

City of Fall River Massachusetts

Office of the City Clerk

INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE
CITY CLERK

CHELSEA PACHECO
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING: June 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel,
Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr.,
Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: None

President Ponte called the meeting to order at 8:47 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Camara, it was unanimously voted to lift item 1 from the table.

PRIORITY MATTERS

1. Mayor and veto of the proposed ordinance authorizing the City Council to hire outside legal counsel

On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was voted 6 yeas, 3 nays, that the proposed ordinance be passed to be ordained, as amended, notwithstanding the veto of the Mayor, with Councilors Camara, Hart and Pereira voting in the negative.

2. Mayor and request for confirmation of the appointment of Nathaniel Roberts to the Cultural Council

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was unanimously voted to confirm the appointment.

3. Mayor and grant order to accept \$10,000 from Southcoast Health to procure a state-of-the-art advanced training manikin for the Emergency Medical Services Dept.

On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.

Approved, June 11, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

4. Mayor and Memorandum of Agreement for Labor Advantage for Workers, Local 124
On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.
Approved, June 11, 2026
Paul E. Coogan, Mayor
5. Mayor and proposed ordinance amending §2-401, Chief of Police – Appointment; powers and duties; term
On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to refer the proposed ordinance to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation.
6. Mayor and proposed ordinance amending §50-303, Salary schedule for political appointments and boards/committees
On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to refer the proposed ordinance to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation.
7. Mayor and proposed ordinance amending §50-301, Salary schedule for executive officers, department heads, and non-union personnel
On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to refer the proposed ordinance to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation.
8. Mayor and proposed ordinance amending §62-2(C), Solid waste – collection and disposal generally
On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to refer the proposed ordinance to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation.

PRIORITY COMMUNICATIONS

9. Traffic Commission recommending amendments to the traffic ordinances
On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to refer the recommendations to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation.
10. Fall River Redevelopment Authority regarding Davol Street Corridor Maintenance
On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file.
11. Commission on Disability regarding recommended changes to polling places
On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

ORDINANCES

Second reading and enrollment, as amended

12. Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Violations and penalties
On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed through second reading and enrollment, as amended. On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed to be ordained, as amended.
Approved, June 11, 2026
Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

RESOLUTIONS – None

CITATIONS

13. Evolve Academy – Services provided to veterans during Memorial Day Ceremonies
On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the citation be accepted and placed on file.

14. Argosy Collegiate Charter School Early College Program Participants –
Receipt of Associate Degree from Bristol Community College
- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Ian Ahaesy | Ethan Booth | Gabriel Booth | Mariana Brown |
| Amy Chhem | Leonardo Demorais | Breana Frias | Kimora Gallimore |
| Vanessa Garcia | Phaneika Gardinere | Caleb Hanley | Isabell Keefe |
| Nicholas Kelley | Anaiyah Longchamp | Katrina Magalhaes | Samantha Pierre |
| Evan Raposo | Cloey Rodrigues | Jimmy Xu | |

On a motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Camara, it was unanimously voted that the citations be accepted and placed on file.

On a further motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to take items 15 through 23 together.

ORDERS – HEARINGS

Auto Repair Shop License

15. Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC., 200 4th Avenue S, Suite 100, Nashville, TN 37201 d/b/a Firestone Complete Auto Care for a license to operate an auto repair shop at 748 Pleasant Street, on Lot M-10-82 Assessors Plan

Curb Removal

16. 28 McDonald Street Realty LLC, 317 Lindsey Street – Removal of 20 feet of curbing for an opening total of 20 feet at 28 McDonald Street
17. Steven T. Gomes Living Trust, 721 Oak Grove Avenue – Removal of 32 feet of curbing for an opening total of 32 feet at 23-25 Salisbury Street
18. 87 Aetna Street, LLC, 87 Aetna Street – Removal of 16 feet of curbing for an opening total of 32 feet at 87 Aetna Street (corner lot)
19. BISWAS, LLC, 80 Jenson Farm Road, Braintree, MA 02184 – Removal of 20 feet of curbing for an opening total of 34 feet at 386 High Street (corner lot)

Jointly Owned Pole Locations

20. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Bay Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
21. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., County Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
22. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Eclipse Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location and anchor
23. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Jefferson Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location

On a further motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to adopt the orders.

Approved, June 11, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

ORDERS – MISCELLANEOUS

24. Police Chief's Report on Licenses
Taxicab Driver
Jaime Andrade Rego

Private Livery Vehicle
Rego Rides Inc. – One (1) vehicle

On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.

COMMUNICATIONS – INVITATIONS – PETITIONS

25. Claims

On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to refer the claims to Corporation Counsel.

26. Interim Superintendent of Fall River Public Schools re: Fiscal Year 2027 deliberations

On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file.

27. Communication from the Fall River Preservation Society of Fall River, Inc., Board of Directors re: City Council vote to award Community Preservation Act funding

On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the communication be accepted and placed on file.

28. Applications for structures on or over a public way for St. Anthony of the Desert Maronite Catholic Church Inc. to hang banners (30' x 3') from June 30, 2026 to August 12, 2026 at the following locations:

- a. Bedford Street at intersection of Troy Street
- b. Pleasant Street near the Fall River Police Department Building
- c. South Main Street near the Cultural Center

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel it was unanimously voted to approve the applications, with Councilor Camara abstaining.

29. Drainlayer Licenses

Communications Construction Group, LLC
R.W. Bryant Contracting, Inc.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to approve the drainlayer applications.

Approved, June 11, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

30. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes – April 16, 2026

On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the minutes be accepted and placed on file.

On a further motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to take items 31 through 34 together.

City Council Minutes

31. Public Hearings – May 12, 2026
32. Committee on Finance – May 12, 2026
33. Regular Meeting of the City Council – May 12, 2026
34. Special Meeting of the City Council – May 19, 2026

On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES – None

ITEMS FILED AFTER THE AGENDA DEADLINE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: JUNE 9, 2026

BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES

35. Fall River Contributory Retirement Board re: vote of 3% cost of living increase
On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was unanimously voted that the notice be accepted and placed on file.

OTHER POTENTIAL MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (if received):

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Finance recommending:

Action

- 11a. Loan order of \$29,800,000 for the purchase of the former Bishop Connolly High School property located at 373 Elsbree Street

On a motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted 7 yeas, 1 nay to adopt the loan order, with Councilor Peckham voting in the negative and Councilor Raposo abstaining.

Approved, June 11, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

A brief recess was held from 8:59 p.m. to 9:01 p.m. for the signing of the Traffic ordinance.

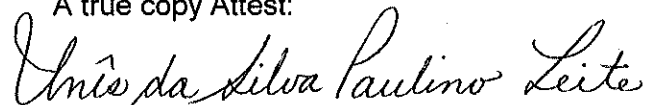
Councilor Camara asked if there were any scheduled budgetary meetings prior to the next Regular Meeting of the City Council, scheduled for June 23, 2026. President Ponte stated that there are currently no additional budget meetings on the calendar, and that this scheduling will be dependent on when the City Council receives a revised Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:01 p.m.

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:

Agenda packet (attached)

A true copy Attest:



City Clerk

In City Council, June 23, 2026
Approved.



City of Fall River Massachusetts

Office of the City Clerk

RECEIVED

2026 JUN -5 P 12:51

INÊS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE
CITY CLERK

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

CHELSEA PACHECO
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER
JUNE 9, 2026
AGENDA

5:55 P.M. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Auto Repair Shop License

1. Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC., 200 4th Avenue S, Suite 100, Nashville, TN 37201 d/b/a Firestone Complete Auto Care for a license to operate an auto repair shop at 748 Pleasant Street, on Lot M-10-82 Assessors Plan.

Curb Removals

2. 28 McDonald Street Realty LLC, 317 Lindsey Street, for the removal of curbing as follows:

	Existing Opening	Curbing to be Removed	Curbing to be Added	Combined Opening Proposed After Alteration
28 McDonald Street	0'	20'	0'	20'

The existing parcel currently has no curb opening or driveway. The applicant proposes to create a new 20-foot curb opening/driveway. The total opening for the location will be 20 feet.

3. Steven T. Gomes Living Trust, 721 Oak Grove Avenue, for the removal of curbing as follows:

	Existing Opening	Curbing to be Removed	Curbing to be Added	Combined Opening Proposed After Alteration
23-25 Salisbury Street	0'	32'	0'	32'

The applicant proposes to create two (2) new 16-foot curb opening/driveway on Salisbury Street to provide access and parking. The total opening for the location will be 32 feet. This project has received Site Plan Review Approval.

ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. 508-324-2650

One Government Center • Fall River, MA 02722
TEL 508-324-2220 • FAX 508-324-2211 • EMAIL city_clerk@fallriverma.gov

4. 87 Aetna Street, LLC, 87 Aetna Street, for the removal of curbing as follows:

	Existing Opening	Curbing to be Removed	Curbing to be Added	Combined Opening Proposed After Alteration
Vale Street	16'	0'	0'	16'
87 Aetna Street	0'	16'	0'	<u>16'</u>
Total				32'

The existing parcel is served by a 16-foot curb opening on Vale Street. The applicant proposes to create a new 16-foot curb opening on Aetna Street to provide improved access to an existing parking area and parking. The total opening for the location will be 32 feet.

5. BISWAS, LLC, 80 Jenson Farm Road, Braintree, MA 02184 for the removal of curbing as follows:

	Existing Opening	Curbing to be Removed	Curbing to be Added	Combined Opening Proposed After Alteration
Walnut Street	14'	0'	0'	14'
386 High Street	0'	20'	0'	<u>20'</u>
Total				34'

The existing parcel is served by a 14-foot curb opening on Walnut Street. The applicant proposes to create a new 20-foot curb opening/driveway on High Street to provide access and parking. The total opening for the location will be 34 feet. Site Plan review has been completed.

Jointly Owned Pole Locations

6. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

Bay Street

One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned 45-foot class 2 pole (P88-50) on Bay Street approximately 200 feet northeasterly of the centerline of the intersection of Bay Street and Mount Hope Avenue between existing Pole 88 and Pole 89. In accordance with Plan No. 31292208.

7. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

County Street

One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned 45-foot class 2 mid-span pole (P53-50) on County Street, beginning at a point approximately 45 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of California Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31285703.

ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. 508-324-2650

8. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

Eclipse Street

One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned 35-foot class 4 pole (P2) and one new jointly owned anchor on Eclipse Street, approximately 130 feet south of existing P31 on Tucker Street and between the property lines of 81 Tucker Street and 190 Eclipse Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31307175.

9. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

Jefferson Street

One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned midspan pole (P9-50) on Jefferson Street approximately 100 feet northerly of the centerline of the intersection of Oman Street and Jefferson Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31304008.

6:00 P.M. CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE MEETING (OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARINGS IF THEY RUN PAST 6:00 P.M.)

Presentation of Citations

- Evolve Academy – Services provided to veterans during 2026 Memorial Day ceremonies
- Argosy Collegiate Charter School Early College Program Participants – Receipt of Associate Degree from Bristol Community College

1. Citizen Input
2. *Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit prepared by Roselli, Clark & Associates (referred 4-28-2026)
3. *Loan order of \$29,800,000 for the purchase of the former Bishop Connolly High School property located at 373 Elsbree Street (referred 5-26-2026)

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL (OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE MEETING IF IT RUNS PAST 7:00 P.M.)

PRIORITY MATTERS

1. *Mayor and veto of the proposed ordinance authorizing the City Council to hire outside legal counsel (laid on the table 5-26-2026)
2. *Mayor and request for confirmation of the appointment of Nathaniel Roberts to the Cultural Council
3. *Mayor and grant order to accept \$10,000 from Southcoast Health to procure a state-of-the-art advanced training manikin for the Emergency Medical Services Dept.
4. *Mayor and Memorandum of Agreement for Labor Advantage for Workers, Local 124
5. *Mayor and proposed ordinance amending §2-401, Chief of Police – Appointment; powers and duties; term
6. *Mayor and proposed ordinance amending §50-303, Salary schedule for political appointments and boards/committees
7. *Mayor and proposed ordinance amending §50-301, Salary schedule for executive officers, department heads, and non-union personnel
8. *Mayor and proposed ordinance amending §62-2(C), Solid waste – collection and disposal generally

ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. 508-324-2650

PRIORITY COMMUNICATIONS

- 9. *Traffic Commission recommending amendments to the traffic ordinances
- 10. *Fall River Redevelopment Authority regarding Davol Street Corridor Maintenance
- 11. *Commission on Disability regarding recommended changes to polling places

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

ORDINANCES

Second reading and enrollment, as amended

- 12. *Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Violations and penalties

RESOLUTIONS – None

CITATIONS

- 13. Evolve Academy – Services provided to veterans during Memorial Day Ceremonies

- 14. Argosy Collegiate Charter School Early College Program Participants –
Receipt of Associate Degree from Bristol Community College
Ian Ahaesy Ethan Booth Gabriel Booth Mariana Brown
Amy Chhem Leonardo Demorais Breana Frias Kimora Gallimore
Vanessa Garcia Phaneika Gardinere Caleb Hanley Isabell Keefe
Nicholas Kelley Anaiyah Longchamp Katrina Magalhaes Samantha Pierre
Evan Raposo Cloey Rodrigues Jimmy Xu

ORDERS – HEARINGS

Auto Repair Shop License

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- 22. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Eclipse Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location and anchor
- 23. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Jefferson Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location

ORDERS – MISCELLANEOUS

24. Police Chief's Report on Licenses
Taxicab Driver
Jaime Andrade Rego

Private Livery Vehicle
Rego Rides Inc. – One (1) vehicle

COMMUNICATIONS – INVITATIONS – PETITIONS

25. *Claims
26. *Interim Superintendent of Fall River Public Schools re: Fiscal Year 2027 deliberations
27. *Communication from the Fall River Preservation Society of Fall River, Inc., Board of Directors re: City Council vote to award Community Preservation Act funding
28. *Applications for structures on or over a public way for St. Anthony of the Desert Maronite Catholic Church Inc. to hang banners (30' x 3') from June 30, 2026 to August 12, 2026 at the following locations:
a. Bedford Street at intersection of Troy Street
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29. Drainlayer Licenses
Communications Construction Group, LLC
R.W. Bryant Contracting, Inc.
30. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes – April 16, 2026
- City Council Minutes
31. *Public Hearings – May 12, 2026
32. *Committee on Finance – May 12, 2026
33. *Regular Meeting of the City Council – May 12, 2026
34. *Special Meeting of the City Council – May 19, 2026

BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES – None

Aminda Silva Paulino Leite
City Clerk

ITEMS FILED AFTER THE AGENDA DEADLINE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: JUNE 9, 2026

BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES

35. *Fall River Contributory Retirement Board re: vote of 3% cost of living increase

OTHER POTENTIAL MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (if received):

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Finance recommending:

Action

- Loan order of \$29,800,000 for the purchase of the former Bishop Connolly High School property located at 373 Elsbree Street



City of Fall River
Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

PAUL E. COOGAN
Mayor

May 14, 2026

Council President
Members of the Honorable Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Council President and Members of the Honorable Council,

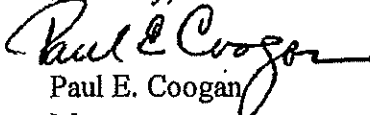
This correspondence is to notify the Honorable Council that I have vetoed the Ordinance passed by Council at its 'meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, as it pertains to Section 2-33, Authority to Retain Outside Legal Counsel, of the Code of the City of Fall River, Massachusetts, 2018 which chapter relates to Administration.

I base this decision on the following attachments:

- 1). Chapter 2, Article V Division 7, Section 2-523 and 2-527 of the Code of of the City of Fall River, MA
- 2). Corporation Counsel, Alan Rumsey's, Legal Opinion dated March 254, 2026
- 3). City Council of Boston vs Mayor of Boston, 58 Mass.App.Ct. 542 (2003)

For any additional questions or concerns please feel free to contact me or my office.

Sincerely,


Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

PC/amos

CITY OF FALL RIVER
IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 26 2026

*Laid on the table
in accordance with the
Charter*

RECEIVED

2026 MAY 15 A 8 16

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA



Ordinance No. 2026-11
Authorize City Council to hire outside legal counsel
CITY OF FALL RIVER MASSACHUSETTS

INÉS DA SILVA PAULINO LEITE
CITY CLERK

CHELSEA PACHECO
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

May 12, 2026

To the City Council Committee on Ordinances and Legislation:

In accordance with a vote of the City Council taken on May 12, 2026, I have enrolled an ordinance relating to Administration, as amended.

The ordinance is hereby submitted to you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Inés da Silva Paulino Leite
City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

May 12, 2026

The Committee on Ordinances and Legislation reported that they have examined said ordinance referred to above and found said ordinance truly and properly enrolled, as amended.

