

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Sent: Jul 01, 2025 22:43:52.000000000 UTC
Subject: RE: FY25 Q4 "SharePoint" report
To: Melissa Ripley <mkripley1@gmail.com>

Great. Try to make sure I do family stuff and get out into the woods or to the ocean whenever I can. Went to the Temple Saturday night to see a jazz vocalist we love. Sunday we went to South Boston for hot dogs at Sully's and sea glass searching along the water line. Friday night I had the local family over for pizza and cake. So I do manage to mix a good amount of fun time with lots of work. All good!

From: Melissa Ripley <mkripley1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 6:26 PM
To: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Subject: Re: FY25 Q4 "SharePoint" report

We love going up. Other than work, how are you?

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From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 6:06:59 PM
To: Melissa Ripley <mkripley1@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: FY25 Q4 "SharePoint" report

Ah, great. I love the Wells, York, Cape Neddick area. Have you been up to Mount Agamenticus?
Nubble Light is one of my favorite spots. York Beach. The Shoppes at Cape Neddick. The Preserve in Wells. So many cool spots.

From: Melissa Ripley <mkripley1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 6:03 PM
To: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Subject: Re: FY25 Q4 "SharePoint" report

Going to Maine, Wells area. It will be nice for it to be just John and I!
Both of our houses are full of "adults".

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From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 5:06:18 PM
To: Melissa Ripley <mkripley1@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: FY25 Q4 "SharePoint" report

Nice! Vermont? Have a great vaca!
P.S. All the happier I got this report done. 😊
I'll send Mary Brush's email.

From: Melissa Ripley <mkripley1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 4:37 PM
To: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Subject: Re: FY25 Q4 "SharePoint" report

I'll get it done right away. I am away next week, but not leaving until Monday late morning.

Best,

Melissa K. Ripley

Melissa K. Ripley, CMC
mkripley1@gmail.com
www.linkedin.com/in/melissaripley

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 3:49 PM
To: Melissa <mkripley1@gmail.com>
Cc: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Subject: FW: FY25 Q4 "SharePoint" report

Hi MR,

Q4 in red below. Please do your cut and paste magic. I'll forward the form Mary sent to me a few days ago. Once completed you can either send it to me and I will forward to it Mary or send it to Mary and copy me. Whatever works.

You don't have to do Q4 in red. I put the entries in red just to make them easy to spot in this email.

Keep track of your hours!

Next up is the Q4 QER. Christy seems to be on top of everything. Marisa Catalado in Auditing seems to be competent. YEAH! I need to get the Medicare question answered.

This is by far the earliest I have even ever completed my "SharePoint" report. Trying to take the stress off by getting it done early. I will be on vacation for two weeks starting July 19th. Yeah!

And I have a LOT to do to get ready for the National Tobacco Conference in Chicago the end of August. We need a “poster” suitable for a huge convention hall that will be filled with very well-heeled exhibitors who will be competing for conference attendees’ time and attention. Also, since MTCP agreed to pay my travel expenses (convention fee, room and air fair, but not supplies) I want to make sure our exhibit booth is attractive – and professional. Once I get year-end reports done I can really focus. Very happy to have this part done. 😊 😊 😊

Here you go.

From: Buzby, Maureen <mbuzby@CityofMelrose.org>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2025 11:23 AM
To: Melissa <mkripley1@gmail.com>
Subject: FW: FY25 Q3 Quarterly Report draft 3

Hi Melissa,
Happy last day!
Here’s my “SharePoint” report. Can you cut and paste into appropriate spreadsheet cells for me on the report blanks that Mary send a couple of weeks ago? Thank you! (Keep track of your hours.)

Racial equity:

Equity Narrative: Q3 Same as Q2

Q4 Same as prior quarters.

Progress Narrative: Q# No in-work trainings or other equity projects.

