

## DOL Welcomes New Employees!



### **Ross Seavey- Director of Building and Engineering Education, Training, and Code.**

Ross joins the Office of Public Safety and Inspections with a background in zoning law, building code administration, and residential construction. Previously, Ross worked as a private zoning and development attorney and served as Building Commissioner for the Town of Tisbury. There, he modernized building department operations and fostered a collaborative atmosphere among inspectors across the six towns of Martha's Vineyard.

Raised in the construction industry, Ross combines years of hands-on construction experience with a comprehensive understanding of the regulatory and administrative challenges inspectors face each day. In his new role, he aims to enhance educational programs for building officials, focusing on professionalism, fairness, and consistent

application of the state building code (780 CMR) throughout the Commonwealth.

Ross earned a Juris Doctor from Vermont Law School and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of New Hampshire. He is a Certified Building Official and a Home Energy Rater. Outside the office, Ross enjoys playing flag football, competing in triathlons, and camping in the White Mountains.



### **Daniel Callahan, Engineering Inspector - District 2**

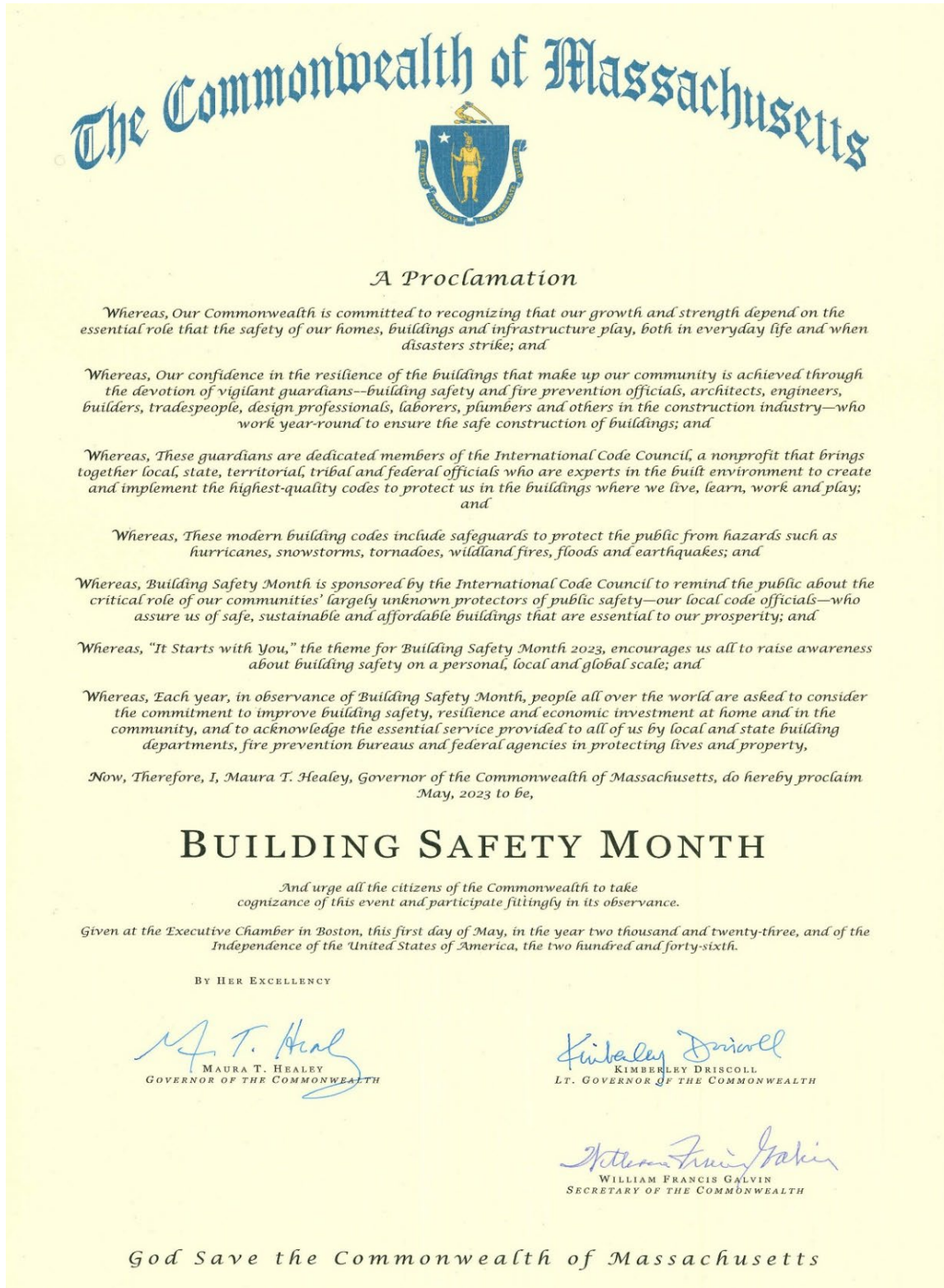
Daniel Callahan began with the Department of Public Safety and Inspections on January 16, 2024, as a District Engineering Inspector.

