



*Fighting Fires, Saving Lives, and Promoting Safety.*

**Jeffrey J. Winward**  
*Fire Chief*

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

From: Chief Winward, LFD and Christine O'Connor, City Solicitor

Date: February 27, 2020

Subject: **C. Elliott - Req. City Mgr. Have Law Dept. Research The Legality Of Placing A Safe Haven Baby Box At A Lowell Fire Station.**

I write in response to the above motion by Councilor Elliot. Massachusetts law prohibits the placement of a newborn in so-called "safe have baby boxes."

*An Act Relative to the Safe Placement of Newborn Infants* enacted in 2004, provides that a parent of a newborn infant 7 days of age or younger may voluntarily place a newborn infant with a hospital, police department or manned fire station. Such voluntary placement shall not constitute an automatic termination of parental rights. Nor shall the voluntary abandonment of a newborn infant to an appropriate person at a hospital, police department or manned fire station constitute criminal abuse or neglect of a child.

A key provision of the Massachusetts law is that newborns must be physically placed in the care and custody of a person authorized by this act. Accordingly, this Act prohibits the abandonment of a newborn in a so-called "safe haven baby box."