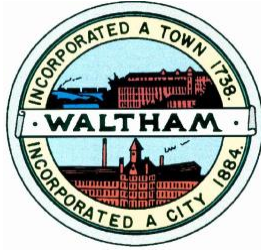


City of Waltham



Housing Committee October 26, 2020 Minutes of the meeting

Chairman Stanley called the zoom meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Chairman Stanley	Present
Councillor Paz	Present
Councillor Vidal	Present
Daria Gere	Present
James Lacrosse	Present
Robert Waters	Present
Diana Young	Present

Others in attendance;

Michael Kennealy – Secretary of the Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development.

Rory O'Hanlon – Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development.

Councillor Vidal moved approval of the October 13, 2020 minutes. Motion was adopted on a voice vote.

Chairman Stanley introduced Secretary Kennealy to the committee. Chairman Stanley read Secretary Kennealy extensive bio to the committee.

Secretary Kennealy presented his thoughts on the current housing crisis many are facing today in Massachusetts. Secretary Kennealy shared with the committee a slide show presentation titled “partnership for growth”.

Partnership for growth pillars.

1. Respond to the Housing crisis.
2. Build vibrant communities.
3. Support business competitiveness.
4. Train a skilled workforce.

Secretary Kennealy shared the five economic development plan principles.

1. Equitable Opportunities.
2. Environment.
3. Regional Strategies.
4. Accessible Government.
5. Infrastructure.

Chairman Stanley asked if the Governor's 100 million dollar eviction division program was going to be enough to support all the needs. Secretary Kennealy said he hopes it will be enough but his office will continue to monitor, and are prepared to asked for more assistance if needed. Member Daria Gere applauded the new the 211 program. Ms. Gere asked about the Raft process and how the court mediation program was going to work. Secretary Kennealy said they are trying to add more resources to assist with both programs. Member Diana Young asked about gateway Cities and workforce housing. Councillor Paz asked if there were any efforts underway to stabilize rent increases. Secretary Kennealy said the strategy is to create more affordable housing. Councillor Paz said the State isn't doing enough to stop mass evictions. Secretary Kennealy said funding was added as part of this bill to assist individuals with eviction mediation.

Councillor Paz made a motion to adjourn. Motion was adopted on a voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Magno
Clerk – AD – HOC Committees