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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Maura Fitzpatrick, Director of Homelessness Initiative

CC: Lisa Golden, Director of Health and Human Services

DATE: July 25, 2023

SUBJECT: **MOTION RESPONSE – HHS-1 7/11/2023 C. Robinson/ C. Scott - Req. City Mgr. Provide Update On Housing Summit**

The Regional Summit on Homelessness will be held the beginning of August on the UMass Lowell campus. The lead agency on the Summit is Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (“NMCOG”) with support from the Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”). They have been working for several weeks with partners in government and in the non-profit sector to assemble a working group of human service agencies, government officials, policymakers, and other relevant parties.

Leadership (i.e.: town managers and town administrators) from the surrounding towns in the Merrimack Valley have been invited. The Executive Director of NMCOG is scheduled to review areas of collaboration and cooperation between the relevant communities at the beginning of the meeting. Additionally, the proposed agenda includes discussion of several key topics, including: a review of local experiences with homelessness, a review of key data and information about people experiencing homelessness from our partners at Community Teamwork, Inc. (“CTI”) and the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (“SMOC”), an overview of housing needs and review of the Section 8 program, among several other relevant topics.

The goal of this summit is to promote collaboration and cooperation amongst Lowell and our regional municipal partners, as well as strengthen the partnership and understanding of the core issues effecting homelessness between the human service agencies, policy experts, and municipal leadership. The summit on regional homelessness will bring local officials across Greater Lowell together to learn from service providers, system leaders, and advocates about homelessness in the region, to learn the facts and gain insight into the issue, and learn from each other what actions they can take in their own communities to respond. Attendees are not expected to be expert in the field; rather, the expectation is for participants to listen and commit to bringing this information back to other leaders, elected officials, and policy makers in their respective communities. After the completion of the summit, it is the expectation of HHS that a report will be provided to the City Council with lessons learned and next steps from the summit.