Dan is a graduate of Assumption College with a bachelor's degree in organizational communications. Prior to working for the Commonwealth, he was a project manager for his family's general site excavation business. He has spent the last 20 years operating

hoisting machinery or supervising others operating equipment. This experience has been extremely helpful in his new role as a District Engineering inspector.

After years of working in the private sector Dan is excited to work for the Commonwealth to issue licensure for Hoisting, pipefitting, refrigeration, and sprinkler fitting. He also looks forward to educating himself and these trades professionals on the laws and regulations pertaining to our jurisdiction.

## Governor Maura Healey declared that May is Building Safety Month



Let's all focus on safety this month!  
[2024 ICC Building Safety Month Information](#)

The graphic features a teal and orange color scheme. At the top left is a house icon with a globe inside, labeled 'BUILDING SAFETY MONTH'. To the right is the year '2024' in large, bold, teal and orange letters. Below this is the phrase 'MISSION POSSIBLE' in large, bold, teal and orange letters. A large orange arrow points from left to right across the middle. Below the arrow are five circular icons representing different themes: a lightbulb, a flowchart, a group of people, a group of people with a gear, and a group of people with a star. Each icon is accompanied by a week number and a description. At the bottom, there is a teal banner with white text encouraging sponsorship, a QR code, the website URL, and social media icons.

**BUILDING SAFETY MONTH**

**2024**

**MISSION POSSIBLE**

**Week 1**  
Understanding the Mission

**Week 2**  
Preparing a Building Safety Plan

**Week 3**  
Learning from the Pros

**Week 4**  
Engaging Your Community

**Week 5**  
Celebrating Success in Building Safety

Show your commitment to building safety and become a Building Safety Month sponsor.  
Visit [buildingsafetymonth.org/become-a-sponsor](https://buildingsafetymonth.org/become-a-sponsor) to learn more.

[www.buildingsafetymonth.org](https://www.buildingsafetymonth.org)

#BuildingSafety365

International Code Council family of solutions

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## 10<sup>th</sup> Edition Update

The Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS), following a review of the public comments, voted to move the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Massachusetts Building Code forward, following a final review of the document. The next BBRS meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2024. For more information on the meeting and the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, browse the website here: [BBRS Meetings | Mass.gov](#)



DOL Commissioner Sarah Wilkinson and Deputy Commissioner T.J. Lacey along with other DOL staff attend the Public Comment meeting at the Reggie Lewis Athletic Center.

## **From the Office of Public Safety and Inspection (OPSI)** **Committed to Education**

OPSI Engineering partnered with the Department of Labor Standards (DLS) to provide the training on Jackies Law, 520 CMR 6.00. Trench Safety presented by Steve Dagle and Ed MacKeil of DLS, and Hoisting Enforcement, 520 CMR 14.00.

