


**DEPARTMENTAL AND INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE  
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**DATE:** Friday, April 11, 1997

**TO:** William Metzger

**FROM:** Harry P. Carroll 

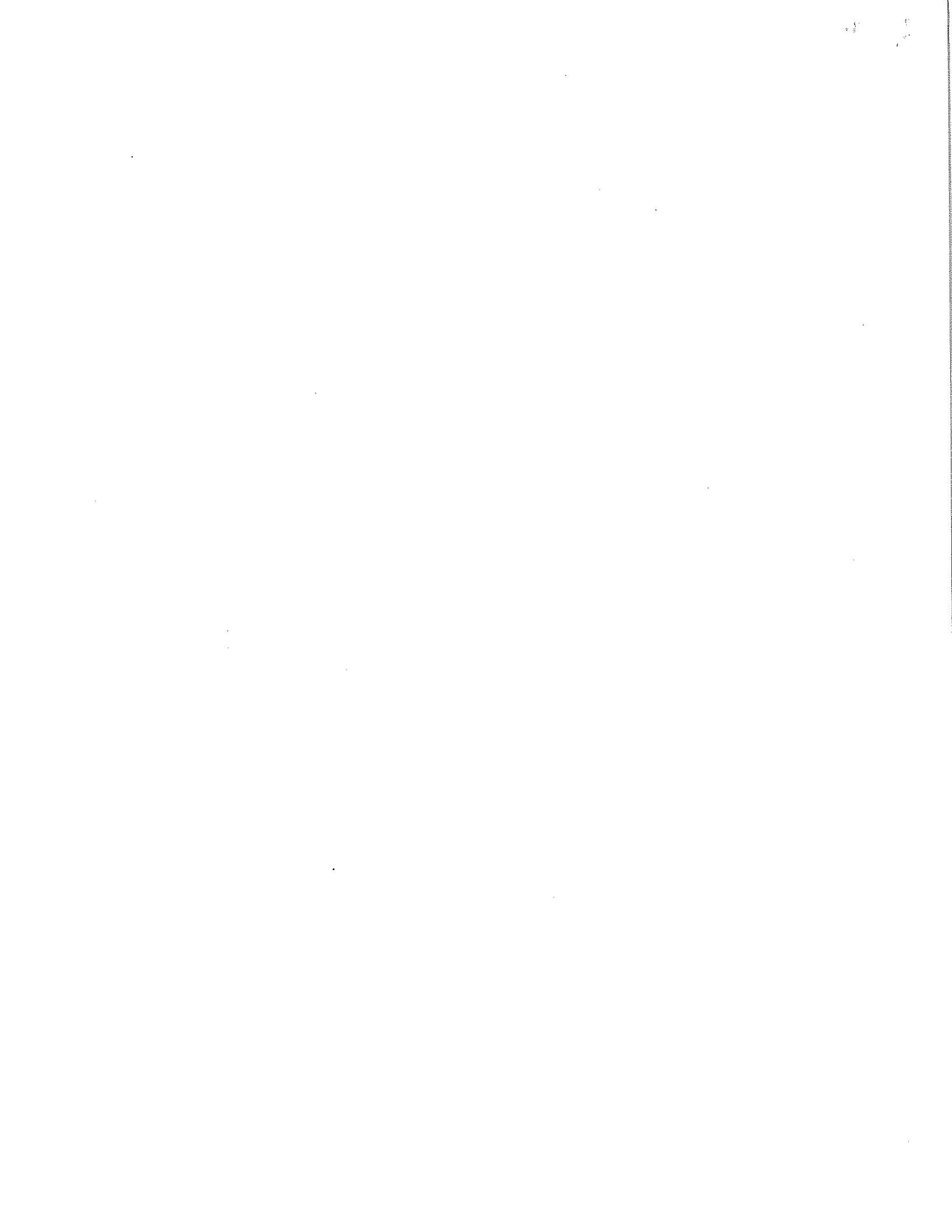
**DEPARTMENT:** City Clerk

**DEPARTMENT:** Law

**COPIES TO:** File  
Mayor

**SUBJECT:** Executive Order

Enclosed for filing is the original Executive Order extending health care benefits issued yesterday by Mayor Albano.



