




Thomas A. Golden, Jr.  
*City Manager*

Ineabelle Dominguez  
*Administrative Assistant*

## MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Melissa Desroches, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

**CC:** Conor Baldwin, CFO; Doreen Burgess, Administrative Assistant to the Manager; Yovani Baez-Rose, Director of Planning and Development/Assistant City Manager; Maura Fitzpatrick, Director of Homelessness Initiatives; Lisa Golden, Director of Health and Human Services

**DATE:** August 22, 2023

**SUBJECT: Motion Response: C. Robinson/C. Gitschier—5/23/23--Req. City Mgr. Draft A Letter On Behalf Of The City Council And Community Stakeholders To Be Sent To State Department Of Housing Newly Appointed Secretary, As Well As, Sheriff Kotoujian, Sen. Cindy Friedman And “The Restoration Center” Team To Explore Feasibility Of Creating A Pilot Program Utilizing The Former Superior Courthouse To Address The Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Homelessness And Housing Crisis Impacting Our Community**

The City Manager’s Office is working in conjunction with the Department of Planning and Development, the Director of Homeless Initiatives and the Department of Health and Human Services to explore feasibility of creating a pilot program utilizing the former Superior Courthouse to address the mental health, substance abuse, homelessness and housing crisis impacting our community.

Currently, the Courthouse building is owned by DCAMM. The Manager toured the building with DPD and Community Teamwork at which point a series of complications were identified which would make it difficult to provide the services put forth in this motion. The building is configured as a courthouse. In order to refit it with electrical, plumbing, waterproofing, new windows and ADA compliant additions to the structure, it would be very expensive. There are multiple structural issues which would need to be addressed.

In consulting with Health and Human Services, there are DPH guidelines to create a residential mental health unit, which would need to be addressed if this sort of service were to be provided.



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The current option includes obtaining the property from DCAMM with a caveat to remove the historical restrictions on demo and structural rehabilitation. Given that the building is in the historic district, consultation with the Historic Board and the MA Historic Commission would also be recommended.

The recommendation would be to send this to subcommittee to explore recommendations that may come out of that discussion.