



# CITY OF WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

## WEEKLY SUMMARY

2/24/2025 - 2/28/2025



### CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 2/25/2025

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL AGENDA & MINUTES!](#) [CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE MEETING!](#)

#### Utility Bills



#### CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION REDUCING UTILITY RATES

#### ITEM 12A

#### RESOLUTION THAT THE CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 5% REDUCTION OF RESIDENT UTILITY BILLS

THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TO REDUCE RESIDENTS' PUBLIC UTILITY BILLS BY 5% FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH AND APRIL.

IN RECENT MONTHS RESIDENTS IN WORCESTER AND THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH HAVE FACED DRASTICALLY HIGH UTILITY BILLS. IN RESPONSE TO THESE RATES, THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES MANDATED UTILITY COMPANIES TO REDUCE RATES UP TO 5% FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH AND APRIL IN AN EFFORT TO ALLEVIATE SOME FINANCIAL BURDEN PLACED ON RESIDENTS.



#### CITY COUNCIL ADVANCES ORDER PROVIDING UPDATES ON THE BALLPARK DISTRICT FINANCING REVENUES

#### ITEM 11A

#### REQUEST CITY MANAGER TO PROVIDE CITY COUNCIL WITH UPDATES CONCERNING THE BALLPARK DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT FINANCING REVENUES (DIF)

THE CITY COUNCIL ADVANCED AN ORDER REQUESTING THE CITY MANAGER PROVIDE THE CITY COUNCIL WITH UPDATES CONCERNING THE BALLPARK DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT FINANCING REVENUES AND OTHER EFFORTS TO ADDRESS PROMISED PROPERTIES IN THE AREA.

THE CITY OF WORCESTER ESTABLISHED A DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT FINANCING PLAN IN 2018 IN ORDER TO FINANCE THE POLAR PARK BASEBALL STADIUM. THE CITY PROJECTS THAT THE BALLPARK'S DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT FINANCING RESERVE WILL GENERATE \$50 MILLION BY THE YEAR 2048.



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## Standing Committee Meetings

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MET ON TUESDAY, 2/25/2025



- CHAIRPERSON - **COUNCILOR KATE TOOMEY- AT-LARGE CITY COUNCILOR**
- VICE CHAIRPERSON - **COUNCILOR MORRIS BERGMAN- AT-LARGE CITY COUNCILOR**
- COMMITTEE MEMBER - **COUNCILOR LUIS OJEDA - DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR**

- [CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL AGENDA!](#)
- [CLICK HERE TO VIEW MEETING!](#)

### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

MET ON WEDNESDAY, 2/26/2025



- CHAIRPERSON - **COUNCILOR GEORGE RUSSELL- DISTRICT 3 CITY COUNCILOR**
- VICE CHAIRPERSON - **COUNCILOR CANDY MERO-CARLSON- DISTRICT 2 CITY COUNCILOR**
- COMMITTEE MEMBER - **COUNCILOR JENNY PACILLO - DISTRICT 1 CITY COUNCILOR**

- [CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL AGENDA!](#)
- [CLICK HERE TO VIEW MEETING!](#)

### PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MET ON THURSDAY, 2/27/2025



- CHAIRPERSON - **COUNCILOR LUIS OJEDA- DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR**
- VICE CHAIRPERSON - **COUNCILOR ETEL HAXHIAJ- DISTRICT 5 CITY COUNCILOR**
- COMMITTEE MEMBER - **COUNCILOR CANDY MERO-CARLSON - DISTRICT 2 CITY COUNCILOR**

- [CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL AGENDA!](#)
- [CLICK HERE TO VIEW MEETING!](#)

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





# UPCOMING *COMMUNITY MEETINGS*

- **MONDAY - MARCH 3 -**

- **GREEN ISLAND NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

- TIME: 6:00 P.M.
    - WHERE: WRTA MAINTENANCE FACILITY, 42 QUINSIGAMOND AVENUE

- **WEDNESDAY - MARCH 5 -**

- **SEABURY HEIGHTS APARTMENTS NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

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

- **THURSDAY - MARCH 6 -**

- **LINCOLN VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

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

- **PACT NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

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

- **WEBSTER SQ NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

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





## Events in the Community



### **NAVIGATING THE MAZE: THE BLACK EXPERIENCE WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM PANEL - 2/20**

VICE CHAIRMAN KHRYSTIAN KING WAS INVITED TO SPEAK ON A PANEL HOSTED JOINTLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND OPEN SKY TO DISCUSS THE BLACK EXPERIENCE WHILE NAVIGATING THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM.

