

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

VOTE

Authorizing the City Manager to apply for, accept and expend Funds in the form of a Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) for use in the City of Lowell Recycling Program administered through the Department of Public Works.

The City of Lowell will receive up to Forty Thousand (\$40,000.00) Dollars to use the tools and resources contained in the MassDEP's Recycling IQ Kit. The City will also receive up to 40 hours of technical assistance from MassDEP's Municipal Assistance Coordinator (MAC).

BE IT VOTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL, as follows:

That the City Manager be and is hereby authorized to apply for, accept and expend Forty Thousand (\$40,000.00) Dollars on behalf of the City of Lowell, from the Department of Environmental Protection Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) grant, to implement the Recycling IQ kit for curbside communities.

BE IT FURTHER VOTED:

That the City Manager is authorized to execute the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Standard Contract form and any other documents necessary for the acceptance and expenditure of said grant funds on behalf of the City of Lowell.

V:grant:MassDEPsustainable



Gunther Wellenstein
Solid Waste / Recycling Coord

Bora Chhun
Recycling Enforcement Coord

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Monday, May 21, 2018

TO: Mayor William Samaras and Lowell City Council

Via: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager

CC: Mike McGovern, Assistant City Manager
Karen Moynihan, Executive Assistant
Jim Donison, Commissioner, Department of Public Works,
Steve Benoit, Deputy Commissioner of Street Dept., DPW

FROM: Gunther Wellenstein, Solid Waste / Recycling Coordinator

SUBJECT: 'Apply, Accept & Expend' \$40,000 from MassDEP SMRP Grant

It is with great excitement that I present the attached Mass DEP Grant Award for your consideration!

"MassDEP is excited that the City of Lowell has chosen to start working toward reducing contamination in the residential recycling stream. The City will receive up to \$40,000 to use the tools and resources contained in the MassDEP's Recycling IQ Kit... The community will also receive up to 40 hours of technical assistance from MassDEP's Municipal Assistance Coordinator (MAC)."

This grant is timely, since recent audits of the City's curbside recycling material have documented contamination rates from 25 to 35%... One Waste Management (WM) truck, just last week, was rejected at the processing facility, in Billerica, for exceeding 40% unacceptable material. Industry standard is rates below 10%. If contamination issues continue, penalties (to the City) may reach \$12,000-\$15,000 per month!

Primary culprits are plastic bags, soiled food containers (with excessive residue), clothing (& other textiles), yard waste [& wood items], Styrofoam, scrap metal... and even diapers and other trash!!

Shortly, a rigorous education and outreach campaign will begin; it will include physical inspections of curbside carts, rejections and even fines –up to \$200 (pursuant to SW&R Ordinance Ch. 270).

Please place the matter before the City Council, at the next appropriate meeting, so the Council can 'Apply, Accept & Expend' the \$40,000 in grant funds.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.