



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

The Eighteenth Regular Meeting, October 21, 2025

City Council

Isaac B. "Zac" Bears
Anna Callahan
Kit Collins
Emily Lazzaro
Matt Leming
George A. Scarpelli
Justin Tseng

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81922844138?pwd=1nEDNJgOX3caNbpK2hHMH3OK6w2Q8r.1>

Call-in Number: +16469313860,,81922844138# | Zoom Passcode: 644560

Live: Channel 22 (Comcast), Channel 43 (Verizon), [YouTube](#), and medfordtv.org.

To submit written comments, please email Reliseo@medford-ma.gov.

CALL TO ORDER

President Isaac "Zac" Bears called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. on October 21st, 2025 in the City Council Chamber on the second floor of Medford City Hall, 85 George P. Hassett Drive, Medford, Massachusetts, and via Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councillor Callahan; Vice President Collins; Councillor Lazzaro; Councillor Leming; Councillor Scarpelli; Councillor Tseng; President Bears. Inside the Rail: Assistant City Clerk Richard Eliseo Jr.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACCOLADES, REMEMBRANCES, REPORTS, AND RECORDS

Records:

The Records of the Meeting of October 7th, 2025 were passed to Councilor Lazzaro.

Councilor Lazzaro motioned to approve the records (seconded by Councilor Callahan) - Approved on a voice vote of Seven in favor, zero opposed

Reports of Committees

25-138 and 25-139 - Offered by Emily Lazzaro, City Councilor

Attendees: Councilor Emily Lazzaro, Committee Chair; Councilor Anna Callahan; Councilor Matt Leming; Councilor Tseng Vice Chair; Councilor Collins; Assistant City Clerk Richard Eliseo Jr; other participants as noted in the body of this report.

Chair Lazzaro called the meeting to order at 6:37p.m. on October 8, 2025 in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of Medford City Hall, and via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the following Resolutions, Hold Immigration Enforcement Accountable and Assist Medford Residents in Accessing Social Services (Paper 25- 138, 25-139).

25-139 Resolution to Assist Medford residents in Accessing Social Services

Whereas the federal government has been summarily cutting important social services like Medicare and Medicaid, the section 8 housing voucher program amid record homelessness, and food assistance for hungry families, be it resolved that the Medford City Council hold a meeting in the Committee on Public Health and Community Safety to discuss methods whereby the City can protect vulnerable residents and residents can access other services via local, state, and nonprofit sources to get the help they need.

Be it further resolved that members of the Health Department be invited to that meeting.

Chair Lazzaro opened with an overview of the resolution offered by Councilor Tseng and Herself. Councilor Tseng thanked Chair Lazzaro for co-sponsoring the Resolution and thanked the health department for being here. Councilor Tseng spoke to the budget cuts coming from Federal Governments to Medicare, Medicaid and the ACA subsidies that have affected our residents and that this meeting could bring to light the Services available to our residents and their families.

Chair Lazzaro invited up the Health Department staff to speak on the resources that are available.

Addressing the Committee:

Maryann O'Connor Director of Public Health
Catherine Dhingra Outreach and Prevention Manager
Jason Stone Social Services Coordinator

Chair Lazzaro recognized Maryann O'Connor Director of Public Health who provided an overview of the resources provided to the residents. Maryann stated that we have the Multilingual resource line where residents can leave a message in either English or their native language, Maryann recognized Catherine who manages Outreach and prevention and the connectors and liaisons who each have specific functions with the department. She stated that the Connectors and Liaisons are the eyes and ears in the community, and they are the ones bringing back the concerns of the community and the gaps in the services. Maryann recognized Jason Stone, the social service coordinator who works closely with residents who need more formal help with services and 1 on 1 guidance in applying for these services. Maryann also spoke about a brilliant presentation that Catherine gave to the connectors and liaisons about the services offered and offered to have it presented at the next committee meeting.

