



City of Methuen

Office of the Mayor

41 Pleasant Street, Suite 306 • Methuen, Massachusetts 01844
TELEPHONE (978) 983-8505 • FAX (978) 983-8973

William M. Manzi, III
Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 25, 2009

CONTACT:
Matt Kraunelis
978-983-8505

METHUEN CITY WEBSITE WINS COMMON CAUSE AWARD WITH DISTINCTION **Non-Partisan Government Watch Group Credits City's Informative Website**

The Massachusetts Campaign for Open Government (commoncause.org/egov), a project of the non-partisan group Common Cause, has long championed the cause of increased internet access to important governance public records. As part of this initiative, the group annually examines the internet presence of all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts to learn whether they post essential information in six major categories.

On March 19, 2009, Common Cause recognized the Official Website of the City of Methuen, www.cityofmethuen.net, with its Award with Distinction, one of only 49 Massachusetts communities to be so honored. In order to receive this special recognition, communities must post several key civic records including the governing body's agenda and minutes, budget information, general by-laws, archived governing board agenda and minutes, zoning by-laws, school committee agendas and minutes, agendas and minutes for an additional board or committee, and a calendar with all public meetings.

On Thursday, March 19th, Common Cause Massachusetts held its annual e-Government Awards in the Nurses' Hall in the State House. The group extended its congratulations to Methuen for its work in informing citizens and in maintaining an up-to-date website. This is the third consecutive year that Methuen has been recognized by Common Cause.

"It is an honor to be recognized by the Campaign for Open Government," said Methuen Mayor William M. Manzi, III. "In Methuen, we strive to make government open and accessible to all of our citizens and this proves that our efforts are effective." Manzi stated that he will continue to look for ways to expand open government and thanked Common Cause for its recognition.

The City of Methuen website now features live webcasts of City Council, Community Development Board, School Committee, Zoning Board and Historic District Commission meetings. In addition to live webcasting, www.cityofmethuen.net now offers On-Demand webcasts of City Council, Community Development Board, School Committee and Zoning Board meetings. This feature provides citizens the opportunity to view or review recent meetings that they may have missed.

All of these current and future options have been implemented in-house by the City of Methuen Information Technology Department with no outsourcing, and are designed to increase access to local government in a convenient and user-friendly manner.

###