

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

ORDINANCE

An Ordinance creating one (1) new position and salary of Syringe Collection Program Coordinator at the Health and Human Services Department.

The City Council, by virtue of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 43, Section 105, has the authority to create and/or delete positions.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL, as follows:

The Code of Ordinances City of Lowell, Massachusetts, hereinafter called the "Code" adopted by the City Council on December 23, 2008, as amended, is hereby further amended as follows:

1. The following position and salary is created at the Health and Human Services Department:

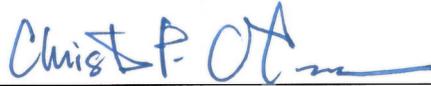
One (1) Full Time, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator
AFSCME Local 2532
Salary - \$43,761.12 (min) to \$47,063.12 (max)
(35 hours/wk)

The above position and salary created by this Ordinance shall be filled only when the necessary funds for said position have been appropriated and said position and salary shall be eliminated when said funds are no longer available.

2. All provisions of the Code of the City of Lowell, as amended, which are not inconsistent with this Ordinance shall continue in effect, but all provisions of said Code inconsistent herewith are repealed.

3. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 43 and 40A of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Christine P. O'Connor
City Solicitor

Ordinance/personnel/healthandhumanserv/syringe



Kerran Vigroux, BS, MPH
Director of Health & Human Services
978.674.1050

MEMORANDUM

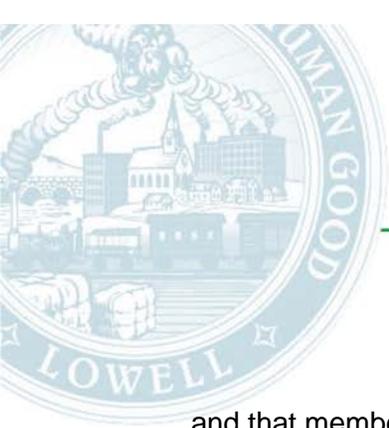
TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager
FROM: Kerran Vigroux, Director, Health and Human Services Department
Date: October 24, 2018
Subject: Syringe Collection Program Coordinator

As with many communities throughout the Commonwealth and beyond, Lowell has struggled with the Opioid Crisis and the resulting numbers of discarded syringes in our public areas. The City has attempted to piece together response procedures over the past year including City-wide employee general awareness trainings, training and vaccination of select employees to collect the syringes, and partnering with Trinity Ambulance, Inc., to cover days/hours when the City staff was not available.

Despite these attempts, it has become clear that the City is in need of a more coordinated approach which is capable of proactive strategies rather than simply being reactive. The creation of a Syringe Collection Program Coordinator position will do just that. The Coordinator will oversee the Syringe Collection Program which will be based out of the Substance Use and Prevention Division of the Lowell Health and Human Services Department. This is the same department which oversees the CO-OP team and several Opioid-related grants that are funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

The Syringe Collection Program Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating the City's efforts of syringe collection and community education regarding safe syringe access and disposal. The public will be able to call in or report locations of discarded syringes through an online portal, similar to when a pothole is reported. It will be the Coordinator's responsibility to respond, collect and dispose of the syringe(s) in an appropriate and safe manner. The Health Department currently has a contract with a company for the handling of bio-medical waste for regular pick-ups of all used syringes that are generated from vaccination clinics, syringe collection events, and regular syringe drop-offs at the Senior Center.

The Syringe Collection Program will not be distributing syringes in the community. The Coordinator will, however, be working with several Community organizations that engage in Syringe Service Programs funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Working collaboratively with these organizations will ensure that there is minimal duplication of services



The City of Lowell • Health Department
341 Pine Street • Lowell, MA 01851
P: 978.674.4010 • F: 978.970.4011
www.LowellMA.gov

Kerran Vigroux, BS, MPH
Director of Health & Human Services
978.674.1050

and that members of the community will know where to access the most appropriate services for their needs.

Trinity Ambulance, Inc. has agreed to continue to cover evening and weekend reports of syringes found in public areas in the City. Large sites that are deemed too hazardous for the Coordinator or Trinity Ambulance to access or manage will be referred to Development Services for assessment.

Funding for the position is available through June 30, 2019 from the Health Department's budget. It is proposed that this will be sufficient time to pilot this position and program and to evaluate its effectiveness.

We are respectfully requesting approval to move forward with the creation of the Syringe Collection Program Coordinator position and the subsequent hiring of the most qualified candidate. This position is a 35 hours/week, union position with an hourly range of \$ 24.04 per hour - \$ 25.86 per hour.