

CITY OF WORCESTER

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 23, 2026
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 5:09 P.M.
Adjourned: 6:22 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 Inspectional Services Nicholas J. Antanavica
City Auditor Robert V. Stearns
Police Chief Paul B. Saucier
CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) Boston Manager of Valuation, Forensics, Litigation and Investigations (VFLI) Luke Stahelski
CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) Boston Principal of Valuation, Forensics, Litigation and Investigations (VFLI) Barry Sussman
CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) Andover Senior of Valuation, Forensics, Litigation and Investigations (VFLI) Kristen Ternullo

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 May 5, 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 - Inspectional Services Department

- a. Transmitting informational communication relative to the transition to a risk based food permitting inspection system for establishments serving food.

15.16A CM April 28, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Toomey read the item and recognized the Commissioner of Inspectional Services, who provided an overview relative to the department's transition to a risk based food permitting inspection system.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed similarly sized cities and towns that utilize a risk based food permitting inspection system and processes required of food establishments after failing an inspection with the Commissioner of Inspectional Services.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey brought forth the following Chairman's Order: "Request City Manager request Commissioner of Inspectional Services provide City Council with a report detailing remedial steps required of food establishments to regain a food license after failing an inspection."

Chairperson Councilor recognized Councilor Bergman, who spoke concerning the process relative to inspecting licensed food establishments that go under new ownership, the appeal process available to food establishments that do not pass inspection, and considerations taken relative to external factors resulting in an unkept storefront beyond the establishment's control with the Commissioner of Inspectional Services.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed the extent Inspectional Services works with the Quality of Life Team with the Commissioner of Inspectional Services.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who spoke concerning the annual process for establishments to renew their food license, systems used to monitor food license inspections, fee amounts associated with permits and inspections, the process relative to collecting said fees, and other communities in Massachusetts that have transitioned to a risk based food permitting inspection system with the Commissioner of Inspectional Services.

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 Inspectional Services provide City Council with a report detailing remedial steps required of food establishments to regain a food license after failing an inspection.

4. Communications of the City Auditor

- a. Transmitting an informational communication relative to a follow-up of the 2023 investigation into Worcester Police Department's overtime and details policies and procedures, as well as a report issued on January 15, 2024, as presented by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP's Forensic Services Team.

19a CC December 9, 2025

In Committee December 16, 2025 - Held

Chairperson Councilor Toomey read the item and recognized the City Auditor, who provided an overview relative to the follow-up of the 2023 Worcester Police Department's (WPD) overtime and details policies and procedures report by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA).

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed the recommendation to continue utilizing the current centralized system of assigning permanent police details and staffing limitations that warrant overtime use with the City Auditor and Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who spoke concerning reasons overtime slips may be submitted past due and the authority figure responsible to sign off on police detail with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed systems in place to provide public transparency to ensure taxpayer money is allocated correctly relative to police overtime and details with the Police Chief and City Auditor.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed updating the date recorded relative to policy numbers 900 and 60 if no changes are to be made and recommendations to discontinue codes "Job Well Done" and "Time Carried Over" with the City Auditor and CLA Boston Principal of VFLI.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who discussed the feasibility of increasing the number of police officers as a solution to issues identified in the report with the CLA Boston Principal of VFLI.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey highlighted positive trends relative to WPD's response to CLA's recommendations within the report and philosophies relative to the importance of maintaining a level of human component to fill details in lieu of a completely digital option with the CLA Boston Principal of VFLI and Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who discussed the positive response recognized within the department since implementing CLA recommendations with the (CLA) Boston Manager of VFLI.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed the size relative to the upcoming police class graduating on July 10, 2026 and upcoming police class opportunities with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who discussed the feasibility of facilitating overlapping police classes Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Bergman, who spoke concerning the benefits to facilitating one (1) large police class in lieu of two (2) small police classes annually and the retirement and transfer rates compared to the onboarding rate 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 incentives and efforts provided by other cities and towns relative to recruiting lateral police transfers."

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed the process relative to hiring police transfers and the amount of police officers registered in civil service eligible list with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who spoke concerning expectations relative to accepting lateral police transfers off the civil service eligible list with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Bergman, who highlighted the importance of community support for the police department and spoke concerning Worcester's police officer to resident ratio compared to other cities.

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 incentives and efforts provided by other cities and towns relative to recruiting lateral police transfers.

- b. Communication of the City Auditor transmitting an informational communication of an analysis of the Worcester Police Department's (WPD) Body Worn Camera (BWC) Program Performance by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA).

19b CC December 9, 2025

Chairperson Councilor Toomey read the item and recognized the City Auditor, who provided an overview relative to the analysis of the Worcester Police Department's (WPD) Body Worn Camera (BWC) program performance by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA).

Chairperson Councilor Toomey spoke concerning situations where there is a delay in BWC recordings, software updates enabling BWC to turn on if a BWC in close proximity is being utilized, the process relative to review BWC footage to improve use of force mechanisms, overall findings in the BWC analysis highlighting the need to continue scenario based trainings, and the frequency relative to future BWC program performance analysis with the Police Chief and CLA Boston Principal of VFLI.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed the types of services CLA provides and the number of police departments the CLA team members have worked with in their role's capacity with the CLA Boston Principal of VFLI.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who spoke concerning the decrease in complaints since implementing the BWC program with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey brought forth the following Chairman's Order: "Request City Auditor provide City Council with an updated analysis of the Worcester Police Department's (WPD) Body Worn Camera (BWC) program performance in two (2) years."

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 Auditor provide City Council with an updated analysis of the Worcester Police Department's (WPD) Body Worn Camera (BWC) program performance in two (2) years.