Director O'Connor asked outreach and prevention manager Dhingra to give an overview. Manager Dhingra spoke about the team and how they function and assist our most vulnerable residents. Manager Dhingra stated how fortunate they are that the Medford connects program is funded through the MVP grant and the Barr foundation. Manager Dhingra stated that the connections and liaisons are not just internal, but that they also connect with city partners (non-profits, Libraries and Schools). Manager

Dhingra stated there is a team of 12 connectors and liaisons and their goal is twofold, to expand and strengthen supportive services for residents and to grow and nurture our community networks. Manager Dhingra noted how closely the team works with Jason Stone (Social services coordinator) and team has partnered with the AAPI community (Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition). Manager Dhingra broke down the 6 connector teams (Immigrant Support & ESOL, Older adults & disabilities, Teen & young families, financial security, Food Systems and Climate equity) and that there is 6 language-based Liaisons and the language line (speaking and support 24 different languages). Manager Dhingra turned it over to Jason stone social services coordinator.

Coordinator Stone described what his responsibilities are, and how he interacts with residents of the City of Medford for services. Coordinator Stone spoke to how every day is different in his city hall interactions and at the library (where he holds office hours on Wednesday 10am-12n in study Rm. 1). Coordinator Stone talked about how his job is to help guide residents through the process of applying for benefits, showing residents how to use the computer system, where to find the online applications, how to file the correct documents, being a bridge between law enforcement and the resident, and giving them an overall explanation of their options for benefits. Coordinator Stone spoke to his Library hours and the main reason he holds those hours is because a lot of residents are more comfortable going to and meeting at the library and a lot of his inquiries at the library are Housing related requests (financial assistance, utility assistance). Coordinator Stone spoke to the Heating assistance program that is starting to ramp up this time of year and that Sharbell one of the Connects team members, may hold office hours on Saturdays at the library for those that are available only on weekends. Chair Lazzaro asked when residents come and look for assistance for housing what sort of resources do you offer? Coordinator Stone responded that what we have had best luck with is collaborating with other community agencies and nonprofits like Housing families and ABCD. Coordinator Stone said that housing families legal staff runs a housing task force every Monday that I, Malden and residents meet with. Chair Lazzaro asked if there was a simple one-pager or direct visual aid or pathway online for residents or people to find out about the services offered.

Coordinator Stone spoke to a new website being created by the health department that will be more streamlined with all of the options available to them by the city. Chair Lazzaro recognized councilor Tseng. Councilor Tseng asked what kind of services are most in demand? Coordinator Stone responded saying Mass health, food and security (SNAP) and housing are the big three in that order and that there has been an uptick in those services. Councilor Tseng stated that he had a family a while back reached out about housing assistance and that they used the one-page sheet that was translated into their language, and it was helpful to have.

Councilor Tseng also stated the mentioned gaps do we know what they are? Coordinator Stone responded that it is an interesting one to answer, because most services are available outside of the city (we are just coaching, providing transportation and getting them set up with these out of city organizations). Councilor Tseng asked if the health team was in contact with the transportation group. Coordinator stone responded that yes me, catherine and member of the team are in contact with them. Councilor Tseng asked what the Council could do to help support the effort more, or what else could the council bring to the table. Director O'Connor stated that having these meetings is a huge help in getting the information out to the public, also any community events being held and getting that information out also helps.

Chair Lazzaro asked if all the work that was described here tonight is fully funded by grants? Director O'Connor responded that Manager Dhingra and Coordinator Stone are on the City budget but that all off the Connectors, Liaisons and the programs in general that we run are all grant funded through MVP. Chair Lazzaro also stated that there are things that can be done to build up accessibility to the services (making changes to zoning codes, commercial development in certain parts of the city and low-income housing). Chair Lazzaro recognized councilor Tseng who stated that a lot of the work we can do as a council comes through our other meetings we hold, through zoning reform and housing reform. Councilor Tseng asked director O'Connor when the grant runs out and whether that grant will continue? Director O'Connor responded that it runs out next year and that we will reapply with another round of opening. Chair Lazzaro