Committee on

Ordinances and Legislation

[Handwritten signatures of committee members]

In City Council, May 12, 2026, passed to be ordained, as amended, *6 yeas, 3 nays*

Inés da Silva Paulino Leite City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Presented to the Mayor MAY 14 2026

Approved _____ Mayor

City of Fall River, In City Council

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Fall River, as follows:

That Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Fall River, Massachusetts, 2018, which chapter relates to Administration, be amended as follows:

By inserting in Article II, a new section to read as follows:

§2-33 Authority to retain outside legal counsel

A. The City Council is authorized, by a majority vote, to retain outside legal counsel for the limited purposes of obtaining independent legal opinions, advice or analysis related to the following matters:

1. The City Charter, City code, General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or federal laws
2. The drafting and/or review of proposed City ordinances
3. Investigatory or oversight functions of the City Council

B. Limitations

Outside legal counsel retained by the City Council shall serve in an advisory capacity only and shall not supersede or replace the roles of Corporation Counsel defined in Chapter 2, Article V, Division 7

C. Appropriation and funding

1. The City Council shall, through the annual budget process or by separate appropriation order(s), establish a dedicated budgetary line item or fund for the retention of outside legal services
2. Any expenditures shall be subject to standard municipal procurement procedures and applicable state procurement laws

D. Transparency and reporting

1. Any commitment to the services of outside legal counsel shall be documented and approved by a vote of the City Council.
2. The City Council shall approve by majority vote the defining rules and procedures in relation to obtaining outside counsel which shall be proposed by the City Council President and approved prior to the beginning of each fiscal year

CITY OF FALL RIVER
IN CITY COUNCIL

APR 28 2026

*Passed through first reading,
at amended*

CITY OF FALL RIVER
IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 12 2026

*Passed through second reading,
passed to be enrolled as a matter of
city as 30 days and passed to
be ordained, as amended, 6 yeas, 3 nays*

City of Fall River, In City Council

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Fall River, as follows:

That Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Fall River, Massachusetts, 2018, which chapter relates to Administration, be amended as follows:

By inserting in Article II, a new section to read as follows:

§2-33 Authority to retain outside legal counsel

- A. The City Council is authorized, by a majority vote, to retain outside legal counsel for the limited purposes of obtaining independent legal opinions, advice or analysis related to the following matters:
1. The City Charter, City code, General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or federal laws
 2. The drafting and/or review of proposed City ordinances.
 3. Investigatory or oversight functions of the City Council
- B. Limitations
Outside legal counsel retained by the City Council shall serve in an advisory capacity only and shall not supersede or replace the roles of Corporation Counsel defined in Chapter 2, Article V, Division 7
- C. Appropriation and funding
1. The City Council shall, through the annual budget process or by separate appropriation order(s), establish a dedicated budgetary line item or fund for the retention of outside legal services
 2. Any expenditures shall be subject to standard municipal procurement procedures and applicable state procurement laws
- D. Transparency and reporting
1. Any commitment to the services of outside legal counsel shall be documented and approved by a vote of the City Council.
 2. The City Council shall approve by majority vote the defining rules and procedures in relation to obtaining outside counsel which shall be proposed by the City Council President and approved prior to the beginning of each fiscal year

Cannot approve. XAR

CITY OF FALL RIVER
IN CITY COUNCIL

APR 28 2026

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

2026 MAY - 1 P 12:24

RECEIVED

*Passed through first reading,
at amended.*

Chapter 2. Administration

ARTICLE V. Officers and Employees

DIVISION 7. Corporation Counsel

§ 2-521. Office established.

[Amended 7-15-2008 by Ord. No. 2008-40]

There shall be a Corporation Counsel for the City, who shall be in charge of the office of Corporation Counsel.

§ 2-523. Furnishing of legal opinions.

The Corporation Counsel shall furnish opinions or may designate an Assistant Corporation Counsel to furnish opinions on the law of any subject that may be submitted to him in writing by the Mayor, the City Council or any member of the City Council, and on any subject relating to the discharge of their or his official duties that may be submitted to him in writing by the School Committee or any member of the School Committee, by any committee of the City Council, or by any officer in charge of a department of the City government. Any opinions rendered by an Assistant Corporation Counsel shall also be approved and countersigned by the Corporation Counsel. The opinions shall be furnished to the City Council, any member of the City Council, the School Committee, any member of the School Committee, or any officer in charge of a department of the City government within 10 days from the date on which the request is made.

§ 2-527. Initiation of suits or proceedings; defense of suits or actions involving City or City officers.

The Corporation Counsel shall institute any suit or proceeding in behalf of the City which he shall deem the interest of the City requires, and shall appear as counsel in all suits, actions or prosecutions which may involve the rights or interests of the City, and defend the officers of the City in suits against them for their official actions, or for the performance of their official duties, or when any estate, right, privilege, interest, ordinance, act or direction of the City is brought in question. He may take such steps and incur such expenses for the carrying out of his duties as he deems necessary.



**OFFICE OF THE
CORPORATION COUNSEL**
CITY OF FALL RIVER

24 March 2026

Fall River City Council
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Re: Resolution 6a – 3/24/26

Dear Councilors:

I am writing this letter to address my legal concerns with the Resolution attached as Attachment 6a to tonight's City Council agenda. In summary, it is my legal opinion that the investigatory authority of the Council is limited in scope to the informational requests detailed in Section 2-7(b) and (c). A copy of Section 2-7 of the City of Fall River Home Rule Charter is attached for your review.

Although Section 2-7(a) of the Charter provides the City Council with the authority to make investigations into the affairs of the city, the Charter does not grant the Council with the authority to retain an outside investigator. Section 2-7 has four subsections and, when these subsections are read together, they clarify the scope of the Council's investigatory authority. These subsections, in pertinent part, read as follows:

- Section 2-7(a) In General – Council may “make investigations into the affairs of the city and into the conduct and performance of any city agency.”
- Section 2-7(b) Information Requests – Council may require a city employee to “appear before the city council to give any information that the city council may require...”
- Section 2-7(c) Mayor – Council may “request specific information from the mayor on any municipal matter...”
- Section 2-7(d) Notice – Council “shall, by resolution, request the attendance of any officer or employee of the city to appear...” and provides details regarding the requirements of said notice.

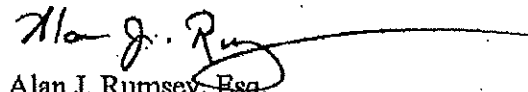
As a caveat to this expedited opinion, I want it to be clear that I have not been provided with ample time to conduct thorough legal research on the issue. I do believe that this legal opinion is correct, however, given the lack of notice (I did not receive this Resolution until this morning), perhaps it is best to table the matter until additional research can be completed.


As a reminder, the Corporation Counsel serves as the legal advisor to the City Council. Pursuant to 2-527 of the Code of the City of Fall River, the Corporation Counsel holds the exclusive authority to initiate any suit or legal proceeding on behalf of the City and, pursuant to 2-528, only the Corporation Counsel, with approval from the mayor, may retain outside legal counsel.

Finally, my correspondence is not intended to serve as a comprehensive response to all the issues contained in the Resolution. Additional concerns, such as potential appropriation issues and/or open meeting law issues have not been reviewed or addressed in this letter.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,


Alan J. Rumsey, Esq.
Corporation Counsel

 KeyCite Yellow Flag
Review Granted September 5, 2003

58 Mass.App.Ct. 542
Appeals Court of Massachusetts, Suffolk.

CITY COUNCIL OF BOSTON

v.

MAYOR OF BOSTON.

No. 01-P-1237

Argued March 3, 2003.

Decided July 11, 2003.

Further Appellate Review Granted Sept. 5, 2003.

Synopsis

Mayor vetoed an order of the city council establishing a permanent position of "counsel for the city council," and city council brought suit seeking injunctive and declaratory relief. The Superior Court, Suffolk County, Joseph M. Walker, III, J., entered summary judgment in the mayor's favor. City council appealed. The Appeals Court, Lenk, J., held that city council had no authority to establish and fill the position or office of counsel for the city council, absent the approval of the mayor.

Affirmed.

Procedural Posture(s): On Appeal; Motion for Summary Judgment.

West Headnotes (2)

[1] **Municipal, County, and Local Government** ⇨ Creation and abolition of position or office

Public Employment ⇨ Creation and Abolition of Position or Office

City council had no authority to establish and fill the position or office of "counsel for the city council" absent the approval of the mayor; addition of the challenged position of legal counsel for the city council would constitute a reorganization of the office of corporation counsel, which could only occur with the joint

approval of the mayor and the council, as duties proposed for the new position, such as providing legal advice on matters relating to council business and reviewing and furnishing opinions on draft legislation, would overlap significantly and thereby interfere materially with those that were presently reserved exclusively to corporation counsel.

[2] **Municipal, County, and Local Government** ⇨ Authority and powers

The mayor has absolute veto power in matters involving the reorganization of city agencies and departments.

Attorneys and Law Firms

*542 **371 Michael Williams, Quincy (Chester Darling, Boston, with him) for the plaintiff.

Mark Sweeney, First Assistant Corporation Counsel, for the defendant.

Present: LENK, RAPOZA, & COHEN, JJ.

Opinion

LENK, J.

We are asked to decide whether the Boston city council (council) has authority to establish and fill the position or office of "counsel for the city council" absent the approval of the mayor of Boston.

The question arises because, on or about December 1, 1999, the council passed an order establishing a permanent position of "counsel for the city council." Said counsel would carry out *543 certain duties, detailed in the order, that are related to the council's business.¹ Two weeks later, the **372 city of Boston's *544 corporation counsel advised the council's president that, based upon the city charter and the City of Boston Code, Ordinances, as well as governing case law, the council may not establish such a position without the mayor's approval.

Shortly thereafter, the council passed an order appointing Mr. Shawn Murphy as counsel to the council, effective January 1, 2000, and, on the same day an ordinance took effect which established salary ranges for various council staff positions, including that of counsel for the council. The latter ordinance was sent to the mayor for review; the mayor vetoed it on January 3, 2000, returning it unsigned and disapproved. The council later brought suit in Superior Court seeking injunctive and declaratory relief. Summary judgment was entered in the mayor's favor and the council appeals. We affirm.

[1] [2] *Analysis.* The mayor has absolute veto power in matters involving the reorganization of city agencies and departments. *City Council of Boston v. Mayor of Boston*, 24 Mass.App.Ct. 663, 512 N.E.2d 510 (1987). The mayor maintains, correctly we think, that the proposed position would operate as a de facto reorganization of the office of corporation counsel.

City of Boston Code, Ordinances, § 5-8.1 (as amended through 1979) (CBC § 5-8.1), provides, in pertinent part, that

"[t]he Law Department [of the city of Boston] shall be under the charge of the Corporation Counsel, who shall furnish opinions on the law of any subject or question that may be submitted to him by the Mayor or the City Council ...; shall, on application, advise any officer or employee of the City on any question of law connected with the discharge of his official duties; shall, subject to the direction of the Mayor, or of any Committee of the City Council having charge of matters before the general court of the Commonwealth, appear by himself or assistants as Counsel for the City before the general court or before any committee thereof, when the interest or welfare of the City is directly or indirectly affected; ... shall by himself or by his assistants in the Law Department appear as Counsel in

*545 all suits, actions, or prosecutions which may involve the rights or interests of the City, and defend the officers of the City in suits against them for their official actions, or for the performance of their official duties, or when any estate, right, privilege, interest, ordinance, act, or direction of the City is brought in question...."

The duties proposed for legal counsel to the council, as described, would overlap significantly and thereby interfere materially with those that are presently reserved exclusively to corporation counsel. Counsel to the council would be responsible, among other things, for providing legal advice on matters relating to council business, reviewing and furnishing opinions on draft legislation, and representing the council in legal proceedings. These responsibilities would duplicate those already assigned to corporation counsel under CBC § 5-8.1, insofar as that section calls upon corporation counsel to advise the divisions of the city on legal matters and to **373 represent them in disputes.² Based upon the language of the council's order purporting to establish the new position, we conclude that, as matter of law, the addition of the challenged position of "counsel for the city council" would constitute a reorganization of the office of corporation counsel. Such a reorganization can only occur with the joint approval of the mayor and the council, and the mayor accordingly enjoys veto power over the creation of such a position. See *City Council of Boston v. Mayor of Boston*, *supra*. For this reason, if no other, summary judgment in the Mayor's favor was correctly allowed.

Judgment affirmed.

All Citations

58 Mass.App.Ct. 542, 791 N.E.2d 370

Footnotes

1 The proposed duties enumerated in the order are as follows:

"Legislation.... Answer questions about the form, substance and legality of legislation. Review and comment upon draft legislation prepared by a councillor's staff or others. Draft legislation as requested based on a detailed outline provided by a councillor or his/her staff.

"Resolutions and orders calling for a hearing. Upon request, edit for completeness and form, city council resolutions and orders calling for hearings when requested to do so.

"Research and advice. The *Counsel for the City Council* will research and provide advice and/or legal analysis regarding matters that relate to Council business. Without limiting the generality, this may include internal policy matters of the Council, such as conflict of interest issues, political activity restrictions, and issues relating to the council's employees. Serve as legal counsel in executive sessions, or in meetings of members of the city council. Analyze administration proposals, programs, bills and reports submitted to the city council, and to prepare executive summaries as requested. Analyze and prepare executive summaries of state and federal legislation of interest to the city council. To familiarize himself/herself with the laws of Massachusetts and the federal government that may apply to the city of Boston and/or the Boston City Council, sufficient to be able to brief and advise the council of its legal rights in areas such as its [sic] the budget and policy making powers, contracting authority, open meeting and public disclosure laws, to name a few. *Counsel* shall provide written legal memoranda upon a majority vote of the city council, or upon the request of the President of the council, to inform the council of a legal matter that may be of interest to councilors.

"Hearings and Committee reports. At the request of a committee Chair, the *Counsel for the City Council* may question witnesses at the beginning of committee hearings to establish the necessary legal framework for the hearing. The *Counsel for the City Council* will note specific answers that may be important or necessary for the committee's or city council's deliberations in the future, and prepare for the committee chair a permanent report of the results of such questions. At the request of a committee chair, work with the Central Staff committee liaison to ensure proper language for committee reports.

"External activities. On a majority vote of the city council, the *Counsel for the City Council* shall protect the interests of the city council in all legal proceedings in which the city council may have standing and an interest, and shall represent the city council in litigation. The *Counsel for the City Council* [] may, upon a majority vote of the city council, seek outside assistance on any matter that is of interest to the city council. Work with the Corporation Counsel's office to amicably resolve matters of mutual concern.

"Library. Establish and maintain a working electronic and paper reference library, consisting of various sources, including internal legal memorandum on various issues that may involve the city council and its authority, and on other issues such as vagrancy, zoning laws, youth gangs, public accommodation laws, condominium conversion, needle exchange, gun laws, etc.

"Miscellaneous. From time to time, submit to the President of the City Council for consideration proposed changes and corrections in the various laws that affect the city, as the *Counsel* deems necessary or advisable."

- 2 While the council has submitted affidavits stating that corporation counsel has not in fact provided legal advice to members of the council, any purported failure by corporation counsel to perform his duties does not constitute a basis on which to conclude that the provisions of CBC § 5-8.1 may be disregarded. See *Doris v. Police Commr. of Boston*, 374 Mass. 443, 449, 373 N.E.2d 944 (1978). The analysis here is limited to determining whether the duties of the desired position would conflict with the duties of corporation counsel assigned to the latter under the City of Boston Code, Ordinances. As such, the affidavits are immaterial, and we may and do decide the issue as matter of law.

2



City of Fall River
Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

PAUL E. COOGAN
Mayor

RECEIVED

2026 JUN -4 P 3:21

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

June 4, 2026

Council President and
Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Council President and Members of the Honorable Council:

I hereby request confirmation from the City Council of the following appointment:

Name: Nathaniel Roberts

Address: 58 Bryan Street
Fall River, MA 02721

Position: Cultural Council

Term: June 4, 2026

Expires: June 3, 2029

Sincerely,

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

PC/amos



City of Fall River
Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

PAUL E. COOGAN
Mayor

RECEIVED

2026 JUN -4 P 3:21

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

June 4, 2026

Council President
Members of the Honorable Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Council President and Members of the Honorable Council,

Attached please find correspondence from Beth Faunce, Chief of EMS, with a request to accept from Southcoast Health, a grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 to procure a state-of-the-art advanced training manikin for the Emergency Medical Services Division.

For any additional questions or concerns please feel free to contact me or my office.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

PC/amos

City of Fall River, In City Council

ORDER:

The City of Fall River was awarded a grant from Southcoast Hospitals Group in the amount of \$10,000 with a duration of June, 2026 to January, 2027. This grant would fund a collaboration between Fall River Emergency Medical Services for the purposes of equipment for the training in the Fall River Emergency Medical Services Training Academy, now therefore

BE IT ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized in the name of the City of Fall River to accept and expend a Grant from Southcoast Hospitals Group in the amount of \$10,000 to increase to provide high quality training to our pre hospital providers.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Fall River, be and hereby is, authorized to execute any and all documents necessary in connection with said grant from Southcoast Hospitals Group including the expenditure thereof.



**EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES**
CITY OF FALL RIVER

June 3rd, 2026

City of Fall River
Honorable Mayor Coogan
One Government Center
Fall River, MA

Dear Mayor Coogan,

I respectfully request that we accept a grant from Southcoast Health in the amount of \$10,000. This award will be utilized to procure a state-of-the-art advanced training manikin, a critical asset that will significantly elevate our operational readiness.

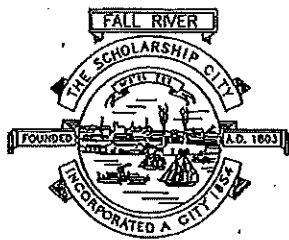
In the field of pre-hospital emergency medicine, clinical excellence depends entirely on hands-on practice. This new advanced simulation equipment allows our providers to train in highly realistic, low-frequency, high-acuity medical and trauma scenarios. By simulating complex human patient responses, our paramedics and EMTs can refine critical interventions, such as advanced airway management, cardiac arrest protocols, and vascular access within a controlled, educational environment before executing them in the field.

This investment directly impacts public safety in Fall River. Providing our training division with modern, realistic simulation tools ensuring our field personnel maintain the sharpest clinical skills, directly translating to enhanced patient outcomes and higher quality care for our residents.

