



## MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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<b>Councilors Present:</b>	Greg Abbe, Jo Ann Bodemer (representing Maura Healey), Amy Boyd, Justin Davidson, Brian Beote/Jerrold Oppenheim (representing Elliott Jacobson), Charlie Harak, Paul Johnson, Deirdre Manning, Robert Rio, Cammy Peterson, Mary Wambui, Sharon Weber, Commissioner Patrick Woodcock, Dennis Villanueva, Cindy Carroll, Maggie Downey, Kate Peters, Chris Porter, Tim Costa, Stephanie Terach
<b>Councilors Absent:</b>	Cindy Arcate, Michael Ferrante, Paul Gromer, Hammad Chaudry, Andrew Newman
<b>Consultants Present:</b>	Eric Belliveau, Adrian Caesar, Gretchen Calcagni
<b>DOER Staff Present:</b>	Rachel Evans, Maggie McCarey, Emily Webb

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### 1. Call to Order

McCarey, on behalf of the Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

### 2. Public Comment

#### ***Romain Strecker (ANECO LLC)***

Strecker recalled that contractors requested an emergency 10% price increase in the fall of 2021, but material and commodity costs have continued to climb. Strecker said the contractor community expected a 20-30% price increase resulting from the weatherization pricing RFQ process, but a 5-6% price increase was the outcome, which is effectively a price decrease once inflation is considered. Strecker stated that the Request for Quotes (RFQ) process utilizes a flawed methodology since the lowest bidding contractors determine the results, which is unacceptable to broader contractor network and larger contractors. Strecker added that applying the same weight to all pricing bids regardless of contractors' total program job contributions further skews the bidding process. unfair bidding process. Strecker recommended the pricing calculations should average the lowest and highest 10% of bids to come up with price book. Strecker also requested that all pricing bids are made public.

***John Lanzi (Revise)***

Lanzi agreed that the practice of using the average of the bottom third of prices, independent of contractor quality and capacity, is a flawed pricing methodology. Lanzi noted that Revise, which completed 4,000 weatherization jobs in Massachusetts in 2021, received the same bid weight as a contractor that performed 5 weatherization jobs. Lanzi indicated that the RFQ results data illustrates that one-third of contractors decided to bid lower than current pricing levels, which may be attributed to smaller contractors trying to underbid relative to larger contractors in order to receive more jobs. Lanzi said the RFQ process is broken since no contractors can perform a sustainable amount of work with current pricing results. Lanzi said that home performance contractors (HPCs) and independent installation contractors (IICs) have different business models, but if no HPCs submitted bids in the bottom third, then the IICs will have unilaterally determined program prices. Lanzi said that HPCs comprise 10% of program contractors, but represent 50% of the weatherization job capacity. Lanzi requested that the program administrators (PAs) share anonymized per-line-item bid amounts, HPC vs. IIC status, and total weatherization jobs completed annually for the past three years to determine where pricing should land. Lanzi believed that all contractors will support this request.

***Stephen Vincent (Revise)***

Vincent echoed Lanzi's comments. Vincent, after reviewing the summary of pricing results, indicated that the overall average price increase for cellulose and fiberglass was zero, which should not be the case given raw material price increases of 37.2% for cellulose, 17.8% for fiberglass, and 46.6% for gas. Vincent said the resulting prices are not economically sustainable, and the PAs selectively shared examples of the highest quote increases. Vincent noted that the overall effective price increase is closer to 0%, and no contractors can absorb heightened material costs. Vincent urged the PAs to adopt pricing that reflects real material costs.

***Nick Delmonaco***

Delmonaco commented that the pricing RFQ was difficult to follow and Best Practices Working Group (BPWG) members were not allowed to discuss the RFQ response among themselves which seemed divisive. Delmonaco said that contractors have common goals around running companies, earning profit, and helping utilities achieve savings. Delmonaco noted that many contractors were confused that the pricing results did not even match the emergency 10% price increase. Delmonaco recommended that the PAs provide transparency on bid results and continue the 10% emergency price increase. Delmonaco emphasized that contractors want to work together toward a solution and avoid laying crews off.

