



**Spicer Administration's First 100 Days in Office
A Report to the Community**

"Building of a City"

April 10, 2018

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In marking the first 100 days as a city and her first 100 days in office, Mayor Spicer is reporting the progress that has been achieved. The Mayor and her administration have been focused on a smooth transition to a city form of government by cultivating strong collaborative relationships with municipal leaders, community organizations and constituents. As stated in Mayor Spicer's transition plan the key areas are 1.) A smooth transition to a city form of government; 2.) Excellence in education and schools; 3.) Invigorating our economy; planned growth, balanced development; 4.) Preservation of assets, resources and quality of life; 5.) Investing in our people. In an effort to work across the board, she has addressed at least one aspect of each of these major categories in this first 100 days. Public participation is a priority in building the base for Framingham's future; Mayor Spicer has participated in over 30 community and business events. In an effort to elicit more community engagement she has hosted two community conversations with more are scheduled throughout the year.

1. A Smooth Transition in Government

Planning for Framingham's future and the smooth transition of government, Mayor Spicer has been cultivating relationships with our federal, state and local delegation. Staying in constant communication with United States Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey, as well as United States Representative Katherine Clark's office has kept issues in Framingham on their administrative agenda at the federal level. By working in close collaboration with State Senator Karen Spilka, State Representatives Chris Walsh, Jack Lewis and Carmine Gentile, the City of Framingham's needs are being heard and are being considered for future state funding. Cultivating relationships and building bonds with City division heads has been a high priority for Mayor Spicer.

The focus of our work has been:

- ✓ Developed and implemented a Strategic Planning Summit with our Municipal leadership team.
- ✓ Participated in forums with City Council and School Committee in an effort to ensure constituents are able to discuss ideas, goals and challenges in their representative districts.
- ✓ Created open office hours for the City Council that encourages dialogue with the Mayor on an ongoing basis.
- ✓ Appointed Licensing Commission and Traffic Commission that reflect Framingham's diverse community.
- ✓ Appointed a Chief Operating Officer to the Mayor's office.

- ✓ Provided an overview of the municipal budgeting process, including a brief history of revenues, expenditures, capital investment and property tax burden at the City's first Financial Summit.
- ✓ Initiated an online process for advertising and applying for Boards, Committees, and Commissions.
- ✓ Interviewing applicants for the Planning Board to fill two key positions.

2. Excellence in Education

Education is the cornerstone of the city of Framingham. Ensuring that our children are given the tools to succeed is the responsibility of every resident. In particular, the Mayor has been diligent in cultivating and building structured relationships with parents, students, administration and faculty. The School Committee eagerly began the process of discussing state funding opportunities, community outreach and ensuring compliance with the provisions in the city charter.

- ✓ Supported the multi-year strategic plan with the office of the Superintendent and School Committee.
- ✓ Worked in collaboration with the School Committee, to build a fiscally sound budget that achieves our academic goals and creates excellence in our educational system.
- ✓ Participated in a special reading visit with Hoops for Homework to celebrate literacy on Dr. Seuss Day.
- ✓ Attended the "*March for our Lives*" in support of Framingham High School's student body.
- ✓ Visited with the students and toured Dunning and Potter Road elementary school.
- ✓ Engaged with students in the Resiliency for Life program and visited with the High School Principal.
- ✓ Attended the City-Wide PTO, which was streamed live on Facebook.

3. Invigorating our Economy through Planned Growth and Balanced Development

Mayor Spicer strongly feels that supporting and growing our local businesses is the key to re-energizing our economy and alleviating the tax burden on our residents. The Mayor's office will seek to collaborate with the City Council and the business community to focus on what is important: examining our past experiences and exploring options with the goal of invigorating our economy.

- ✓ Implemented and executed a monthly series focused on specific topics as they impact our community. Our "Community Conversations" are an open invitation to residents to share their thoughts, vision and ideas for the City of Framingham.
- ✓ Targeted focus on the revitalization and future of Downtown Framingham; which includes growth of businesses, housing and transportation.
- ✓ Implemented the Phase One Economic Development Plan focusing on background and data collection to provide proper guidance for future economic development and land use opportunities throughout Framingham.
- ✓ Attended the Nobscot Neighborhood meeting with members of the city council to gather feedback regarding the re-development of the plaza.
- ✓ Generated a comprehensive legislative agenda for the next year. Some examples of funding that have been applied for include:
 - Opportunity Zones - Designated areas can be the target of tax-advantage investments. Through advocacy from the Mayor's office and our legislative delegation, it seems possible that gateway cities will be the priority. Over time, the state has increasingly prioritized economic development resources to gateway cities.
 - Recreational Trails Program Grants provide the opportunity to enhance quality of life, economic vitality, and environmental stewardship by building connections, educational opportunities and environmental awareness through a statewide network of accessible and sustainable trails.
 - Our administration has also been diligent in making sure that Framingham is receiving all of the funding promised in this year's legislative budget. We have respectfully requested disbursement of \$30,000, as approved in the Massachusetts FY2018 State Budget for a Complete Streets Project.
- ✓ The Mayor's office has also collaborated with the office of Sheriff Koutoujian by holding the City's first Senior Scam Prevention Presentation at Heritage house.