We deeply appreciate your continued support of our first responders and your commitment to advancing the capabilities of our public safety infrastructure. This equipment will serve our department and community well for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Ann Faunce, Chief
Beth Ann Faunce
Chief of EMS



**City of Fall River
Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor**

RECEIVED

2026 JUN -4 P 2:51

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

PAUL E. COOGAN
Mayor

June 4, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

Consistent with the requirements of MGL Chapter 150E, Section 7, I am submitting the recently negotiated Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Fall River and Labor Advantage for Workers, Local 124, which represents all custodians employed by the city with the exception of those custodians assigned to the School Department.

This Agreement will become a part of the contractual obligations of their prior contracts. Sufficient funds are available within the existing Facilities, Salaries (D.1) appropriation to cover the estimated cost of the agreement. Therefore, no additional appropriation or transfer is required.

I respectfully request that you approve the attached order.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

City of Fall River, *In City Council*

4

ORDERED, that the funding of the cost items contained in the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Fall River and the Labor Advantage for Workers, Local 124, is hereby approved.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE CITY OF FALL RIVER

AND

LABOR ADVANTAGE FOR WORKERS

LOCAL 124

This **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT** is entered into by and between the City of Fall River (hereinafter "the City") and the Fall River Labor Advantage for Workers, Local 124 ("Union");

WHEREAS, the City and the Union are parties to a collective bargaining agreement for the period July 1, 2024 through and including June 30, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, the City and the Union have, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 150E negotiated a successor contract for the aforementioned agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of mutual covenants and promises, the Parties agree that the following changes will be made to the Parties' July 1, 2024 through and including June 30, 2025 Agreement:

1. Article VII – HOLIDAYS

Strike the following language:

In the event that a holiday falls on a Saturday, all employees scheduled to work from Monday through Friday shall be paid an additional day's salary. If an employee has a work schedule other than Monday to Friday, i.e. Saturday through Wednesday, he/she shall have the first day off considered as Saturday for the purpose of Holiday Pay.

Holiday Pay shall be eight (8) hours pay at straight time rate.

Replace with:

For employees scheduled to work Monday through Friday:

- o If a holiday falls on a Saturday the holiday is observed the Friday prior.
- o If a holiday falls on a Sunday, the holiday is observed the Monday after.
- o If Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve is on a Saturday or Sunday, the Holiday is observed the prior Friday.
- o If Christmas Day or New Year's Day is on a Saturday or Sunday, the holiday is observed the following Monday.

2. Article XIV – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Paragraph 1: EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of this Agreement is July 1, 2025. The signing of this Agreement by the authorized representatives of the Union and the employer shall be authorized to implement all of the provisions of this Agreement.

Paragraph 2: TERMINATION:

This agreement will remain in effect from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028. At the end of that three (3) year period, either party may terminate this Agreement provided such notice of termination is transmitted through the U.S. Mail by Certified Mail to the responsible signatories to the Agreement. In no case can a termination notice be sent less than thirty (30) days prior to the date herein agreed.

Paragraph 5: JOB CHANGES:

Rename paragraph 5 to WAGES and replace article in its entirety as follows:

- Wages:
- July 1, 2025 – 2.5% general wage increase
- July 1, 2026 – 2.5% general wage increase
- July 1, 2027 – 2.5% general wage increase

Effective July 1, 2025:

- The Senior Custodian will be paid \$1,920.00 bi-weekly (\$24.00/hour)
- The Junior Custodian will be paid \$1,880.00 bi-weekly (\$23.50/hour)

Paragraph 6: UNIFORM ALLOWANCE

Add: The uniform allowance will be paid on a separate payroll check.

Paragraph 13: SNOW REMOVAL

Add: The snow removal stipend will be paid on a separate payroll check.

3. Article XVII – SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL

Delete this Article in its entirety.

CITY OF FALL RIVER
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT
THROUGH
JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2028
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LAW LOCAL 124

GENERAL FUND	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	
Pensionable	\$8,598.99	\$3,985.13	\$4,084.76	
Medicare + Fringe Benefit	\$124.69	\$57.78	\$59.23	
Total	\$8,723.67	\$4,042.92	\$4,143.99	\$16,910.58

FY2026 Appropriation/Transfer Number Analysis

Line	Original/Revised Appropriation	Estimated Contract Increase	Projected Surplus	Additional Appropriation/ Transfer Needed
Facilities, Salaries (D.I.)	\$ 978,819.39	\$ 8,598.99	\$ 135,760.53	\$ -

I certify that there are sufficient funds available for these transfers.

Christopher Muesky
City Auditor

6/4/2026

5



City of Fall River
Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

PAUL E. COOGAN
Mayor

RECEIVED

2026 JUN -4 P 1:29

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

June 4, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Honorable Council Members:

Chapter 2, Article V, Division 2-401 of the City of Fall River ordinances governs the appointment of the Chief of Police. The recent change to legislation requires amendments to our municipal ordinances. Attached to this letter is the updated code.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

Paul E. Coogan,
Mayor

City of Fall River, In City Council

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Fall River, as follows:

That Chapter 2 Article V of the Code of the City of Fall River, Massachusetts, 2018, which chapter relates to Officers and Employees be amended as follows:

By striking out Section 2-401, which section relates to appointment; duties; term of the Chief of Police, in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:

Section 1. The Chief of Police shall be the head of the Fall River Police Department, shall be responsible for the management and operation of the Police Department and shall be the appointing authority for all employees of the Police Department, as that term is defined in Section 1 of Chapter 31 of the General Laws.

Section 2. The position of Chief of Police shall be subject to Chapter 31 of the General Laws and all rules and regulations promulgated thereunder governing civil service.

Section 3. The Mayor shall remain the appointing authority for the Chief of Police and the terms and conditions of the Chief of Police's employment contract shall be subject to section 108O of Chapter 41 of the General Laws for a period of not more than 3 years.

6



City of Fall River
Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

PAUL E. COOGAN
Mayor

RECEIVED
2026 JUN -4 P 1:29

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

May 29, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Honorable Council Members:

Section 50-303 of the City of Fall River ordinances includes the salary schedule for political appointments and boards/committees. I am requesting the inclusion of a new title, Assistant Clerk of Council, which should be compensated commensurate with the Clerk of Council.

Best Regards,

Paul E. Coogan,
Mayor

City of Fall River, *In City Council*

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Fall River, as follows:

That Chapter 50 of the Code of the City of Fall River, Massachusetts, 2018, which chapter relates to personnel be amended as follows:

Section 1.

By inserting in Section 50-303, which section relates to Salary schedules for political appointments and boards/committees, the following:

Title	Grade	Effective Date	Step 1
Assistant Clerk of Council	ACOC	7/1/2026	\$5,000.00 per annum



City of Fall River
Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

RECEIVED

2026 JUN -4 P 1:29

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

PAUL E. COOGAN
Mayor

May 29, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Honorable Council Members:

Section 50-301 of the City of Fall River ordinances includes the salary schedule for executive officers, department heads, and non-union personnel. The attached ordinance requests a change to the salary amount for the non-union positions who have exceeded or will soon reach the cap of the "Not to Exceed" salary amount set by ordinance due to annual cost-of-living adjustments.

It is my intention to submit a comprehensive salary restructure for non-union personnel that will, among other things, factor in cost-of-living adjustments to keep salaries compliant with Section 50-301.

Best Regards,

Paul E. Coogan,
Mayor

City of Fall River, In City Council

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Fall River, as follows:

That Chapter 50 of the Code of the City of Fall River, Massachusetts, 2018, which chapter relates to personnel be amended as follows:

Section 1

By striking out Section 50-301, which section relates to Salary schedules for executive officers, department heads, and non-union personnel, the following:

Title	Grade	Effective Date	Not to Exceed
Account Manager Police	AMP	7/1/2022	65,000.00
Administrative Assistant/Code Enforcement	AACD	7/1/2022	53,324.27
Assistant Collector	ACOL	7/1/2022	66,452.02
Assistant Treasurer	ASTR	7/1/2022	73,298.23
City Council Principal Clerk	CCCT	7/1/2022	45,106.60
Commissioner for Recreational Facilities/ Director of Recreational Facilities	CRFD	7/1/2022	89,992.61
Director of Minimum Housing Standards Inspectional Services	DOMM	7/1/2022	67,000.00
Mayor's Administrative Assistant	RCEP	7/1/2022	46,236.50
Network Administrator	CNET	7/1/2022	81,763.88
Project Manager - Community Utilities	PMS	7/1/2022	86,287.30
Project Specialist - Community Utilities	PSW	7/1/2022	66,944.46
Water Quality Manager	WQM	7/1/2022	76,000.00

And inserting in place thereof the following:

Title	Grade	Effective Date	Not to Exceed
Account Manager Police	AMP	7/1/2026	65,153.95
Administrative Assistant/Code Enforcement	AACD	7/1/2026	57,079.70
Assistant Collector	ACOL	7/1/2026	69,141.63
Assistant Treasurer	ASTR	7/1/2026	75,014.63
City Council Principal Clerk	CCCT	7/1/2026	45,544.59
Commissioner for Recreational Facilities/ Director of Recreational Facilities	CRFD	7/1/2026	91,404.38
Director of Minimum Housing Standards Inspectional Services	DOMM	7/1/2026	70,391.88
Mayor's Administrative Assistant	RCEP	7/1/2026	48,577.22
Network Administrator	CNET	7/1/2026	82,122.26
Project Manager - Community Utilities	PMS	7/1/2026	88,252.50
Project Specialist - Community Utilities	PSW	7/1/2026	68,815.94
Water Quality Manager	WQM	7/1/2026	78,315.27



**City of Fall River
Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor**

June 4, 2026

PAUL E. COOGAN
Mayor

City Council President
Members of the Honorable City Council
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Dear Council President and Members of the Honorable Council:

Attached please find a proposed Amendment to Section 62-2(C) of the City of Fall River Code of Ordinance. The Administration will be forwarding a comprehensive amendment to the relevant Solid Waste Ordinance and Associated Fines Schedule. I anticipate this will be delivered to the City Council for discussion and enactment in July 2026. The new Municipal Solid Waste & Single Stream Recyclable Curbside Collection and Disposal Contract will contain language that will facilitate the transition from current curbside collection and handling practices to the new ones that will be set forth in amended Ordinance and the new contract. However, I am forwarding this proposed amendment to Section 62-2(C) at this time since it will reduce the number of residential units on a parcel that will be serviced by municipal curbside collection and disposal.

At the present time, the City provides curbside collection to single family residences and multi-family residences containing up to six (6) dwelling units per parcel as shown on the City of Fall River Assessors Maps, as amended. The proposed amendment will reduce the number of dwelling units to four (4) dwelling units per parcel as shown on the City of Fall River Assessors Maps, as amended.

Representatives of the Administration will be available to attend an Ordinance Committee Meeting to discuss the impact this proposed amendment will have on the City's waste diversion and reduction efforts, and to answer any questions the Ordinance Committee may have.

Thank you, and as always, I am available for any questions or concerns you may have regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

2026 JUN -4 P 3:31

RECEIVED

City of Fall River, In City Council

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Fall River, as follows:

That Section 62-2 of the Code of the City of Fall River, Massachusetts, 2018, which chapter relates to solid waste be amended as follows:

By striking Section 62-2(C) in its entirety and replacing it with the following language:

- C. The City shall collect municipal solid waste and recyclables from single-family dwellings and multiple-family residential buildings containing up to four (4) dwelling units per parcel as shown on the City of Fall River Assessors Maps, as amended. Municipal solid waste shall be collected only if placed in a bag and placed in a green cart. Recyclables shall only be placed in blue carts. Municipal solid waste shall not be placed in blue or brown carts.



**CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS**
Department of Community Maintenance
Municipal Buildings, Parks, Cemeteries, Traffic & Parking,
Sanitation, Streets & Highways

Traffic & Parking Division
2026 MAY 26 P 12:17

Paul Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic and
Parking

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

May 26, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request met all the guidelines, requirements and was approved by the Traffic Commission Board.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article:	70	No Parking Anytime
		7:00am-3:00pm
Section:	372	Monday - Friday

By inserting in proper alphabetical order the following.

INSERT

NAME OF STREET	SIDE	LOCATION	HOURS/DAYS
Hyacinth Street	East	Starting at Locust St for a distance of 763 feet North.	Monday - Friday 7:00am-3:00pm

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic and Parking

YN



**CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS**

Department of Community Maintenance
Municipal Buildings, Parks, Cemeteries, Traffic & Parking,
Sanitation, Streets & Highways

RECEIVED

Traffic & Parking Division
2026 MAY 26 P 12:17

Paul Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic and
Parking

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

May 26, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request met all the guidelines, requirements and was approved by the Traffic Commission Board.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article:	70	No Parking Anytime
		7:00am-3:00pm
Section:	372	Monday - Friday

By inserting in proper alphabetical order the following.

INSERT

NAME OF STREET	SIDE	LOCATION	HOURS/DAYS
Hyacinth Street	West	Starting at Locust St for a distance of 763 feet North.	Monday - Friday 7:00am-3:00pm

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic and Parking

SM



**CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS**

Department of Community Maintenance
Municipal Buildings, Parks, Cemeteries, Traffic & Parking,
Sanitation, Streets & Highways

2026 MAY 26 P 12:17
Traffic & Parking Division

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

Paul Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic and
Parking

May 26, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request met all the guidelines, requirements and was approved by the Traffic Commission Board.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article:	70	No Parking Anytime
Section:	372	7:00am-3:00pm
		Monday - Friday

By inserting in proper alphabetical order the following.

<u>INSERT</u>			
NAME OF STREET	SIDE	LOCATION	HOURS/DAYS
Locust Street	North	Starting at Fenmore St for a distance of 658 feet East	Monday - Friday 7:00am-3:00pm

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic and Parking



**CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS**

Department of Community Maintenance
Municipal Buildings, Parks, Cemeteries, Traffic & Parking,
Sanitation, Streets & Highways

2026 MAY 26 P 12:17
Traffic & Parking Division

Paul Coogan
Mayor

CITY CLEAR _____
FALL RIVER, MA

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic and
Parking

May 26, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request met all the guidelines, requirements and was approved by the Traffic Commission Board.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article:	70	No Parking Anytime
		7:00am-3:00pm
Section:	372	Monday - Friday

By inserting in proper alphabetical order the following.

INSERT

NAME OF STREET	SIDE	LOCATION	HOURS/DAYS
Locust Street	South	Starting at Fenmore St for a distance of 658 feet East	Monday - Friday 7:00am-3:00pm

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic and Parking

One Government Center Fall River, MA 02722
TEL: (508) 324-2123 FAX (508) 324-2578 EMAIL smacarthur@fallriverma.gov

SM

9

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS

Traffic & Parking Division
RECEIVED

2026 MAY 26 P 12:17



Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 26, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02720

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request met all the guidelines, requirements and was approved by the Traffic Commission Board.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387

HANDICAP PARKING

By inserting in proper alphabetical order the following:

INSERT

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Location</u>
Pitman Street	East	Starting at a point 110 feet South of Webster Street. For a distance of 20 feet South.

Very truly yours,


Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

SW

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS

Traffic & Parking Division



Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

RECEIVED

2026 MAY 26 P 12:17

Stephanie MacArthur

Director of Traffic & Parking

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

May 26, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02720

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request met all the guidelines, requirements and was approved by the Traffic Commission Board.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387

HANDICAP PARKING

By inserting in proper alphabetical order the following:

INSERT

Name of Street	Side	Location
Richmond Street	West	Starting at a point 196 feet North of Cambridge Street. For a distance of 20 feet North.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS

Traffic & Parking Division



RECEIVED

2026 MAY 26 P 12: 17

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 26, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02720

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request met all the guidelines, requirements and was approved by the Traffic Commission Board.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 HANDICAP PARKING

By inserting in proper alphabetical order the following:

INSERT

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Location</u>
Smith Street	West	Starting at a point 268 feet South of Warren Street. For a distance of 20 feet South.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS



Traffic & Parking Division

RECEIVED

2026 MAY 26 P 12:17

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 26, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02720

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request met all the guidelines, requirements and was approved by the Traffic Commission Board.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 HANDICAP PARKING

By inserting in proper alphabetical order the following:

<u>INSERT</u>		
Name of Street	Side	Location
Stanley Street	North	Starting at a point 45 feet East of Madison Street. For a distance of 20 feet East.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

9

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS



Traffic & Parking Division

RECEIVED

2026 MAY 26 P 12: 17

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 26, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02720

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request met all the guidelines, requirements and was approved by the Traffic Commission Board.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387

HANDICAP PARKING

By inserting in proper alphabetical order the following:

INSERT

Name of Street
Wade Street

Side
South

Location

Starting at a point 80 feet West of Fifth Street.
For a distance of 20 feet West.