***Tom Rossmassler (Energia LLC)***

Rossmassler indicated that Energia, a weatherization company, has reduced its crews over the past 6 months due to pricing concerns and decreased project pipeline. Rossmassler said the Income Eligible program results had prices 14-21% higher, and Berkshire may also release higher prices as well. Rossmassler estimated that the 5-7% price increase, when looked at across every measure, effectively results in a 1.1% increase. Rossmassler suggested that if all attendees on the call were provided a 1.1% wage increase over a 5-6 years, that increase would be insufficient. Rossmassler recommended that program underwriting implements a mechanism for adjusting to actual market conditions, otherwise the ambitious program goals will not be met and

contractors will close their businesses. Rossmassler asked for full transparency into RFQ bids due to the disconnect from the market, a minimum of a 10% price increase, and pre-bid education on the RFQ response process.

***Jonathan Whipple (Airtight Insulators)***

Whipple noted that Airtight Insulators has reduced crews from 30 people to 6 people since the onset of COVID-19, and contractors are unable to increase capacity since they aim to provide meaningful benefits and equipment for employees. Whipple noted that the previous pricing RFQ placed a 70% weight on contractor quality, which was reduced to 25% in the latest procurement. For a can of air sealing, which can take an hour to use, Whipple said that the current pricing results would offer contractors \$94 even though each can costs over \$130. Whipple added that contractors would be provided \$101.83 per can under the prior 10% emergency price increase. Whipple suggested that transparency into the bid process would help understand why the results are so low, knowing that various companies have different costs. Whipple urged the PAs to maintain the 10% emergency price increase until transparency on pricing is provided. Whipple said there are many contractors that cannot work within existing price parameters, and many will need to lay off crews until prices are adjusted.

***Wes Couture (American Installations)***

Couture commented that the design and results of the RFQ put the Mass Save Residential program in jeopardy. Couture listed cost increases up to 50% for insulation materials like cellulose, relative to contractor price decreases which result in a loss. Couture added that the losses experienced by contractors are even greater once labor costs are considered. Couture said that there was no common sense applied to pricing adjustments and the RFQ has failed ratepayers, as it did not account for the volume of work needed to achieve savings goals, nor did it use actual production across contractors to inform new prices. Couture suggested that if the RFQ was meant to drive down pricing, then it worked and successfully ostracized contractors. Couture said that American Installation went from 12 to 5 crews over the past few years and has no intent to increase crews, but instead, pursue work in other industries. Couture requested transparency on pricing RFQ bids and an extension of the 10% emergency price increase.

***Mike Cabano (Cabano Installations)***

Cabano commented that the updating pricing list is indicative of an unfair solicitation. Cabano doubted that anything less than a 20% overall price increase was not a result of the RFQ given market conditions, material costs, gas prices, and labor costs to retail employees. Cabano stated that employees have families and need fair wages, but current prices will force contractor business owners like Cabano to downsize. Cabano estimated that at least 30% of Mass Save contractors work at smaller contractor businesses, and current prices will put them out of business. Cabano asserted that the contractors can quantitatively prove that no measure price should have decreased, as Couture suggested, based on cost increases. Cabano said the emergency 10% price increase was helpful, but prices need to be fixed.

***Colin Durette (Utility Energy)***

Durette echoed comments from prior contractors. Durette said the 10% emergency price increase did not even match the Consumer Price Index which was at 14% two years ago. Durette commented that the Producer Price Index came out last week at 11%, which directly reflects

contractor material procurement. Durette said the outcome of the RFQ makes sense to no one, and there was inconsistency between bids. Durette noted that some contractors bid 30-40% higher on items that are not frequently used, while simultaneously bidding lower on higher quantity items. Durette said that Utility Energy went from multiple trucks and 17 employees to only one truck and 7 employees, and everyone may need to be laid off until pricing is rectified. In an effort to support transparency, Durette said that all BPWG contractors would like to see all pricing RFQ bids and the mechanisms used to determine pricing. Durette also requested the emergency 10% price increase is maintained until such transparency is provided. Durette emphasized that many businesses within 1-2 weeks of closing.

***Bill Graham (Home Works)***

Graham said that a contractor survey was distributed, and 57 contractors have responded which represents over half the Mass Save contractors. On average, Graham said the survey results show that contractors experienced material and labor cost increases of 25-30%, and all of them expect further increases over the coming months. Graham added that over half the respondents have reduced crews, 52% expect additional downsizing due to the RFQ results, and 45% expect a reduction in their Mass Save program work. Graham encouraged the Council to review comments from the survey to understand contractor expectations for Residential program and thoughts on RFQ process.

