




Lisa Golden, RN, MSN
Director of Health and Human Services
978.674.1050

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas, A. Golden, Jr. 

FROM: Maura Fitzpatrick, Director of Homelessness Initiatives

CC: Lisa Golden, Director of Health and Human Services

DATE: 1/18/24

SUBJECT: MOTION RESPONSE – HHS-1 1/16/2024 C. Jenness Req. City Mgr. Have Proper Department Explore The Possibility Of Creating An Emergency Winter Shelter For Single Adults Experiencing Homelessness Similar To What The City Of Worcester Is Doing With Their Former RMV Space.

In response to Councilor Jenness' motion to explore the possibility of creating an emergency winter shelter for single adults experiencing homelessness similar to what the city of Worcester is doing with their former RMV space:

Several spaces are being considered for use in this capacity. If the ideal building were available in the right location and condition to allow us to transform it as easily as was done in Worcester, it would be done. Unfortunately, the available spaces in Lowell for this purpose need extensive rehabilitation. The Worcester RMV space was in good condition and took six months to secure for a December 12th startup.

Additionally, personnel from the Health Department, Emergency Management and the Council on Aging have a plan in place to be executed contingent upon the factors below:

- NWS (National Weather Service) issues windchill advisory or warning.
- NWS issues warning for severe winter storms, hurricane or wind.
- Temperature in singles digits more than 1 night
- Real feel temperature of below 10 degrees Fahrenheit (F)
- Heat index above 100 degrees F
- Heat wave over 90 degrees F three or more days

The Lowell Senior Center will be used as the city's Emergency Weather Station (EWS) providing a safe, temporary space for unsheltered homeless individuals. The EWS is intended for single adults only and will be staffed with Lowell Police personnel, Lowell Fire personnel, a Public Health nurse as needed, Senior Center staff or DPW custodian and Pride Star personnel as needed.