



Thomas R. Bellegarde
Assistant City Manager/Public Works Commissioner

To: Kevin J. Murphy, City Manager

From: Thomas R. Bellegarde, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Commissioner

Date: August 16, 2017

RE: Council Motion of 7.14 4/25/17 C. Rourke

Req. City Manager update Council regarding DPW needle pick-up program

Council Motion of 8.4 6/27/17 C. Leahy

Req. City Manager update City Council regarding needle pick-up program

Please accept this update on the development of a City-wide needle pick-up program.

During the week of August 7-11, awareness training was conducted in the Mayor's Reception Room and made available to all City employees. The training sessions were well attended by employees from all City Departments.

At each training session, employees were given handouts that identified the dangers associated with the exposure to needles, the proper people to call in the event a needle is found, how to protect against being pricked by a needle, safe handling and disposal of needles, and other general awareness best practices.

The next steps in this process will be to identify those to be considered as part of the response team. This process must involve the 1705 Union, the Health Department, all divisions of DPW, and Inspectional Services in order to create thorough operational procedures, training, equipment purchases, and to address other various needs to adopt the policy.

The City of Lowell Health Department has identified all of the necessary equipment to properly outfit our staff and those deputized as the Response Team. The equipment includes puncture resistant gloves, specialized boots, pinchers to pick up needles, and sharps containers for disposal. These purchases can be made ahead of the selection of the response team.

Feel welcome to contact me with any further questions you have on this matter.