

CITY OF WORCESTER

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 5, 2026
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 5:10 P.M.
Adjourned: 6:25 P.M.

MAYOR

Joseph M. Petty

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Kathleen M Toomey
Vice Chairperson Morris A Bergman
Councilor Tony Economou



CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Nikolin Vangjeli

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City Hall - 455 Main Street Worcester, Massachusetts

Present Were:

Chairperson Councilor Kathleen M. Toomey
Councilor Morris A. Bergman
Councilor Tony Economou

Also:

Commissioner of Emergency Communications and
Management Charles R. Goodwin
Police Chief Paul B. Saucier
WPD Sergeant Elise Miranda
Deputy City Clerk Clare M. Robbins, clerk

1. Virtual Attendee Call-In Information

- a. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 and in order to ensure active, public engagement, the City of Worcester currently allows for both in-person and remote participation at all City Council and Standing Committee meetings. To partake in the meeting, you may attend the meeting in-person within the meeting location, follow the below link to join via Zoom or dial the direct line as indicated. If you join a Zoom meeting by dialing in with a phone number, you can raise your hand by dialing *9.

Public Safety Committee Zoom Link: <https://worcesterma.zoomgov.com/j/1615547889>

Public Safety Committee Zoom Phone Number: +1 646 828 7666

Public Safety Committee Zoom Access Code: 161 554 7889

2. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Order - That the City Council Standing Committee of Public Safety hereby approves the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting on April 8, 2026.

**Chairperson Councilor Toomey read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays**

3. Communication of the City Manager - Emergency Communications and Management Department

- a.** Transmitting informational communication relative to the relaunch of ALERTWorcester.
8.14A CM March 24, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Toomey read the item and recognized the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management, who provided an overview relative to the relaunch of ALERTWorcester.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey highlighted how residents who previously enrolled in ALERTWorcester must reenroll after the relaunch to receive notices, spoke concerning informational flyers posted throughout the city, and the process relative for the department to inform residents of the relaunch with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who spoke concerning the number of ALERTWorcester subscribers before and after the relaunch, registration issues when utilizing the provided QR code, and the process relative to completing registration through the QR code with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Bergman, who spoke concerning best practices relative to increasing ALERTWorcester enrollment and the feasibility relative to accompanying registration notices real estate tax bills with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey then discussed the process relative to sending ALERTWorcester enrollment information through the Worcester Public Schools (WPS), highlighted the importance relative to reaching out to businesses, colleges, and universities for the purpose of increasing ALERTWorcester enrollment, and the feasibility of requesting colleges and universities share ALERTWorcester enrollment information to students' families with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey brought forth the following Chairman's Order: "Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management explore the feasibility of accompanying ALERTWorcester enrollment information with the upcoming August 2026 real estate tax bills. Further, request Commissioner of Emergency Communication work with Worcester Public Schools (WPS), local businesses, colleges, and universities to distribute ALERTWorcester enrollment information."

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed the feasibility relative to distributing ALERTWorcester enrollment information at the September and November Elections polling locations.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey brought forth the following Chairman's Order: "Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communication and Management work with the City Clerk and Board of Election Commissioners to explore the feasibility of distributing ALERTWorcester enrollment information at polling locations during the September and November elections."

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed the feasibility relative to accessing active phone numbers in the area with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who discussed radius sizes relative to sending notifications through ALERTWorcester and efforts to work with the Department of Public Works (DPW) relative to roadway construction, water/sewer work, and

emergency outage notifications with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey then discussed the process relative for utility companies to inform the city of planned outages for the purpose of sending ALERTWorcester notifications accordingly with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed the differing functions relative to Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) through FEMA and ALERTWorcester with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed projected totals relative to ALERTWorcester enrollment with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey brought forth the following Chairman's Order: "Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management provide City Council with a six (6) month update relative to ALERTWorcester's enrollment numbers."

Chairperson Councilor Toomey moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be placed on file.

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management explore the feasibility of accompanying ALERTWorcester enrollment information with the upcoming August 2026 real estate tax bills. Further, request Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management work with Worcester Public Schools (WPS), local businesses, colleges, and universities to distribute ALERTWorcester enrollment information.

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communication and Management work with the City Clerk and Board of Election Commissioners to explore the feasibility of distributing ALERTWorcester enrollment information at polling locations during the September and November elections.

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management provide City Council with a six (6) month update relative to ALERTWorcester's enrollment numbers.

4. Communications of the City Manager - Police Department

- a. Transmitting informational communication relative to a study and analysis of police response data from 2024 and 2025.