- ✓ Engaged with the Framingham Business Association, Tech Park Business Task Force and the Metrowest Chamber of Commerce to discuss their shared goals and to convey the Mayor's desire to collaborate with them on initiatives to build our community and support business growth.
- ✓ Extended reach to Higher Education and community organizations such as Massachusetts Bay Community College, Framingham State University, Framingham Rotary Club, Metrowest Human Services Advocacy Coalition, and 495 MetroWest Partnership.
- ✓ Exploring the creation of a Business and Innovation Taskforce that will exchange ideas about retaining existing businesses and attracting new businesses to Framingham.

4. Preservation of Assets, Resources and Quality of Life

Mayor Spicer has implemented creative strategies and has collaborated with municipal partners to ensure that the City is providing public services that we are proud of, keeping Framingham affordable, focusing on health and wellness, and renewing the focus on the arts, community, open spaces, and quality of life issues and to boost community pride and spirit.

- ✓ Mayor Spicer has met with leaders in community organizations such as Advocates, Wayside and SMOC to explore ways that we can work together to alleviate some of the social and economic challenges we have in our community.
- ✓ Cleanup of hazardous sites in Framingham remain a priority. Mayor Spicer has met with the Framingham Public Health Department and state regulators to support their efforts to enforce the laws and regulations for the cleanup of contaminated sites in our community.
- ✓ Excited to participate and support Team Framingham and the runners of the Boston Marathon. The Team Framingham Steering Committee has announced that fundraising for the 2018 Team Framingham Boston Marathon is in full swing, supporting:
 - Framingham High School Foundation (4 runners)
 - Hoops and Homework (7 runners)
 - Resiliency for Life (8 runners)
 - United Way Call2Talk (2 runners)
 - Framingham Adult ESL (1 runner)
- ✓ The City of Framingham will host the Sixth-Mile moment with activities and cheering of runners in Downtown Framingham.
- ✓ As one of Mayor Spicer's first initiatives, in collaboration with the City's Veteran's Services Department, Framingham will host a Flag Day Parade on June 10, 2018.

5. Investing in our People

A top priority for Mayor Spicer and the City is supporting Framingham's diverse, immigrant-rich community; our seniors, veterans, women and families. In the last 100 days we made significant progress on several fronts.

- ✓ Hosted "*Building a Resilient Framingham for Women*" community conversation. This important dialogue and others help to frame the status of women in our community and areas that need intervention.
- ✓ Transform the City of Framingham into an age-and dementia-friendly community.
- ✓ Under Mayor Spicer's administration, the Framingham Public Library unveiled a brand new Citizenship Corner. The Citizenship Corner will provide easy access to information and resources to obtain U.S. citizenship, the naturalization process, and English language learning.
- ✓ Attended "*Open Minds, Open Hearts*" hosted by the Islamic Society of Framingham.
- ✓ Supported the mission of OUT Metrowest and participated in their outreach efforts.

Enhancing our Infrastructure: Ongoing City of Framingham Projects

- ✓ The Capital Projects and Facilities Management Division will continue to oversee the Loring Arena addition and interior renovation. Construction is scheduled to be complete in early summer of this year.
- ✓ In collaboration with the Capital Projects and Facilities Management division, the Framingham Public Library is planning for the new Pearl Street side handicap accessible ramp and stairs at the main library.
- ✓ The Framingham Public Library, and the Framingham Public Library Foundation Inc. will purchase, outfit and deploy a bookmobile providing access to the library to all citizens of Framingham.
- ✓ Our Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs department is continuously seeking additional funding to support initiatives such as rail trails, greener communities and cultural events.
- ✓ A number of Department of Public Works projects are underway for the remainder of the fiscal year, including Union Avenue. Proposed improvements include sidewalk reconstruction, traffic signal improvements, bicycle accommodation, warning and regulatory signing and pavement markings.

The first 100 days of Mayor Spicer's Administration has been focused on relationship building, outreach into the community, and making the best of the opportunities to engage at the state level

to bring attention, investments, and support to Framingham. Mayor Spicer has experienced amazing media opportunities, including interviews with WCVB, the Boston Globe, WFXT, MetroWest Daily News, WBZ, Baystate Business on Bloomberg Radio. This media attention is a great way to put Framingham on the map – to attract new business and to submit our residents’ priorities to a wider audience. A 30-minute segment on WCVB’s Chronicle, recently provided highlights of what our new city has to offer, assisting in bringing new business and additional customers alike to Framingham.

Mayor Spicer’s meetings with our partners in local government and in the community have been informative and inspiring across the board. Framingham’s success is our common goal, there is a lot of work ahead of us. Mayor Spicer is committed to collaborating with the City Council and School Committee to move Framingham forward.

“Together, with the community, City Council, School Committee, our legislative delegation, as well as our division and department heads we are constructing governance built on accountability, integrity and transparency,” Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer said. *“I firmly believe that through collaboration and focusing our efforts on the tasks outlined in the charter, we will set the tone for exemplary and collaborative government.”*