recognized Councilor Collins who really appreciates the efforts of the health department and would love to clone them but this does make her reflect on just how much more we can do if the operating budget allowed for more reliable renewable funding for social service coordinators and if the grant funding was to increase we could bring more of these services into our community. Director O'Connor thanked Councilor Collins and gave an open invitation to weekly Wednesday meeting held by the department to come and listen and meet the Connectors and liaisons. Chair Lazzaro stated how she really enjoyed sitting in on that meeting and that it's a great group of people and that there are many events the city puts on, and the connectors and liaisons are amazing.

Chair Lazzaro recognized Councilor Tseng who stated I don't want to keep you guys to long, but I have a couple questions, with the multilingual hotline if someone calls in let's say like Haitian and we don't have them in our network is there a way to have them added to our network? Director O'Connor stated yes, they are because the liaisons answer those hotlines and can direct them where they need to go or whom they need to see. Councilor Tseng asked how the programs, clinics and ideas are formed if they are based off the residents' needs or if the organizations outside the city reach out and let us know and we join in on the events or programs? Director O'Connor stated the structure of the MVP was created out of somewhat of a needs assessment and talking to residents and that how those topics were chosen around like financial stability, food and security and youth and family. Councilor Tseng asked if there are any programs outside of the community that we haven't had the bandwidth for here in our community. Director O'Connor stated that an example would be with the Haitian community and a lot of anxieties they are having right now the need for mental health support, so we reached out to Cambridge health alliance who put on a wonderful program for Haitian community because again we don't have a hospital here so we have to reach out to Melrose Wakefield, Cambridge etc. Councilor Tseng thanked the health team for their presentation and time.

Chair Lazzaro opened public comment

Addressing the committee

Steve Schnapp 36 hillside Ave

Jennifer Yackel 16 Monument St

Chair Lazzaro closed public comment and asked for any motions on the floor.

Chair Tseng motioned to keep paper in Committee (seconded by Collins) passed on a voice vote of Five in favor and zero opposed.

25-138 Resolution to Hold Immigration Enforcement Accountable to Medford Residents

Whereas there have been numerous Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids in Medford over the past several months, disrupting the peace in Medford and ripping apart Medford families, and;

Whereas it is clear that the Medford community shows up to care for its neighbors when they are in need, now therefore,

Be it resolved that the Medford City Council hold a meeting in the Committee on Public Health and Community Safety to discuss methods to protect dependents of Medford residents who have been abducted and/or deported by federal immigration enforcement officers.

Be it further resolved that the Committee discuss issuing Freedom of Information Act requests to Immigration and Customs Enforcement upon receiving knowledge of the arrest and detention of any Medford resident.

Chair Lazzaro spoke about the resolution brought forward by herself and councilor Tseng. Chair Lazzaro recognized Councilor Tseng who stated that his prepared remarks are going to reflect what Chair Lazzaro just stated and that is that the Federal overreach when it comes to immigration enforcement enforcing out of state values on our community is threatening the safety and rights of our neighbors here in Medford,

and today we are here to address an important consequence of that enforcement. Chair Tseng stated that most of the individuals whom have been abducted or deported are the bread winners for their families and without them their dependents need help and he believe part of our job as a council is a city connector and with that being said he reached out to LUCE, which is a grassroots organization that been conducting neighbors watches and providing mutual aide to residents, LUCE has let me know that families need a lot of help with attorney fees and lawyers and that connecting them with those lawyers of where the families are being taken to (mainly New York and Louisiana). Basically, what happens is once someone is nabbed up on the street, they are taken to the ICE facility in Burlington and very quickly withing 24-48 hrs they are shipped off to these main facilities where the circuit courts are much more conservative. LUCE has also let me know that family rental assistance and vehicles get left on the street and fines pile up which they need help paying. Councilor Tseng stated as for the next steps as a council he was thinking the members could provide ideas about what kind of resources this council would like to collect, what kind of problems we are seeing on the ground and to reach out to the community groups who might interested in helping privately and also use this meeting to coordinate those ideas.

