



City Council
Joint HHS/Public Safety
Meeting

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

~Final~

Brian Santaniello (Chair)
Gerry Martin (Chair)

October 15, 2026

1:00 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Call To Order

1:00 PM meeting called to order on October 15, 2026, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Roll Call

In Person

Councilor Santaniello (HHS Chair)
Councilor Martin (Public Safety Chair)
Tony Taylor (Springfield Partners Board Member)

Zoom

Suaneth Marrero (Valley Opportunity Council)

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. Fuel assistance resources for seniors and fixed-income/low-income families

On October 15, 2026, the Joint Health and Human Services and Public Safety Committee, chaired by Councilors Brian Santaniello and Gerry Martin, met to discuss winter fuel assistance programs and available resources for Springfield residents. Maria Rosario of Valley Opportunity Council (VOC) outlined the Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps eligible low-income households pay for heating costs, including oil, gas, and electricity. Eligibility and benefit amounts are based on household size and income. Applications are available by telephone, in person, or online, with processing taking approximately 45 business days beginning November 1. Returning participants receive annual renewal applications but must complete and return them to maintain assistance.

Discussion addressed assistance for households facing utility shutoffs, including payments toward required deposits and coordination with Eversource on payment arrangements. VOC also described a developing one-time \$600 heating assistance program for certain middle-income households using oil, along with referrals to Way Finders, the Salvation Army, and Catholic Charities when additional assistance is needed. Springfield Partners for Community Action provides weatherization services to eligible households referred by VOC, including home energy assessments, insulation, air sealing, and other energy-efficiency improvements.

The committee discussed improving public awareness through the City's website, community outreach, and senior centers. VOC reported providing intake training to 21 senior centers to assist older residents with applications and documentation. Additional discussion addressed anticipated winter demand, program funding, and coordination among community organizations to connect residents with available resources. No formal recommendations or votes were made. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]