



Boston City Council
Committee on Public Health, Homelessness and Recovery
Erin Murphy, Chair

May 25, 2022

Dear Councilors:

The Boston City Council's Committee on Public Health, Homelessness and Recovery to which was referred the following:

Docket #0353 – Message and order for the confirmation of the reappointment of Gualde Valdez, as a member of the Boston Public Health Commission's Board of Health for a term expiring on January 15, 2025.

Docket #0354 – Message and order for the confirmation of the reappointment of Phillomin Laptiste, as a member of the Boston Public Health Commission's Board of Health for a term expiring on January 15, 2025.

Docket #0577 – Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Greg Wilmot as a member of the Boston Public Health Commission's Board of Health, for a term expiring on January 15, 2025.

Docket #0578 – Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Sandro Galea as a member of the Boston Public Health Commission's Board of Health, for a term expiring on January 6, 2024.

These matters are sponsored by the Mayor and were referred to the Committee on Public Health, Homelessness and Recovery (Dockets #0353 and #0354) on March 9, 2022 and (Dockets #0577 and #0578) on May 4, 2022.

The Committee on Public Health, Homelessness and Recovery held a public hearing in the Iannella Chamber on May 20, 2022, to take testimony and consider the same.

Councilors Present: Chair - Councilor Erin Murphy, Council President Ed Flynn and Councilor Frank Baker

Dr. Bisola Ojikutu MD, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission and PJ McCann, Deputy Director for Policy and Planning at Boston Public Health Commission - attended the hearing, presented testimony and responded to questions from the Chair and Councilors. The presentation included an overview of the mission, jurisdiction and composition of the Board, and the duties and responsibilities of the appointed members of the Boston Public Health

Commission's Board of Health, and testimony in full support of these appointments and reappointments to the Boston Public Health Commission's Board of Health.

The Boston Public Health Commission ("Commission"), which functions as Boston's health department, was established by a special act of the Massachusetts Legislature, the Boston Public Health Act of 1995, Chapter 147 of the Acts of 1995, codified at G.L. c. 111 App. § 2 ("Enabling Act"). Under the Enabling Act, the Board of the Boston Public Health Commission ("Board") serves as the Board of Health for the City of Boston. The Act creates one seat on the Board for the chief executive officer of Boston Medical Center ("BMC"), two for representatives of community health centers affiliated with BMC, and one to represent organized labor. Aside from the BMC ex-officio seat, members serve three-year terms, and the chairperson of the Board is selected by the Mayor.

The Enabling Act grants the Board the powers and duties of boards of health under Massachusetts law, except certain powers and duties previously assumed by other agencies, primarily the Boston Inspectional Services Department. G.L. c. 111 App. § 2-6(b). The powers of the Commission are exercised by or under the supervision of a board of seven members appointed by the Mayor under stipulations set forth in G.L. c. 111 App. § 2-3(b). The Board may adopt, amend and repeal reasonable health regulations. G.L. c. 111 App. § 2-7(a)(15). The Board's meetings are public meetings subject to the Open Meeting Law and their records are subject to the Public Records Law.

The Committee reviewed the resumes and credentials of the appointees. The appointees responded to questions from the Chair and other Councilors regarding their qualifications, relevant experience, background and areas of expertise.

Based on the testimony and information presented at the hearing, and having considered the same, I respectfully report that these appointments and reappointments ought to be confirmed.


Erin Murphy, Chair
Committee on Public Health, Homelessness and Recovery