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### **Barrett Obtains Funding for Waltham Non-Profits**

The Mass. Senate and House have given final approval to the state's budget for the current fiscal year. Of local interest, State Senator Mike Barrett, who represents Waltham, wrote successful amendments aimed at funneling \$225,000 to programs in the city.

One Barrett amendment adds funds for WATCH CDC, which works with low-income families on a variety of issues involving housing. Specifically, Barrett's amendment will support bi-lingual tenant advocacy efforts.

Another Barrett amendment adds \$75,000 to the budget of the Waltham Partnership for Youth, so that it can build out the staffing capacity of its Wraparound Waltham program. Wraparound Waltham works with immigrant students and their families to connect them with employment, housing, food, and COVID-related health services.

"Through his tireless support for community-based organizations, Senator Barrett demonstrates a deep understanding of the critical relationship between state government and local communities," said Kaytie Dowcett, Executive Director of Waltham Partnership for Youth. "Thanks to his fierce advocacy, we will have the resources we need to meet our constituents where they are and to ensure that, despite the myriad challenges, all members of the Waltham community can continue on a path toward success, health, and wellness."

Thanks to a third Barrett amendment, the Community Day Center of Waltham is on track to receive \$75,000. The Center is a day shelter for individuals struggling with chronic homelessness. The additional funding will help finance the Center's continuing efforts to house people safely during the current pandemic.

"All three of these are about nuts and bolts, about helping Waltham residents solve problems in practical, down-to-earth ways," Barrett said of the appropriations. "A lot of people are having a tough time. I hope these modest sums will help."

The three Waltham amendments sit within the Massachusetts state budget for fiscal year 2021, a product of compromise that is now headed to the Governor for his consideration and signature. Despite the downturn in the Massachusetts economy due to COVID, the Legislature was able to avoid deep cuts to major state programs. Funding for MassHealth, which provides access to affordable health care for more than 1.9 million people, showed a slight increase. Room was made for several new initiatives, such as augmented mental health services for people experiencing isolation and stress during the pandemic.

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