



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
*HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT*

KATJANA BALLANTYNE  
MAYOR

*KARIN CARROLL*  
*DIRECTOR OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES*

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**May 15, 2025**

Open Conference / Virtual (Zoom) Meeting

Members Present:

Brian Green, MD (Chair)  
Margaret H Coit, Board Member  
Lucy Barrows, Recording Secretary  
Karin Carroll, Director of Health & Human Services

- 1. Meeting Call to Order:** Brian Green made a motion to open the meeting at 6:03 pm. It was seconded by Margaret H Coit. All in favor.
- 2. Minutes Approval:** Brian Green made a motion to approve the minutes from April 17, 2025. It was seconded by Margaret H Coit. All in favor.
- 3. Request for variance from State Plumbing Code-Pre Installation- 14 Wisconsin Ave, Clare Schiulze & William Detmold (ISD)**

Mathew Zaino spoke to variance requests. The bathtub is the same as another tub that is under a different name, but the specs are the same. The Plumbing Inspector has also approved this variance request. Dr Green asked if there would be a re-inspection. M Zaino stated that yes, the plumbing inspector will revisit. MC makes a motion to approve the variance request to the state plumbing code to allow for the tub as proposed. Brian Green seconded – All in favor

Inspectional Services-Food Inspections, Community Complaints/Concerns, Questions from Board of Health – Matt Zaino explained that Nick Antanavica has left the city, and Matt will be acting ISD Director. The Board thanked Nick for his service. Matt Zaino said there were no significant concerns from ISD at this time. He sent an activity report which will be included in the meeting minutes.

- 4. Request to appeal Cease and Desist order-LP Mart, 96 Highland Avenue (Tobacco Control)**

Bonny Carroll explained the violation was a sale to a minor and the establishment across from the high school. The owner, Alaa Ramadan, spoke and explained he has been the owner of this establishment for 37 years and one of his new staff made a mistake. He stated business is bad and he cannot pay the fine. Mr. Ramadan agreed that he and his staff made a mistake and asked the fine to be forgiven. Dr Green offered to set up a payment plan if that is helpful, but the Board of Health does not forgive violation fines. M Coit stated that we cannot apply fines and penalties differently to businesses. B Carroll said he can take the appeal to a higher court of jurisdiction if he wants to challenge the Board's decision. Dr Green stated there have been previous violations from this establishment. Dr Green made a motion to deny the appeal for the violation. Margaret H Coit. seconded.

#### **5. Health and Human Services** - Staffing, Department activity and events, budget and goals updates, questions from the Board of Health

Director Carroll read a proclamation for former Board of Health member, Dr Osler, submitted by CHA for their support. BOH supported this recognition effort. BG whole-heartedly support this.

The team has been busy participating in several FY 26 budget and goal planning meetings. The Administration is predicting there will not be a lot of new programs or positions in the city overall this year due to the financial projections to-date and has asked for a 3% reduction in all city department's level funded budgets. The mayor will present her budget on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

HHS has identified 3 key priority areas for the FY26 budget cycle as well- food access for youth, out of school time programs and youth employment and we continue to look for ways to invest in those areas.

Other departmental updates.

- Mayor's summer jobs program is ramping up with interviews and placements in the coming weeks.
- HHS is participating in "Slice of the City" events throughout the city.
- Memorial Day Parade and 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Army events, as well as Veterans' breakfast 5/22
- HHS co-facilitated city-wide Gender Equity training which began in April and has been well received by staff.
- Pride Flag raising is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup> at City Hall.
- Dept of Early Education and Care Commissioner in Somerville Monday to recognize the work of Somerville in ECE - SomerPromise facilitator of that work.
- HHS Director to serve on the city-wide committee to explore ways to increase Permanent Supportive Housing in Somerville.

#### **6. Next Meeting: 06/12/2025**

**Meeting Adjourn:** Brian Green moves to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 PM. seconded by Margaret H Coit. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Barrows  
Board of Health Recording Secretary