DRAWING ON BOTH HIS EXPERTISE AS A SOCIAL WORKER AND HIS EXPERIENCE AS A COUNCILOR, KING PROVIDED VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO THE CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR BLACK INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES. THE PANEL, WHICH FEATURED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE, WAS BOTH EMOTIONAL AND POWERFUL FOR ALL INVOLVED.



### **EL SOMBRERO TAQUERIA RIBBON CUTTING - 2/24**

DISTRICT 2 CITY COUNCILOR CANDY MERO-CALRSON WAS JOINED BY MAYOR PETTY, DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR LUIS OJEDA, AND STATE SENATOR ROBYN KENNEDY TO CELEBRATE THE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR EL SOMBRERO TAQUERIA.

EL SOMBRERO TAQUERIA IS A FAMILY OWNED AND RAN RESTAURANT SPECIALIZING IN MEXICAN CUISINE. THEIR STORY STARTED WHEN THEIR GREAT GRANDMOTHER WAS A COOK DURING THE MEXICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR FOR GENERAL PANCHO VILLA. NOW GENERATIONS LATER, THE FAMILY CONTINUES THEIR PASSION FOR MEXICAN CUISINE.

### **BAGEL TIME RIBBON CUTTING 2/27**

DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCILOR LUIS OJEDA WAS JOINED BY MAYOR PETTY AND VICE CHAIRMAN KHRYSTIAN KING FOR THE LONG-AWAITED RIBBON-CUTTING OF BAGEL TIME'S NEW LOCATION AT 500 PLEASANT ST. GISELLE RIVERA-FLORES OF SENATOR KENNEDY'S OFFICE PRESENTED A CITATION ON BEHALF OF THE STATE DELEGATION.

BAGEL TIME FIRST OPENED UNDER ITS ORIGINAL OWNERS IN 1992, AND IT WAS REVEALED DURING THE EVENT THAT COUNCILOR OJEDA WAS ONE OF THE FIRST STAFF MEMBERS AT THAT LOCATION AND A BIG FAN OF THE RASPBERRY RUGELACH! THE STORY OF BAGEL TIME IS ONE OF RESILIENCE, IMMIGRATION, AND DELICIOUS FOOD.





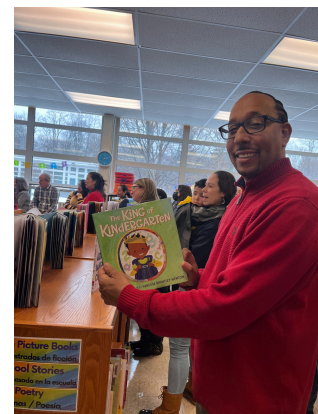


## Events in the Community

### **BILINGUAL SCHOOL LIBRARY RIBBON CUTTING & OPEN HOUSE - 2/27**

VICE CHAIRMAN KHRYSTIAN KING, SENATOR KENNEDY, REPRESENTATIVE MAHONEY, AND SEVERAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDED THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY FOR THE FIRST BILINGUAL LIBRARY IN THE WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS, LOCATED AT WORCESTER DUAL LANGUAGE MAGNET SCHOOL (FORMERLY CHANDLER MAGNET). THIS INITIATIVE AIMS TO INCREASE STUDENTS' ACCESS TO BOOKS, ENHANCE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND SUPPORT LITERACY.

THE EVENT WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY PERFORMANCES OF SONGS IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH. SUPERINTENDENT DR. RACHEL H. MONÁRREZ READ A BOOK IN SPANISH, FOLLOWED BY A READING FROM STUDENTS.



