

From: [Golden, Lisa](#)
To: [Alexander, Kerry](#)
Subject: FW: Biosafety Committee
Date: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 3:26:00 PM

fyi

From: Lipson, Sam <slipson@challiance.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 11:56 AM
To: Golden, Lisa <LGolden@lowellma.gov>; Muchohi, Simon <smuchohi@bphc.org>
Subject: Re: Biosafety Committee

Hi Lisa. Sorry for my slow reply to your note. It sounds like Lowell has an existing laboratory biosafety regulation that requires a standing Biosafety Committee. This arrangement is not strictly necessary, but since it's in the Lowell regulation you have two options. It might be time to review and possibly amend the regulation to reflect current needs of the city. It might be possible to eliminate the Biosafety Committee provision. I only mention this because recruiting and operating a municipal Biosafety Committee can be a fair amount of work and there might not be enough biotech or bio lab permit holders to really justify this expense and effort.

If you determine that you do need to convene a biosafety committee it'll be important to determine whether the members need to be appointed by the City Manager or someone else (like Health Director). You should post this as a new public committee seeking membership among Lowell residents. UMass Lowell could be a good resource to help the Health Department think through their program. In particular they have a Work Environment program with faculty and students who are familiar with industrial hygiene and workplace hazards. This public notice should be on the city's website, on the city's social media streams, in a local newspaper. Another partner in trying to identify potential members would be MassBio, the advocacy group (lobby org) for biotech in MA. They maintain a rating system to cities and town who want to be prepared to host biotech companies and their Platinum rating requires that the community have a local regulation or ordinance that is based on the [NIH Guidelines for Research involving Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules](#) They might be helpful in identifying Lowell residents who could serve on a municipal biosafety committee without having any personal or financial conflict of interest.

But I encourage you to consider whether it's worth amending the regulation to empower the Health Director or Board of Health to enforce the regulation (perhaps with the assistance of a consultant as in some other cities with only a few companies).

Hope that helps. Don't hesitate to ask questions.

Sam

On Thu, Dec 15, 2022 at 4:55 PM Golden, Lisa <LGolden@lowellma.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Hope you are well during this busy time.

I am writing to see if either of you could steer me in the correct direction to start a biosafety committee in the City of Lowell?

I was given your emails from Brandon Linz from Triumvirate and they are waiting for approval for some work that we thought would be approved by the Law Department but was now referred to a Biosafety Committee.

The City has some old language referring to one but we have never convened one.

I am not sure who the members should be other than the Health Director and the BOH Chair.

Thanks for any insight you can give.

Lisa

Lisa Golden, MSN, RN
Director of Health and Human Services
The City of Lowell Health Department
107 Merrimack St
Lowell, MA 01852
t. 978 674-1050 | f: 978 970-4011
lgolden@lowellma.gov
www.lowellma.gov

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Sam Lipson REHS
Senior Director of Environmental Health
Cambridge Public Health Department
119 Windsor Street, Lower Level
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 665-3838 / slipson@challiance.org
He/Him/His

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