

*City of Taunton
Office of the Mayor*



For Immediate Press Release: 09/17/2021

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O’Connell Invites Community to Attend ARPA Meeting at City Hall

Taunton, MA... Today Mayor O’Connell announced the City of Taunton is hosting a Community Engagement Meeting on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall to provide organizations, businesses, and residents the opportunity to offer feedback on how the City of Taunton should prioritize its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill. ARPA was created to help states, municipalities, counties, tribes and territories mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19. The City of Taunton is slated to receive a total of \$20,952,932 in federal funding as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. To date, the City has received one-half of that amount (\$10,378,038.50) and there is presently no indication from the federal government as to when the remaining amount will be disbursed.

ARPA funding comes with strict spending and reporting guidelines. The federal government has set forth guidelines for eligible uses of funding, including responding to acute pandemic-response needs, filling revenue shortfalls, and supporting the communities and populations hardest-hit by COVID-19.

Mayor O’Connell is looking forward to engaging with city residents and hearing what the Taunton community believes is most important to focus on in moving forward. “ARPA funds will provide our City with the opportunity to address some of the shortfalls and negative effects we experienced from the pandemic. Determining how to best use our ARPA funds will be a community effort. We are working diligently to identify the most pressing needs and community feedback will be a critical component in prioritizing the use of ARPA funds.”

At the meeting on September 22nd, Mayor O’Connell and her staff will provide a brief presentation and explanation of ARPA funds and eligible uses. Taunton residents and Taunton-based businesses and organizations will have the opportunity to fill out a survey to provide feedback on the areas they believe are most important for ARPA funding. In addition, residents, businesses and organizations are invited to provide public input through written statements and through in-person public input.

To provide public input, individuals, businesses and organizations will be asked to identify themselves and provide their Taunton residential or business address. To allow as many people as

possible to participate, in-person public input will be limited to 3 minutes per person, business or organization. This public input can be supplemented with a written statement as well.

Anyone unable to attend the meeting in person is welcome to fill out the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z8M5GGQ> and submit feedback via email to COVID19INFO@taunton-ma.gov. All statements submitted via email will be accepted and read into the record at the meeting. All written statements must be accompanied by a name and valid Taunton address to be accepted as public input.

The Community Engagement Meeting will be broadcast online (via the Municipal Network accessed through the City of Taunton website at taunton-ma.gov) and on television (Comcast Channel 17 and Verizon Channel 24).

For more information regarding the City's ARPA funds and upcoming Community Engagement Meeting, please refer to the homepage of the City of Taunton website at taunton-ma.gov. ###