

CITY OF WORCESTER

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 10, 2026
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 5:11 P.M.
Adjourned: 5:50 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

www.worcesterma.gov

City Hall - 455 Main Street Worcester, Massachusetts

Present Were:

Chairperson Councilor Kathleen M. Toomey
Councilor Morris A. Bergman

Also:

Commissioner of Emergency Communications and
Management Charles Goodwin
Fire Chief Martin Dyer
Deputy Fire Chief Adam Roche
Deputy City Clerk Stephen AJ Pottle, 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 December 16, 2025.

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 2 Yeas and 0 Nays (Economou absent)

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

- a. Transmitting informational communication relative to the status of ALERTWorcester.
11.14A CM January 13, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Toomey read the item and recognized the following speaker:

1. Fred Nathan, Worcester resident, spoke neither in favor nor opposed to the item

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized the Deputy City Clerk, who discussed the purposes of the communication with Speaker #1.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management, who provided an overview of the item.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey then discussed how the public can opt-in to the new system, the types of notifications and announcements the public can receive, the acoustic device integration feature, the cost of the program, how it will interact with current social media announcements, other emergency/informational systems that the city have and marketing efforts for RapidSOS program with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey brought fourth the following Chairman's Order: Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communication and Management create an informational media campaign to promote the RapidSOS program.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed the CodeRed/ALERTWorcester system cyber security breach, the different mediums through which the pubic can receive alerts, whether the program have multi-language capabilities, the feasibility of adding black ice as an alert category and creating an audio alarm system with the Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed whether the city uses Starlink 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 report concerning the benefits of adding Starlink to the city's communications systems.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be filed.

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 2 Yeas and 0 Nays (Economou absent)

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management create an informational media campaign to promote the RapidSOS program.

Request City Manager request Commissioner of Emergency Communications and Management provide City Council with a report concerning the benefits of adding Starlink to the city's communications systems.

4. Communications of the City Manager - Fire Department

- a. Transmitting informational communication relative to the Fire Department's Public Education Units.

11.12A CM January 13, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Toomey read the item and recognized the Deputy Fire Chief, who provided an overview of the item.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed when the program will begin, the participating schools for the program, whether there are planned social media and marketing kits, the importance of clearing snow from fire hydrants and providing translations for the informational materials for the program with the Deputy Fire Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Bergman, who discussed fire safety education program for seniors, the feasibility of creating a program for students to clear snow from fire hydrants, the Youth Fire Setup program and the Handle with Care program with the Deputy Fire Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be filed.

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 2 Yeas and 0 Nays (Economou absent)