Nothing offered by the City of Melrose. However, our NFG policy discussions always begin with a reminder to use an equity lens in our language, and in our outreach to other communities across the Commonwealth. I still try to attend ASH (Action on Smoking Health)

webinars as well as AATCLC (African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council) webinars as time allows. And I attend local meetings as much as I can – Melrose Racial Justice Coalition, NE Innocence Project though my attendance this year has been very sporadic.

Q4. In addition to previously mentioned activities, which I try to keep up with, I also attended Pride Day events in several of my communities as well as Pride (Melrose) and Juneteenth (Melrose and Wakefield) flag raisings. I signed up to take an eight-week ASL course but had to drop out due to meeting schedule conflicts. I attended a lecture on Palestine/Israel history at our local Temple. My political activism often includes discussion and action on issues that particularly affect unrepresented or under-represented populations. I am a supporter of the Melrose Food Drive (food rescue program), and I am a member of the newly formed “Little Free Pantry Ladies”, a group dedicated to keeping our Little Free Pantries filled so that those in our community suffering from food insecurity but who may be unable or unwilling (due to embarrassment or fear) to appear at brick and mortar food pantry buildings have more discreet access to shelf stable food. I’m also supporting local ACLU fundraising efforts. Again, many ACLU initiatives are focused on minority populations. Not only are these “outside” activities important, they provide fertile ground for networking both to spread the word about our tobacco prevention work but also to engage advocates for policy change.

Policy Reporting:

Number of Presentations to municipal decision makers to promote local policy strategies:

Metric #: None in my collaborative region but many outside of my assigned area.

Q4. Same as Q3. Attended, either in person or virtually, meetings in Amherst, Dover, Lee/Lennox/Stockbridge, Mansfield, Hopkinton (2), Provincetown, Hardwick, Bellingham Town Meeting, and most recently North Reading (2) and Rockport.

Equity Narrative: As stated in the Equity Section, the NFG Task Force has continued to be mindful of nicotine addiction/health disparities. (See Q2 narrative.)

Q4. Same as Q3.

Progress Narrative: No formal presentations other than regular updates in my region where all municipalities have all of the updated regulations and six of seven have adopted NFG. Participated in many presentations and/or testimony at BOH meetings or public hearings in non-Mystic Valley Region communities (Northampton, Pittsfield, Buckland, Natick, Amherst, Dover, Berkshire Public Health Alliance, North Reading, and others, some of which adopted NFG, most notably Newton and Somerville. Also shared NFG related information with several other municipalities and/or regions who are starting to look at NFG, Tri Town

Council among others. Several presentations coming up in the next week - Lee/Lennox/Stockbridge, Mansfield, Hopkinton to name a few.

Q4. I continue to share information about NFG – both the policy “what/why/how”, as well as our experience in the MVPH region since other than Brookline we have the most experience with this policy. Inquires come from fellow Tobacco Prevention Program managers, TFM, TFK, ASH, and others.

Number of Municipalities for which policy has been changed/created
Metric #: None.

Q4. NONE in this region.

Equity Narrative: Same as above.

Q4. Same as above. (See Policy Reporting section.)

Progress Narrative: Same as above.

No policy changes in the Mystic Valley Region but Pelham, Newton and Somerville all adopted NFG this quarter. I provided testimony, both written and in person or virtually for all.

I also presented NFG, and/or provided testimony in other communities that have not yet adopted NFG (see above).

Q4. We have all of the major MTCP-endorsed local tobacco policy regulations. Next year we might start looking nicotine pouch restrictions but want to get NFG under our belts first, though retailers seem to be “getting it”.

Number of tobacco retailer density policies passed (specify specific policy)

Metric #: None

Q4. NONE

Equity Narrative: N/A

Q4. N/A

Progress Narrative: All of my communities have a permit cap. Three communities have the most progressive permit cap in the state.

Q4. SAME. See previous comments.

of cigar pricing packaging polices passed

Metric #: None

Q4. None

Equity Narrative: N/A

Q4. Same

Progress Narrative: All of my communities have cigar minimum price regulation.

Q4. Same as prior quarters.

