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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Thomas, A. Golden, Jr. 

**FROM:** Lisa Golden, Director of Health and Human Services

**DATE:** November 22, 2022

**SUBJECT:** **MOTION RESPONSE – 10/25/22 - C. Scott/C. Gitschier/C. Robinson - Req. City Mgr. Convene A Summit Including Inviting Other Gateway City Representatives To Discuss Best Practices And Legislative Needs Around Homelessness.**

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Given the complexity of the issue of homelessness, and its tendency to disproportionately impact Gateway Cities in Massachusetts, coordination among municipal leaders to discuss strategies in responding to the challenge is a valuable recommendation.

Presently, I participate in a monthly meeting of Health Directors from the fourteen largest communities in Massachusetts, most of which are Gateway Cities. The working group is referred to as the Massachusetts Large Cities Health Coalition (MLCHC). As nearly all communities in this coalition face challenges related to homelessness, this has been a frequent topic of discussion during these monthly meetings. On several occasions, the Coalition has invited state officials and other subject matter experts to present information and strategies to the group.

This coalition could provide a strong basis to initiate and plan a larger scale summit to discuss homelessness in the future, potentially expanding beyond public health personnel to include planning & development staff from participating municipalities. As it is generally the consensus among this group that strategies to respond to homelessness should involve participation from state agencies, it may be practical to wait until the new state administration takes office and invite appropriate officials from the EOHEd, HHS, and other pertinent state agencies.