



**GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR OF BUSINESS**  
**TUESDAY, May 10, 2022**  
**6:00 PM**  
**REMOTE MEETING**  
**COUNCIL MEETING #2022-009**

Consistent with chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation. The public may not physically attend this meeting but every effort will be made to allow the public to view and listen to the meeting in real-time and participate when necessary.

Join from Computer, Smart Device: <https://gloucester-ma-gov.zoom.us/j/84878673188>

Join via Phone: 1-312-626-6799 or 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 848 7867 3188

Please visit <http://gloucester-ma.gov/remote-public-meetings> for instructions and guidance on how to join a remote meeting

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT CALENDAR**

**ACTION**

• ***ADDENDUM TO THE MAYOR'S REPORT***

1. Memorandum from Public Health Director regarding 2022 Community Opt-Out Process re: State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board

(Info Only)


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Gloucester, MA 01930



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CITY OF GLOUCESTER  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

2022 MAY -9 PM 12: 27  
CITY CLERK  
GLOUCESTER, MA

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Greg Verga, Mayor   
**DATE:** May 9, 2022  
**RE:** Addendum to Mayor's Report for May 10, 2022, City Council Meeting

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Members of the City Council:

Please accept this addendum to the Mayor's Report for information only, attached is a memo from the Public Health Director regarding the community opt-out process associated with the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board.

I support the Health Department's recommendation to not propose an opt-out plan at this time. Gloucester has been designated as part of a "high-risk" region this year, changing the requirements needed to opt-out. The City is not able to meet the requirements for the Mosquito Management plan for a high-risk community which includes, "proof of ability to perform comprehensive active interventions, such as adulticide applications (both aerial and ground) and include detailed information on how such activity will be conducted in compliance with applicable state and federal law." At this time, there is no action needed by the City Council.

We will work closely with the Health Department on their education and outreach efforts, including the ability for residents or property owners to apply to the state for an "opt-out" for their private property.

You may want to visit the websites below for more information:

Municipality Opt Out Information -

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/application-for-municipality-opt-out-of-srmcb-spraying#overview-of-opt-out-process-for-2022->

Private Property Opt Out Information -

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/how-to-request-an-exclusion-or-opt-out-from-wide-area-pesticide-applications>



# CITY OF GLOUCESTER

## Health Department

3 Pond Road, City Hall Annex  
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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## MEMO

May 6, 2022

**FROM:** Max Schenk, Director, Health Department

**TO:** Mayor Greg Verga and CAO Jill Cahill

**RE:** 2022 Community Opt-Out Process

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Dear Mayor Verga and Ms. Cahill:

Health Department staff have reviewed the requirements associated with the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board's (SRMCB) community "Opt-Out" application for the 2022 mosquito season. This application is reviewed and approved by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) under M.G.L. Chapter 252, Section 2A(b)(2).

Opting-out allows the City, as a whole, to exclude itself from the SRMCB spraying adulticides and/or larvicides as preventative measures in the event of a declared emergency regarding the threat of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in our region. Spraying could be aerial, or by any other method deemed necessary.

Last year, Gloucester was considered a "low-risk" *community* under the guidelines. As such, the City was able to opt-out based on its application that included a proactive and escalated approach to education and outreach, with response actions stemming from the Department of Public Health's (DPH) EEE threat levels.

This year, the guidelines have changed significantly, whereby Gloucester is deemed to be in a "high-risk" *region*, because of a history of EEE cases in adjacent communities.

Due to the "high-risk" region designation, our opt-out application to the EEA "*...must demonstrate it can perform significant mosquito management and control measures that will address risk levels otherwise requiring state action, including the ability to perform work equivalent to that undertaken by the SRMCB in the event of a public health hazard related to arbovirus.*

*This includes proof of ability to perform comprehensive active interventions, such as adulticide applications (both aerial and ground) and include detailed information on how such activity will be conducted in compliance with applicable state and federal law."*



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In other words, even if Gloucester chooses to opt-out, the City must demonstrate an ability to perform spraying community-wide, regardless. Where that capability does not exist within the City, Gloucester must hire a private company, or participate in the Northeast Mosquito Control District and pay to have those services available.

State guidance information notes that “*Under M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A, the SRMCB may conduct mosquito control operations under its own authority anywhere in the Commonwealth when DPH has determined there is an elevated risk of arbovirus such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) for that year. In the event that DPH issues a Certificate of Public Health Hazard, the SRMCB has historically responded by conducting aerial spraying of adulticide in limited areas in order to address the arbovirus risk.*”

It is important to also note that residents can apply to “opt-out” of spraying for their individual properties.

Given that:

- The status of Gloucester as a low-risk community has changed to being in a high-risk region
- The City does not have the capacity in-house to meet the State requirement for equivalent ability to respond to arbovirus threats using larvicides/adulticides sprays
- Residents have the ability to opt-out individually

It is the recommendation of the Health Department that the City choose not to propose an opt-out plan, but continue to offer appropriate arbovirus education and outreach to residents and proactively provide information for individual property owners and tenants on how to apply for an opt-out with the State.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards and thanks,

C. Max Schenk  
Director

Gloucester Health Department

cc: file  
enc.