



Thomas R. Bellegarde
Assistant City Manager/Public Works Commissioner

To: Kevin J. Murphy, City Manager

From: Thomas R. Bellegarde, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Commissioner

Date: November 16, 2017

RE: Council Motion of 7.14 4/25/17 C. Rourke

Req. City Manager update Council regarding DPW needle pick-up program

Council Motion of 8.4 6/27/17 C. Leahy

Req. City Manager update City Council regarding needle pick-up program

Please accept this update on the development of a City-wide needle pick-up program.

Over the past several months, the City and the representative Unions have continued the progress toward adopting a formal needle pick-up program. As you have been made aware, training sessions, procedures, safe handling instructions, and general best practices have been made available to all City employees.

Additionally, the Department of Public Works purchased "response kits" with the relevant and necessary equipment to be used to safely pick up and dispose of needles found while performing our daily tasks. The equipment includes safety gloves, pinchers, 5 gallon buckets, sharps containers, hand sanitizer, and boots. We have set aside monies to be available for future purchases and operational costs.

Currently, the negotiation process is ongoing as we develop the make-up of a response unit. The City submitted to the Union a counter proposal for their consideration. We await their response. As negotiations progress, we will be able to finalize the budget and operational costs that will be associated with the response team. Those identified to be included to the response team will join representatives from Inspectional Services, Solid Waste & Recycling, and Trinity Ambulance, who currently respond to needle calls.

Feel welcome to contact me with any further questions you have on this matter.