



Peter Crewe
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas A. Golden, Jr., City Manager 

FROM: Peter Crewe, Director

CC: Shawn Machado, Melissa Desroches, Conor Baldwin, Doreen Burgess, Law Dept.

SUBJECT: **MOTION RESPONSE: 11/1/22 – 11/10/2023 – C. Jenness/C. Leahy Req City Mgr have Proper Department work to include a Public Menorah Lighting during Next Year's Holiday Celebrations.**

Lowell is a global City rich in many cultures. The City has a long tradition of inviting the cultures that make up the City to come to City Hall and highlight their histories and traditions. In particular during the Holiday season highlighting the rich spiritual traditions that make up the City is an important part of the celebration each year. Adding a Public Menorah Lighting to the slate of Lowell's Holiday activities fits naturally with our commitment to represent all of our residents and we are excited to launch the first one this year which will be on **Thursday, December 7th @ 5:30pm** and we are deeply honored that this will be on the first night of Hanukkah! To that end:

- There is an established precedent in the state of Massachusetts for Municipalities to partner with regional Chabads to produce Menorah Lightings. CASE looked at lightings in: Methuen, Somerville, Everett, Revere and Salem. In all cases Menorah Lightings were co-produced by the City (or Mayor's Office) in association with a Chabad.
- CASE met with Rabbi Bronstein of the Chabad Lubavitch of the Merrimack Valley and Jim Shinker, a lay person who has helped organize lightings. The Chabad Lubavitch of the Merrimack Valley has extensive experience in the region partnering with Municipalities to produce Menorah Lightings and we are thrilled and honored that they are interested in working with us here in Lowell.
- The Chabad Lubavitch of the Merrimack Valley has agreed to co-ordinate securing a Menorah for a Lowell Lighting. Traditionally volunteers are then assigned to light the candle each night (electric in this case). We will look to community partners to help find volunteers. We will want to start this process early as we know that is a busy time of year. Following the lighting the City will hold the Menorah until next year, as we have traditionally done in the past.
- Rabbi Bronstein will reach out to the Temple Emanuel of the Merrimack Valley here in Lowell and invite them to join as co-producers of the event.
- While direct fiscal sponsorship of a Menorah Lighting by the City is not possible we would certainly help to establish a committee to support the event.