***Christopher Graham (Graham Build Corporation)***

Graham indicated his organization's participation in the Mass Save program decreased from 30 to 12. Graham acknowledged challenges faced from the global economic crisis, but indicated that contractors have not received price increases since 2018 aside from the emergency 10% price increase, which should be reinstated. Graham said that contractors continued Mass Save program work under the premise that a pricing solution would have been achieved by now. Graham was astonished that the RFQ did not result in price increases. Graham urged the Council to request the continuation of the 10% emergency price increase and fully public bids. Graham also encouraged National Grid to allow contractors to perform direct weatherization for customers in order to achieve higher energy savings. Graham noted that this is an essential time to review pricing in order to allow contractors to stay open.

***Paulina Casasola (Clean Water Action)***

Casasola, as a renter, struggled to access resources on heat pumps and energy efficiency for renters and landlords. Casasola requested cost estimates for converting from oil heating to heat pumps, but was unable to receive an answer from Mass Save or contractors. Casasola asked if renter-specific energy efficiency guides could be developed in different languages to facilitate renter access. Casasola hoped that landlords would make energy efficiency investments and underserved communities would receive more program benefits as a result.

***Susan Olshuff (Ener-G-Save)***

Olshuff praised All-In Energy for the excellent support provided to the Community First Partnerships. Olshuff commented that the training for Energy Advocates has been phenomenal and a spirit of camaraderie between communities is prevalent during calls. Olshuff said the Community Partnerships and other efforts are generating leads, so many contractors will be needed to complete projects. Olshuff trusted the Council and PAs to rectify the pricing issue in

order to keep contractors in business. Olshuff added that All-In Energy is concerned about equity, and would teach Energy Advocates to engage with renter and landlord segments.

Harak said the pricing issue is very urgent and requested that there is sufficient time to discuss it. McCarey reminded Harak that the contractor pricing was moved up in the agenda. Granum, the Mass CEC representative, was open to the agenda modification.

Villanueva joined the virtual meeting at 1:59 PM.

### **3. Council Updates & Business**

#### ***Virtual Meeting Procedure Review***

McCarey reviewed the virtual EEAC meeting procedures:

1. The Council meetings would be recorded.
2. All attendees except for Councilors and presenters would remain muted for the duration of the meeting.
3. Councilors would hold comments until the end of presentations, but Councilors and other participants should speak instead of using any chat functionality.
4. Councilors who disconnect from meetings need to announce when they rejoin.
5. All Council votes would be taken by a roll call for accuracy.

McCarey announced that Kate Peters would be taking over Frank Gundal's role as the Eversource EEAC representative. Peters anticipated the opportunity to serve as a non-voting Council member on behalf of Eversource.

McCarey noted a change in the agenda with the Weatherization Pricing Update moving before the Moderate-Income Delivery Update.

### **4. Weatherization Pricing Update**

#### ***Program Administrator Update***

Peters and Cote, on behalf of the PAs, shared a presentation on Eversource and National Grid's weatherization pricing RFQ results. Cote summarized the RFQ highlights, noting that 106 bids were received, 104 bids were accepted, and 147 measures were included in the RFQ. Cote indicated that prices were set at the measure level by removing 112 outlier measure bids from the calculations. Cote added that the average of the lowest one-third of bids were used to set prices to balance customer needs for low costs and differences in contractor needs. Peters said the PAs spent additional time in the winter to address weatherization pricing and their unique costs, but the weatherization pricing is meant to address the entire Mass Save contractor network. Peters said the PAs intend to continue conversations with HPCs to ensure their business models and additional costs are factored into pricing. Peters announced that the RFQ pricing results would be implemented in PA systems and the prices would launch on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. Peters said pricing is difficult to analyze and perfect in a stakeholder-driven forum, so it needs to be analyzed in a data-driven process as directed by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU).

### ***Council Discussion***

Boyd requested clarification of the HPC data that was presented. Cote replied that prices were set by removing outliers and using the average from the lowest third of pricing bids. Cote said the HPC bids in the lowest third impacted 91 of 147 measures. Cote added that bids were done at the measure level, but there was a separate ranking against a baseline to understand how bids compare to each other. McCarey said there needs to be transparency on the pricing methodology and data presented the deck. Cote said the HPC bids did not impact every measure, but there were no more than 8 HPC bids that could have impacted prices since only 8 HPC bids were received.