Enforcement and Surveillance Report:

Number of investigations made to smoke-free workplace law complaints

Complete: None

Q4. NONE.

Equity Narrative: The same protocol is followed for each SFWP complaint without regard to who filed the complaint or who might have been smoking or where they were allegedly smoking, whenever there are complaints that need to be investigated.

Q4. Same as prior quarters.

Progress Narrative: N/A No complaints of workplace smoking this quarter. Several SFH (Smoke-Free Housing) complaints investigated. I

submitted written comments to the CCC regarding the proposed on-premises-use plan. I stated both the concern about exposing workers and customers in the on-premises site itself as well as the impact on allowing marijuana smoking may have on the state's very important smoke-free workplace law.

Q4. N/A NOTE: No SFMP complaints but one Smoke-Free Housing complaint, plus follow-up calls on two prior SFH complaints.

Number of retail Inspections completed:

Complete: 61

Q4. 59

Equity Narrative: The same protocol is followed for every retail store inspection - - driven by the POST retail store education form.

Q4. SAME as prior quarters.

Progress Narrative: Stores were all basically compliant. Only one store had flavored products but they had enough to make up for those that didn't! Worked with DOR to effect a confiscation of all flavored products. A few sign violations. No vapes with more than 3% nicotine found in any family friendly stores. No Newport Non-menthols.

Q4. Similar to last quarter- a few sign violations. Several new store owners which required extra retailer education . Malden stores were the focus of the past month or so. Interesting to see how many retailers (and their clerks) know the new NFG regulation, and

can state clearly what they look for when a customer asks for a tobacco/nicotine product. Rewarding experience. I need to design/print new signs. Our first round of signage could use some improvements.

Number of compliance checks completed with youth buyers:

Complete: 139

Q4. 83

Equity Narrative: The same protocol is followed for every compliance check - - driven by the POST Enforcement form.

Q4. Same as prior quarters.

Progress Narrative: Conducted more compliance checks than normal this quarter in order to take advantage of a college student who was home on winter break. All my other youth buyers are high school students. Interestingly, compliance was not as good with the college student as with the high school age youth. Also, I have a new car. Could be that security cameras, which are everywhere, allowed clerks to spot me even when I tried to be discrete. We do know that some stores have their regular, or "safe", customers. I continue mix up my visits – a male one time, a female the next. Afterschool, early evening, Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning, even holidays.

Several appeals. All violations upheld by BOH or Clerk Magistrate. Need to start recruiting for next year. I'll lose two youth who did a lot of checks with me over the past two years.

Q4. Conducted compliance checks for a little more than half of **Malden** stores. No sales. Conducted compliance checks in all **Medford** stores. Four sales-to-a-minor. Not great but better than last round of checks which resulted in seven sales-to-a-minor. No word on any appeals yet.

Number of follow-up visits conducted from violations of previous compliance checks or inspections:

Complete: 16

Q4. 4

Equity Narrative: Since follow-ups are prescribed by the workplan there is no wiggle room to treat a minority owned stores (or minority employees) differently than other employees.

Q4. Same as prior quarters.

Progress Narrative: Six of the sixteen follow-up visits (some compliance checks, some re-inspections) were at the same problem store.

Q4. Routine follow-ups. Nothing special to report. New vape store owner in Malden. Will do another follow-up to make sure he/they understand all local and state regs.

Recent visit with clerk was worrisome.

NOTES: In addition to MTCP off-site, Quarterly TFM meeting, Monthly MTCP/BOH calls, various local community meetings (monthly Coalition, monthly prevention professionals meetings, quarterly social services networking lunch, quarterly HD update meetings,

quarterly youth advisors' meeting, etc.) I did a Wakefield podcast with Mass CCC which linked Cancer Screening and tobacco use. Also tabled (with Adolis) at the NE Metro Voke Parent and Student Substance Use Prevention event. Presented to NE Chapter of Public Health Nurses Association. These are great opportunities to explain the work we do. Most do not know that much about tobacco control. And they certainly did not know what nicotine pouches were. And had never seen some of the newer vape devices we see.