Councilor Tseng also made a motion that the City Solicitor look into FOIA requests on the city's behalf seek the names of those who have been detained or deported along the lines of what the city of Austin is doing. Chair Lazzaro spoke to discretion of not making the names of the families who need help public is important so we are limited in what we can offer as City Councilors in public meetings but that it did feel appropriate to bring this forward to reiterate our clear stance on how our community can in a positive way help our residents in a positive way based on the actions of immigration enforcement. Chair Lazzaro asked if there is a second on councilor Tseng's motion and recognized Councilor Collins stated she would be happy to second the motion and to reaffirm what yourself and other councilors have been saying that it is time to be taking stock of what resources are available to our residents, making those stronger, more widely available and that they are effectively communicated to those residents.

Chair Lazzaro opened Public Comment
Addressing the Committee
Munir jurmanis 3 Summit Rd

Chair Lazzaro recognized councilor Tseng who said thank you to Munir and stated that it is an interesting idea and the logistics behind the privacy would have to be looked at and maybe doing that through one of the private community groups is best, but it is worth looking into. Chair Lazzaro stated that LUCE has or had set up a go fund me before for a resident in Medford that had been affected by an ICE arrest. Chair Lazzaro asked for a second on Councilor Tseng's motion.

Councilor Tseng motioned to request City Solicitor through FOIA requests on the City's behalf seek the names of those that have been detained or deported (seconded by Councilor Collins) passed on a voice vote of Five in favor, zero opposed.

Chair Lazzaro recognized councilor Tseng who motioned to keep the paper in committee to revisit. Chair Lazzaro asked for a second on the motion, Councilor Leming seconded.

Councilor Tseng motion to keep paper in Committee (seconded by Councilor Leming) passed on a voice vote of Five in favor and zero opposed.

Chair Lazzaro adjourned the meeting at 7:59pm

Respectfully Submitted
Richard Eliseo Jr
Assistant City Clerk

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

25-105 - Submitted by Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn

Re: 25-105, Amended Values Aligned Local Investments Ordinance

Dear President Bears and Members of the City Council:

After careful consideration, I respectfully veto this ordinance, as recently passed by the City Council. This decision is grounded in serious concerns raised by KP Law's memorandum, particularly the potential for litigation, as well as the substantial financial implications for the City that have yet to be thoroughly evaluated by our internal and external financial teams.

Please consider this my formal objection and veto to the Ordinance.

This ordinance, in its current form and in my opinion, has not undergone the level of diligence required for a matter of such legal and financial magnitude, nor were any recommendations to do so considered. Specifically, the final ordinance was passed without fully addressing the substantive concerns raised by the Law and Finance Departments.

Of particular concern is the exposure this ordinance creates for City employees, many of whom would be placed in difficult, if not untenable, positions under the current language. Without clear legal guidance and structured implementation protocols, our employees risk operating under uncertainty, with potential personal and professional liability. This is not an acceptable outcome for a municipal workforce that relies on clarity, legal compliance, and operational consistency.

Furthermore, the recommendation from my administration and legal counsel to seek further input from all relevant financial stakeholders was not heeded. The absence of this vetting process undermines our ability to comply with state law, safeguard municipal finances, and maintain public trust.

Enacting policy without fully considering the impact on our departments, employees, and constituents erodes confidence in our governance. I urge the Council to revisit this ordinance with the additional deliberation it requires, ensuring that legal liabilities are carefully considered, financial impacts are understood, and implementation responsibilities are clearly recognized.

Despite some of the characterizations made during Council meetings, my administration has made good-faith efforts to work collaboratively on this issue. The lack of a pause by the Council when they became aware of the memorandum by KP Law before adoption is unfortunate, but not irreversible.

