNITS.

COUNCILORS EMPHASIZED THE PLAN'S POTENTIAL TO ENHANCE BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL VITALITY IN WEBSTER SQUARE AND ITS SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS. THE PROJECT ALSO SEEKS TO CREATE A RIPPLE EFFECT, REVITALIZING BUSINESSES ALONG PARK AVENUE, MILL STREET, AND MAIN STREET. THE COUNCIL'S VOTE REFLECTS A COMMITMENT TO BALANCING HOUSING EXPANSION WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO FOSTER A THRIVING, EQUITABLE CITY.



CITY COUNCIL

WEEKLY SUMMARY

REMINDER:

The next City Council meeting
will take place on
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH
(12/3 - Holiday - NO Meeting!)

Please note: Item 14A regarding the City Manager's Employment Agreement as well as Item 7A which concerns determining Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2025 were held until the next City Council Meeting which will take place on December 10th!

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **WEDNESDAY, 12/4/2024**
 - @ 5:30 P.M. - **PUBLIC SAFETY STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING**
 - @ City Hall,
 - [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FULL AGENDA!](#)
 - [CLICK HERE TO JOIN VIRTUALLY THE DAY OF!](#)
 - Public Safety Committee Zoom Phone Number: (929) 205 6099
 - Public Safety Committee Zoom Access Code: 875 4578 7380
- **TUESDAY, 12/10/2024**
 - @ 6:30 P.M. - **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
 - @ CITY HALL, ESTHER HOWLAND CHAMBER, 3RD FLOOR, 455 MAIN STREET
 - PLEASE CHECK BACK TO VIEW THE FULL AGENDA WHEN AVAILABLE!
 - [CLICK HERE TO JOIN VIRTUALLY THE DAY OF!](#)
 - City Council ZOOM Phone Number: (929) 205 6099
 - City Council ZOOM Access Code: 917 2757 4825



**REMEMBER, YOU CAN ALWAYS
LOOK BACK TO
REVIEW OUR PREVIOUS ISSUES!**



Events in the Community



DISTRICT 4 NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP - UNIVERSITY PARK - 11/23

DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR LUIS A. OJEDA PARTNERED WITH WORCESTER GREEN CORPS TO ORGANIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP EVENT ON NOVEMBER 23. THE CLEANUP TARGETED THE UNIVERSITY PARK AREA, AIMING TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENHANCE THE COMMUNITY'S APPEARANCE. VOLUNTEERS COLLECTED APPROXIMATELY 24 BAGS OF LITTER, WHICH WEIGHED A TOTAL OF 360 POUNDS, ALONG WITH SEVERAL BULK ITEMS. COUNCILOR OJEDA HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLECTIVE ACTION IN MAINTAINING CLEAN AND SAFE PUBLIC SPACES. THE EVENT DREW SUPPORT FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO WERE EAGER TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD. PARTICIPANTS SHARED A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND PRIDE IN THEIR EFFORTS. THE CLEANUP EXEMPLIFIED A SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION BETWEEN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY GROUPS.



COUNCILOR OJEDA - MEET & GREET

@ WHITTIER TERRACE APARTMENTS - 11/25

District 4 City Councilor Luis A. Ojeda hosted a Meet-and-Greet event at the Whittier Terrace Apartments on November 25. The gathering provided an opportunity for the Councilor to connect with both staff and residents of the apartment building and to discuss with them the neighborhood and any quality-of-life issues in the area they have been experiencing. The event emphasized the councilor's focus on community engagement and addressing local concerns directly.





Events in the Community

THANKSGIVING BASKET DISTRIBUTION EVENT - 11/25

ON 11/25, DISTRICT 2 CITY COUNCILOR CANDY MERO-CARLSON, PARTICIPATED IN A THANKSGIVING BASKET DISTRIBUTION EVENT THAT BROUGHT JOY AND RELIEF TO LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED. COUNCILOR MERO-CARLSON PERSONALLY ASSISTED IN PREPARING AND HANDING OUT THE BASKETS, ENSURING EVERY RECIPIENT FELT CARED FOR AND VALUED. A TOTAL OF 32 BASKETS, EACH FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING SIDE DISHES, PIES, AND OF COURSE A TURKEY, WERE DISTRIBUTED. THESE THOUGHTFULLY PREPARED BASKETS, WRAPPED UP WITH A BOW, ENSURED THAT EVERY RECIPIENT COULD ENJOY A COMPLETE THANKSGIVING MEAL. THE EVENT SHOWCASED THE COMMUNITY'S SPIRIT OF GIVING AND COMPASSION DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. IT WAS A HEARTFELT EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING WITH DIGNITY AND GRATITUDE.