Johnson noted that receiving meeting materials later than the Friday prior to EEAC meetings undermines the Council's process, and there were not slide numbers on the PA presentation. Peters said the PAs turned to the presentation after the pricing results were released, but they took longer preparing the deck in order to carefully review results.

Harak asked if the overall 3-4% price increase was over 2019 base. Peters confirmed that the 10% increase is not included, and the increase is over 2019 prices. Harak asked what the rationale behind choosing the average of the bottom third of pricing bids and whether this could have adverse impacts on the upper two-thirds was considered. Peters replied that the PAs wanted to drive a competitive price for customers while getting market feedback from contractors. Cote added that in typical procurements, one vendor is selected based on their prices and experience, but selecting a single bid would not accommodate for variations in contractor network needs. Cote said a larger group of competitive bids would help achieve such an accommodation. Harak said the increased program goals also needs to be considered.

Weber asked if the outliers were truly omitted, given that the highest third of bids was 64% higher than the lowest third, which was used to set prices. Cote confirmed that both high and low outliers were removed, and the outliers were overwhelmingly low in terms of pricing.

Bodemer asked how many contractors are working in the Mass Save program. Cote said across all three lead vendors and their contractors, there were 126 invited to participate in the RFQ. Bodemer asked if there was any consideration of the lowest third of bids and how many jobs a bidder did for each measure. Cote said each measure-level contractor bid was weighted equally regardless of experience or historical project volumes. Bodemer wondered whether this would result in pricing that truly reflects the market.

Fleuren asked if the PAs could show bidder demographic information by region. Cote said this is not a data point the PAs have, but they could look into it. Fleuren understood that there is a Tier 1 and Tier 1 Plus designation for contractors, who then receive higher amounts of jobs, and wondered if this breakout could be provided. Cote said they were combined in the presentation for simplicity.

Peterson asked the Tier 1 and Tier 1 Plus contractors, who are regarded as the best, should have their bids weighed more heavily. Peters said the PAs decided on an equal weighting across all contractors, but if there was a weighting then there would be deliberations on the best method. Peters said the PAs could consider weighting bids in the future.

Commissioner Woodcock said the Department of Energy Resources does a lot of procurement and implements best practice to yield results reflective of the market. Commissioner Woodcock said the system of identifying hourly measure installation costs balanced with incentive structures is a complex exercise. Commissioner Woodcock said the results should be cautiously applied, but good data has been obtained. Commissioner Woodcock seconded the point that the delivery rates need to yield quantities that the program needs. Commissioner Woodcock wondered if RFQ results could be applied less rigidly since there is a need to be cautious about the application of results or price adjustments.

Harak commented that PAs did their best to design the RFQ, but some results are incredible and need to be rethought. Harak said there is tremendous wage pressure and material supply chains are distressed. Harak recommended that using the average of the bottom third of pricing bids should be revisited, especially given program goals for heat pumps and deep energy retrofits. Harak acknowledged that some contractors might be biased to bid higher in process, but he believed contractors were honest about their need to reduce crews given prices and costs. Harak also said the volume of contractor installations should be considered in the bid review process. Harak was similarly concerned about cautious application of the bid results and meeting program goals.

Johnson commended Gundal's work. Johnson agreed with Harak and Bodemer's points on considering contractor volume in the bid process. Johnson said that public comments and contractor survey results clearly indicate that the proposed price adjustments do not work for contractors, and many will seek other work, further reduce crews, or close their businesses. Johnson said over 90% of contractor survey respondents did not consider the RFQ process fair. Johnson reiterated that contractors want the bids to be shared publicly. Johnson said that under Subsection B of the Massachusetts Competitive Bidding Law, procurement officers should open bids publicly and the names of all bidders and the amounts of their bids should be listed. Johnson believed that releasing bid prices publicly would relieve many people and even allow different price-setting analyses to be conducted. Johnson suggested that the Council makes a resolution to facilitate bid transparency to this degree.

Boyd stated that public comment provided during this meeting was very anxiety-inducing. Boyd said that the Council cannot fail, as the climate crisis continues to go unchecked and Massachusetts is supposed to be a leader in the energy efficiency space. Boyd said the Council is failing if it does not support the key workforce which will enable achievement of savings and decarbonization goals. Boyd understood that this is a significant issue for the Council, but it is a management issue within the PAs related to worker compensation.