It is my sincere hope that we can move forward together, constructively, transparently, and in partnership, to resolve the legal and financial issues identified by KP Law and our internal teams. For these reasons, and in the interest of protecting the City and its employees, I respectfully submit this formal veto and objection to the Ordinance.

Respectfully yours,


Breanna Lungo-Koehn
Mayor

Vice President Collins motioned to Table (Seconded by Councilor Callahan) – passed on a voice vote of Seven in Favor, Zero opposed

25-155 - Submitted by Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn

Five Year Contract Request

Dear President Bears and City Councilors:

I respectfully request and recommend that the City Council approves the following five-year contract with Adam Matthew Ltd d/b/a AM Quartex. As the Council is aware, M.G.L. c. 30B §12 requires City Council approval for a contract that exceeds three (3) years.

Agreement

Authorize the City and the Library to enter into a five-year agreement under the Bloomberg Digital Innovation Grant to support the digitization of the Library's local history collections. This initiative requires two specialized vendors: one to handle the document scanning, and another to develop and maintain a digital web platform to host the digitized materials. This contract pertains specifically to the vendor responsible for the creation and ongoing support of the digital platform.

Given the complexity and long-term nature of this project, a five-year service plan is essential. While the platform will undergo an initial build, content will be added on a continuous basis well beyond the initial term. Local history materials are inherently complex, unlike standard print materials, they include audiovisual content and oral history recordings that require specialized support for proper integration and presentation.

This platform will serve as a vital and evolving community resource. Ensuring a longer-term vendor support is critical to maintaining the platform's functionality, accessibility, and growth over time.

Respectfully submitted,


Breanna Lungo-Koehn
Mayor

Addressing the Council

Barbara Kerr Library Director

Vice President Collins motioned to approve (seconded by Councilor Callahan) – passed on a Voice vote of Seven in favor, Zero opposed

Councilor Tseng motioned to reconsider **25-155** (seconded by Vice President Collins) – Approved on a voice vote of Seven in favor, Zero opposed

Councilor Tseng motioned to approve (seconded by Councilor Callhan) – passed on a Roll call vote of Seven in favor, Zero opposed

25-156 - Submitted by Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn

Donation Acceptance

Dear President Bears and Members of the City Council:

I respectfully request and recommend that your Honorable Body approves under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53A, a donation in the amount of \$500 by Beacon Bank to the Bicycle Advisory Commission to help pay for bicycle safety equipment.

A member of the Bicycle Advisory Commission plans to attend to address the Council.

Respectfully submitted,


Breanna Lungo-Koehn
Mayor

Addressing the Council

Earnest Munier Bicycle Commission

Councilor Tseng motioned to amend with proof of deposit into Bicycle Commission account (seconded by Councilor Callahan)

Vice president Collins motioned to approve as amended (seconded by Councilor Callhan) – passed on a Roll call vote of Seven in favor, Zero opposed

25-157 - Submitted by Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn

CPA Appropriation Request – Unitarian Universalist Church Historic Window Preservation

Dear President Bears and City Councilors:

On behalf of the Community Preservation Committee, I respectfully request and recommend that your Honorable Body approve the following recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee:

Requesting the appropriation of \$9,000.00 from the CPA Historic Preservation Reserve to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford, to fund the East Window Preservation project.

The project will be tracked in the Community Preservation Fund. The CPC recommendation letter is attached and incorporated. Community Preservation Act Manager Theresa Dupont will be in attendance to address the Council.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,


Breanna Lungo-Koehn
Mayor

Enclosure

Funding Recommendation Decision

September 9, 2025

Applicant Name: Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford

Applicant Address: 147 High Street, Medford MA 02155

Project: Unitarian Universalist Church – Eastern Window Preservation

On September 9, 2025 the City of Medford Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”) voted 7-0 to recommend to City Council that the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford be awarded \$9,000 of Community Preservation Act (“CPA”) funds for the Unitarian Universalist Church Eastern Window Preservation project. In reaching their decision, the CPC found that the project meets the CPA objective of preserving and restoring public historical resources.