Happy
Thanksgiving



ALBANIAN FLAG RAISING CEREMONY - 11/26

ON NOVEMBER 26, WORCESTER CELEBRATED ALBANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH A FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY TO HONOR THE 1912 DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE. MAYOR JOSEPH PETTY DELIVERED A PROCLAMATION TO THE LARGE CROWD THAT GATHERED IN FRONT OF CITY HALL, EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DAY AND RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ALBANIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO THE CITY. AT LARGE CITY COUNCILOR DONNA COLORIO AND DISTRICT 5 CITY COUNCILOR ETEL HAXHIAJ ALSO SPOKE, SHARING REFLECTIONS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EVENT AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ALBANIAN COMMUNITY IN WORCESTER. CITY CLERK NIKOLIN VANGJELI, WHO WAS IN ATTENDANCE, WAS ACKNOWLEDGED FOR HIS ROLE AS A PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE ALBANIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR LUIS A. OJEDA WAS PRESENT TO SUPPORT, FURTHER REPRESENTING THE CITY'S LEADERSHIP AT THE CEREMONY. THE PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDED STUDENTS WHO RECITED POEMS BY CELEBRATED ALBANIAN POETS, AND TRADITIONAL MUSIC WAS PERFORMED BY GEGE AND NDOC DELIA, ADDING CULTURAL DEPTH TO THE EVENT. THE CEREMONY CONCLUDED WITH THE RAISING OF THE ALBANIAN FLAG, SYMBOLIZING PRIDE IN HERITAGE AND THE STRONG TIES BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE CITY.





Worcester Announces Permanent Winter Parking Ban in Effect Dec. 1 Through April 30



The City of Worcester announced Friday November 22, it's **Permanent Winter Parking Ban** will go into effect **Dec. 1, 2024**, and will remain through **April 30, 2025 (April 1 for residential streets)**. The Permanent Winter Parking Ban applies to emergency arteries, WRTA bus routes, and streets that are critical to the flow of traffic. There is no parking on one or both sides of the affected street between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. nor any time a snow emergency is declared.

In addition to the Permanent Winter Parking Ban, a Declared Winter Parking Ban will go into effect on all other city streets whenever accumulating snow is forecast. When a declared ban is in effect, parking is allowed only on the odd-numbered side of other streets, unless posted otherwise, and municipal parking garages will be free to use until noted following the ban's lifting. Parking enforcement—including ticketing and towing—will be active during a Declared Ban, as adherence to parking bans is critical to allow municipal crews to keep roadways clear and safe.

Worcester 311 is the official source for up-to-date information on winter parking bans, parking regulations on your street, and snow complaints.

For the latest updates on winter parking bans:

- Sign up for [ALERTWorcester](#) and receive notifications to your phone or email
- Follow Worcester 311 on [Twitter \(X\)](#) and [Facebook](#)
- Watch Government Access Channel 192

Illegally parked vehicles are the biggest obstacle to effective snow removal efforts. Vehicles that violate the winter parking ban or otherwise hinder snow removal will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense. Please support the municipality's efforts by parking your vehicle in conformance with the winter parking ban. Back to Announcements List

Winter Parking Rules

Winter parking bans on public streets fall under two categories, **PERMANENT** and **DECLARED**.

- **A PERMANENT BAN** remains in effect from December 1st through April 30th on Emergency Arteries, WRTA Bus Routes, and streets that are critical to the flow of traffic. There is no parking on one or both sides of the street between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. and anytime a snow emergency is declared.
- **A DECLARED BAN** is put into effect on all remaining city streets whenever accumulating snow is forecast. When a Declared Ban is in effect, restrictions apply that typically allow parking on one side of the street.