### **FOREST GROVE 8TH GRADE WALK-OUT - 2/28**

VICE CHAIRMAN KHRYSTIAN KING JOINED FOREST GROVE'S 8TH-GRADE CIVIC STUDENTS FOR THEIR FIRST WALKOUT AND PROTEST FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. THE STUDENTS CREATED SIGNS TO SUPPORT CAUSES THAT WERE MEANINGFUL TO THEM AND STOOD ALONG GROVE STREET FOR OVER 20 MINUTES, ASKING CARS TO HONK IN SUPPORT. THE ENERGY WAS INVIGORATING AND MARKED THE BEGINNING OF A LONGER CONVERSATION.

AFTERWARD, THE STUDENTS GATHERED INSIDE, WHERE THEIR PEERS SHARED POEMS, PERSONAL STORIES ABOUT FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCES WITH RACISM, AND RECITED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S "I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH. FOLLOWING THESE PRESENTATIONS, COUNCILOR KING OFFERED ADVICE ON LEADERSHIP, SPOKE ABOUT THIS YEAR'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH THEME, "AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LABOR," AND ENCOURAGED STUDENTS TO CONTINUE COMING TOGETHER IN THIS MOMENT OF UNCERTAINTY.

THIS EVENT WAS DIRECTLY TIED TO THE STUDENTS' CURRICULUM AND INVOLVED STUDENT PARTICIPATION THROUGH THE PROJECT 351 PROGRAM.



### 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



**WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING SCHEDULE – 2025**

**January**

January 7 – **Joint Agenda**

January 14 – **City Council Agenda**

January 21 – **City Manager Agenda**

January 28 – **City Council Agenda – Finance**

**February**

February 4 – **City Manager Agenda**

February 11 – **City Council Agenda**

February 18 – **No Meeting – School Break**

February 25 – **Joint Agenda – Finance**

**March**

March 4 – **City Manager Agenda / Econ. Dev.**

March 11 – **City Council Agenda**

March 18 – **City Manager Agenda**

March 25 – **City Council Agenda – Finance**

**April**

April 1 – **City Manager Agenda**

April 8 – **City Council Agenda**

April 15 – **City Manager Agenda**

April 22 – **No Meeting – School Break**

April 29 – **Joint Agenda – Finance**

**May**

May 6 – **City Council Agenda**

May 13 – **City Manager Agenda**

May 20 – **No Meeting – Budget Hearings**

May 27 – **No Meeting – Budget Hearings**

**June**

June 3 – **No Meeting – Shavuot**

June 10 – **Joint Agenda**

June 17 – **City Council Agenda**

June 24 – **City Manager Evaluation**

**July**

July 1 – **No Meeting**

July 8 – **No Meeting**

July 15 – **Joint Agenda**

July 22 – **No Meeting**

July 29 – **No Meeting**

**August**

August 5 – **No Meeting**

August 12 – **No Meeting**

August 19 – **Joint Agenda**

August 26 – **No Meeting**

**September**

September 2 – **No Meeting – Mun. Prelim.**

September 9 – **Joint Agenda / Econ. Dev.**

September 16 – **City Manager Agenda**

September 23 – **No Meeting – Rosh Hashanah**

September 30 – **Joint Agenda – Finance**

**October**

October 7 – **No Meeting – Sukkot**

October 14 – **No Meeting –**

**Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah**

October 21 – **Joint Agenda – Finance**

October 28 – **No Meeting – Early Voting**

**November**

November 4 – **No Meeting – Mun. Election**

November 11 – **Joint Agenda**

November 18 – **City Council Agenda – Fin.**

November 25 – **City Manager Agenda**

**December**

December 2 – **No Meeting – Holiday**

December 9 – **Joint Agenda**

December 16 – **City Council Agenda – Fin.**

December 23 – **City Manager Agenda**

December 30 – **No Meeting – School Break**

Each Meeting convenes at 6:30 p.m. in the Esther Howland (South) Chamber on the Third Floor of City Hall, 455 Main Street. The only exceptions are in the months of July and August, when meetings convene at 6:00 p.m.