Conditions of Approval:

1. The rehabilitation shall comply with the Standards for Rehabilitation stated in the United States Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties codified in 36 C.F.R. Part 68.

Signed by:

Roberta Cameron

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Roberta Cameron, Chair
Community Preservation Committee

Addressing the Council

Theresa Dupont CPA Manager

Councilor Tseng motioned to approve (seconded by Councilor Callhan) – passed on a Roll call vote of Seven in favor, Zero opposed

25-158 - Submitted by Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn

REQUEST FOR EXPENDITURE FROM LAW DEPARTMENT CLAIMS OVER \$2,500.00 ACCOUNT **#010-151-5762**

Date: October 16, 2025

To: The President and Members of the
Honorable Medford City Council

Fr: Breanna Lungo-Koehn, Mayor *BLK*

Claimant Name: Safety Ins. Co. a/s/o Angelo Fiorentino v. City of Medford
Law Department File No. 25-5

Date of Accident: July 2, 2024

Date of Settlement: September 25, 2025

Date of Trial Result: N/A

Amount of Request: **\$3,000.00**

Claimant's Attorney: Joseph P. Bonfiglio, Bolden & Bonfiglio, LLC

Description of Alleged Claim:

The claimant, Safety, as subrogee of Angelo Fiorentino, initially sought reimbursement of damages of \$5,341.19 paid to its insured, Angelo Fiorentino, for damages to a motor vehicle as a result of an incident involving a Department of Public Works vehicle at the intersection of Bradbury Avenue and Third Street, Medford, MA on or about July 2, 2024. City DPW confirmed the accident and liability of the Medford DPW.

Safety has agreed to accept \$3,000.00 total to resolve the claim. The necessary Release will be obtained from Safety.

Breakdown of Amount Requested:

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Medical Cost: | -0- |
| Lost Wages: | -0- |
| Property Damage: | \$3,676.19 |
| Other: | \$1,665.00 |
| Total Settlement: | \$3,000.00 |

Vice President Collins Motioned to approve (seconded by Councilor Tseng) – approved on a Roll call vote of Seven in favor, Zero opposed

Offered under suspension

Councilor Scarpelli motioned to take paper 25-161 (seconded by Vice President Collins) – Passed on a voice vote of Seven in favor, Zero opposed

25-161 Offered by Councilor Scarpelli

Whereas, the voters of Medford will vote yes or no on a ballot question on November 4, 2025 regarding a new charter for the City of Medford,

Whereas the proposed charter was formulated by an 11-member resident committee after an extensive review process with public engagement, research, interviews with city officials, and guidance from the Collins Center for Public Management

Whereas the charter was then reviewed by the City Council, Mayor, and State Legislature then signed by the Governor

Whereas the ballot question is the final step in the implementation of Medford's proposed charter

BE IT RESOLVED that the Medford City Council inform the voters of Medford about said ballot question, how to find text of the ballot question, and where to read the proposed charter

Councilor Scarpelli motioned to approve (seconded by Councilor Tseng) – approved on a voice vote of Seven in favor, Zero opposed

Public Participation

Addressing the Council:

Andrew Castagnetti 23 Cushing St

Nick Gialeo 40 Robinson Rd

Steve Schnapp 36 Hillside Av

Micah Kesselman 499 Main St

Robert Carney

Patrick Clerkin 19 Bennett Pl

David Rich West Medford

Ken Gareau 52 Lambert St

Munir Jurmanis 3 Summitt Rd

President Bears closed public participation at 8:03pm

Adjournment:

Councilor Callhan motioned to adjourn (seconded by Councilor Tseng) – approved on a voice vote of Seven in favor, Zero opposed

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Respectfully Submitted
Richard Eliseo Jr
Assistant City Clerk