



Medford City Council  
Medford, Massachusetts

**MEETING DATE**

June 11, 2024

**SPONSORED BY**

Emily Lazzaro, City Councilor

**AGENDA ITEM**

**24-412** - Resolution to Recognize and Discuss the Stop the Stigma Campaign in Relation to our Neighbors with Substance Use Disorder

**FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION**

Whereas substance use disorder is recognized as a disease by the medical community, and;

Whereas in 2023, Medford was home to 403 individuals with active prescriptions for buprenorphine, a medication assisted treatment for opioid recovery, and;

Whereas buprenorphine and methadone are life-saving medications to treat substance use disorder and are effective at treating opioid dependence, and;

Whereas between July 2022 and June 2023, Medford was home to 22 individuals who died for reasons related to substance use disorder, and;

Whereas in 2018, 16 percent of individuals with a substance use disorder did not seek treatment because they worried that it would have a negative impact on their employment; and approximately 15 percent felt it would impact their community's view of them, and;

Whereas a disease is not a moral failing, now, therefore;

Be it hereby resolved that the Medford City Council recognize that all Medford residents are deserving of our care and respect, regardless of their medical or disability status.

Be it further resolved that when we speak of the services we can offer our residents, we do so while always offering the utmost dignity to all people at all times.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**FISCAL IMPACT**

## ATTACHMENTS

None