Very truly yours,


Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

82

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS

Traffic & Parking Division



RECEIVED

2026 MAY 26 P 12: 17

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 26, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02720

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request met all the guidelines, requirements and was approved by the Traffic Commission Board.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 HANDICAP PARKING

By inserting in proper alphabetical order the following:

INSERT

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Location</u>
Woodman Street	North	Starting at a point 292 feet West of King Street. For a distance of 20 feet West.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS



Traffic & Parking Division

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 21, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
Albion Street	West	Starting at a point of 30 feet South of Downing Street, for a distance of 20 feet South.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

RECEIVED
2026 MAY 21 P 2:25
CITY OF FALL RIVER, MA

9

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS



Traffic & Parking Division

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 21, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
Bowen Street	West	Starting at a point of 160 feet South of Charles Street, for a distance of 20 feet South.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

RECEIVED
2026 MAY 21 P 2:25
CITY OF FALL RIVER, MA

JS

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS



Traffic & Parking Division

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 21, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
Brow Street	North	Starting at a point of 143 feet East of Fifth Street, for a distance of 20 feet East.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA
2026 MAY 21 P 2:25
RECEIVED

JS

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS

9



Traffic & Parking Division

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 21, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

RECEIVED
2026 MAY 21 P 2:24
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
Center Street	North	Starting at a point of 147 feet West of S. Main Street, for a distance of 20 feet West.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

JJ

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS

9



Traffic & Parking Division

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 21, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

RECEIVED
2026 MAY 21 P 2:24
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
Kellogg Street	West	Starting at a point of 392 feet North of Hamlet Street, for a distance of 20 feet North.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

JS

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS



Traffic & Parking Division

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 21, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
Lewis Street	East	Starting at a point of 30 feet North of Slade Street, for a distance of 20 feet Northerly

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

RECEIVED
2026 MAY 21 P 2:25
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS



Traffic & Parking Division

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 21, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

RECEIVED
2026 MAY 21 P 2:24
CITY OF FALL RIVER, MA

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
Merchant Street	North	Starting at a point of 27 feet West of 18th Street, for a distance of 20 feet Westerly.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS



Traffic & Parking Division

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 21, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
Montgomery Street	South	Starting at a point of 111 feet East of Robeson Street, for a distance of 20 feet East.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

RECEIVED
2026 MAY 21 P 2:25
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

9

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS



Traffic & Parking Division

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 21, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

RECEIVED
2026 MAY 21 P 2:24
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
North Main Street	West	Starting at a point of 20 feet South of Weaver Street, for a distance of 20 feet Southerly.

Very truly yours,


Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

JS

9

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS



Traffic & Parking Division

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 21, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
North Main Street	West	Starting at a point of 144 feet North of Marier Street, for a distance of 20 feet North.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

RECEIVED
2026 MAY 21 P 2:24
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

JS

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS



Traffic & Parking Division

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 21, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

RECEIVED
2026 MAY 21 P 2:24
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
N. Underwood Street	West	Starting at a point of 206 feet North of Weetamoe Street, for a distance of 20 feet North.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS



Traffic & Parking Division

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 21, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

RECEIVED
2026 MAY 21 P 2:24
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

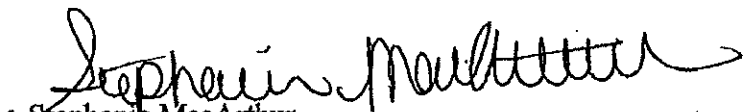
That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
Oxford Street	West	Starting at a point of 143 feet South of Warren Street, for a distance of 20 feet Southerly.

Very truly yours,


Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS



Traffic & Parking Division

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 21, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
Quequechan Street	West	Starting at a point of 255 feet South of County Street, for a distance of 20 feet South.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

RECEIVED
2026 MAY 21 P 2:25
CITY OF FALL RIVER, MA

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS

9



Traffic & Parking Division

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 21, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
South Main Street	West	Starting at a point of 283 feet South of Woodman Street, for a distance of 20 feet South.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA
2026 MAY 21 P 2:25
RECEIVED

CITY OF FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS

9



Traffic & Parking Division

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

May 21, 2026

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Honorable Council Members:

At a meeting of the Traffic Board Commission held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 the following request was heard and approved by the Traffic Commission.

That Chapter 70 of Revised Ordinances be amended in the following Section:

Article: 70
Section: 387 Handicapped Parking

By striking out in proper alphabetical order the following.

Name of Street	Side	Location
Walnut Street	North	Starting at a point of 127 feet West of Linden Street, for a distance of 20 feet West.

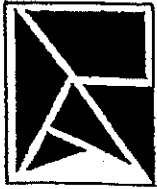
Very truly yours,

Stephanie MacArthur
Director of Traffic & Parking

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

RECEIVED
2026 MAY 21 P 2:25

JS



FALL RIVER REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

10

RECEIVED

2026 MAY 29 A 7:59

SARAH PAGE
Executive Director

May 27, 2026

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOHN R. ERICKSON
Chair

ANN E. KEANE
Vice-Chair

JOAN M. MEDEIROS
Treasurer

BEN FEITELBERG

RONALD S. RUSIN

The Honorable Paul E. Coogan, Mayor
One Government Center
Room 619
Fall River, MA 02722

The Honorable City Council
One Government Center
Room 221
Fall River, MA 02722

RE: Davol St. Corridor – Maintenance

Dear Mayor Coogan and City Councilors,

As Chair of the Fall River Redevelopment Authority (FRRA), I am writing on behalf of our Board as a follow-up to a discussion at our board meeting last week. I want to express the Board's concern over the City's maintenance of the new Davol Street Corridor. It is our understanding that the City of Fall River will assume responsibility for the north and south sides of Davol Street including landscape maintenance and snow removal along the shared use paths in FY 2027.

This revitalization of Davol Street has resulted in a significant improvement to this highly visible area. This gateway to Fall River needs to be maintained as an attractive environment for its residents and visitors while providing an aesthetically appealing location for prospective developers to make long-term investments.

Although the 20 acres allocated for development will not be the City's responsibility, there is significant new maintenance and oversight the City needs to plan for in its 2027 budget.

For example, mowing and upkeep of the planting beds along the shared use paths and at the large formal entrance to the corridor, as well as snow removal of the wide and lengthy paths, may require new equipment and a significant new allocation of staff time.

The Redevelopment Authority currently expends considerable expense to keep its 600 Davol Street/ Norton City Pier property attractive, and we can imagine what it will take to maintain that standard along the corridor. After the \$122 million investment in the removal of Route 79 and creation of the new Davol Street Corridor, we want to see it achieve its potential as the pride of the Fall River community, an

economic development asset, a vibrant waterfront neighborhood, and an attractive area for all to enjoy.

On behalf of the Redevelopment Authority, I want to express our concern now so planning for these future costs doesn't become a surprise to the City. We look forward to communication from the City on this matter.

Sincerely,



John Erickson
Chair

cc: Ann O'Neal-Souza, Al Oliveira, Dan Aguiar, Chris Hathaway



**City of Fall River
Massachusetts**

**Fall River
Commission on Disability**

PAULE. COOGAN
Mayor

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

2006 JUN - 12
RECEIVED
Dennis Polselli
Chairman
Debbie Pacheco
Vice Chairman

Dennis Polselli Chair Fall Commission on Disabilities

To the Fall River City Council: Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Vice-President Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Linda M. Pereira, President Cliff Ponte, Andrew J. Raposo, Michael G. Canuel and Christopher M. Peckham

I'm writing on behalf of the Fall Commission on Disability to urge you to vote in favor of the changes being recommended by the Chair of the Fall River Elections Commission, Ryan Lyons.

These changes had the full consultation and participation of members of the Fall River Commission on Disability, namely Commissioner Dan Robillard and myself.

We want to express our thanks, on behalf of the Disability Commission, to Chair Ryan Lyons and other agencies that participated in the various site surveys we undertook On May 5.

We were quite pleased and continue to be pleased with the quality of collaboration that Chair Lyons has had in this process and we can that we endorse all of these changes and urge the Fall River Council to vote in favor of these recommendations.

Finally, we wish to thank Council Vice-President Michelle Dionne and Shawn Cadime for their time in meeting with us prior to the survey.

We appreciate your time commitments very much.

ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. 508-324-2650

One Government Center • Fall River, MA 02722 • Tel (508) 324-2410

11

Respectfully,

Dennis Polselli Chair Fall River Commission on Disability, Debbie Pacheco, Commission Vice-Chair, Commissioners Dan Robillard, Lisa Silva, Katie Driscoll and City Representative to the Commission Anne O'Neil-Souza

ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. 508-324-2650

One Government Center • Fall River, MA 02722 • Tel (508) 324-2410

City of Fall River, In City Council

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Fall River, as follows:

That Chapter 70 of the Code of the City of Fall River, Massachusetts, 2018, which chapter relates to traffic be amended as follows:

By striking out, in Section 70-311(A), which section relates to Violations and penalties, the following:

(11) Violation of §70-319: \$35

and inserting in place thereof the following:

(11) Violation of §70-319: \$250

CITY OF FALL RIVER
IN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 26 2026

Passed through
first reading, as amended

LC

25

LIPSEY & CLIFFORD

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Bruce S. Lipsey
Scott J. Clifford
Sandra Larvey
Beth R. Levenson
Graham N. Wright
David H. Stillman
Tess A. Brennan

1165 Washington Street - Suite 2
Hanover, MA 02339
P. 781.829.9100
F. 781.826.8856

100 State Street - Suite 900
Boston, MA 02109
P. 800.466.3130

May 15, 2026

Reply to Hanover

SENT PURSUANT TO MGL c. 258

Ines da Silva Paulino Leite, City Clerk
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Room 227
Fall River, MA 02722

RE: Our Client: Plymouth Rock Assurance Corp.
A/S/O Masse, Justin
Date of Loss: 07/15/2025

RECEIVED
2026 MAY 22 P 2:17
CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA
25-45A

Dear Clerk da Silva Paulino Leite:

We have been retained by Plymouth Rock in a subrogation matter stemming from an incident that occurred on July 15, 2025 at President Avenue and Robeson Street in Fall River, MA. A Fall River police cruiser (Reg. MPH197) driven by Officer Christopher J. Silva struck a vehicle owned by Justin Masse and insured by Plymouth Rock. *This letter is being sent pursuant to M.G.L. ch 258.*

Plymouth Rock paid \$ 18,704.92 for PIP payments caused by the negligence of the City of Fall River and is seeking this amount. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss this loss.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,


Tess Brennan

TAB/smh



City of Fall River
Notice of Claim

RECEIVED

2026 MAY 28 P 2:06

CITY CLERK #26-114
FALL RIVER, MA

1. Claimant's name: Suzinda Vieira
 2. Claimant's complete address: 46 Hatfield St F.R.
 3. Telephone number: Home: 508-679-8024 Work: _____
 4. Nature of claim: (e.g., auto accident, slip and fall on public way or property damage):
Pothole
 5. Date and time of accident: 6/27/2026 Amount of damages claimed: \$ 118.19
 6. Exact location of the incident: (include as much detail as possible):
North Main St
 7. Circumstances of the incident: (attach additional pages if necessary):
Driving down North Main St.
8. Have you submitted a claim to any insurance company for damages arising from this incident? If so, name and address of insurance company: Yes No

Be sure to attach the original of any bills issued or any written estimates of repair or replacement costs. (Any documents that you provide will become the property of the City of Fall River; therefore, please retain copies of any such documents for your files.) Attach any other information you believe will be helpful in the processing of your claim (for example, names and addresses of any witnesses, written medical records if personal injury was sustained).

I swear that the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge.

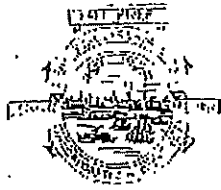
Date: 5/28/2026 Claimant's signature: Suzinda Vieira

WHEN TO FILE: If your claim is based on a defect in a public way, you must file within 30 days of the incident. If your claim is based on the negligence or wrongful act or omission of the City or its employees, you must file within two years of the incident. PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Return this from to : City Clerk, 2nd Fl., One Government Center, Fall River, MA 02722

You should consult with your own attorney in preparing this claim form to understand your legal rights. The Office of the Corporation Counsel is unable to provide legal assistance to private citizens.

For official use only:	
Copies forwarded to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Clerk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> City Administrator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DCM	Date: <u>5/28/26</u>



City of Fall River
Notice of Claim

RECEIVED

2026 MAY 28 P 2:40

CITY CLERK #26-115
FALL RIVER, MA

1. Claimant's name: Lisa Torres
2. Claimant's complete address: 397 A. Snell St., Fall River, MA 02721
3. Telephone number: Home: 636-689-9123 Work: _____
4. Nature of claim: (e.g., auto accident, slip and fall on public way or property damage):
Auto Accident
5. Date and time of accident: 01/24/2026 Amount of damages claimed: \$ 5506.93
6. Exact location of the incident: (Include as much detail as possible):
397 A. Snell St., Fall River, MA 02721
7. Circumstances of the incident: (attach additional pages if necessary):
Firetruck struck our Insured's vehicle while parked & unoccupied.
8. Have you submitted a claim to any insurance company for damages arising from this incident? If so, name and address of insurance company: Yes No
Liberty Mutual P.O.Box 2825, New York, NY 10116

Be sure to attach the original of any bills issued or any written estimates of repair or replacement costs. (Any documents that you provide will become the property of the City of Fall River; therefore, please retain copies of any such documents for your files.) Attach any other information you believe will be helpful in the processing of your claim (for example, names and addresses of any witnesses, written medical records if personal injury was sustained).

I swear that the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge.

Date: 03/09/2026

Claimant's signature: Shade Hamilton

WHEN TO FILE: If your claim is based on a defect in a public way, you must file within 30 days of the incident. If your claim is based on the negligence or wrongful act or omission of the City or its employees, you must file within two years of the incident. PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Return this form to: City Clerk, 2nd Fl., One Government Center, Fall River, MA 02722

You should consult with your own attorney in preparing this claim form to understand your legal rights. The Office of the Corporation Counsel is unable to provide legal assistance to private citizens.

For official use only:		Copies forwarded to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Clerk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> City Administrator		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FRFD	Date: <u>5/27/26</u>
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25



City of Fall River
Notice of Claim

RECEIVED

2026 MAY 29 P 2:14

1. Claimant's name: Elaine Medeiros
2. Claimant's complete address: 108 Smith St. Fall River, MA 02721 CITY CLERK 1126-116
FALL RIVER, MA
3. Telephone number: Home: 774-365-8487 Work: _____
4. Nature of claim: (e.g., auto accident, slip and fall on public way or property damage):
automobile damage pothole
5. Date and time of accident: 5-14-2026 Amount of damages claimed: \$1,670.⁰⁰
6. Exact location of the incident: (include as much detail as possible):
Cambridge St next to school (next to cross sign)
7. Circumstances of the incident: (attach additional pages if necessary) (Heading toward Rodman)
driving down Cambridge St approx 7-7:30p moved to avoid other hole
hit that one. It was so hard the glove box opened. Got to house wheel
was bent, tire loosing air. Kept car parked to get it checked. I have run flat
tires was able to fill with air bring to service station. While driving there noticed
8. Have you submitted a claim to any insurance company for damages arising from this incident? If so, name and address of insurance company: Yes No

Be sure to attach the original of any bills issued or any written estimates of repair or replacement costs: (Any documents that you provide will become the property of the City of Fall River; therefore, please retain copies of any such documents for your files.) Attach any other information you believe will be helpful in the processing of your claim (for example, names and addresses of any witnesses, written medical records if personal injury was sustained).

I swear that the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge.

Date: 5-28-2026 Claimant's signature: Elaine Medeiros

WHEN TO FILE: If your claim is based on a defect in a public way, you must file within 30 days of the incident. If your claim is based on the negligence or wrongful act or omission of the City or its employees, you must file within two years of the incident. PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Return this from to: City Clerk, 2nd Fl., One Government Center, Fall River, MA 02722

You should consult with your own attorney in preparing this claim form to understand your legal rights. The Office of the Corporation Counsel is unable to provide legal assistance to private citizens.

For official use only:	
Copies forwarded to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Clerk <input type="checkbox"/> Law <input type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> City Administrator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DCM	Date: <u>05/29/2026</u>



RECEIVED

25

2026 JUN -1 P 2:02

CITY CLERK H26-117
FALL RIVER, MA

City of Fall River
Notice of Claim

1. Claimant's name: Ann Marie Percivara-chester
2. Claimant's complete address: 350 Globe Street Fall River, MA 02724
3. Telephone number: Home: 774-319-2735 Work: _____
4. Nature of claim: (e.g., auto accident, slip and fall on public way or property damage):
Fire truck door swung open and struck parked car,
5. Date and time of accident: 9/3/2025 Amount of damages claimed: \$ 5248,34
6. Exact location of the incident: (include as much detail as possible):
350 Globe Street
7. Circumstances of the incident: (attach additional pages if necessary):

8. Have you submitted a claim to any insurance company for damages arising from this incident? If so, name and address of insurance company: Yes No
Plymouth Rock Assurance - 581 Main Street Ste 400 Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Be sure to attach the original of any bills issued or any written estimates of repair or replacement costs. (Any documents that you provide will become the property of the City of Fall River; therefore, please retain copies of any such documents for your files.) Attach any other information you believe will be helpful in the processing of your claim (for example, names and addresses of any witnesses, written medical records if personal injury was sustained).

I swear that the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge.

Date: 5/21/24 Claimant's signature: *Ann Marie Percivara-chester*
Plymouth rock Rec

WHEN TO FILE: If your claim is based on a defect in a public way, you must file within 30 days of the incident. If your claim is based on the negligence or wrongful act or omission of the City or its employees, you must file within two years of the incident. PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Return this from to : City Clerk, 2nd Fl., One Government Center, Fall River, MA 02722

You should consult with your own attorney in preparing this claim form to understand your legal rights. The Office of the Corporation Counsel is unable to provide legal assistance to private citizens.

