



City Council
Health & Human Services Committee Agenda

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

Brian Santaniello (Chair)

~Final~

October 14, 2026

2:00 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Call To Order

2:00 PM Meeting called to order on October 14, 2026, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Roll Call

In Person:

Councilor Santaniello (Chair)
Reminder

Zoom:

Alex Sherman, City Forester
Councilor Zaida Govan
Press - 22 News & The Reminder

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Gerry Martin	City Councilor — Ward 7	Excused	
Maria Perez	City Councilor — Ward 1	Excused	
Malo Brown	City Councilor — Ward 4	Excused	
Zaida Govan	City Councilor — Ward 8	Zoom	
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 of the impact Spotted Lantern Flies have on Trees and Vegetation, and Preventative Measures.

On October 14, 2026, the Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Councilor Brian Santaniello, met to discuss the impact of spotted lantern flies on Springfield's trees and vegetation and potential preventive measures. City Forester Alex Sherman reported that Springfield first identified spotted lantern flies around 2022, and populations have increased significantly and spread citywide. He explained that the invasive pest primarily affects Tree of Heaven, grapevines, and fruit trees, potentially reducing fruit production, while posing a lower risk to established shade trees.

The committee reviewed methods to reduce infestations, including removing the invasive Tree of Heaven and scraping egg masses from trees before they hatch in the spring. Sherman explained that complete eradication is unlikely, but preventive measures can help control local populations. Additional discussion addressed emerald ash borer infestations, beech leaf disease, and the City's ongoing tree replacement and planting efforts. The City planted approximately 1,000 trees in spring 2026, with another 750 anticipated for the fall.

The committee requested that the City's Forestry website provide educational information on spotted lanternfly identification, prevention, and management. Sherman agreed to provide resources to help residents address infestations on their properties. No formal recommendations or votes were made. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]