



## **CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS**

### **Salem City Council & Senior Staff Strategic Planning Retreat Minutes**

**January 9, 2016, 10:00 a.m.**

**Marsh Hall, Room 210, Salem State University, Central Campus**

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Councillors and Department Heads introduced themselves. The Mayor reviewed the meeting agenda.

#### **2. Expectations & Suggestions: Working Collaboratively as a Team**

Free discussion of what the concept of collaboration means for everyone. “Good governance provides clarity of purpose, develops a climate that facilitates debate, is collaborative and recognizes that success depends on working together.” Attendees shared thoughts around improving Council/Mayor collaboration and communication, including filing deadlines and preferred methods of communication. Councillors discussed the need to improve the use of technology in the conduct of meetings and making public records available and asked for information about setting watch areas in SeeClickFix.

#### **3. Review of Mission Statement**

Mayor Driscoll shared the City government mission statement as developed by senior staff in 2015 and which she talked about in her State of the City address on January 4, 2016. “To provide open, honest, and pro-active services effectively and efficiently, focusing on the needs of today, with a vision for the future.”

#### **4. Review of Municipal Data**

Sarah Stanton, Finance Director, reviewed key budget data including: top taxpayers, FY16 general fund revenues, FY16 local receipts, and FY16 operating budget. Mayor Driscoll provided an overview of the SalemStat program. Police Chief Mary Butler reviewed some examples of SalemStat slides for the Police Department and Public Services director John Tomasz did likewise for the Department of Public Services. Dominick Pangallo, the

Mayor's Chief of Staff, provided a summary of SeeClickFix usage to date and then outlined the results from the 2015 resident survey.

**5. Discussion of 2016 Goals and Issues**

Mayor Driscoll shared her goals for 2016 and invited Councillors to do likewise. Goals identified included: improve transportation systems and alternative transit options, continue progress with public school improvement, trees census and maintenance, traffic calming, increase diversity of housing stock to include more 3-bedrooms, relocation of the Horace Mann Laboratory School, inclusion and diversity/cultural competency, plan for Salem 2026, and continued redevelopment of Salem waterfront and port.

**6. Adjourn** – The retreat adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A §18-25, and  
City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033