For official use only:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Clerk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Council	<input type="checkbox"/> City Administrator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> File	Date: <u>6/1/26</u>
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RECEIVED

City of Fall River
Notice of Claim

2026 JUN -2 P 3:26

- 1. Claimant's name: CARL FERREIRA CITY CLERK #26-118
- 2. Claimant's complete address: 344 AMERICAN LEGION HWY Westport MA
- 3. Telephone number: Home: 774-644-6333 Work: RETIRED
- 4. Nature of claim: (e.g., auto accident, slip and fall on public way or property damage):
POT HOLE DAMAGE TO TIRE
- 5. Date and time of accident: 5/31 4:45PM Amount of damages claimed: \$ 343.24
- 6. Exact location of the incident: (Include as much detail as possible):
Brown St There are a few deep pot holes
- 7. Circumstances of the incident: (attach additional pages if necessary):
DRIVING my grand daughter to a dance practice
hit large pot hole causing tire to rupture.
Called AAA to change to continue my drive.
- 8. Have you submitted a claim to any insurance company for damages arising from this incident? If so, name and address of insurance company: Yes No

Be sure to attach the original of any bills issued or any written estimates of repair or replacement costs. (Any documents that you provide will become the property of the City of Fall River; therefore, please retain copies of any such documents for your files.) Attach any other information you believe will be helpful in the processing of your claim (for example, names and addresses of any witnesses, written medical records if personal injury was sustained).

I swear that the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge.

Date: 6/2/24

Claimant's signature: [Signature]

WHEN TO FILE: If your claim is based on a defect in a public way, you must file within 30 days of the incident. If your claim is based on the negligence or wrongful act or omission of the City or its employees, you must file within two years of the incident. PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Return this from to : City Clerk, 2nd Fl., One Government Center, Fall River, MA 02722

You should consult with your own attorney in preparing this claim form to understand your legal rights. The Office of the Corporation Counsel is unable to provide legal assistance to private citizens.

For official use only:	
Copies forwarded to:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Clerk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> City Administrator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DCM Date: <u>6/2</u>

City of Fall River
Notice of Claim

- 1. Claimant's name: Roger Dupre
- 2. Claimant's complete address: 135 Read St Fall River Ma 02720
- 3. Telephone number: Home: 508 4152980 Work: _____
- 4. Nature of claim: (e.g., auto accident, slip and fall on public way or property damage):
Pot hole Blown Tire
- 5. Date and time of accident: 5-18-26 Amount of damages claimed: \$ 169.¹³
- 6. Exact location of the incident: (include as much detail as possible):
724 Wilson Rd. 15" W 4" Deep Pot hole Size

7. Circumstances of the incident: (attach additional pages if necessary):
Same as 4.

8. Have you submitted a claim to any insurance company for damages arising from this incident? If so, name and address of insurance company: Yes No
Under \$1000 deductible

RECEIVED
 2026 JUN -4 P 1:00
 #206-119
 CITY CLERK
 FALL RIVER, MA

Be sure to attach the original of any bills issued or any written estimates of repair or replacement costs. (Any documents that you provide will become the property of the City of Fall River; therefore, please retain copies of any such documents for your files.) Attach any other information you believe will be helpful in the processing of your claim (for example; names and addresses of any witnesses, written medical records if personal injury was sustained).

I swear that the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge.

Date: 5/18/26 Claimant's signature: Roger J. Dupre

WHEN TO FILE: If your claim is based on a defect in a public way, you must file within 30 days of the incident. If your claim is based on the negligence or wrongful act or omission of the City or its employees, you must file within two years of the incident. PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Return this from to : City Clerk, 2nd Fl., One Government Center, Fall River, MA 02722

You should consult with your own attorney in preparing this claim form to understand your legal rights. The Office of the Corporation Counsel is unable to provide legal assistance to private citizens.

For official use only:	Copies forwarded to:	City Clerk	Law	City Council	City Administrator	DCM	Date:	6/4/26
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Staff of the Fall River Public Schools.
We look forward to working
along side your entire team in the
year ahead.

RECEIVED

2026 JUN -4 A 8:05

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

With appreciation,

Kathleen Smith

June 2, 2026

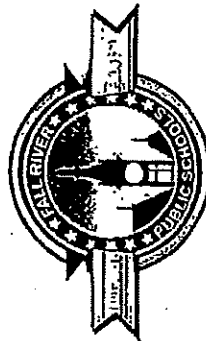
Dear Council President Ponte,

On behalf of my entire team I want
to thank you and the Fall River City
Council for the professionalism shown to
us during the FY 27 Budget Hearing
last evening in City Council Chambers.
The professionalism Councilors showed
deep knowledge and a commitment
to support the students, families and

26

A note from...

Dr. Kathleen Smith
Interim Superintendent



Fall River Public Schools
417 Rock St.
Fall River, MA 02723

The Preservation Society of Fall River

P: 508-673-4841 E: psfallriver@gmail.com W: psfallriver.org



May 29, 2026

Dear Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the Preservation Society of Fall River, Inc., and all of its members, the Board of Directors extends its sincere gratitude for the City Council's vote on May 26, 2026, to award Community Preservation Act funding toward the acquisition of the historic Edward Hathaway House (c. 1892) at 604 Rock Street.

Your support represents an important investment in both Fall River's architectural heritage and the expansion of affordable housing within our community. The Preservation Society is honored by the Council's confidence in this project and is eager to begin the work of restoring and revitalizing this significant historic property. Located within the Highlands Historic District, the Edward Hathaway House occupies a prominent corner that contributes greatly to the character of one of Fall River's most treasured neighborhoods. Through careful preservation and rehabilitation, we intend to transform this property into quality affordable housing while ensuring that its historic character is protected for future generations.

We believe this project will serve as an example of how historic preservation and community development can work hand-in-hand to strengthen neighborhoods, improve quality of life for residents, and safeguard the unique heritage that makes Fall River special. Thank you again for your commitment to preserving the City's historic resources and supporting projects that benefit the people of Fall River.

Sincerely,

The Preservation Society of Fall River, Inc.
Board of Directors

Alexander Silva, *President*
James Souza, *Vice President*
Gale Powers, *Treasurer*
Maria Connie Soule, *Clerk*

John Silva
Jennifer Smith
Jahna Khoury
Jennifer Lauzon
Kejon Sampson

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

2026 JUN - 1 A 11: 01

RECEIVED

28a

SOPW-26-10



CITY OF FALL RIVER
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

To the City Council:

Application for permit to place or maintain a structure or device on or over a public way.

Name of Applicant: **James Root**

Name of Business (if applicable): **St. Anthony of the Desert Maronite Catholic Church Inc.**

Address: **300 North Eastern Avenue, Fall River, MA**

Phone: **508-672-7653**

Email: **bookkeeper@saotd-fr.org**

Type of structure or device: **Banner**

Description (include dimensions): **Banner measures approximately 30ft wide x 3ft high**

Location: **Bedford Street at intersection of Troy Street**

Start Date: **June 30, 2026**

End Date: **August 12, 2026**

The applicant agrees to maintain this structure or device in accordance with the requirements of the Building Inspector and the City Council and that this permit may be revoked at the pleasure of the City Council.

Signature of Applicant: *Msgj. James A Root* on **May 6, 2026**

Approved by:

Building Inspector (or designee) on **June 3, 2026**

Director of Traffic (or designee) on **May 26, 2026**

Chief of Police (or designee) on **May 20, 2026**

Fee Paid: **\$15.00**

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

2026 JUN -3 P 12:35

RECEIVED



CITY OF FALL RIVER
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

To the City Council:

Application for permit to place or maintain a structure or device on or over a public way.

Name of Applicant: James Root

Name of Business (if applicable): St. Anthony of the Desert Maronite Catholic Church Inc

Address: 300 North Eastern Avenue, Fall River, MA

Phone: 508-672-7653

Email: bookkeeper@saotd-fr.org

Type of structure or device: Banner

Description (include dimensions): Banner measures approximately 30ft wide and 3ft high

Location: Pleasant Street near Police Dept Building

Start Date: June 30, 2026

End Date: August 12, 2026

The applicant agrees to maintain this structure or device in accordance with the requirements of the Building Inspector and the City Council and that this permit may be revoked at the pleasure of the City Council.

Signature of Applicant: *Msgr. James A. Root* on May 6, 2026

Approved by:

Building Inspector (or designee) on June 3, 2026

Director of Traffic (or designee) on May 26, 2026

Chief of Police (or designee) on May 20, 2026

Fee Paid: \$15.00

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

2026 JUN -3 P 12: 35

RECEIVED

28c

SOPW-26-11



CITY OF FALL RIVER
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

To the City Council:

Application for permit to place or maintain a structure or device on or over a public way.

Name of Applicant: James Root

Name of Business (if applicable): St. Anthony of the Desert Maronite Catholic Church Inc

Address: 300 North Eastern Avenue, Fall River, MA

Phone: 508-672-7653

Email: bookkeeper@saotd-fr.org

Type of structure or device: Banner

Description (include dimensions): Banner measures approximately 30ft wide x 3ft high

Location: South Main Street near Cultural Center

Start Date: June 30, 2026

End Date: August 12, 2026

The applicant agrees to maintain this structure or device in accordance with the requirements of the Building Inspector and the City Council and that this permit may be revoked at the pleasure of the City Council.

Signature of Applicant: *Msgr. James A. Root* on May 6, 2026

Approved by:

Building Inspector (or designee) on June 3, 2026

Director of Traffic (or designee) on May 26, 2026

Chief of Police (or designee) on May 20, 2026

Fee Paid: \$15.00

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

2026 JUN - 3 P 12: 35

RECEIVED

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARINGS

MEETING: May 12, 2026 at 5:55 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel,
Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr.,
Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: Rebecca Custadio, Designer, National Grid,
245 South Main Street, Hopedale, MA 01747.
Belinda Truong, Distribution Engineer, ControlPoint Technologies,
200 Ledgewood Place, Suite 300, Rockland, MA 02370

The President called the meeting to order at 5:56 p.m. and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium and that the purpose of the hearings was to hear all persons interested and wishing to be heard on the following:

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to open the hearings.

Curb Removals

1. Robert Kfoury, 909 High Street Investment Trust, PO Box 4266, for the removal of curbing as follows:

	Existing Opening	Curbing to be Removed	Curbing to be Added	Combined Opening Proposed After Alteration
909 High Street	14'	18'	0'	32'

The existing parcel is served by a 14-foot curb opening and driveway. The applicant proposes to create a new 18-foot curb opening/driveway to provide access to additional housing units and parking. The total opening for the location will be 32 feet. The Site Plan Review has been successfully completed.

The President asked if any proponents were present, and no one came forward. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.

2. Dylans Estates LLC, 1175 State Road, Westport, MA, 02790 for the removal of curbing as follows:

	Existing Opening	Curbing to be Removed	Curbing to be Added	Combined Opening Proposed After Alteration
940 South Main Street	20' 8"	0'	0'	20' 8"
279 Osborn Street	0'	16'	0'	16'
Total:				36' 8"

The existing parcel is served by a 20-foot, 8-inch curb opening and driveway on South Main Street. The applicant proposes to create a new 16-foot curb opening/driveway on Osborn Street to provide access and parking. The total opening for the location will be 36 feet, 8 inches.

The President asked if any proponents were present, and no one came forward. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.

Jointly Owned Pole Locations

3. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

County Street One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned midspan pole (P27-50) on County Street approximately 30 feet westerly of existing Pole 28, near the intersection of County Street and Goss Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31260032.

Restriction

Pole shall not interfere with access to the existing Americans with Disabilities Act ramp.

The President asked if any proponents were present, and Rebecca Custadio, Designer, National Grid, and Belinda Truong, Distribution Engineer, ControlPoint Technologies, came forward. Ms. Custadio explained that this new pole will allow for the installation of a pole top recloser. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.

4. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

King Street One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned class 2 pole (P10-50) on the easterly side of King Street between Pole 10 and Pole 11, approximately 70 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Walter Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31293162.

The President asked if any proponents were present, and Rebecca Custadio, Designer, National Grid, and Belinda Truong, Distribution Engineer, ControlPoint Technologies, came forward. Ms. Custadio explained that this new pole will also provide the opportunity for a pole top recloser to be installed. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.

5. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

Mount Hope Avenue

One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned 45-foot, H1 midspan pole (P10-50) on Mount Hope Avenue between existing Pole 10 and Pole 11, approximately 50 feet westerly of the intersection of Mount Hope Avenue and Bayview Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31293092.

Restriction

Pole shall be set at back of walk and shall not interfere with existing driveways.

The President asked if any proponents were present, and Rebecca Custadio, Designer, National Grid, and Belinda Truong, Distribution Engineer, ControlPoint Technologies, came forward. Ms. Custadio explained that a new top recloser will be placed on this pole, if the petition is approved. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.

6. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

Rodman Street

One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned pole (P24-50) on Rodman Street at a location that is both approximately 128 feet northwesterly of the centerline of the intersection with Lonsdale Street and 49 feet northwesterly of existing Pole 25. In accordance with Plan No. 31290760.

The President asked if any proponents were present, and Rebecca Custadio, Designer, National Grid, and Belinda Truong, Distribution Engineer, ControlPoint Technologies, came forward. Ms. Custadio explained that this new pole will also serve to provide a location to install a top recloser apparatus. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.

Vice President Dionne asked if any National Grid poles would be removed following the installation of multiple new jointly owned poles. Ms. Custadio explained that no existing poles will be removed and that the top recloser equipment requires its own, stand-alone structure to be safely installed. Ms. Custadio also explained that the new poles are being installed to follow a "flicker" program that is designed to reduce momentary interruptions, such as brief power losses, with stronger infrastructure, and reduce liability in relation to outages.

7. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., for one new jointly owned pole location as follows:

Tripp Street

One (1) new jointly owned pole location

This petition is proposing to install one new jointly owned 45-foot, class 2 midspan pole (P3-50) on Tripp Street between existing Pole 3 and Pole 4, approximately 180 feet northeasterly of the intersection of Tripp Street and King Phillip Street. In accordance with Plan No. 31294261.

The President asked if any proponents were present, and Rebecca Custadio, Designer, National Grid, and Belinda Truong, Distribution Engineer, ControlPoint Technologies, came forward. Ms. Custadio explained that this new pole will also be utilized to install a pole top recloser. The President then asked if any opponents were present, and no one came forward.

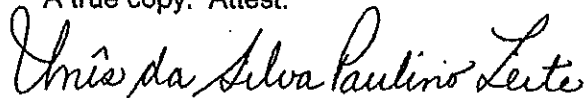
Councilor Pereira asked about the removal of poles that are no longer being utilized by National Grid. Ms. Custadio explained that, while National Grid has removed their equipment from various jointly owned poles throughout Fall River, other utility companies, such as Verizon, Inc., or Comcast, may still have apparatus installed and the poles may not be removed until that equipment is taken down.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to close the hearings at 6:06 p.m.

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:

Agenda (attached)

A true copy. Attest:



City Clerk

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEETING: May 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel,
Michelle M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr.,
Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff
Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services
Al Oliveira, Director of City Operations
Nicholas A. Macollini, Director of Human Resources

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

In accordance with a resolution adopted, as amended May 8, 2012, persons are allowed to address the Council for a period of three minutes prior to the beginning or at the conclusion of business in the Committee on Finance.

1. Citizen Input Time – None
2. Order – Authorizing the award of a two (2) year contract, with a one (1) year option, for Municipal Solid Waste and Single Stream Recyclable Curbside Collection And Disposal Services to Capitol Waste Services, Inc.

Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff, provided a brief summary of the bid solicitation process for solid waste and recycling services and explained that two companies, Capital Waste Services, Inc., and E.L. Harvey, submitted proposals. Ms. O'Neil-Souza stated that a five-member review committee examined the proposals and costs, and submitted scoring rubrics to reflect opinions on the services offered, and stated that Capital Waste Services, Inc., scored 28.7 out of 30 on the rubric, while E.L Harvey scored 24.9.

Vice President Dionne explained that she was part of this review committee and that the City needs reliable trash removal services. Vice President Dionne stated that the submitted proposal from Capital Waste Services, Inc., appears to meet, and exceed, the City's operational needs.

Councilor Raposo and Al Oliveira, Director of City Operations, held a detailed discussion regarding the Pilot Cardboard Recycling Program, and the need to improve cardboard recycling throughout the City, as that material is the most valuable recyclable item. Mr. Oliveira explained that the pilot program has had no positive or negative effect on the City financially, but that the City should respond to market conditions related to the value of cardboard. Mr. Oliveira also stated that this recycling priority has been discussed with Capital Waste Services, Inc., and will be included in the negotiation process. Councilor Raposo asked if Capital Waste Services, Inc., will provide better customer service to residents. The Director of City Operations explained that the company provides internal customer service representatives and dispatching services. Vice President Dionne also clarified that there is an on-site customer service manager available to the public every day.

Councilor Raposo, Ms. O'Neil-Souza, Mr. Oliveira and Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, held a detailed discussion regarding the development of the recycling programs, the recent merger of EZ Disposal and Capital Waste Services, Inc., and the solid waste disposal locations. Ms. O'Neil-Souza stated that the City's goal is to continue and improve education to residents in relation to recycling and various types of disposal restrictions, such as the limitations for textiles, and that the oversight of these initiatives will involve the Administration, the City Council and the Director of Community Maintenance. The Director of City Operations stated that the City has been working closely with Capital Waste Services, Inc., during their merger transition. Ms. Arpke explained that once the solid waste is collected, the company will be responsible for the waste transport and disposal, not the City of Fall River.

Councilor Pereira asked if the existing contract with the Crapo Hill Landfill in New Bedford, MA, will end when this new contract with Capital Waste Services, Inc., is finalized. Ms. Arpke confirmed that the contract for the landfill is scheduled to end on June 30, 2026. A detailed discussion was held between Councilor Pereira, the Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff and the Director of City Operations regarding cardboard recycling, educational outreach efforts by the City and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as well as staff and customer service within Capital Waste Services, Inc. Mr. Oliveira provided information regarding general drop-off recycling for cardboard as well as the School Department's separate contract for their recycling disposal needs. Ms. O'Neil-Souza explained that the City works closely with the DEP to provide educational programs for students and parents throughout the City and provide recycling containers, such as tote bags, for those who live in multi-family homes. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff also stated that the local manager for Capital Waste Services, Inc., has been responsive to the City throughout the proposal process and the Director of City Operations clarified that the employees for this private company are union members.

