MMA Update for Select Board Members and City & Town Councillors on COVID-19 and Key Municipal Issues

A Presentation for the Members of the Massachusetts Select Board Association and the Massachusetts Municipal Councillors’ Association
June 12, 2020
Today’s Presentation

- Welcome and Thanks
- Overview of MMA Activities & Resources
- COVID-19 Orders & Update on State’s Reopening Process
- Federal Aid --- Still an Open Question
- Legislative and Financial Overview
  (MMA Legislative Director John Robertson)
- Questions
Welcome and Thank You

• Thank you to the Leadership of the Massachusetts Select Board Association and the Massachusetts Municipal Councillors’ Association

• The MMA’s membership team is here to help you: Director of C&M Candace Pierce (cpierce@mma.org); Isabelle Nichols for MSA (inichols@mma.org) and Denise Baker for MMCA (dbaker@mma.org)

• Updates on Programming from the C&M Team
Communities are at the Center of Three Waves

- The murder of George Floyd has catapulted this nation into a defining moment, with sweeping calls to address the systemic racism that persists in our society and economy.
- The COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt our daily lives and businesses, and this deadly threat to public health is draining resources, straining families, and reshaping government services and operations.
- The Massachusetts economy is being battered by the COVID-19 emergency, and state and local governments face historically deep fiscal challenges and uncertainty that could last for years.
Addressing Racism in our Communities

- MMA is working closely with the National League of Cities’ Race, Equity, and Leadership (REAL) program to provide municipal leaders with tools and models to use locally – this started in January at Annual Meeting
- MMA is coordinating with NLC’s REAL program and nearby state municipal associations to produce a series of virtual training sessions for local officials
- Reviewing key legislation and actions to address systemic racism in Massachusetts, including increasing transparency and accountability in policing, identifying disparities in criminal justice, public health, education and the economy
- Addressing racism is not a “moment” – this is long-term work for all public leaders, the MMA, and every institution and stakeholder at every level
Working Closely with State Leaders During the Pandemic

• The MMA is providing the platform, administering and moderating the Baker-Polito Administration’s weekly briefings for the Chief Municipal Officer in each town and city by the Lt. Governor and key state officials

• Audio recordings of each briefing are posted on the MMA website at www.mma.org and are available to all members

• A detailed summary of each briefing is posted on the MMA website, with links to any new announcements or guidance issued by the Administration

• Unanswered questions are researched by the Administration, and the answers that are provided are posted on the MMA website
www.mma.org is PACKED with information
COVID-19 Orders, Guidance & Reopening

- Phase 2 of the Reopening started this week
  - Baker-Polito Administration offering guidance to businesses & municipalities
  - ALL THESE – and much more – ARE ON THE MMA WEBSITE at [www.mma.org](http://www.mma.org)
Federal Aid is Essential

- CARES Act: Restrictions on use, MA sharing funds with cities and towns, CDBG and education funds
- HEROES Act: Passed the US House, stalled in Senate, would provide direct aid to cities and towns and states
- SMART Act: Bipartisan bill in the Senate that would provide direct aid
- MMA: Working with national partners through NLC and others to build support
- Timing: Less than 50% before Labor Day?
Legislative & Financial Overview

- John Robertson, MMA’s Legislative Director ([jrobertson@mma.org](mailto:jrobertson@mma.org))
- Key Legislation So Far to Help Communities Manage
- State Revenue and Budget Outlook and Timing
- Chapter 90
- Technology Bond Bill
- Other Key Items and Issues
Questions???

Thank you so much for your time today!

We will do our best to answer your questions now.
Thank You for Your Leadership!

• The MMA’s Membership team is here to help you:

With Questions About MSA or MMCA Programming, Please Contact Director of C&M Candace Pierce (cpierce@mma.org); Isabelle Nichols for MSA (inichols@mma.org) and Denise Baker for MMCA (dbaker@mma.org)

• The MMA’s Legislative team is here to help you:

With Questions About Legislation and Policy, Please Contact Legislative Director John Robertson (jrobertson@mma.org) and the MMA Legislative Team

• Use the MMA’s Website (www.mma.org) and MMA Alerts