

**INVOCATION OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE MAYOR AND THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL OFFICER, UNDER CHAPTER 278 OF THE ACTS OF 2018, TO APPROVE EMERGENCY CONTRACTS FOR PEST/RODENT EXTERMINATION AND CLEANING IN VARIOUS SCHOOL BUILDINGS WITHIN THE METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT DURING THE WINTER BREAK OF THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR**

In light of the emergent nature of the current pest and rodent issues within various school buildings of the Methuen Public School District, and given the current Winter Break in the 2024-2025 school year, authority is hereby invoked under Chapter 278 of the Acts of 2018 (“Chapter 278”) for the City of Methuen, operating through the Mayor and the Chief Administrative and Financial Officer (“CAFO”), to consummate contracts for extermination and cleaning of these school buildings outside of the City Council’s power under local ordinance to approve contracts at or above \$25,000.

As a threshold matter, by its express terms, Chapter 278 trumps state and local law on point, which lawfully allows invocation of this authority notwithstanding the City’s ordinance on contract approval. Further, the Mayor and the CAFO reasonably believe that, with Christmas two days away and New Year’s Day approaching a week thereafter, the City Council may not be able to convene a quorum of members for a special meeting, consistent with the advanced notice mandated under the Open Meeting Law, during the current Winter Break.

Additionally, with students and teachers vacated from the school buildings during the current Winter Break, this time affords an optimal opportunity to expeditiously exterminate pests/rodents and clean the buildings.

Finally, each of the two contracts to follow may be in excess of \$25,000 and consummated with state-approved contractors (Pest-End and Complete Cleaning Company, Inc.). Therefore, there is no procurement bar to effectuating these agreements.

The Mayor has already contacted the City Council Chair to advise the Chair of this matter, and the Mayor will likewise inform the City Council of this matter when the Council convenes its next regular meeting on Monday, January 6, 2025. The Mayor will also furnish copies of the contracts to the City Council as part of the packet for that meeting.