Councilor Peckham, Ms. Arpke and Mr. Oliveira discussed the tentative contract, the anticipated percentage increase for tonnage and the total financial cost within the contract. Ms. Arpke explained that waste tonnage has been decreasing and the tentative contract does not include a percentage increase based on this cost. Mr. Oliveira clarified that the City did provide this data to Capital Waste Services, Inc., to include in their calculations for their proposed price. Councilor Pereira expressed concern that increased housing development within Fall River will result in a larger need for solid waste disposal. Councilor Peckham agreed and stated that there is no official population total for the City, and that population increases will result in higher trash volume. Mr. Oliveira provided information regarding the City's waste diversion efforts with the recycling education programs and Ms. O'Neil-Souza clarified that many of the new housing developments are commercial properties, which will require them to pay for their own trash and recycling collection services. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff also explained that the City is working to reduce municipal trash pick-up services to various six-family properties.

Vice President Dionne agreed that large, commercial properties would not place an additional burden on the City's contracted services with Capital Waste Services, Inc., as they will not be required to collect waste from those locations. Councilor Peckham requested that the Administration plan for population growth and various increased service demands.

Councilor Cadime and the Director of Financial Services held a lengthy discussion regarding the length of the proposed contract, as longer contracts create more incentives for companies to provide lower total costs. Ms. Arpke clarified that the City did not want to commit to a long-term agreement, as there are currently changes in operational needs. The Director of Financial Services also explained that contracts in the future may be created for longer periods of time and that the City will not need short-term contracts each time they are renewed. Councilor Cadime provided a detailed explanation regarding the benefits of long-term contracts, the uncommon discontinuation of the Pay-as-You-Throw trash bag program, and the increased recycling incentive that would occur if residents were required to pay for trash bags. Ms. O'Neil-Souza provided information regarding various areas of the City that have higher recycling contamination issues, outreach to those residents, and educational programs provided to students and families. Councilor Cadime and the Director of Financial Services discussed the projected cost increases of approximately \$1,500,000, between Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027. Ms. Arpke clarified that the order presented to the Councilors this evening is just to authorize the Mayor to pursue contract negotiations and that no contract has been presented for approval. Councilor Cadime agreed and stated that this type of procurement is exempt from the requirements of M.G.L. Ch. 30B, the Uniform Procurement Act, and that a City Council vote is not required for the matter.

Councilor Cadime, Ms. Arpke and Mr. Oliveira held a detailed discussion regarding requirements placed in the Request for Proposals for these services, including the need to provide new waste pick-up vehicles with camera monitors. Councilor Cadime stated that this restriction disincentivizes companies from submitting bids to this proposal and the proposed contract structure is not competitive. Ms. Arpke explained that this requirement would reduce liability concerns and minimize service interruptions due to vehicles breaking down. Mr. Oliveira stated that the required camera systems would assist with documenting missed pickups, as well as any operational issues. Councilor Cadime stated that the costs the City will incur with this type of specificity for services will negatively impact the taxpayers of Fall River. Councilor Cadime also stated that the amortization of the costs of new vehicles will be incorporated into the contract presented by the company, as they will want to be reimbursed for these expenditures. A lengthy discussion was held between Councilor Cadime, Mr. Oliveira and Ms. Arpke regarding the requirement for new vehicles and the short-term contract, including projected overall costs, repeat vehicle purchases, and the reduced risk of vehicle failure. Councilor Cadime also asked for information regarding revenue generated by cardboard recycling programs. Mr. Oliveira explained that the goal of those programs was to generate additional revenue for the City, but the market conditions for cardboard affect the total amount of funds received. Ms. Arpke also explained that the City is still developing contractual language regarding recycling revenue with Capital Waste Services, Inc. Ms. O'Neil-Souza also provided information regarding waste reduction and climate-related goals that will be included in the proposed language.

President Ponte clarified that no contract was before the City Council for a vote and that the order being discussed would only allow the Administration to proceed with contract negotiations and execute said contract. President Ponte stated that the City Council may return this matter to the Mayor by rejecting the order.

Councilor Hart stated that the City Councilors should receive additional information regarding the contract prior to voting upon this matter. Councilor Pereira clarified that the solid waste and disposal contracts are exempt from requiring City Council approval. Councilor Cadime expressed concern regarding the inconsistency of contracts being presented to the Council for a vote, as the Council is being asked to approve contract negotiations prior to reviewing a completed contract. Councilor Cadime also stated that, with his interpretation, this order, requesting the City Council grant negotiation authority to the Mayor for this contract, seems unnecessary.

Councilor Canuel and Mr. Oliveira held a detailed discussion regarding cardboard recycling and collection technology systems, and potential partnerships with companies that provide this equipment. The Director of City Operations stated that the City has participated in multiple meetings regarding these services since 2006 due to the Commonwealth's restrictions on various forms of disposal, such as incineration, but that the financial disadvantages for these services outweigh the advantages. Councilor Canuel stated that he agreed with Councilor Cadime that a longer contract term would be beneficial to the City, as it would be more competitive and provide expenditure predictability. Ms. Arpke explained that the City is open to longer contract agreements in the future, but that a shorter contract term right now is appropriate to accommodate anticipated operational changes. Councilor Canuel and the Director of Financial Services also discussed the drawbacks of returning trash collection to City employees, including tonnage costs, school-related collections, staffing, employee benefit and insurance costs and the need to purchase multiple, high-cost vehicles.

Councilor Camara requested additional information regarding the educational programs for recycling protocols, the ongoing issues with recycling contamination and waste volume. Ms. O'Neil-Souza explained that the education programs would be available in various languages, including English, Spanish and Portuguese. Ms. Arpke explained that the video installation on the new vehicles would improve the City's ability to enforce contamination regulations. Mr. Oliveira explained that contamination is frequent and increases the City's cost for recycling services. Councilor Camara stated that a positive economy affects trash volume, as people purchase more items, and a negative economy decreases waste disposal. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff stated that the Administration would consider all recommendations from the City Council, as this is the first time trash collection services have undergone a formal procurement process, and that this was presented to the City Council to increase transparency of these actions. Ms. Arpke and Ms. O'Neil-Souza also clarified that two to three bids for the Request for Proposals is fairly common with other municipalities for a similar procurement.

Vice President Dionne suggested that the recycling educational packets be included in the envelopes that are mailed with property tax invoices, as that will ensure residents are notified properly. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff and Director of City Operations agreed and stated that this information is also being shared on social media platforms.

Councilor Raposo requested additional information regarding litter enforcement and fines associated with improper recycling practices, and how the City responds when these fines are not paid in a timely manner. Mr. Oliveira stated that fines have been issued more frequently in the past year and Ms. O'Neil-Souza explained that municipal property liens may be applied for these unpaid citations. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff also stated that the Administration is working to develop a proposed ordinance that would revoke the right for municipal collection services for those who are repeat offenders with these types of violations. Ms. Arpke clarified that property liens are only applied for these citations when there are other non-paid violations for the property, as the City's cost of the lien is higher than the recycling

citation costs. Mr. Oliveira stated that he would provide Councilor Raposo with a list of trash-related fines that have been issued over the past year. A brief discussion was held between Councilor Raposo and Ms. Arpke regarding the future of the Litter Enforcement Division with new technology being utilized to identify violations. Ms. Arpke stated that the technology may reduce the need to hire additional staff in the future, but that current employees will remain and continue enforcement protocols.

Councilor Pereira, Ms. O'Neil-Souza and Mr. Oliveira discussed various neighborhoods that have higher rates of contaminated recycling, which includes the Corky Row, Flint and Buffinton/Snell Street neighborhoods. Mr. Oliveira stated that waste collected from these areas undergo additional decontamination efforts prior to being transferred for disposal to reduce fines applied to the City.

Councilor Cadime and Mr. Oliveira discussed historic truck challenges the City has faced in relation to solid waste disposal services. Mr. Oliveira stated that, during the previous contract, corrective action was required for breakdowns that occurred two to three times per year.

Councilor Camara made brief remarks regarding the need to address absentee landlords who do not reside in the City, as they are less attentive to waste and recycling issues.

On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted that the order be referred to full Council for action.

3. Order – Appropriation of \$3,000,000.00 from FY 25 Surplus Revenue to Employer Health Trust Fund

Vice President Dionne stated that there have been multiple updates provided to the City Council regarding the need to increase the fund balance within this account and inquired as to why this appropriation was not included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget.

Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, explained that this matter was discussed during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget meetings and that the account required a full rebuild to adjust the funding levels. Ms. Arpke stated that the City's goal is to maintain approximately three months of expenses within the fund, which would total about \$10,000,000. The Director of Financial Services explained that the shortfall was due to unintentional underbudgeting over several years and that there remains a significant gap between the current and desired fund balance levels. Ms. Arpke stated that the Administration's goal is to correct the deficit gradually over time. Ms. Arpke also provided information regarding the insurance costs, which have been slightly below the anticipated levels for this quarter, and stated that this appropriation order would allow the use of one-time funds to increase the fund balance.

Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke discussed the timely use of one-time funds, such as Free Cash, and that this capital must be certified by June 30, 2026, to be expended within this fiscal year. Ms. Arpke explained that, if the City Council waited to appropriate this type of funding, it would not be available again until the end of Fiscal Year 2027. Vice President Dionne and the Director of Financial Services also discussed the constant changes within this account and Ms. Arpke explained that the quarterly reports do not fully reflect ongoing activity within the fund. Vice President Dionne suggested that the appropriation be completed through a year-end recapitulation transfer.

Councillor Cadime, Ms. Arpke and Nicholas A. Macolini, Director of Human Resources, held a lengthy discussion regarding medical coverage costs, rebate receipts and prescription reimbursement totals. Mr. Macolini stated that medical coverage costs are increasing and the Employer Health Trust Fund needs additional capital to counteract these increases. Ms. Arpke also explained that certain rebate payments hadn't been processed when the quarterly report was drafted, and that there are delays in prescription rebate reimbursements. Councillor Cadime stated that there is a difference in the deficit from Fiscal Year 2025 to present and Mr. Macolini reiterated that the goal for this account is a total of \$10,500,000, to ensure the City does not experience additional financial deficits. Councillor Cadime suggested that a larger transfer of \$5,000,000 be requested, instead of the current \$3,000,000 appropriation request. The Director of Financial Services provided a detailed breakdown of the City's Free Cash balance, deposits into the Stabilization Fund, as well as other funding requirements for Capital Projects and the Fall River Fire Department for overtime payments. Councillor Cadime suggested that the City prioritize the Employer Health Trust Fund allocations prior to contributing to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mr. Macolini stated that the City has been working to address future costs and health insurance funding to allow them to continue offering competitive employment benefits.

Councillor Pereira, the Director of Financial Services and the Director of Human Resources held a detailed discussion regarding the current method of paying insurance claims, as well as stop-loss reimbursement thresholds. Ms. Arpke stated that these reimbursements are often received several months after the City pays the claims, which affects the account totals. Councillor Pereira agreed that the City Council should approve a larger transfer of \$5,000,000 for this trust fund. Councillor Pereira made brief remarks regarding the increased costs of prescription drugs and stated that funding levels should be based on actual claim costs, not plan costs.

Councillor Camara and Ms. Arpke discussed the Stabilization Fund balance, which is approximately \$21,500,000, and Ms. Arpke clarified that there are other Stabilization Fund accounts for the Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School Debt Exclusion, as well as the Water, Sewer and Emergency Medical Services Enterprise Funds.

On a motion made by Councillor Canuel and seconded by Councillor Raposo, it was unanimously voted that the order be referred to full Council for action.

4. Fiscal Year 2026 Quarter 3 Budget Report

Vice President Dionne and Emily Arpke, Director of Financial Services, discussed various line items in the report, including those related to demolition and insurance. Councillor Cadime requested additional information regarding the demolition funding, and Ms. Arpke stated that this was related to the fire that occurred at the old Silvia School on Hartwell Street in 2025.

Councillor Pereira stated that many members of the public were waiting for the Regular Meeting of the City Council to occur and suggested that this matter be tabled for a future meeting. Councillors Camara and Pereira discussed the anticipated length for discussion of this matter and Councillor Pereira stated that extended delays of the City Council Meetings create challenges for attendees.

On a motion made by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Hart, it was voted 1 yea, 8 nays, to table the Fiscal Year 2026 Quarter 3 Budget Report, with Councillor Pereira voting in the affirmative. Councillor Camara suggested that the Council members limit their discussions to specific questions and note if their planned questions are answered during another Councillor's time on the floor.

Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke continued their discussion of various line items within the report, including Public Consulting Group (PCG) reimbursements for the Department of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), utility costs for EMS Department and funding for support personnel salaries. Ms. Arpke explained that the PCG reimbursements compensate for ambulance services for those who use Medicare and that the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget would include a more detailed breakdown of departmental expenditures. The Director of Financial Services also made brief remarks regarding the delays associated with EMS billing and revenue collection.

Vice President Dionne and Ms. Arpke also held a detailed discussion regarding the Employer Health Trust Fund, stop-loss reimbursements for both the City and School Department and higher costs of prescription medications. Ms. Arpke reiterated that the timing for the quarterly updates creates discrepancies between what funding was available on that day, in comparison to the date of the discussion, and explained that the Gallagher Report included in the booklet provides detailed information regarding anticipated expenditures throughout the remaining fiscal year. Ms. Arpke explained that stop-loss thresholds are exceeded when medical costs and use increase, and that this total can change at any time. The Director of Financial Services stated that, while the exact totals for these costs cannot be guaranteed, they use anticipated projections to create reasonable estimates for these expenditures.

Councillor Canuel and Ms. Arpke discussed various types of reimbursements within the report, including federal and state funds for snow and ice removal costs, as well as those received for the pension assessment line item. The Director of Financial Services explained that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts may provide reimbursement funds following the Blizzard of 2026, but there is no anticipated timeline for receipt of that capital. Ms. Arpke also provided information regarding reimbursements for various departments, such as the Community Development Agency (CDA), and grant-funded positions, that will be received to balance the deficit currently listed within the pension assessment item as the City pays for those costs up front prior to the reimbursement being received.

Councillor Raposo, Ms. O'Neil-Souza and Ms. Arpke held a detailed discussion regarding the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) payments from the Housing Authority, the expenses that have been paid in relation to snow removal services and the use of the Financial Analysis and Compliance Manager position salary. Ms. Arpke explained that the Housing Authority receives one payment in June each year from the federal government for their PILOT payments, which reflects the current deficit listed in the quarterly report. The Director of Financial Services also confirmed that all invoices received for snow removal services have been paid in full. The Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff explained that the vacant Financial Analysis and Compliance Manager position will remain in the upcoming budget with a lower salary limit. Ms. Arpke also clarified that a portion of the Fiscal Year 2026 salary allocation for that position is being used to fund her current role as Director of Financial Services.

Councillor Cadime and Ms. Arpke discussed real estate tax collection revenue, including the tax levy totals, the timing of invoices being distributed to property owners, and the City Treasurer/Collector working to collect funds in a timely manner to avoid the issuance of property liens. Councillor Cadime asked if the information within future quarterly reports could be broken down to show various sources of property tax revenue and Ms. Arpke explained that some of the reporting structure is dependent on the MUNIS software templating.

Councillor Cadime also requested information regarding motor vehicle excise tax revenue, an increase within the City Clerk, Salaries line item and vacancies within the City. The Director of

Financial Services stated that the motor vehicle excise tax collections have a slow collection cycle, but that currently the revenue is satisfactory. Ms. Arpke also provided information regarding retirement buy-out costs, as well as cost-of-living adjustments for positions that are not included within the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), which resulted in the salary increases in the City Clerk, Salaries line item and stated that this would be remedied with an end-of-year transfer. The Director of Financial Services also explained that the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget would provide detailed information regarding vacancies within City departments.

Councilor Cadime and the Director of Financial Services held detailed discussions regarding various items within the report, including the line item for EMS Dispatch Operations, the Police, Capital expenses data, and the lack of a listed salary for the Harbormaster. Ms. Arpke stated that grant funding will be used to offset remaining costs for EMS Dispatch Operations, the Police, Capital totals reflect an encumbered, but not yet expended, funds for vehicle purchases, and that the Harbormaster's salary is based in the Police Department budget, while only overtime costs are reflected in the separate line item with the Harbormaster label.

Councilor Cadime requested additional information regarding the Fire Department's Capital, Expenses line item, the School Department's Net School Spending requirements, the City's pension assessment data, and the EMS billing and revenue delays. The Director of Financial Services explained that the Fire Department's Capital, Expenses line item reflects the \$1,230,000 received from a prior fiscal year's Free Cash which was allocated for the purchase of new and used fire trucks. Ms. Arpke also stated that the School Department's salary expenditure occurs later in the fiscal year, as the school year begins in the fall, and that there are no current concerns as this will be remedied with large end-of-year payments within the department. The Director of Financial Services reiterated that the pension assessment is waiting for reimbursements from various sources, including the CDA and the Bristol County Agricultural High School funds. Ms. Arpke also stated that the delays for EMS billing match prior fiscal years, but there is currently a newly hired billing clerk who has been improving these processing wait times. Councilor Cadime expressed concern regarding these billing timelines and the lack of revenue reflected in the quarterly report.

