



## CITY OF REVERE – Board of Health

### Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2026

**Call of Members:** Dr. Dr. Drew Bunker, Kathleen Savage, Viviana Catano Merino

**City of Revere staff:** Lauren Buck, Michael Wells, Paula Sepulveda

**Topic Discussed:** Review and Approval Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of the January 26 meeting were presented to the Board and approved.

**Topic Discussed:** Public Health Communicable Disease Monthly Report

- Lauren Buck presented the communicable disease report for the month of February and provided an update on upcoming Health and Human Services events, including Black Balloon Day

**Topic Discussed:** Inspectional Services monthly report

- Michael Wells presented an overview of all inspections conducted by the Inspectional Services Department in the month of February
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**Topic Discussed:** Educational Presentation on Kratom by Lauren Buck and Mark Gottlieb

- Lauren Buck gave an educational PowerPoint presentation on kratom, covering general information, its effects on the body, and its current legal status.
- The landscape of regulation in the state varies depending on city or town.
- Lauren explained that she met with representatives from Lowell and Canton and summarized their experiences with the bans and the different ways they are enforced.
- Summarizes what is currently happening in Revere: surveyed about 40 businesses, with only 3 carrying the products.
- The Board and Lauren will discuss next steps
- The Board then heard from Mark Gottlieb, Executive Director of the Public Health Advocacy Institute at Northeastern University School of Law, who presented a slide deck titled Kratom: The Legal Opioid?
- Mark provided a summary of what kratom is, discussed whether it poses risks to children and adolescents, reviewed marketing schemes, noted international kratom bans, explained that the U.S. is one of the few countries where it is not regulated, described the difficulty of banning only one type of kratom, and provided an update on statewide legislation. He concluded that kratom is a popular product and that it will be very difficult to regulate only certain types at local level
- The Board asked Mark questions regarding the presentation.
- Wayne Rose from Revere Street addressed the Board, stating that he is concerned and would like regulations
- Mike Fisher from Saugus addressed the Board, stating that the natural product is safe, is intended only for adult use, and agrees that there should be some regulations

**Topic Discussed:** Body Art License

- All board members vote in favor of granting Piedad Nacira Quintero Garcia an individual Body Art License
  - Dr. Bunker – Yes
  - Kathleen Savage – Yes
  - Viviana Catano Merino- Yes

