



Committee on Public Safety

The Committee convened on Tuesday February 10, 2026 at 5:30pm in the City Council Office. Present were Nicole Gardner, Chair, Vinnie Piccirilli, Vice Chair, and Emily Izzo, Secretary. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct an interview for the Traffic Commission.

Jason Merkin

Mr. Merkin has worked at various bio tech companies in the area for around 12 years. Mr. Merkin moved here for school to complete his PhD and currently works in Cambridge. He has lived in Watertown with his family including three young children and a dog. Mr. Merkin drives his car, takes the bus, bikes, walks, and his kids all bike, walk and take buses so public safety and traffic calming measures are very important to him. He understands the need to balance people who need to drive and those who do not drive, and how everyone who uses the roads and sidewalks has an impact on the community. Mr. Merkin wants to be sure that the streets serve everyone and wants to try and help make the community as accessible as possible. He feels as though he will make a difference on the Traffic Commission by bringing an analytical approach to problem solving. He believes it is important to have a commission with a diversity of views, and experiences on ways to get around the City. He has been happy seeing movement on the public safety considerations and wants to continue the work on traffic flow and non car options including lighted crosswalks which he'd like to see factored into development and construction projects.

⇒ **Action Item-** Councilor Piccirilli made a motion seconded by Councilor Izzo to appoint Jason Merkin to the traffic commission with a term expiring May 15, 2027. The motion passed 3-0.

Nicole Gardner,
Chair

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice Chair

Emily Izzo,
Secretary