Councilor Cadime and Ms. Arpke also discussed the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) reimbursements, project-related expenditures, including the Bedford Street streetscape improvements, window and heating, ventilation and air conditioning updates within the Fall River Police Department, and updates to various Fire Department facilities. Additional discussions were held between Councilor Cadime and the Director of Financial Services in relation to the current Sewer deficit, and Ms. Arpke stated that sewer operation totals are affected by the timing of debt payments, but revenues are being collected regularly and currently exceed 75% of the anticipated collection rate. Councilor Cadime asked for clarification of various costs of the Sewer Enterprise Fund, including the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) settlement and ongoing projects that utilize this funding. Ms. Arpke explained that the project, which began in 2006, is still active and that she would obtain more information from the Administrator of Community Utilities. The Director of Financial Services also stated that some of the funding for these projects is obtained through the Massachusetts Water Trust and not from City funds.

A discussion was held between Councilor Cadime, Ms. Arpke and Nicholas A. Macolini, Director of Human Resources, regarding health insurance rebates and how those allocations affect the School Department's NSS totals. Ms. Arpke explained that she had worked with the School Department's Chief Financial Officer to ensure that prescription rebates are incorporated into the budget projections for the School Department and that they would be credited toward NSS.

Councilor Cadime expressed concern regarding how these costs were split between the School Department and City funds, as the rebates were being applied to the City's accounts when many of those who had qualified for rebates worked within the school system.

Mr. Macolini clarified that the stop-loss insurance reimbursements are anonymous and are tagged with group identification numbers. The Director of Human Resources also explained that the prescription costs rebates are allocated on a 60% to 40% basis, for the City and School Department respectively. Councilor Cadime emphasized that the rebate reconciliation process should be completed to ensure that appropriate funds are credited to the School Department. Vice President Dionne stated that the data may be anonymous due to requirements under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Councilor Camara clarified that those requirements apply to medical professionals and health care providers.

Councilor Cadime stated that the School Committee has requested full rebate amounts for the School Department and stated that he agrees that this fund allocation is necessary as it may affect NSS totals. Ms. Arpke clarified that the rebates are not required components of the NSS data in comparison to reimbursements. A lengthy discussion was held between Councilor Cadime and the Director of Financial Services regarding the differences between rebates, reimbursements and premium amounts for health insurance coverage. Councilor Camara suggested that this matter be discussed further during the upcoming budget meetings and stated that these financial actions do assist in keeping the School Department's insurance premium totals lower for all employees.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:
Agenda packet (attached)


Clerk of Committees

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING: May 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel,
Michellè M. Dionne, Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr.,
Linda M. Pereira and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff
Nicholas A. Macolini, Director of Human Resources

President Ponte called the meeting to order at 8:35 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

PRIORITY MATTERS

1. Mayor and request for confirmation of the appointment of Christopher Hathaway as the Director of Community Maintenance

Vice President Dionne expressed concern that this appointment for the Director of Community Maintenance position was being submitted to the City Council prior to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislations' discussion of item 5 on the agenda, the proposed ordinance to reorganize the Department of Community Maintenance (DCM) and the Department of City Operations. Vice President Dionne provided examples of contradictory language such as the City Engineer providing engineering advice "as requested and approved by the Director of Community Maintenance," and the DCM controlling types of traffic apparatus instead of the Division of Traffic and Parking.

President Ponte clarified that the Director of Community Maintenance position currently exists within City ordinances. Vice President Dionne agreed but stated that the new proposed ordinance creates confusion in relation to the confirmation of this appointment due to potential changes for this role in the future. Councilor Raposo agreed that the proposed ordinance should be addressed prior to confirming the appointment of a new Director of Community Maintenance.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules to allow Ann O'Neil-Souza, Interim City Administrator/Chief of Staff and Nicholas A. Macolini, Director of Human Resources, to answer questions.

Councilor Cadime stated that the Director of Community Maintenance position already exists within the City code. Mr. Macolini confirmed that this position is present within City code §50-302, which relates to Salary schedules for contract personnel.

A discussion was held between Vice President Dionne, Councilor Raposo and Mr. Macolini regarding the existing position of Director of Community Maintenance, which reports to the Director of City Operations. The Director of Human Resources clarified that a majority of the text within the proposed ordinance already exists in the current City code, including the section related to engineering advice that Vice President Dionne had read aloud, and that there have been changes regarding the organization of direct reports of various positions. Mr. Macolini explained that the Administration's intent with the proposed ordinance was to work collaboratively with the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation to amend the document as needed.

Councilor Raposo stated that the proposed ordinance should be addressed prior to the appointment of a new department head as the City Council only has one opportunity to confirm a candidate's appointment. Mr. Macolini clarified that the best candidate had been identified for the position and that, following the appointment, the Administration had planned to address the reorganization with the Committee.

President Ponte reiterated that this position currently exists in the City code, but stated that the reorganization could change the reporting structure and the responsibilities of the position. Mr. Macolini stated that it may affect the tasks assigned to the appointed department head, but only slightly.

Vice President Dionne asked when the Acting Director of Community Maintenance's appointment would expire, and Mr. Macolini stated that this appointment would expire within the next 60 days, or immediately following the permanent candidate being confirmed and sworn-in.

Councilor Cadime clarified that the duty of the City Council is to fill the current vacancy of this position and explained that, if the position was not vacant, the proposed ordinance would still need to be discussed, amended as needed, and passed to be ordained. Councilor Cadime stated that the City Council's role is to approve the candidate's appointment and advised that this matter be voted upon as the position will need to be filled even if the proposed ordinance falls in Committee. Councilor Pereira and Mr. Macolini discussed the start date planned for the proposed candidate, which would be June 1, 2026, and Councilor Pereira stated that she agreed with Councilor Cadime.

Vice President Dionne and the Director of Human Resources discussed potential changes to the duties of the Director of Community Maintenance within the proposed ordinance, which may occur. Vice President Dionne also commented on the salary of \$140,000 listed on the appointment letter and asked if this increase in salary was based on the proposed ordinance's amendments to the role. Mr. Macolini stated that throughout the interview process, the City had to increase the salary offered to attract qualified candidates, as the current salary for the Acting Director of Community Maintenance is \$95,000.

Councilor Cadime reiterated that the matter before the City Council is only the confirmation of an appointment, not the contract or salary being offered to the individual. Vice President Dionne stated that she would object to the appointment as the proposed ordinance should be addressed prior to the confirmation. Councilor Pereira explained that the City needed to increase the salary amount being offered within the contract to find employees with the skill sets needed for this role.

On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted 7 yeas, 2 nays, to move the question, with President Ponte and Councilor Raposo voting in the negative.

A motion was made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Peckham to confirm the appointment. On a roll call vote, Vice President Dionne objected and the matter was laid on the table in accordance with the Charter.

2. Mayor and request for confirmation of the appointment of John Sylvia to the Board of Park Commissioners

Councilor Pereira commended the hard work that Mr. Sylvia has provided to the community. On a motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was unanimously voted to confirm the appointment.

3. Mayor and request for confirmation of the reappointment of the following to the Board of Park Commissioners:

- a. Victor Farias

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was voted 9 yeas to confirm the reappointment.

- b. Helen Rego

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was voted 9 yeas to confirm the reappointment.

4. Mayor and resolution authorizing submission of the Community Development Agency's Year Two Annual Action Plan

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was voted 8 yeas to adopt the resolution, with President Ponte abstaining.

Approved, May 14, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

5. Mayor and proposed ordinance re Reorganization of the City Operations Department into the Department of Community Maintenance and the Department of Facilities Maintenance

On a motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to refer the proposed ordinance to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation.

PRIORITY COMMUNICATIONS

6. Traffic Commission recommending amendments to the traffic ordinances

On a motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to refer the recommendations to the Committee on Ordinances and Legislation.

COMMITTEE REPORTSCommittee on Ordinances and Legislation recommending:All readings with emergency preamble:

7. Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Handicapped Parking
- Fifth Street, West, 65 feet north of Rodman Street
 - Barnes Street, North, 395 feet east of County Street
 - Dwelly Street, North, 38 feet west of Montaup Street
 - French Street, North, 241 feet east of Barnaby Street
 - Griffin Street, South, 94 feet east of Broadway
 - Middle Street, South, 481 feet west of South Main Street
 - Palmer Street, North, 40 feet west of Plymouth Avenue
 - Union Street, West, 18 feet south of Hope Street

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 9 yeas to adopt the emergency preamble. On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed through first and second reading, passed to be enrolled and passed to be ordained.

Approved, May 14, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

First Reading:

8. Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Miscellaneous

Section 1

One-hour parking

- Pleasant Street, North, 75 feet west of Ninth Street
Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Section 2

Handicapped parking removals

- Chavenson Street, West, 25 feet north of Bedford Street
- Forest Street, East, 198 feet south of Park Street
- Plymouth Avenue, West, 20 feet south of Fifth Street
- Walnut Street, North, 124 feet east of Hanover Street

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed through first reading.

Grant Leave to Withdraw:

9. Communication – City resident re parking ticket appeal process
President Ponte and Councilor Raposo requested that a letter be sent to the City resident notifying them of this matter being granted leave to withdraw. On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted that the communication be granted leave to withdraw.

10. Proposed Ordinance – Requiring City Council approval of certain employment contract obligations

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be granted leave to withdraw.

Adoption:

11. Resolution – City Council pursues legal action to get a legal determination from a judge on the City Council's authority to confirm reappointments, the City Council's jurisdiction to investigate City departments and the City Council's authority to hire outside agencies to assist with investigations

Councilor Raposo stated that there have been lengthy discussions regarding this matter and that this resolution was needed to obtain a final legal interpretation of the jurisdiction of the City Council.

Councilor Pereira expressed concern regarding the City Council's planned funding source for this type of legal action. President Ponte stated that there is an expense line item in the City Council budget that is allocated for the Outside Audit, but that these funds could be adjusted to provide available capital for legal services.

Councilor Cadime made brief remarks regarding the legal opinions that were received by the Law Department and the different interpretations he had obtained from discussions with other attorneys. Councilor Cadime stated that the City Council would address all necessary funding during the upcoming budget discussions.

A detailed discussion was held between President Ponte and Councilor Camara regarding the planned method to obtain a judicial ruling on this matter. President Ponte stated that the process would involve a lawsuit against the City and Councilor Camara expressed concern regarding this procedure. Councilor Camara also asked what the outcome of this procedure would be if the judicial opinion was not in line with the City Council's goal, and the resulting financial costs for this type of court case.

Councilor Pereira stated that the City Council should not conduct investigations, as that is not the role of the legislative branch. Councilor Raposo clarified that the City Council needs to obtain a formal interpretation of the text within the City Charter and City code. Councilor Pereira stated that she would object to the adoption of this resolution.

On a motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted 3 yeas, 6 nays to move the question, with Councilors Camara, Hart and Pereira voting in the affirmative and the motion failed to carry.

Councilor Peckham asked the City Clerk if any violations or consequences occur when the text of the City Charter is not followed and the City Clerk stated that the question should be directed to the Law Department. Councilor Peckham expressed concern regarding a recent communication from the Administration stating that the investigation regarding the Fall River Police Department was completed and the accompanying news article that was later published. Councilor Peckham stated that he intends to pursue the matter further.

Councilor Raposo reiterated that a judicial ruling is necessary to determine the interpretation of various sections of text related to City Council jurisdiction. Vice President Dionne agreed and stated that the City Council's concerns regarding various matters are often dismissed and defined as being outside of the power of the legislative body. Councilor Canuel expressed concern that the School Department has their own legal representation and stated that the City Council should also have its own attorney. Councilor Canuel agreed that judicial determination is needed to remedy this matter.

Councilors Camara and Peckham held a brief discussion regarding the letter related to the Fall River Police Department investigation. Councilor Peckham explained that the information from the investigation was sent to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Peace Officers Standard and Training Commission (POST), but that he was unable to obtain any additional information from POST. Councilor Peckham also stated that there is, allegedly, incorrect text within an affidavit submitted during the investigation, including the concept of an officer involved being an "undercover" officer. Councilor Camara stated that the outcome of the investigation is unknown and suggested submitting a letter to the Administration requesting this information be shared with the City Council.

Councilor Cadime stated that similar issues related to legal opinions have occurred in nearby municipalities, such as New Bedford, MA, and that the City Council should be able to obtain guidance and clear communication from an attorney.

A motion was made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham to adopt the resolution. Councilors Cadime, Canuel, Dionne and Peckham voted in the affirmative and Councilors Camara and Hart voted in the negative. Councilor Pereira objected and the matter was laid on the table in accordance with the Charter.

ORDINANCES

Second Reading and Enrollment

12. Proposed Ordinance – Traffic, Miscellaneous

Section 1

Parking prohibited during all times (inserts)

- Brightman Street, North, 30 feet of Lindsey Street
- Pine Street, South, 244 feet west of Robeson Street

Section 2

Parking prohibited during all times (strikeout)

- Brightman Street, North, 100 feet of Lindsey Street

Section 3

Handicapped parking removals

- Eddy Street, West, 152 feet south of Locust Street

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed through second reading and enrollment. On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted that the proposed ordinance be passed to be ordained.

Approved, May 14, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

Second Reading and Enrollment, as amended

13. Proposed Ordinance – Authorize City Council to hire outside legal counsel

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was voted 6 yeas, 3 nays, that the proposed ordinance be passed through second reading and enrollment, as amended, with Councilors Camara, Hart and Pereira voting in the negative. On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was voted 6 yeas, 3 nays, that the proposed ordinance be passed to be ordained, as amended, with Councilors Camara, Hart and Pereira voting in the negative.

Councilor Cadime stated that a Special Meeting of the City Council should be held to address the resolution that was objected to on the floor.

A lengthy discussion was held between President Ponte and Councilors Cadime and Camara about the need to schedule the Special Meeting. Councilor Cadime stated that, as only one Councilor had objected to the matter, the City Charter states that a Special Meeting may be held to vote upon the item. Councilor Camara expressed concern that a Special Meeting was being held to adopt a resolution when there was no urgency for this item to receive a vote prior to the next Regular Meeting of the City Council. President Ponte stated that this decision would be made at the will of the Council.

Councilor Canuel agreed that this matter did not appear to be urgent, as all the Priority Matter items included on the April 14, 2026, Regular Meeting of the City Council agenda were objected to and no Special Meeting of the City Council was scheduled to vote on those items following the objections. Councilor Cadime clarified that a Special Meeting could have been scheduled for those items if a motion had been made, based on the City Charter §2-9(c), which relates to Charter objections.

On a further motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was voted 5 yeas, 4 nays, that a Special Meeting of the City Council be held on May 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., with Councilors Camara, Canuel, Hart and Pereira voting in the negative.

RESOLUTIONS

14. City Council send letter to the Administration requesting the amendment of the Capital Improvement Plan to reflect the purchase of 200 sets of PFAS-free turn-out gear and the Committee on Public Safety convene to discuss the harmful effects of turn-out gear. Councilor Raposo made brief remarks regarding the need to provide updated turn-out gear to all firefighters at once due to the public safety risks of being exposed to noxious fumes and materials. Councilor Raposo also emphasized the need for a detailed discussion within the Committee on Public Safety and the Fire Chief regarding ways to mitigate risks for first responders. On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adopt the resolution.

CITATIONS

15. Chorbishop James A. Root – Ordination as Chorbishop on May 2, 2026, Saint Anthony of the Desert Maronite Church

On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Camara, it was unanimously voted that the citation be accepted and placed on file.

On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to take items 16 through 22 together.

ORDERS – HEARINGS

Curb Removals

16. Robert Kfoury, 909 High Street Investment Trust, PO Box 4266 – Removal of 18 feet of curbing for an opening total of 32 feet at 909 High Street
17. Dylans Estates LLC, 1175 State Road, Westport, MA, 02790 – Removal of 16 feet of curbing for an opening total of 36 feet and 8 inches at 940 South Main Street and 279 Osborn Street

Jointly Owned Pole Locations

18. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc.,
County Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
19. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc.,
King Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
20. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc.,
Mount Hope Avenue – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
21. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc.,
Rodman Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location
22. Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc.,
Tripp Street – One (1) new jointly owned pole location

On a further motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to adopt the orders.

Approved, May 14, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

ORDERS – MISCELLANEOUS

23. Police Chief's Report on Licenses
Second Hand
ecoATM, LLC, 4171 North Main Street (inside Shaws)
ecoATM, LLC, 638 Quequechan Street
ecoATM, LLC, 866 Pleasant Street

On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.

24. Auto Body Shop License Renewals
Antonio F. Pinto d/b/a Pinto's Auto Repair & Sales Inc., 2447 South Main Street
Alexander Medeiros d/b/a Al Piva's Auto Repair & Body Shop, 151 Cove Street
On a motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.

Approved, May 14, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

25. Auto Repair Shop License Renewals
Alexander Medeiros d/b/a Al Piva's Auto Repair & Body Shop, 151 Cove Street
Sameh Saleb, Keyrlos, Inc. d/b/a South End Benzina, 2322 South Main Street
On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.

Approved, May 14, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

COMMUNICATIONS – INVITATIONS – PETITIONS

26. Claims
On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to refer the claims to Corporation Counsel.

27. Roselli, Clark and Associates invoice for the Audit Engagement Fee per July 31, 2025,
Engagement Letter – 2025 Financial Statements

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to approve the payment of the invoice.

28. Drainlayer Licenses
 Arniequipment, LLC.
 JB Lanagan & Company, Inc.
 RMT Excavating, Inc.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to approve the drainlayer applications.

Approved, May 14, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

BULLETINS – NEWSLETTERS – NOTICES – None

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to lift item 29 from the table.

