



City Council
Joint HHS & Public Safety Committee Meeting

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

~Final~

Brian Santaniello (HHS Chair)
Gerry Martin (Public Safety Chair)

**September 24,
2026**

4:45 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Call To Order

4:45 PM Meeting called to order on September 24, 2026, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Roll Call

In Person:

Councilor Martin (Chair)
Councilor Santaniello (Chair)
Commissioner Caulton-Harris, Health & Human Services
Lieutenant Bruno, SPD
Attorney Danielle Downing

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Gerry Martin	City Councilor — Ward 7	Present	
Maria Perez	City Councilor — Ward 1	Excused	
Malo Brown	City Councilor — Ward 4	Absent	
Zaida Govan	City Councilor — Ward 8	Absent	
Kateri Walsh	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Justin Hurst	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Victor Davila	City Councilor — Ward 6	Excused	
Michael Fenton	City Councilor — Ward 2	Excused	

Jose Delgado	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Lavar Click-Bruce	City Councilor — Ward 5	Excused	
Melvin Edwards	City Councilor — Ward 3	Absent	
Tracye Whitfield	City Councilor At Large	Excused	

Public Portion

1. Discussion on the Ban of Kratom, and Confiscation Tactics.

Minutes

The Joint Public Safety and Health & Human Services Committees, chaired by Councilors Gerry Martin and Brian Santaniello, met to continue discussion of the statewide Kratom ban, with a focus on enforcement and confiscation. Commissioner Helen Caulton-Harris, Lieutenant Jamie Bruno, Attorney Danielle Downing, and other City representatives participated. The committee reviewed the Health Department's enforcement efforts following the statewide ban, including notification letters sent to approximately 500 retailers, educational visits, and the process for issuing cease-and-desist orders. Commissioner Caulton-Harris stated that the Board of Health had been directed not to confiscate Kratom products and that confiscation would require law enforcement involvement.

Lieutenant Bruno explained that the Police Department could assist the Health Department by conducting spot checks to determine whether retailers continue to offer Kratom for sale and could coordinate with Licensing and other City departments when violations are identified. He stated that confiscation requires appropriate legal authority and procedures for handling and preserving seized products as evidence. Lieutenant Bruno recommended continued coordination with the Law Department to determine available enforcement options and potential penalties. Commissioner Caulton-Harris identified approximately 12 stores where Kratom or synthetic cannabinoids had previously been observed and reported that some stores had voluntarily removed Kratom from their shelves. The committee discussed whether a local enforcement ordinance could provide additional authority or penalties, and the Law Department agreed to review what enforcement measures may legally be available to the City.

The committees planned to follow up in approximately two to four weeks after Police Department visits to identified retailers and further legal review. Attorney Downing was asked to determine whether the City Council could adopt an enforcement-only ordinance related to the Kratom ban. A motion to adjourn was made and approved by both committee chairs.

The meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]