The seminars were a success and we plan to continue working with DLS on educational offerings in the future. Continuing education for Building Officials can be requested of the BOCC using the Attachment B form. [Application for Continuing Education Credit Attachment B | Mass.gov](#)

OPSI is committed to education and is actively working through the summer to roll out State Building Inspector District Meetings, significant changes as we transition from the 2015 ICC codes to the 2021 ICC codes, and onboarding classes and exams, commensurate with the promulgation of the 10<sup>th</sup> edition. We will be providing notices through Codeword, Constant Contact, and our website. Join our email list by emailing [BBRS-MA@mass.gov](mailto:BBRS-MA@mass.gov) or [BOCC-MA@mass.gov](mailto:BOCC-MA@mass.gov).

## **From the Building Official Certification Committee (BOCC)**

### **Check your Continuing Education Hours Here**

December 31, 2024 is the end of the three-year cycle for Continuing Education Credit. Your current credited hours can be reviewed here. [Certified Building Official Continuing Education Hours | Mass.gov](#) If there is a discrepancy between the posted hours and the hours you have accrued, please note that you must use Attachment C, of the three forms posted on the website;” and replace it with this: Reminder: All CEU documentation must first be sent to the [BOCC-MA@mass.gov](mailto:BOCC-MA@mass.gov) email on a Attachment B unless previously submitted on an Attachment A from the host of the meeting / training. The Attachment A and B will then go before the BOCC for approval. Attachment Cs are only to be submitted after Attachment A and B has been submitted, gone before the BOCC, and you notice a discrepancy on your CEU list. All forms are available here ; [Continuing Education for Certified Building Code Enforcement Officials | Mass.gov](#)

### **New Employee or Recently Appointed?**

Please notify your appointing authority/City or Town Clerk, to memorialize your appointment as a Local Inspector or Building Commissioner/Inspector of Building using the New Employee Report Forms can be found here. [New Employee Report Form | Mass.gov](#)

## Deadline for Notification

Did you know that the deadline to comply with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 143, section 3, annual notification is April 1st? *“The clerk of each city and town shall annually, not later than April first, transmit to the board in writing the name and official address of each inspector of buildings or building commissioner and each local inspector in such city or town.”*<sup>2</sup> Please remind your City or Town Clerk that your City or Town Clerk must notify the BOCC using the form. [Annual Notice of Appointed Inspectors | Mass.gov](#)

For questions and concerns, reach out to [BOCC-MA@mass.gov](mailto:BOCC-MA@mass.gov)

## From the Chief of Inspections Commit code violations and permit denials to writing!

Did you know you are required to commit building code violations and denials of permits to writing?

Committing your determinations and decisions to writing not only ensures compliance with the Code, but also creates a record for future building officials and for your city or town officials to rely on and ensuring your constituents have the right to appeal.

### Code Violations

780 CMR Section 114.2 requires that a notice of violation or order must be in writing, served on the person responsible, and “shall direct the discontinuance of the illegal action or condition and the abatement of the violation.” 780 CMR 114.2.1 specifies four ways to satisfy the service of process requirement of the Code.

### Building Permit Denials

When denying a building permit, 780 CMR 105.3.1 requires that the denial shall be in writing and state the reason(s) for the denial. This written denial must be issued within 30 days of the permit application filing date. R105.3 requires a denial if, “the application or the construction documents do not conform to the requirements of 780 CMR and all pertinent laws under the building official’s jurisdiction.”

## SAMPLE CODE VIOLATION LETTER

Today’s Date

Owner’s name

Legal address

Town/City, MA zip code

**RE: Work without a building permit, located at** (add address where work is being performed)

(The first paragraph below explains what you inspected, the date you inspected, and what you observed)

Following a complaint of trucks in the neighborhood, I conducted an inspection on May 1, 2024, and found that you are renovating a structure, located at (Insert Address), without first obtaining a building permit. Multiple contractors were on the premises and a dumpster was filled with construction debris and kitchen cabinets.

