

CITY OF WORCESTER

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
Esther Howland (South) Chamber
Convened: 5:30 P.M.
Adjourned: 6:14 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 Tony Economou

Also:

Police Chief Paul B. Saucier
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 March 10, 2026.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey read the item and moved to adopt the item. Order adopted

3. Miscellaneous Item

- a. Order of Councilor Kathleen M. Toomey - Request Standing Committee on Public Safety invite the Police Chief to a public discussion regarding ShotSpotter, including any benefits or neighborhood impacts its utilization may provide.

10t CC March 31, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Toomey read the item and recognized the Police Chief, who provided an overview relative to the value ShotSpotter has as a tool to assist with investigating acts of gun violence which included complications relative to unreliable citizen gunfire reports due to fear of involvement, unsure knowledge of gunshot noise and/or the bystander effect, the ability to provide earlier situational awareness for responding officers with precise locations reducing response time, and highlighted the importance relative to utilizing both ShotSpotter and citizen reports to combat gun violence.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed ShotSpotter not having video capabilities, methods of acquiring resident and business surveillance videos as additional evidence to investigate gun violence in addition to ShotSpotter activation and/or citizen reports, the Stop the Bleed program, and future technology upgrades with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who spoke concerning the process relative and timelines associated with response prompted by ShotSpotter activation, highlighted the value relative to quick ShotSpotter activation once gun shots have been detected, and the amount of information the program can transmit to responding officers and EMS with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed cities and towns that have discontinued the use of ShotSpotter, Worcester Police Departments' (WPD) policy related to ShotSpotter responses, gunfire occurrences in 2025 that resulted in thirteen (13) non-fatal shootings and two (2) fatal shootings, and 2025 crime gun statistics with the Police Chief.

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

Chairperson Councilor Toomey then recognized the following Speakers:

1. Kit (No last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in opposition to the item
2. Greg Degermajian, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of the item

Chairperson Councilor Toomey spoke concerning the high amount of Neighborhood Watch and Neighborhood Community groups that request the use of ShotSpotter in their areas with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who spoke concerning the feasibility of expanding ShotSpotter across the city with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey discussed the process relative to WPD utilizing Resource Router, the program associated with ShotSpotter, as a community engagement resource, the current ShotSpotter contract agreement with anticipation to sign an additional three (3) year contract, and costs associated with renewing the ShotSpotter contract with the Police Chief.

Chairperson Councilor Toomey recognized Councilor Economou, who discussed the positive impact the WPD high visibility blue light patrols have had on the community 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 2 Yeas and 0 Nays (Bergman absent)

