

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>

Sent: Dec 23, 2024 14:35:14.000000000 UTC

Subject: FW: looking for youth (and others) interested in working on the NFG initiative...

To: Wu, Deanna <dwu@cityofmelrose.org>

Welcome back! Forwarding this message just to save me re-typing.
You'll get the gist. Let's talk when you have a minute.



From: Buzby, Maureen
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2024 10:18 AM
To: Sophie Greenebaum <sgreenebaum@medford-ma.gov>
Subject: FW: looking for youth (and others) interested in working on the NFG initiative...

Per our discussion...

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2024 10:17 AM
To: Cullen, Doris (DPH) <doris.cullen@mass.gov>
Subject: RE: looking for youth (and others) interested in working on the NFG initiative...

Hi Doris,

First, thank you for your quick and positive response. This is by far the most important policy I've worked on in the 13 years I've been involved in tobacco prevention. The others are all important. This is the one that moves us towards the real end game. We now have a model reg. MTCP is tracking progress. TA's are starting to get more involved. All good. Second, I think it would be helpful if I share with you the names of some of the "Dream Team", (that's my label for them) members who are working hard to make this a reality in Massachusetts – the goal is to have NFG become state law:

Mark Gottlieb
Kate Silbaugh
Anthony Ishak
Jonathan Winickoff
Ginny Chadwick
Jeanne MacDonald
Michale Chou
Anthony Chui

And several others. The list is growing. These are the folks who spend countless hours of their own time calling local health directors, attending BOH meetings, testifying at public hearings, developing talking points, producing white papers, etc.

And third, share a list of those cities and towns we think may be ready to discuss NFG and especially those that we think are probably going to a public hearing in the next month or so.

Belmont
Lexington
Revere
Winthrop
Pelham
Somerville
North Reading
Salem
Beverly

NOTE: I wanted to give you a list so you could start thinking but our team will refine the list further right after the holidays. Some of us have had more direct contact with key players and will re-connect to update status. Thank you so much. Have a great holiday.
Maureen

From: Cullen, Doris (DPH) <doris.cullen@mass.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2024 1:10 PM
To: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Subject: RE: looking for youth (and others) interested in working on the NFG initiative...

Hi Maureen!! Completely appropriate and glad you reached out. Let me ask around to see if we can pull some folks together. Are there specific towns that are next up?

Fondly,
Doris

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 8:27 PM
To: Cullen, Doris (DPH) <doris.cullen@mass.gov>
Subject: looking for youth (and others) interested in working on the NFG initiative...

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Hi Doris,
Not sure if it's appropriate for me to reach out to you directly but looking for your input on NFG.
You may have already heard - - eleven cities and towns adopted NFG in 2024. Added to Brookline that makes twelve. This is a pretty amazing start.

Brookline did a by-law in 2020 and then six communities in my region (Stoneham, Wakefield, Melrose, Malden, Winchester, Reading) passed BOH regulations earlier this year followed by Concord, Manchester-By-The-Sea, Chelsea, Belchertown, and Needham this fall.

We were fortunate to have critical testimony from youth at most of our hearings. Interestingly the only community that didn't have youth representation was Medford which is the only municipality in my region that didn't adopt NFG.

This is a policy about future generations. The youth voice is the most important voice. We've been told, not about us without us. We have a wonderful group of SME's (subject matter experts) who meet virtually twice a month to discuss progress, challenges, and strategy going forward.

There are law professors, pediatricians, public health professionals, Health Board members, and others. Last night a youth from Needham joined us.

As this initiative moves out across the state we will need more advocates ready and able to attend meetings and hearings, sometimes in far flung places.

One goal of our group is to identify activists, or those willing to become activists, in Southeast Mass, Central Mass, Western Mass, etc.

At last night's strategy meeting we also discussed the idea of adding more youth to our team. We all acknowledge how vital that is if we are to continue to get more communities onboard, enough communities that it makes it more likely that this policy will become state-wide law in a few years. But that will take a lot of work.

The tobacco industry is beefing up their opposition. They have billions. We have a handful of volunteers.

Would love to get your thoughts about how CP's and any other parties I may not even have thought of can get more involved – assuming they are interested.

For some it could be part of their normal work. For some it would be volunteering. I do both.

Perhaps we can talk about this at some point.

Thank you!

Maureen

P.S. You are also probably aware that three state legislators announced at an NFG celebration at the State House last month that they intend to file an NFG bill in January. A heavy lift for sure.

Maureen Buzby
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