(The paragraph below explains the specific building code violation. Include the text of 780 CMR being violated. Ensure the applicable code is cited, such as R codes for a single-family dwelling violation.)

# CODEWORD

May 2024

Issue #2024-02

The Massachusetts Building Code, 780 CMR 105.1 states that, “It shall be unlawful to construct, reconstruct, alter, repair, remove or demolish a building or structure; or to change the use or occupancy of a building or structure; or to install or alter any equipment for which provision is made or the installation of which is regulated by 780 CMR without first filing an application with the building official and obtaining the required permit.”

(Provide notification of the violation, an action to abate the violation, and a time limit to comply. You should always provide for the levying of fines if the owner is non-responsive, failure to do so may require a second enforcement letter, thus the violators appeal period.)

The (Insert Municipality) Building Department has no record of a building permit being applied for or issued for this work at this property. You are hereby ordered to apply for a building permit upon receipt of this notice. Failure to apply for a building permit may result in further action by the (Insert Municipality) including fines and/or legal action.

(The most important part of the letter is to recognize the violators right to appeal. If you don't provide the right to appeal, below, the enforcement letter may not stand up in court.)

If you are aggrieved by this order or my application or interpretation of 780 CMR, you have the right to appeal. Appeals must be filed with the Building Code Appeals Board within forty-five (45) days of receiving this letter, pursuant to G. L. c. 143, § 100 and 780 CMR 113.



Richard Baldacci, CBO Chief of Inspections

## **Building Officials, remember:**

Be strong, but not rude.  
Be kind, but not weak.  
Be bold, but don't bully.  
Be humble, but not shy.  
Be confident, but not arrogant.



## Manufactured Buildings

Manufactured Buildings Executive Director, Syno Tell, attended this modular home installation along with the City of Lowell Building Commissioner Dave Harris and Chief of Inspections, Rich Baldacci. This is a multi-family, sprinklered building!



**TO SEE PAST ISSUES OF CODEWORD CLICK BELOW**

[Codeword Newsletter Recent Editions](#) | [Mass.gov](#)

Do you have a topic you would like to see covered? Questions? Comments? Please send your ideas and comments to the Director of Building & Engineering Education, Training, and Code ([ross.seavey@mass.gov](mailto:ross.seavey@mass.gov)) or your State District Building Inspector. District Inspector maps and contacts can be found in the links below.



## Helpful Links & Email Addresses

The Board of Building Regulations and Standards: [BBRS-MA@mass.gov](mailto:BBRS-MA@mass.gov)

The Building Code Appeals Board: [BCAB-MA@mass.gov](mailto:BCAB-MA@mass.gov)

The Building Official Certification Committee: [BOCC-MA@mass.gov](mailto:BOCC-MA@mass.gov)

State Building Inspector District Information: [State Inspector Assignments Map | Mass.gov](#)  
[State Inspector Contact Information | Mass.gov](#)

**What is a Building Official's statutory authority to enforce 780 CMR?**

Your authority is found in Chapter 143 Section 3 of the Massachusetts General Laws, available here:  
[General Law - Part I, Title XX, Chapter 143, Section 3 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

**Questions about the Home Improvement Contractor (HIC) program or need to register or renew your HIC? The Home Improvement Contractor Program has a consumer hotline!**

Home Improvement Contractor Program Consumer Hotline: 617-973-8787  
Toll-free: 888-283-3757

Website: [Home Improvement Contractor Program | Mass.gov](#)

**Links to Building Officials' Associations**

[Massachusetts Building Commissioners & Inspectors Association](#)

[New England Building Officials Education Association](#)

[Mass. Federation of Building Officials](#)

[Southeastern Massachusetts Building Officials Association](#)

[Building Officials of Western Massachusetts](#)

[Metro-West Building Officials Association](#)

