

# **SPECIAL COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

November 19, 2024

2:00 pm

Via Zoom

## **MEETING MINUTES**

A meeting of the Special Commission on Emergency Housing Assistance Programs was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, via Zoom.

The following Commission members attended via Zoom:

- **Lt. Governor Kimberley Driscoll**, Commission Chair
- **Sec. Edward Augustus**, Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities
- **Sec. Kate Walsh**, Secretary of Health and Human Services
- **Catia Sharp**, Chief of Social Innovation, Executive Office for Administration and Finance, as designee of Sec. Matthew Gorzkowicz, Secretary of Administration and Finance
- **Cristina Aguilera Sandoval**, Executive Director, Office for Immigrants and Refugees
- **Rep. James Arciero**, House Chair, Joint Committee on Housing
- **Sen. Robyn Kennedy**, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities
- **Rep. Jay Livingstone**, House Chair, Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities
- **Rep. Paul Frost**, Second Assistant Minority Leader
- **Sen. Ryan Fattman**, Assistant Minority Leader
- **Leah Bradley**, Chief Executive Officer, Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance
- **Lyndia Downie**, President & Executive Director, Pine Street Inn
- **Pastor Dieufort Fleurissant**, President & Executive Director, True Alliance Center

The following Commission member was not in attendance:

- **Sen. Lydia Edwards**, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Housing

Members reviewed or discussed the following materials:

- A slide deck, which has been posted at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/presentation-emergency-assistance-ea-commission-meeting-november-19-2024/download>
- Minutes from the November 12, 2024 meeting, which have been posted at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/emergency-assistance-ea-commission-november-12-meeting-minutes/download>

- A draft Report of the Special Commission on Emergency Housing Assistance Programs, which has been posted at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ea-report-of-the-special-commission-on-emergency-housing-assistance-programs-draft-111524/download>

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## **I. INTRODUCTION, REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES**

The Lieutenant Governor opened the meeting at 2:10 pm. The Lieutenant Governor called a roll call to identify members attending via Zoom. Catia Sharp (Chief of Social Innovation, Executive Office for Administration and Finance) was in attendance via Zoom as the designee of Sec. Gorzkowicz, Sen. Edwards was not in attendance, and all other Commission members were in attendance via Zoom.

The Lieutenant Governor said that since the Commission would not have a subsequent meeting, she would approve the November 19 minutes in her capacity as Chair. The Lieutenant Governor entertained a motion to approve the November 12 meeting minutes. Sec. Augustus, with Lyndia Downie seconding, so moved. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

## **II. VOTE ON COMMISSION REPORT**

The Lieutenant Governor said that Sen. Edwards had asked to vote by proxy due to her duties as a Judge Advocate General. The Lieutenant Governor entertained a motion to allow Sen. Edwards to vote by proxy. Sen. Kennedy, with Rep. Livingstone seconding, so moved. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

The Lieutenant Governor provided an overview of changes to the draft Commission report since the draft discussed at the November 12 meeting, including the addition of a recommendation for further convenings, an appendix on written testimony received from organizations, and an appendix on additional recommendations from Sen. Fattman and Rep. Frost.

The Lieutenant Governor entertained the following motion:

*The Commission approves the Report of the Special Commission on Emergency Housing Assistance Programs, as posted Friday, November 15.*

Sec. Augustus, with Leah Bradley seconding, so moved. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Rep. Arciero and Rep. Livingstone abstaining and the Lieutenant Governor reading Sen. Edwards's proxy vote. The Lieutenant Governor stated that the report was approved with 12 affirmative votes and 2 abstentions.

## **III. MEETING CLOSING**

The Lieutenant Governor entertained a motion to adjourn. Sec. Walsh, with Lyndia Downie seconding, so moved. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. The Lieutenant Governor thanked Commission members for their work. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.