TABLED MATTERS

29. Mayor and order appropriating \$4,459,575.32 from Community Preservation Act funds for Fiscal Year 2027 community projects

A motion was made by Vice President Dionne to vote on each line item of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriation Order but received no second.

A recess was held from 9:56 p.m. to 10:06 p.m.

President Ponte stated that the City Council would first vote on the original Appropriation Order and then may vote to approve, reduce or reject the projects that have been approved by the Community Preservation Committee for the use of these funds.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was voted 9 yeas to adopt the CPA Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriation Order.

Approved, May 14, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

On a further motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$100,000 from Annual Revenue to the Fall River Deaconess Home, Exterior Work project.

On a further motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$1,300 from Annual Revenue to the Previously Approved Deed Restrictions project.

On a further motion made by Councilor Camara and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$582,735 from Annual Revenue to the Fall River Historical Society – Roof, Rail, Window Work, Etc., project.

On a further motion made by Councilor Hart and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$125,000 from Annual Revenue to the St. Anne's Church/Shrine – Roof Work, Morar Work project.

Vice President Dionne stated that the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism had recently recommended that the City Council send a letter to the Administration requesting the creation of a Tourism Advisory Committee. Vice President Dionne explained that this future Committee, along with existing in-kind services from Roger Williams University for the Waterfront Cultural District Historic Preservation Study project, should be sufficient in stimulating economic growth in the waterfront neighborhood without the use of taxpayer funding.

On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Cadime, it was voted 5 yeas, 4 nays, to reject the allocation of \$28,750 from CPA Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance to the Waterfront Cultural District Historic Preservation Study project, with President Ponte and Councilors Hart, Pereira and Raposo voting in the negative.

Vice President Dionne made a motion to reject the allocation of \$88,150 from CPA Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance to the Eagle Event Center – Windows project but received no second.

A motion was made by Councilor Raposo to waive the rules to allow the Administration to answer questions regarding this allocation but received no second.

On a further motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted 8 yeas, 1 nay, to approve the allocation of \$88,150 from CPA Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance to the Eagle Event Center – Windows, project, with Vice President Dionne voting in the negative.

On a further motion made by Councilor Hart and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$33,000 from CPA Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance to the Historic Properties Survey for Bloreserve Area, Part II, project.

On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$250,000 from the Annual Revenue (\$190,686), the CPA Balance Referred for Historic Preservation (\$25,201.01) and the CPA Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance (\$34,112.99) to the Christ the Rock Tower Repair Phase 3 project.

On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$406,470 from CPA Balance Referred for Historic Preservation to the Re-Creation – Windows project.

On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$309,150 from CPA Balance Referred for Historic Preservation to the First Congregational Church – Exterior Work project.

A motion was made by Councilor Hart to approve the allocation of \$175,650 from CPA Undesignated Fund Balance to the Shane Landing – Windows project but received no second.

Vice President Dionne stated that this property has been owned by the same family for over 138 years and rents studio spaces to over 100 other small businesses and artists. Vice President Dionne stated that this long-term, successful business is not in need of taxpayer assistance to replace the mill's windows and that this project funding should be rejected.

On a further motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was voted 8 yeas, 1 nay to reject the allocation of \$175,650 from CPA Undesignated Fund Balance to the Shane Landing – Windows, project, with President Ponte voting in the negative.

On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Pereira, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$220,000 from CPA Balance Referred for Historic Preservation to the Fall River Fire Museum/Central Fire Station Five Year Bond.

On a further motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Dionne, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$300,000 from Annual Revenue to the Parklet (Columbia Street), project.

Councilor Pereira made brief remarks regarding the cobblestones on Columbia Street, which were installed by Chaves Market with private funding, and stated that they should be preserved or, if removed, returned to the small business that paid for their installation. President Ponte clarified that this is a City project and that the City Engineer/Planner should be notified of this matter.

On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$6,350 from Annual Revenue to the Previously Approved Deed Restrictions.

On a further motion made by Councilor Hart and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$375,000 from Annual Revenue to the Father Kelly Park Parking project.

On a further motion made by Councilor Canuel and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$200,000 from Annual Revenue (\$135,857), CPA Balance Reserved for Open Space (\$9,731.88) and CPA (\$54,411.12) to the Abbott Court Sensory Playground project.

On a further motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted to approve the allocation of \$720,000 from CPA Balance Reserved for Open Space to the Sampson Parcel Land Protection project, with Councilor Pereira opposed.

On a further motion made by Councilor Hart and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$250,000 from CPA Undesignated Fund Balance to the Maplewood, Griffin, Highland, North, Chew, Ruggles, Lafayette Parks – Resurfacing, project.

On a further motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Vice President Dionne, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$25,000 from CPA Undesignated Fund Balance to the Proprietor's Way and Parcel W-15-0073 Land Protection project.

On a further motion made by Councilor Hart and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to approve the allocation of \$123,695.32 from CPA Undesignated Fund Balance to the Bioserve Conservation Land Acquisition Project #1 10 Year Bond.

Approved, May 14, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

ITEMS FILED AFTER THE AGENDA DEADLINE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: MAY 12, 2026

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Finance recommending:

Action

- 11a. Order – Authorizing the award of a two (2) year contract, with a one (1) year option, for Municipal Solid Waste and Single Stream Recyclable Curbside Collection and Disposal Services to Capitol Waste Services, Inc.

On a motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted 6 yeas, 2 nays to adopt the order, with President Ponte and Councilor Peckham voting in the negative and Councilor Raposo voting present.

Approved, May 14, 2026

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

- 11b. Order – Appropriation of \$3,000,000.00 from FY 25 Surplus Revenue to Employer Health Trust Fund

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Hart, it was voted 8 yeas, 1 nay, to adopt the order, with Vice President Dionne voting in the negative.

- 11c. Mayor and proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Budget

On a motion made by Vice President Dionne and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to refer the matter to the Committee on Finance.

A brief recess was held from 10:29 p.m. to 10:31 p.m. for the signing of ordinances.

On a motion made by Councilor Pereira and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:32 p.m.

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:

Agenda packet (attached).

A true copy Attest:

União da Silva Paulino Leite

City Clerk

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING: May 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff A. Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Joseph D. Camara, Michael G. Canuel,
Paul B. Hart, Christopher M. Peckham, Sr., Linda M. Perreira
and Andrew J. Raposo

ABSENT: Vice President Michelle M. Dionne

IN ATTENDANCE: Alan J. Rumsey, Esq., Corporation Counsel

President Ponte called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

- 1. Citizen Input – None

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to lift item 2 from the table, with Vice President Dionne absent and not voting.

PRIORITY MATTERS

- 2. Mayor and request for confirmation of the appointment of Christopher Hathaway as the Director of Community Maintenance

On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to confirm the appointment, with Vice President Dionne absent and not voting.

On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to lift item 3 from the table, with Vice President Dionne absent and not voting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Committee on Ordinances and Legislation recommending:****Adoption:**

3. Resolution – City Council pursues legal action to get a legal determination from a judge on the City Council's authority to confirm reappointments, the City Council's jurisdiction to investigate City departments and the City Council's authority to hire outside agencies to assist with investigations

A motion was made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Peckham, to adopt the resolution.

President Ponte stated that a legal opinion on this matter had been submitted earlier in the day at 4:48 p.m. The Council President emphasized the need for Corporation Counsel to provide this type of correspondence in a more timely manner to allow the document to be properly reviewed by the City Council.

On a motion made by Councilor Peckham and seconded by Councilor Canuel, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules to allow Alan J. Rumsey, Esq., Corporation Counsel, to answer questions, with Vice President Dionne absent and not voting.

Councilor Peckham expressed concern that there were no other legal pathways that the City Council could pursue when there is a disagreement with Corporation Counsel's legal opinion on various matters. Attorney Rumsey stated that, as Corporation Counsel of the City of Fall River, it is his duty to provide legal advice to all parties within the municipal offices and explained that this matter has been discussed at length in multiple Committee on Ordinances and Legislation meetings.

Attorney Rumsey read his legal opinion into the record, a copy of which is attached and hereto made a part of these minutes. Corporation Counsel explained that the action listed in the resolution could subject the City Council to civil liability and that the Law Department would not be able to assist anyone found in violation of City code or the City Charter.

Councilor Peckham stated that he had discussed the Fall River Police Department investigation with Attorney Rumsey and that follow-up documents on that matter had not been provided. Corporation Counsel stated that he could not discuss information related to allegedly undercover police officers in a public forum. Councilor Peckham stated that there was a significant lack of transparency regarding the investigation and that he was concerned that the City Councilors were obstructed from obtaining additional information. Councilor Peckham also expressed concern regarding the numerous legal opinions that had been received in opposition to various items in relation to the City Council's jurisdiction in the City code and City Charter.

Attorney Rumsey stated that he provides legal opinions in opposition to various Mayoral actions as well, but that those items are not presented to the City Council, as the Administration follows his legal advice to not violate municipal and state laws in relation to those matters. Corporation Counsel reiterated that he works for all offices within the City of Fall River. Councilor Camara stated that he did not share the same concerns as Councilor Peckham. Councilor Peckham stated that his distrust of Corporation Counsel's legal opinions will continue until all requested documents and evidence are provided in relation to the Fall River Police Department investigation. Attorney Rumsey stated that he would contact the Fall River Police Department to determine if the information requested by Councilor Peckham may be released to the City Councilors, as these documents may not be available to the public.

Councilors Cadime and Peckham made remarks regarding information provided to them by the Acting Chief of Police in relation to an undercover police officer involved in the incident being investigated and agreed that this information is inconsistent with the response from the Administration. Councilor Peckham also stated that there are other operational matters within the City that should be reviewed and that he will be submitting a resolution to the City Council to begin an internal audit of the Department of Community Maintenance.

Councilor Cadime and Attorney Rumsey held a detailed discussion regarding the need of a legal controversy to obtain a judicial opinion in relation to the interpretation of the City code and City Charter. Councilor Cadime stated that the provided legal opinion says there is no current legal controversy, but argued that the City Council's disagreements with Corporation Counsel's legal interpretation of both reappointments of department heads and the Council's ability to conduct investigations would validate the submission of these matters to a court of law.

President Ponte requested clarification regarding the definition of a legal controversy. Attorney Rumsey stated that a controversy would include an illegal act being committed, followed by an arrest or charge of violating the law. Corporation Counsel explained that, once the arrest occurs or a charge is issued, the matter can then be challenged. Attorney Rumsey reiterated that no judge or magistrate will provide a judicial opinion without this process being fulfilled.

Councilor Cadime stated that the Administration is potentially violating the City Charter by not following the language included for City Council approval of appointments and reappointments. Councilor Canuel asked if there is a specific, recent appointment that could be submitted to a judge to challenge the action of the Administration. President Ponte and Councilor Cadime stated that all reappointments of department heads without City Council approval could be submitted as a potential violation of the Charter.

Attorney Rumsey expressed concern that the original discussion on this matter was in relation to the City Council's power to approve contract renewals, but has evolved into the City Council's need to confirm all department head reappointments. Attorney Rumsey reiterated that the City Council may confirm the appointment of a department head, but following that appointment, they become an employee of the City and their tenure is under the jurisdiction of the Mayor.

Councilor Cadime, Councilor Camara and Corporation Counsel discussed the terms placed on the appointment confirmation document and the renewal of contracts. Councilor Cadime read aloud the first sentence of §2-10 of the City Charter, which relates to City Council confirmation of certain appointments, and stated that the City Council's appointment power is equal for City officers, department heads and members of board and commissions.

Councilor Cadime asked why the City Council is asked to confirm reappointments of boards and commissions, but those reappointments for department heads are not submitted by the Administration for a City Council vote. Attorney Rumsey explained that board and commissions are made up of multiple members, who have terms that expire during different years, usually one to three years apart, and do not work full time for the City, unlike City employees. Councilor Cadime stated there may be a conflict of interest in relation to this matter, as Attorney Rumsey is a contracted employee. Attorney Rumsey clarified that his legal opinion applies to all department head employees and also stated that the City Councilors, who all are residents and taxpayers of Fall River, often vote upon tax-related matters for the City, and that is not considered a conflict of interest. Attorney Rumsey stated that he would consider seeking a third, outside legal opinion on this matter. Councilor Cadime stated that the possible legal opinion should be obtained from an attorney who has never worked for the City of Fall River.

Councilor Pereira made remarks regarding former action taken by the City Council to avoid requiring department heads to be re-confirmed following a contract expiration. Councilor Pereira also stated that certain City employees have expressed concern that they may no longer be a City employee if the City Council votes to reject their reappointment.

Councilor Cadime clarified that his intention is to obtain a judicial ruling on the text within the City Charter as it states the City Council has the authority to require reappointment confirmations and that the pursuance of the opinion does not imply that the City Council will act upon this power. Councilor Pereira stated that this type of action will discourage qualified individuals from applying to vacant positions in Fall River and emphasized that the City Councilors are not present in each office every day to determine if department heads are providing satisfactory work, unlike the Mayor.

Councilor Peckham stated that those who serve the City to the best of their ability should not be concerned about the City Council confirming their reappointment and that exercising this legislative power would result in a higher quality of service.

Councilor Raposo stated that there was a lack of performance reviews in the past for department heads, and that the Director of Human Resources is working to remedy that matter. Councilor Raposo supported the City Council's power to confirm all reappointments to ensure a system of checks and balances for all employees.

Councilor Camara expressed concern regarding confirmation of reappointments, as an individual may not be reappointed due to a political conflict with a Councilor. Councilor Camara stated that many outstanding employees do not always agree with the City Council during meetings or discussions, and that requiring a City Council confirmation for their extended employment could negatively affect those who provide the City with exemplary service. Councilor Cadime stated that this matter must be addressed to ensure the adherence to the text within the City Charter.

On a motion made by Councilor Cadime and seconded by Councilor Raposo, it was unanimously voted to table the resolution until the May 26, 2026, Regular Meeting of the City Council, with Vice President Dionne absent and not voting.

On a motion made by Councilor Raposo and seconded by Councilor Peckham, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:34 p.m., with Vice President Dionne absent and not voting.

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:

Agenda packet (attached)

Legal opinion regarding City Council's resolution to obtain judicial review, provided by Alan J. Rumsey, Esq., Corporation Counsel

A true copy Attest:

Unisda Silva Paulino Leite

City Clerk



OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

CITY OF FALL RIVER

RECEIVED

19 May 2026

2026 MAY 19 P 4: 54

Via E-Mail Only

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

City Council of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Re: Council's Resolution to Obtain Judicial Review

Dear Honorable Members of the Fall River City Council:

I am writing this letter to address the City Council's Resolution to obtain judicial review of the following issues: 1) Renewal of contracts for department heads without council approval; 2) Council's authority to investigate purely executive functions; and 3) Council's authority to retain outside legal counsel. In summary, I respectfully advise this Council to withdraw the proposed legal action for the following reasons.

- 1. **The Corporation Counsel is the chief legal officer for the City of Fall River and is the only person authorized to pursue lawsuits involving the rights and interests of the city.**

Under Massachusetts law and well-established principles of municipal governance, a city or town must act through a single, unified legal voice. In the City of Fall River, the Corporation Counsel serves as the chief legal officer of the municipal corporation. A key responsibility of the Corporation Counsel is to provide consistent legal representation and advice to all elected officials, board and committee members, and department heads.

Elected officials, board members, and department heads do not possess the authority to independently retain legal counsel. Permitting multiple officials to seek separate legal advice or issue conflicting legal opinions undermines uniform legal policy, may result in unauthorized municipal action, and exposes the city to unnecessary risk. Centralized legal representation through the Corporation Counsel is essential to ensure proper compliance with Massachusetts law and the Charter, to safeguard municipal governance, and to maintain coherent decision-making across all departments.

Elected officials, board members, and department heads do not possess the authority to initiate a lawsuit on behalf of the City of Fall River. Only the Corporation Counsel has the authority to initiate a lawsuit that may involve the rights or interests of the city. See § 2-527 of the Code of the City of Fall River (hereinafter "Code").

II. Lack of Actual Controversy

Courts and judges do not issue advisory opinions on hypothetical questions or abstract legal disputes. An actual controversy must exist before a court hears an issue.

III. Lack of Contracting Authority

The City Council does not possess the authority to unilaterally enter into a contract on behalf of the city. Any attempt to directly engage outside legal counsel without proper approval could subject the individual council member to personal liability. See § 2-941 of the Code.

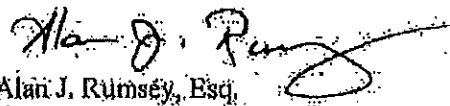
IV. Potential Misuse of Appropriated Funds

The City Council does not have the authority to expend funds appropriated for audits or other purposes to pay for legal services.

V. No Duty to Defend or Indemnify for Intentional Torts

The City of Fall River has no duty to defend or indemnify municipal officials for intentional torts, willful misconduct, or knowing violations of law, even if such acts are committed within the scope of their employment. In such circumstances, the individual official may be personally responsible for legal defense costs, judgments, or penalties resulting from the knowing violation of law. See G.L. c. 258.

Sincerely,


Alan J. Rumsey, Esq.
Corporation Counsel



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

June 5, 2026

Dear President Ponte,

This letter is to inform you that the Fall River Retirement Board voted pursuant to M.G.L. C.32 §103 to grant a 3% cost of living increase on a \$14,000 base to be effective July 1, 2026 to all eligible members/beneficiaries of the Fall River Retirement System at a meeting of the Board held May 28, 2026.

If I can be of any further assistance regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Pasternak
Executive Director