## EXECUTIVE ORDER

### Extending Health Care Benefits

WHEREAS, Mass. Gen. L. ch. 32B, § 1 authorizes municipalities to provide a plan of group general or blanket hospital, surgical, medical, dental and other health insurance for persons in the service of cities and their dependents;

WHEREAS, Mass. Gen. L. ch. 32B, § 2(a) defines the phrase "appropriate public authority" to be the Mayor for purposes of chapter 32B;

WHEREAS, Mass. Gen. L. ch. 32B, § 2(b) defines the term "dependents" to mean, among other persons, an employee's "spouse", but Mass. Gen. L. ch. 32B does not define the term "spouse";

WHEREAS, Mass. Gen. L. ch. 32B, § 3 authorizes the Mayor to negotiate with and purchase, on such terms as the Mayor deems to be in the best interest of the City and its employees, a policy or policies of group life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance covering employees, and group general or blanket insurance providing hospital, surgical, medical and dental benefits covering employees and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City of Springfield to assure that every employee shall have equal access to municipal employment benefits.

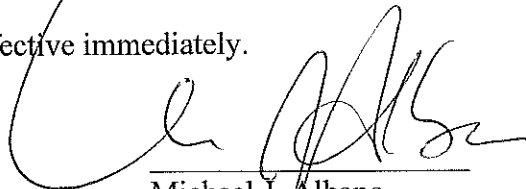
NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael J. Albano, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, on this tenth day of April, 1997, at 4:45 p.m. do order all appropriate municipal officials to construe (for eligibility purposes under the City's health insurance programs) the word "spouse" to include the domestic partner of a City employee/retiree and to take all appropriate actions to include the domestic partner of a City employee/retiree in the City's health insurance programs. For purposes of this Executive Order, the phrase "domestic partner" shall mean a person identified in a notarized affidavit, sworn to under the pains and penalties of perjury, filed with the City Personnel Department, by a City employee/retiree eligible for coverage under the City's health insurance programs. To qualify as a domestic partner of a City employee/retiree, the following criteria must be substantiated to the satisfaction of the City's Personnel Department:

1. 18 years of age or older, and of legal age of consent and competent to enter into a legal contract in the state where they reside;
2. Currently sharing a common residence, and intend to do so indefinitely;
3. Jointly responsible for basic living expenses;
4. In a relationship of mutual support, caring and commitment in which they intend to remain for the indefinite future;

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5. Not married to anyone and not related to each other by adoption or blood to a degree of closeness that would otherwise bar marriage in the state in which they reside;
6. They are each others sole domestic partner and have shared this relationship and their principal domicile for not less than the past twelve months.
7. A domestic partnership is terminated by the death of a domestic partner or by filing with the Personnel Department, by hand or by certified mail, a termination statement. The person filing the termination statement must declare under pains and penalties of perjury that the domestic partnership is terminated and that a copy of the termination statement has been mailed by certified mail to the other domestic partner at his or her last known address. The person filing the termination statement must include on such statement the address to which the copy was mailed.
8. The termination of a domestic partnership shall be effective immediately upon the death of a domestic partnership. The voluntary termination of a domestic partnership by a partner shall be effective seven days after the receipt of termination statement by the Personnel Department. Prior to becoming effective, the person who filed the termination statement may withdraw the termination statement in person at the office of the Personnel Department. If the termination statement is withdrawn, the domestic partner shall give notice of the withdrawal, by certified mail, to the other domestic partner.
9. If the domestic partnership is terminated by the death of a domestic partner, there shall be no required waiting period prior to the registration of another domestic partner. If a domestic partnership is terminated by one or both domestic partners, a new registration of domestic partner shall not be accepted for a period of at least six months.
10. The Personnel Department shall establish appropriate registration procedures for the purposes of this Executive Order.
11. The Personnel Department shall require submission of such documentation as it deems appropriate to support verification of the relationship.
12. This Executive Order shall be applicable to all non-bargaining employees of the City of Springfield immediately. This benefit will be presented to all City unions for the purpose of acceptance through the collective bargaining process.

This Executive Order shall be effective immediately.



Michael J. Albano  
Mayor of Springfield

1997

Executive Order of the Mayor

RE: Extending Health Care Benefits  
*to Domestic Partners*  
4-11-97

RECEIVED  
APR 11 12 52 PM '97  
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD ILL. 61801