McCarey said that most contractors in bottom third were mid-size IICs, but encouraging and enabling smaller contractors and diverse business enterprises to participate in Mass Save programs will also provide more access in environmental justice communities. McCarey acknowledged the importance of competitive pricing and ratepayer impacts, but overemphasis on these areas will not support priority equity goals and workforce diversification. McCarey wanted more transparency on the potential impact of pricing changes on smaller contractors.

Rio agreed with other Councilors that contractors deserve fair pay. Rio was moved by the public comment and received emails from contractors indicating they will be out of business if prices are not increased. Rio did not want to see business close and program implementation fail.

Villanueva agreed about the importance of contractors and pricing. Villanueva said the RFQ results show that not even the 10% price increase is justified, which is hard to believe. Villanueva supported fair compensation, as well as the consideration of impacts on diverse business enterprises.

Weber suggested that the Consumer Price Index should be factored into price setting, and that prices are set more frequently than every two years.

Commissioner Woodcock said the Council should issue a collective statement to advise the PAs. Commissioner Woodcock summarized that the Council has concerns about the immediate implementation of pricing RFQ results and its impact on contractors, and encourages the PAs to work with contractors to implement changes not disruptive to the workforce or plan goals; Commissioner Woodcock reaffirmed that there is much caution about implementing RFQ results in the manner as outlined today.

Harak said it is not the Council's job to set prices, so Commissioner Woodcock's comments should be made into a motion.

Johnson agreed that the Council should issue a formal resolution, and Commissioner Woodcock's summary is a good starting point. Johnson said that transparency of results is key, so the resolution should also request release of the bids. Johnson said ratepayers fund the programs, so the individual bid results should be public. Johnson also said that the 10% price increase should be included in the resolution. Commissioner Woodcock said augmenting transparency is important, but bids should be redacted or released in a way that does not impact future procurements. Johnson said contractors signed an agreement in the RFQ that their names and bids could be made public, so they should not have an issue. McCarey understood that the RFQ itself included a confidentiality agreement. Peters understood this as well, but would revisit the issue with PA staff.

Harak said Commissioner Woodcock summarized the Council's concerns well for the PAs and wanted to move that statement into a motion. Johnson suggested the motion clarifies the request for implementing the 10% emergency price increase and release of all individual bids if allowable. Johnson said at a minimum, all 104 pricing bids should be released even if names are redacted. McCarey said Commissioner Woodcock did not include the 10% price increase in his initial statement, but agreed that the Council has concerns about the immediate impact on the contractors and the PAs should not implement changes disruptive to the workforce or plan goals. Johnson said this resolution is not clear enough and will not satisfy contractors, since several contractors have requested public bid results and a 10% price increase. Johnson believed a resolution that specific needed to go forth today to keep programs moving.

Commissioner Woodcock sensed a discrepancy between information release described in the RFQ and the option for bids to be released.

Wambui understood the benefit of competitive pricing for consumers, but did not understand the hindrance around releasing the bids and satisfying the contractor request for transparency, which has been an issue for Mass Save programs. Wambui stated that contractors deserve to know why there is not transparency, and the public should not think the program is hiding information.

Lyne asked if the Council or Commissioner Woodcock could articulate a clear direction for the PAs so they PAs can react accordingly.

Commissioner Woodcock proposed the following **resolution** on weatherization pricing:

The EEAC requests the PAs to refrain from the immediate implementation of proposed weatherization pricing changes, maintain the emergency 10% price increase, consider augmented transparency of RFQ results, while maintaining the competitiveness of future procurements, and assess pricing impacts on the workforce and environmental justice communities.

Johnson argued that the weatherization pricing RFQ allows for the release of bidder information. Commissioner Woodcock reiterated there was a disconnect between Johnson's assertion and the PA perspective on anonymity of results. Johnson disagreed with the concerns about anonymity and competitiveness, and said bidder names can be redacted to preserve confidentiality. Commissioner Woodcock believed this sentiment was captured in the resolution.

Peterson agreed with Commissioner Woodcock's formal resolution, and wanted to make sure the 10% emergency price increase would be maintained.

Lyne appreciated the clarification, and deferred to Evans regarding how the Council would act on the resolution procedurally. Lyne said formal guidance would be helpful for the PAs.

Evans stated that the Open Meeting Law and the Council Bylaws allow for motions to be made on formal resolutions as long as topics are included in meeting agendas. Commissioner Woodcock supported a Council vote on the resolution.