I continue to answer questions from colleagues, including TA's, on both NFG and other more routine Tobacco Program issues.

I've also provided NFG info to many HD's, Board members, and Substance Prevention colleagues, and others beyond the MV region. And we continue to receive media inquiries which I refer to Anthony Chui for response.

Assisted in training of new Brookline Tobacco Program Manager. Conducted special inspections in Arlington, Belmont and Brookline.

Sent letters to state legislators who represent my municipalities inviting them to attend this year's ENUFF awards ceremony. It was a very busy day for state legislators so we didn't actually meet with many of them. I sent thank you notes after the event. Want to remind them who we are, what we do, and that we still need their

support. General of course. No reference to a specific bill. I often see my local legislators at community events.

Attended the Personal Safety training. Continue to support Malden Warming Center, Melrose Little Free Pantries, The Food Drive, etc. Not only is it important to support our neighbors who need a hand, but these connections can be helpful as we continue our public health policy work. More now than ever, especially since it is marginalized populations most affected by budget cutbacks.

Q4. Usual assortment of MTCP Zoom and off-site meetings, plus ASH, TFM (in-person this quarter), etc.; applied for MHOA workshop (approved) and NCTOH Conference (approved); honored by MASS Commission on Women at the State House June 26; applied for Alcohol Education Foundation grant to help defray cost of NCTOH conference (rejected); Helping to orient new Malden Health Director (Chris Webb retired April 10th after many, many years of service - - position filled by Laura Vlasuk effective May 19th); presented “Nicotine 101” at two Malden Public Schools assemblies, and at the local catholic school as a favor to the Mayor’s Office (emergency vaping issues at both schools); presented to youth at three North Shore Metro Boys and Girls Club Teen Centers (Stoneham, Wakefield and Saugus). All received 84 grants and produced either murals, videos, or podcasts. Will share when “released”; attended (in person) Crystal Apple Award ceremony at Stoneham School Committee meeting honoring Adam Rodgers, CEO of

Boys and Girls Club (I was asked to attend since I was one of two people to nominate Adam for the award); also attended Somerville Prevention Partners meeting (virtually) honoring many community partners including our own Bonny Carroll; “entertained” two groups of Melrose Free Range Children summer camps attendees- - shared tobacco prevention info and was pleasantly surprised at how many young campers do not know what tobacco is, or cigarettes! This is the new generation not exposed to smoking that we have to keep safe from the newer designed-to-appeal-to-young-children products that we see in ever increasing numbers; met with Woburn’s Prevention Program Manager (along with our regional PHE grant coordinator) to explain what tobacco control entails; attended MVPHC Annual Award Breakfast meeting where two of my nominees were recognized for their prevention work - - a youth from Melrose who testified at several of the region’s public hearings and the Stoneham Board of Health which is the first BOH in the world to adopt TFM; tuned into State Senator Jason Lewis’s virtual Town Hall meeting to hear his take on the state’s budget process and current budget situation; described Tobacco Control Program to our Regional Public Health Nurse’s nursing student interns; was shadowed by Melrose Health and Human Services summer intern MPH candidate and continue to answer many questions about tobacco/nicotine prevention which is a passion of hers; shared NFG docs with Meredith Shaw from Tri-Town Council (Middleton, Topsfield/Boxford); attended

MAAV (Melrose Alliance Against Violence)
Domestic Violence training; attended
Middlesex DA Ryan's monthly Opioid
Prevention Task Force meetings; attended
Wake-Up (Wakefield) Youth Action Team
(includes 84 youth) annual award breakfast;
participated in a Melrose Health and Human
Services visit to a local cannabis shop;
identified and secured local retail store for
MHOA's tobacco inspector training video;
preparing to be interviewed by Natick youth
(Shresta) and Needham youth (Isable) –
both on 84 State Leadership Team) July 2nd.
Etc.

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