



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

Committee on Human Services Monday, October 31, 2023

Members Present: Councilor Tony Palomba, Chair; Councilor Caroline Bays, Vice Chair; and Councilor John Gannon, Secretary

The Committee on Human Services held a public meeting on October 31, 2023, at 5:45pm to consider the appointment of James Mello as a member of the Watertown Housing Authority for a term expiring May 15, 2028.

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Palomba called the meeting to order at 5:50pm and introduced the other committee members present: Caroline Bays, Vice Chair; and John Gannon, Secretary. Also present during the course of the meeting were James Mello and Jackie Vanleeuwen.

2. Interview of James Mello as a Member of the Watertown Housing Authority for a Term Expiring May 15, 2028.

James Mello is a resident of the Watertown Housing Authority (WHA) development known as the Joyce Munger Apartments, located at 100 Warren Street, Watertown. Mr. Mello is applying for the WHA tenant representative position. He currently serves as president of the development's tenant association. As such, he has had the opportunity to work with tenant associations for all WHA developments and has visited all of the WHA properties. He looks forward to taking his service to a new level by serving as a member of the WHA. Having helped tenants across all WHA developments, he is well versed in the issues of the WHA. As goals for his service to the WHA, he will advocate to have authority meetings conducted in person, to better allow tenants a voice at meetings, and he would like to see more transparency and openness in WHA meetings, including seeking to have meetings broadcast on Watertown Cable Access TV. He will make a fine representative for WHA residents.

Councilor Bays moved that the Committee recommend that James Mello be appointed to the WHA as the tenant representative, seconded by Councilor Gannon. The vote to approve the nomination was 3-0.

Councilor Gannon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Bays. The vote was 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:23pm.

Action Item 1. Confirmation Mello for appointment as the tenants representative to the Watertown Housing Authority for a term to expire on May 15, 2028.

Meeting minutes prepared by
John Gannon, Secretary

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Anthony Palomba
Chair

Caroline Bays,
Vice Chair

John G. Gannon,
Secretary