8.14A CM April 14, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Toomey read the item and recognized the Police Chief, who provided an overview relative to Worcester Police Department (WPD) response analysis data for years 2024 and 2025.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed best practices to improve patrol deployment with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who discussed the process relative to organizing response call deployment with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed additional available resources to potentially improve future analyses similar to the police response analysis data from 2024 and 2025 with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management and Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be placed on file.

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- b. Transmitting informational communication relative to the MPAC accreditation.

8.13B CM March 24, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Toomey read the item and recognized the Police Chief, who provided an overview relative to the Worcester Police Department's (WPD) Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC) accreditation status.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed six (6) month goals and expectations to complete Phase Three (3) of the MPAC accreditation process, the importance relative to updating published policies online, and future materials needed for the holding facility to be in MPAC compliance with the WPD Sergeant.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed WPD's motivation to obtain the MPAC accreditation and financial obligations needed to complete the MPAC accreditation process with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who spoke concerning the item.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed WPD's MPCA accreditation schedule with the WPD Sergeant and Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who spoke concerning the importance relative to future budgetary planning relative to WPD's MPAC accreditation process.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey then brought forth the following Chairman's Order: "Request City Manager request Police Chief provide City Council with a six (6) month update relative to Worcester Police Department's (WPD) Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC) accreditation process."

Chairperson Councilor Toomey moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be placed on file.

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager request Police Chief provide City Council with a six (6) month update relative to Worcester Police Department's (WPD) Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC) accreditation process.

- c. Transmitting informational communication relative to the Worcester Police Department's drone report.

8.13A CM March 24, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Toomey read the item and recognized the Police Chief, who provided an overview relative to the Worcester Police Department's (WPD) drone report.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey spoke concerning damaged drones and the feasibility of utilizing drones to recover vehicles seized with a warrant with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be placed on file.

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- d. Transmitting informational communication relative to the 2025 Annual Report on Crime Statistics.

11.13A CM February 24, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Toomey read the item and recognized the Police Chief, who provided an overview relative to the 2025 Annual Report on Crime Statistics.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed the feasibility of analyzing historic data compared to current data related to Worcester Police Department (WPD) youth programming, WPD seizing fifteen (15) crime guns over the last two (2) weeks and seventy-nine (79) crime guns since January 2026 with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who spoke concerning the item.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Bergman, who spoke concerning the amount of estimated crime guns remaining in the city with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be placed on file.

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

- e. Transmitting informational communication relative to retention and turnover rate at the Worcester Police Department.

8.13A CM February 10, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Toomey read the item and recognized the Police Chief, who provided an overview relative to the retention and turnover rate at the Worcester Police Department (WPD).

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed the amount of WPD officers transferring to police departments in Florida and best practices relative to preventing mass exodus with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey brought forth the following Chairman's Order: "Request City Manager request Police Chief provide City Council with a report detailing creative solutions relative to retaining Worcester Police Department (WPD) officers."

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed the diverse demographics relative to police academy recruits, improved efforts made relative to recruiting, and estimated timelines associated with increasing the maximum police recruit age with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who spoke concerning impacts relative to recruiting and/or retention considering the elimination of the Quinn Bill/Police Career Incentive Pay Program (PCIPP) funds with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey brought forth the following Chairman's Order: "Request City Manager request Police Chief provide City Council with a report detailing a six (6) month update, by August of 2026, relative to retention and turnover rates at the Worcester Police Department (WPD)."

Chairperson Councilor Toomey moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be placed on file.

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager request Police Chief provide City Council with a report detailing creative solutions relative to retaining Worcester Police Department (WPD) officers.

Request City Manager request Police Chief provide City Council with a report detailing a six (6) month update, by August of 2026, relative to retention and turnover rates at the Worcester Police Department (WPD).

- f. Transmitting informational communication relative to the Axon Body Worn Camera (BWC) Assistant Trial Program.

10.13A CM November 25, 2025

Chairperson Councilor Toomey read the item and recognized the Police Chief, who provided an overview relative to the Axon Body Worn Camera (BWC) Assistant Trial Program.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey brought forth the following Chairman's Order: "Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing available language translation services utilized by the Worcester Fire Department (WFD) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS)."

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed the amount of instances Worcester Police Department (WPD) officers used translation services through Axon BWC during the three (3) month pilot with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be placed on file.

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager provide City Council with a report detailing available language translation services utilized by the Worcester Fire Department (WFD) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).