



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Appointments at the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC) is pleased to announce the recent appointment of several new staff to its administration division.

Jaimye Bartak was appointed to the position of Public Communications Manager. Bartak joined the Commission to serve as the primary point of contact for public information about the Commission's operations, construction activities, regulatory/legislative issues, and incident response. She will serve as a liaison to neighborhood councils as well as coordinate and implement educational and outreach programs. Bartak previously served as a Senior Planner in Environment and Land Use at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, where she was involved in several local and regional water quality projects, and prior to that she worked as a Transportation Analyst for Cambridge Systematics on-site at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center. Bartak is a native of the Pioneer Valley and holds a B.A. in English and Environmental Studies from Bowdoin College and a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

The Commission also welcomed **Michael Olkin** as GIS Manager. Olkin is working to modernize the Commission's mapping applications and further integrate mapping capabilities with a variety of the Commission's business systems. Olkin brings more than twenty years of GIS experience in both the public and private sectors. His most recent experience was twelve years with the Town of Amherst as its Administrator and Applications Manager, and prior to that he worked as a Senior Project Manager for Applied Geographics, Inc., implemented the Town of West Springfield's GIS program, and was GIS Coordinator for the Central Massachusetts Regional



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Planning Commission. Olkin holds a Master's degree in Geography from the University of Connecticut.

Jef Peristere is the new IT Support Specialist at the Commission. Peristere will be integral to several of the Commission's IT modernization initiatives, including implementing and maintaining a new network security policy, as well as creation and design of a more streamlined help desk system. Peristere previously worked at Whalley Computer Associates, and prior to that majored in Computer Systems Engineering Technology at Springfield Technical Community College in 2014. He holds a Comp-Tia A+ certification and is a Cisco Certified Network Technician. In addition to IT expertise, Peristere also brings extensive experience in graphic design, working in New York and Hartford after earning a BFA from Syracuse University in 2000. Peristere is a native and resident of Springfield.

Alex Hiller joined the Commission as a full-time GIS Analyst after successfully completing a GIS internship with the Commission. Hiller is responsible for creating professional-quality maps used in reports, publications, and the Commission's asset management program. Alex has a leading role in maintaining geographic data used by various departments of the Commission, working with departments to improve business processes associated with data collection. Prior to joining the Commission Hiller was a Prep Technician at Con-Test Analytical Laboratory in East Longmeadow, and served as an Intern with the Westfield Wild and Scenic Committee. Hiller holds a B.S. in Environmental Science with a GIS minor from Westfield State University.

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