



## THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

*HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME*

### PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 6, 2016

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#### **Status of Gerena Tunnel Improvements to be Addressed**

**Who:** Mayor Domenic J. Sarno; School Superintendent Daniel Warwick; and Executive Director of Parks, Buildings and Recreation Management Patrick Sullivan

**What:** Press Conference to Address Gerena Tunnel Improvements

**When:** Friday, May 6, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Gerena Tunnel A, 200 Bernie Avenue, Springfield, MA 01107

Springfield, MA - Mayor Domenic Sarno, School Superintendent Daniel Warwick and Executive Director of PBRM Patrick Sullivan will hold a press conference at the Gerena Tunnel A. The purpose of the conference is to share the updated list of improvements completed at Gerena School and to illustrate the need for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to release the funds necessary to repair the Federal Highway Bridge on Bernie Avenue. The membrane has failed causing water to penetrate the tunnel. A recent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report has misrepresented the work that has been performed at the school and the Mayor will announce that the EPA has been invited to meet with the community on June 1, 2016 at 6:00 p.m at the Gerena cafeteria to listen to their presentation and to answer any questions from the residents and citizens of Springfield.

Mayor Sarno stated, "We want the residents to understand that the City of Springfield has taken every precaution to provide a learning environment that is both safe and protective of the children and staff at Gerena School and throughout the school district. We are at a point that sufficient funds have been invested to keep this building current however we need to say vigilant to ensure the state funds are released for the Bernie Ave repairs. We also need to acquire funds through the MSBA to update all HVAC and EMS systems for this complex. It is equally important to have the proper information and this

is why I have invited the EPA to present at the school. This is their scientific study, posted on their web site, requiring their response.”

Patrick Sullivan stated, “We are proud of the work completed to date at Gerena School and we look forward to completing the work identified over the next three years. This summer bids will be received for the tunnel floor and we will work cooperatively with State Officials and the Governor’s Office to find a way to release the state funds to stop the water penetrations from Bernie Ave. We have submitted to the MSBA and are hopeful we will be successful with this request for HVAC / mechanical upgrades. Attached is a response to the EPA report outlining the work performed and a plan to replace the HVAC systems.”

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