Harak motioned to approve Commissioner Woodcock's resolution on weatherization pricing. Boyd seconded. All were in favor with none opposed or abstaining. The resolution on weatherization pricing was approved by the Council.

### ***PA Update on Federal Indictment***

Lyne announced that a federal indictment was brought forth against Joseph Ponzos and Christopher Ponzos, two weatherization and electrical contractors. On April 29 2022, Lyne said the FBI arrested the two as they allegedly bribed a lead vendor employee to allocate jobs and provide improper benefits to the Ponzos' company. Lyne said it is an ongoing legal matter and the PAs are continuing their investigation, but they cannot provide more details and refrain from public comment. Lyne said the PAs work diligently to operate programs effectively and are very disappointed by actions by the lead vendor employee and the Ponzos.

McCarey said DOER has reviewed the indictment and the allegations are concerning, but hoped quality control of Mass Save programs could be assessed with the PAs.

## **5. Moderate-Income Delivery Update**

### ***Program Administrator Presentation***

McCarey announced that the Equity Working Group is meeting in May, so they will provide feedback on the Moderate-Income delivery model and income verification methods. McCarey added that the Moderate-Income Delivery slides are posted on the EEAC website.

## **6. EEAC Bylaws and Remote Participation Policy**

McCarey noted that existing Open Meeting Law will require a quorum of voting Councilors in a physical meeting space to enable hybrid meetings starting in July. McCarey said a modification of the EEAC Bylaws would be needed to allow hybrid participation for full EEAC meetings. McCarey added that public access will be required both remotely and in-person, and that proposed edits to the EEAC Bylaws and Remote Participation Policy will be shared for Council review. McCarey said Councilors will be expected to attend in-person unless there is appropriate justification. McCarey said councilors should provide feedback on the edited EEAC Bylaws and Remote Participation Policy in advance of the June EEAC meeting. McCarey said the Remote Participation Policy would also be modified to allow for translation of remote meetings into non-English languages.

Evans emphasized that Open Meeting Law has a standard for remote participation which suggests Councilors should only participate remotely if it is extraordinarily difficult to participate in person. Evans also said the standard should be for Councilors to participate in person, especially to ensure a quorum.

Commissioner Woodcock looked forward to meeting people in person.

McCarey said the PAs submitted their 2022 Q1 report last week, which was posted on the EEAC website. McCarey said both the PAs and Consultant Team would review Q1 results in June. McCarey also said the May Compliance Filing slides are posted.

Coen indicated the May Compliance Filing includes details on weatherization requirements for heat pump installation, baselines for early replacement measures, and the heating comparison calculator.

### ***C&I Working Group***

McCarey said kickoff of the Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Working Group was delayed in order to solicit more feedback on the C&I Working Group charter and membership.

Villanueva said the C&I Working Group development process has been moving along without the inclusion of some supporting stakeholders, including himself who was not made aware of the kickoff meeting. Villanueva said the recommendation for a C&I Working Group was initiated by stakeholders and customers, and the idea was that the Working Group would be led by

stakeholders and customers to inform the utilities. Villanueva requested that the Group's operations are slowed until there is stakeholder review of proposed membership. Villanueva said that stakeholders and customers should lead the C&I Working Group and have full visibility into its operations.

Johnson agreed with Villanueva. Johnson asked if proposed members could be named and the degree to which Councilors can participate in the C&I Working Group, particularly as it relates to researching third-party program administration. McCarey said the membership list can be shared once C&I Working Group stakeholders come to a consensus. McCarey added that Rio and Villanueva would serve as the EEAC representatives. Johnson asked if other interested Councilors could participate. McCarey said the focus is on improving C&I program implementation. Johnson understood, but recalled that the Council agreed to explore third-party administration in the C&I Working Group and did not want this effort to be forgotten. Villanueva restated that there needs to be transparency on the C&I Working Group moving forward.

Wambui is disheartened to hear Villanueva was not kept abreast of the C&I Working Group activities. Wambui wanted to amplify the issue of transparency since people in the Commercial sector have been left out of this process for years, and the Council needs to ensure they are included in the process.

McCarey indicated that Jodi Hanover is leaving Rich May, and thanked Hanover for her work over the years and her support in the intense planning process last year.

## **7. Workforce Development: Mass CEC Update**

### ***Mass CEC Presentation***

McCarey noted that these slides are available on the EEAC website.

## **8. Adjournment**

McCarey, on behalf of the Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:03 PM.