**CLICK HERE FOR FULL WINTER PARKING BAN INFORMATION
AND TO LOOK UP YOUR STREET SPECIFICALLY!**



CITY OF WORCESTER

CITY COUNCIL WEEKLY SUMMARY

YOUR City Councilors

WORCESTER'S CITY COUNCIL CONSISTS OF ELEVEN COUNCIL MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE MAYOR & COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE, JOSEPH M. PETTY. THESE ELEVEN ELECTED OFFICIALS SERVE AS THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE CITY. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF THEIR CITY AND COMMUNITY.

THERE ARE SIX COUNCILORS-AT-LARGE AND FIVE COUNCILORS THAT EACH REPRESENT A SPECIFIC DISTRICT IN WORCESTER (DISTRICTS 1-5).

IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF WHO YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILOR IS, [CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT!](#)

AT-LARGE CITY COUNCILORS



MAYOR
JOSEPH M. PETTY



VICE CHAIRMAN
KHRYSTIAN E. KING



MORRIS A.
BERGMAN



THU
NGUYEN



KATHLEEN M.
TOOMEY



DONNA M.
COLORIO

DISTRICT CITY COUNCILORS



DISTRICT 1
JENNY PACILLO



DISTRICT 2
CANDY MERO-CARLSON



DISTRICT 3
GEORGE J. RUSSELL



DISTRICT 4
LUIS A. OJEDA, SR.



DISTRICT 5
ETEL HAXHIAJ



CITY COUNCIL
WEEKLY SUMMARY

Upcoming *Holiday* Events

- **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 @ 6:00 P.M. @ BLITHEWOOD PLAYGROUND - GRAFTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION HOSTS 14TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**
- **MONDAY, DECEMBER 2 @ 3:00 P.M. @ MAYSIDE APARTMENTS, MAYSIDE LANE - WHA MAYSIDE APARTMENTS RESIDENT HOLIDAY MEAL**
- **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 @ 3:00 P.M. @ 1060 MAIN STREET WHA 1060 MAIN STREET RESIDENT HOLIDAY MEAL**
- **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 @ 3:00 P.M. @ BELMONT TOWER APARTMENTS WHA BELMONT TOWER APARTMENTS RESIDENT HOLIDAY MEAL**
- **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH @ 4:30 P.M. @ WORCESTER COMMON DOWNTOWN FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AND CITY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**
- **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 @ 10:00 A.M - 10:00 P.M. @ GREEN STREET/WATER STREET CANAL DISTRICT HOLIDAY STROLL**
- **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 @ 5:00 P.M. @ KELLEY SQUARE KELLEY SQUARE TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 @ 6:00 P.M. @ ST. BERNARD'S CHURCH, 236 LINCOLN STREET LIGHT UP LINCOLN STREET**

Please check back for more events to follow!!



UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- **WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 4 -**

- **SEABURY HEIGHTS APARTMENTS NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

- TIME: 4:00 P.M.
- WHERE: SEABURY HEIGHTS APARTMENTS, 240 BELMONT STREET, BUILDING B

- **COES POND VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

- TIME: 5:30 P.M.
- WHERE: COES POND VILLAGE APARTMENTS, 39 1ST STREET

- **THURSDAY - DECEMBER 5 -**

- **LINCOLN VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

- TIME: 4:00 P.M.
- WHERE: VICTORIA BUILDING, 116 COUNTRY CLUB BLVD.

- **PACT NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

- TIME: 5:30 P.M.
- WHERE: NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK CENTER, 301 PLEASANT STREET

- **WEBSTER SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

- TIME: 7:00 P.M.
- WHERE: OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS CHURCH, 1222 MAIN STREET

- **MONDAY - DECEMBER 9 -**

- **WHA - LAFAYETTE PLACE MEET & GREET WITH DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR LUIS A. OJEDA**

- TIME: 3:00 - 4:00 P.M.
- WHERE: LAFAYETTE PLACE (2 LAFAYETTE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01608)