



THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO
HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

April 14, 2023

Sent Via Email

Representative Brian Ashe
State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 160
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Carlos Gonzalez
State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Angelo J. Puppolo
State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 122
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Orlando Ramos
State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 236
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Bud Williams
State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 236
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Adam Gomez
State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 413-B
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Jacob Oliveira
State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 416-B
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Springfield Delegation:

I am writing to respectfully request that during your FY24 Budget deliberations you consider supporting the following items, many of which are also supported by the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA), that would not only benefit the city of Springfield but many other communities across the Commonwealth, including our Gateway Cities.

- Increase to the Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGÀ)
 - Governor Healey's recommendation was 2%
 - Last year, Governor Baker and the Legislature passed a 2.7% increase
 - Additional increase would greatly help our communities

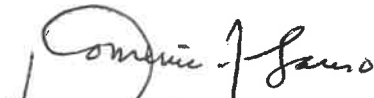
- Increase to Chapter 90 to \$330 million per year
 - Municipalities, like Springfield, have seen an increase in the cost of road projects. In order to maintain and continue the enhancements of our local roadways, it is vital that local municipalities receive the necessary funding from Chapter 90. Safe and reliable roads, bridges, sidewalks and bike lanes are essential to providing our residents and businesses with a good quality of life, and are vital for public safety aspects. In addition, these fundamental infrastructure projects play an important and key role with local economic development projects too.
- Amend MGL Chapter 44, Section 53 (Language Attached)
 - Currently, under Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 44, Section 53, all money received or collected from any source by a municipality belongs to its general fund and can only be spent after appropriation, unless a general or special law provides an exception. This rule can present accounting challenges for local municipalities when conditional revenue is received, because the law requires this revenue to become part of a municipalities general fund even though it has been earmarked for a specific purpose (e.g., opioid settlement funds).
 - As a result, these funds often become part of the next fiscal year's free cash certification, creating confusion around how the funds can be used and accounted for.
 - Passage of this legislative language to amend MGL Chapter 44, Section 53, would allow municipalities to keep these monies out of the general fund and allow the creation of a dedicated account for the intended purpose.
- School Bus Transportation Reimbursement for Gateway Cities
 - Increase to line items 7035-0006 and 7035-0008
 - Any increase to these line items would greatly help our Gateway Cities with the transportation expenses for students
- Earmarks to support and enhance existing City of Springfield programs for residents and businesses
 - **Small Business Program**
 - Funding supports and provides relief to Springfield small businesses
 - Approximately 92% of funding as been awarded to minority owned businesses
 - **Nonprofit Program**
 - Funding supports local nonprofits and the various programs that serve and support the community
 - **Healthy Homes Repair Program**
 - Designated to rehabilitate homes in low-income neighborhoods
 - Address health issues including lead paint and asthma triggers
 - **Exterior Home Repair Program**
 - Provides up to \$40,000 to fund exterior home repairs, including roofs, windows, porches, siding and painting
 - Available citywide
 - **Build Back Springfield**
 - Focuses on recognizing the economic, environmental and cultural value of preserving older and locally significant landmark buildings and structures

- The city seeks to encourage adaptive reuse plans to revitalize buildings that complements the neighborhood while providing for new economic growth and employment opportunities
- **Neighborhood Economic Recovery and Relief Fund**
 - Ensures that neighborhood businesses and institutions, which are at the core of neighborhood life, have the resources to not only recover from the adverse impacts of the pandemic but to work together with the city towards ensuring our neighborhood centers and the surrounding area include sufficient amenities for residents and the business community to flourish with a focus on disproportionately impacted communities, equity and inclusion

If you or your respective offices need further information, please don't hesitate to contact my Chief Administrative and Financial Officer TJ Plante at tplante@springfieldcityhall.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these requests, again many of which are also supported by the MMA, and for your continued leadership on behalf of the Commonwealth and the city of Springfield.

Respectfully,


Domenic J. Sarno
Mayor

"Good health & God Bless,"