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Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer; City Council; and School Committee are Pleased to Announce Appointees to the Strategic Initiatives and Financial Oversight Committee

Framingham, MA- After a complete review of applications and conducting interviews from a pool of 20 candidates, consisting of three females and 17 males, representing Districts 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 8; and 9, Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer; the City Council; and the School Committee have selected nine members for the Strategic Initiatives and Financial Oversight Committee (SIFOC).

Mayoral Applicants Selected for SIFOC Include:

- Robert Case is appointed to serve in the expertise in Finance seat. He has more than a decade of finance experience, working for an international asset management firm. He is a long-time Framingham resident who served on the Framingham Ways & Means Committee, April 2015-December 2017 and as Precinct 8 Chair for Framingham Town Meeting, April 2015-December 2017. Mr. Case resides in District 5.
- Michael G. Gatlin, JD, is appointed to serve in the Member of the Local Business Community seat. Mr. Gatlin has been practicing law for nearly four decades and specializes in real estate law. He is the Chair of the Framingham Economic and Industrial Development Corporation; President of Framingham Downtown, Inc.; and Vice President of the Framingham State University Foundation, Inc. Mr. Gatlin resides in District 6.
- Mahmood M. Akhtar, P.E., is appointed to serve in the At-Large seat. Mr. Akhtar retired from Boston Edison Company / NSTAR Electric and Gas Corporation after more than 40 years of service. He has held numerous volunteer positions for the Town of Framingham, including Vice-Chair of the Human Relations Commission (2003-2013); Member and Vice Chair of the Finance Committee (2013- 2016); and Chair of the Finance Committee (2016-2017). Mr. Akhtar resides in District 3.

City Council Applicants Selected for SIFOC Include:

- James Culhane, CFA, is appointed to serve in the expertise in Finance seat. He has more than three decades of experience, working in municipal, corporate and project finance. He possesses an extensive record in understanding what conditions are necessary to fund ongoing operations and infrastructure improvements for municipalities. A long-time Framingham resident, Mr. Culhane is the parent of two children who attend Framingham High School. He resides in District 6.
- Mary Kate Feeney is appointed to serve in the Member of the Local Business Community seat. Ms. Feeney is the Founder and Chief Strategist for Dockside Media and the Director of Communications for Mount Alvernia High School. As well, she served as Governor Deval L. Patrick's Director of online media 2010-2013. Ms. Feeney resides in District 3.



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- Gerard E. Desilets, JD, is appointed to serve in the At-Large seat. Mr. Desilets is a long-time resident of Framingham and has served in a number of volunteer positions, including seven one-year terms as Town of Framingham Moderator. For the last twenty years, he has worked for the South Middlesex Opportunity Council in various capacities, such as Senior Director of Planning and Director of Behavioral Health Services. Mr. Desilets resides in District 5.

School Committee Applicants Selected for SIFOC Include:

- Joel Francis is appointed to serve in the Expertise in Finance seat. He has been employed by a multi-national public accounting firm for over 20 years, providing financial statement audit services for a diverse group of companies. A current parent in the Framingham Public Schools, he is a PTO Co-Treasurer and youth sports coach. Mr. Francis resides in District 2.
- Darlene Umina is appointed to serve in the Member of the Local Business Community seat. She is a realtor and small business owner with The Umina Group of Lamacchia Reality in Framingham. She is a current parent in the Framingham Public Schools and has been active in the community as a Pre-School Board Member, as well as with numerous local charities. Ms. Umina resides in District 1.
- David Kilgis is appointed to serve in the At-Large seat. As a Senior Director of IT, Security, and Operations at a company in Massachusetts, he has extensive experience in the fields of technology, financial planning, contract negotiations, and capital projects. A current parent in the Framingham Public Schools, he is a former PTO Co-President. Mr. Kilgis resides in District 1.

According to Article VI Section 11 of the Charter, the SIFOC shall be comprised of Nine (9) residents needed for staggered three-year (3) terms. The Mayor, City Council and School Committee will each choose three (3) members, with the following minimum requirements:

- One member with expertise in finance,
- One member from the local business community.
- One member-at-large

The terms for each appointee will be announced once confirmed.

The Charter also states that SIFOC members may not hold any other elected or appointed office with the City of Framingham, SIFOC members receive no compensation of any kind, the SIFOC will report annually to the Mayor, City Council and School Committee and shall file all of its reports with the City Clerk.

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